



Graduation day: Sarah Dagher hugs her mother, Joumana, as her father, Salam, looks on following Gulf Stream School's graduation ceremony on June 10. Sarah recorded a 99.5% average during her final year at the school, one of the best scores ever recorded there. The Daghers live in Ocean Ridge. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

Manalapan

Estate becomes Florida's priciest

Old Ziff property sold to Oracle co-founder for \$173 million

By Larry Barszewski

Manalapan is no longer playing second fiddle to the town of Palm Beach — or any other Florida location, for that matter — when it comes to



Ellison

pricey residential properties.

The town became home to Florida's most expensive estate in June when Netscape co-founder James Clark sold his

ocean-to-Intracoastal Waterway property to a fellow billionaire (one who has many, many more billions), Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison, for \$173 million.

Clark ended up being a short-term resident. He owned the property at 2000 S. Ocean Blvd. for just 15 months, but he got his

See ESTATE on page 25

Northern transplants fill classes at elite schools

Some families do their homework: Get kids into school first, worry about buying a house later

By Rich Pollack

Beth and Jake Hollinger don't know exactly where they'll be living when they leave their Philadelphia home in a few months in order to enjoy the tropical Florida lifestyle.

They do, however, know exactly where their two grade-school-age children will be

getting an education.

"The priority was to get into Gulf Stream School," says Beth Hollinger, explaining that finding a home in coastal Palm Beach County took a back seat to getting the kids into one of the area's prestigious independent schools. "We'll just deal with finding a home later."

As a significant number

of affluent families have undertaken a pandemic-driven migration to Florida, they are discovering that only so many slots are available for the high-end private-school educations they want for their children.

Area private schools that once struggled to fill classrooms are now hitting record enrollments and creating waiting lists that can stretch into the hundreds.

Gulf Stream School, for example, is at capacity and has a waiting list with the names of about 70 children on it. Enrollment is at the

highest it has been in the last several years and is up about 30% from 2019, prior to the pandemic, according to school leadership. About half of all new applicants come from out of state.

"Next school year we'll have more students than we had this school year and this year we had more students than we had the year before," said Michael Mahady, Gulf Stream's director of admission.

The demand for slots in South Florida private schools

See SCHOOL on page 10

Along the Coast

Documenting a grim chapter

By Ron Hayes

On June 19, 1865, Union Army Gen. Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas, to inform about 250,000 Black men, women and children enslaved in the state that they were free, and had been for more than two years.

Slavery was dead in these recently reunited United States, and Juneteenth was born.

In 2021, Juneteenth became a federal holiday, so a week before this year's celebration, nine members of the Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project met beside the C-3 canal

Samuel Nelson was abducted from Delray Beach jail and lynched in 1926

west of Delray Beach to remind us that while slavery ended after the Civil War, lynchings did not.

Four shovels poured soil from the canal bank into four gray buckets that Saturday morning, and then the nine men and women, Black and white,

See NELSON on page 12



Attorney Bryan Boysaw and Kenya Madison, senior director of Healthier Delray Beach, comfort each other after digging soil from near where Samuel Nelson was lynched in 1926 west of Delray Beach. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

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The ArtsPaper

Dina Baker winner
Woman's work honored with award for older artists.
Page AT5



Tax roll hits 16-year high
County property values have jumped by double digits.
Page 23



Ellie's '50s Diner set to take its last order.
Page AT1

The Coastal Star

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Coastal Star



Greg Hazle, who used to work in corporate finance and project management, has led Boca Helping Hands' expansion to other sites amid the demands of the pandemic. *Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star*

Editor's Note

A day to celebrate our nation's endurance

*And the rocket's red glare
The bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there*

— "The Star-Spangled Banner," 1814

July Fourth: A day filled with barbecue, patriotic baby contests, hula-hoop competitions and watermelon consumption followed by sundown and an anticipated explosion of pyrotechnic sound and color in the sky.

Independence Day 2022 is sure again to be one of the most memorable days of summer, with plenty of flag-waving and singing of patriotic songs.

So, a quick history lesson: Old Glory, the American flag, consists of 13 horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with six white. The stripes represent the original 13 Colonies that joined forces to declare independence from Britain, and the stars — as of July 4, 1960 — represent the 50 states of the Union.

The first time the flag was carried into battle was during this country's Civil War, where the war dead on both sides number upward of 650,000. At one time there was discussion of removing the stars of the Southern states that seceded from the union, but President Abraham Lincoln refused, believing it would give legitimacy to the Confederate states, so they remain.

The Star-Spangled Banner was written as a poem on Sept. 14, 1814, after Fort McHenry was bombarded by British ships in Baltimore Harbor during the War of 1812 — a conflict arising over territorial expansion in North America

and escalating over trade restrictions that crippled the economy of a young America. The battle at Fort McHenry, a month after British troops had burned Washington, resulted in a U.S. victory; the poem's author was inspired by the sight of the large American flag flying above the successfully defended fort as the sun rose.

The poem was later set to the music of a song popular at the time and became the national anthem by congressional resolution on March 3, 1931.

Any student of American history knows our country's freedoms have not been easily won; but so far our Constitution, rule of law and unity of purpose have sustained us through the first 246 years of this country's noble experiment in democracy.

It's important to reflect on this history as we celebrate this year's Independence Day. That omnipresent red, white and blue flag represents the historical strength of our union, the fireworks remind us of past battles we've endured, and that Star-Spangled song blasting is less of an anthem of individual freedom than an expression of

gratitude that our union survives.

— Mary Kate Leming, Editor



Helping Hands executive puts kindness into corporate policy

By Tao Woolfe

Greg Hazle, a chemical engineer and longtime corporate executive, never imagined himself heading a charitable organization, but when Boca Helping Hands itself needed a hand, he gave his heart and soul.

It was supposed to be a temporary gig for Hazle, who had served on Boca Helping Hands' board of directors for about four years. But he found, much to his surprise, that the role was incredibly rewarding.

"After a few years I found I really enjoyed it. I found it to be a great privilege," Hazle said, the lilt of his native Jamaica trickling through his words. "I was working with people I admired, but hadn't met a lot in the corporate world — selfless, idealistic people."

Gary Peters, who has been president of the board for 16 years, said the admiration was mutual. The board members, the staff and the volunteers liked Hazle's soft-spoken, kind, intelligent management style.

"When our previous executive director retired, I asked Greg to step in as interim director," Peters said. "He so liked the job, and was such a good fit, we asked him to stay."

That was five years ago. Since then, Boca Helping Hands — a 24-year-old organization that feeds thousands of hungry people each year and provides job training and emergency assistance — has expanded to offer services to much of Palm Beach County.

"It was a very challenging role. We began expanding our food distribution and then COVID hit," Peters said. "Greg managed the whole

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thing through the pandemic, and raised revenues, without missing a beat."

The feeding program, which began as a humble soup kitchen in a church annex building, is now housed in several buildings off Glades Road. Sit-down hot meals were phased out because of the pandemic, but hot-to-go meals are served Monday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cars now line up for blocks and take turns driving into a canvas-covered distribution site. Volunteers quickly load bags of groceries into the cars Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Besides the main east Boca facility, there are now distribution centers in west Boca, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach and Lake Worth Beach.

Hazle said his background working in corporate finance and project management for both Florida Power & Light and Cemex, the international cement and building materials company, helped him figure out how to expand Helping Hands. "I brought to the job a lot of corporate disciplines — corporate governance and financial management," he said. "But I kept an open mind about how I could contribute to the community."

While listening to the donors and community advocates, Hazle found that his assumptions about the community of Boca Raton were completely incorrect.

"My stereotypical thinking was that Boca Raton's residents were very self-involved," Hazle said. "It is actually a very generous community that celebrates philanthropy."

And, by listening to his employees, he learned to "unleash the capacity of people who want to become leaders in the organization."

Bill Harper, Hazle's director of food and warehouse operations, said he admires his boss for his business savvy and his people skills.

"He is a breath of fresh air, a pleasure to work with," Harper said. "He's my supervisor, but also a mentor in life. He really listens. He hears you and understands you, but he doesn't try to fix it. He's good people."

Hazle, 66, lives in Boca Raton with Tina, his wife of 40 years. The couple has two grown daughters — one in Long Island, New York, and one in Atlanta — and several grandchildren.

He said there is a spiritual component to his life and his work. He is a member of Spanish River Church and a member of the school of ministry at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

Harper, who described the organization's volunteers as "the best in Palm Beach County," said they, too, thrive in the warmth of appreciation fostered by Hazle.

"This is the best day of my week," said volunteer Don Mandelbaum, who has been serving hot meals to Boca Helping Hands clients for seven years. "I feel good about being here — about what I'm doing." ★

For more information about Boca Helping Hands, visit www.bocahelpinghands.org.



Letter to the Editor

What real harm do iguanas do?

I don't understand why there is such contempt for iguanas. They are not aggressive toward people, they run away as fast as they can if anyone approaches them. They don't bite, they don't sting. They don't attack our pets. They don't ravage our important, edible crops. What harm are they causing? What crime have they committed, outside of being ugly?

One person complained that "they eat the flowers!" Big deal! Flowers serve no tangible purpose. We don't eat them. We don't feed livestock with them. We don't manufacture anything using flowers. Nor are they medicinal. Who cares if they eat flowers?

Ironically, up in the Midwest, Canadian geese are a much bigger problem, yet we are not allowed to hunt or kill them. But unlike iguanas, geese are aggressive toward people. And their droppings completely saturate sidewalks and lawns.

If there is an invasive species that needed culling, it's Canadian geese. They are a much bigger nuisance than iguanas.

Moreover, we have the most boring wildlife here. In South America, they have monkeys, llamas, jaguars, piranhas, giant bugs, spiders and all kinds of exotic birds, etc. In Africa they have rhinos, lions, giraffes, etc. In Asia they have tigers, elephants, cobras, etc. In Australia, they have kangaroos, koalas, wombats, etc.

Meanwhile, here in the States we have squirrels and sparrows. Woohoo! How boring! Iguanas are the first exotic creatures we have to break up the boredom of our bland native wildlife. I say let them live!

— Kurt Kelley
Boynton Beach

LETTERS

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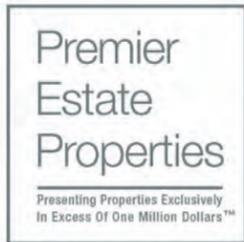
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Boynton Beach

Radical schedule change to benefit firefighters, city

By Tao Woolfe

Starting next year, Boynton Beach firefighters and paramedics will shift from a schedule of 24 hours on/48 hours off, to one of 24 hours on/72 hours off.

The change is expected to cut down on the city's overtime costs and result in happier, healthier public safety workers, interim City Manager Jim Stables told the City Commission at a meeting on June 7.

"Forty-eight hours off is not enough time to decompress, especially when people are needed for overtime," Stables said.

Hugh Bruder, interim Boynton Beach fire chief and director of fire and emergency medical services, further explained in an interview after the meeting how everyone will benefit from the new schedule.

Under the existing system, firefighters work a 48-hour week. Under the new system, the firefighters' workweek is shortened to 42 hours, but the salary will stay the same.

Overtime has been paid, and will be paid, for any hours worked beyond the normal schedule.

Under the existing system, firefighter/paramedics are given a Kelly Day — a day off for rest and relaxation — every three weeks. The new system eliminates Kelly Days, which will automatically reduce overtime, the chief said.

The other half of the overtime reduction equation, he said, is that the department will hire 21 new full-time personnel. That way, there will be sufficient staff to fill all the department's time slots.

There may still be the occasional shift that needs to be covered by overtime, but those needs will be drastically reduced, Bruder said. Last year, due to the coronavirus and staff

shortages, the city paid \$1.8 million in overtime.

More important, the chief said, the firefighters and paramedics will have time to decompress, rest and exercise, so they will have less reason to call in sick and will be better able to serve the community.

The city also will benefit from its ability to recruit and retain up-and-coming professionals who are seeking the 24/72-hour schedule, which is still a rarity in Florida.

Boca Raton's is one of only a handful of departments in the state to offer the 24/72 schedule and, as a result, it is considered a destination workplace, Bruder said. Boynton is also expected to quickly earn that distinction.

Stables told the City Commission that the conversion will cost the city about \$2 million up front, but ultimately will save — estimating conservatively — \$1 million a year in overtime costs.

About \$823,000 of the conversion cost will be used to hire the 21 new firefighter/paramedics, Stables said. They will be hired and begin training in October.

"We had 40 applicants in the first week of recruiting," Stables said.

The commission approved the new schedule on June 7, and unanimously ratified a new, three-year contract with the Boynton Beach firefighters, Local 1891 of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Bruder said the commission's approval set into motion a plan that signifies a huge, positive change for the city.

"It's an example of good governance and it's quite an undertaking," Bruder said. "Everyone has to work together to make this happen — the City Commission, city management, the department administration, the bargaining unit, and the city staff." ★



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Lantana

Council schooled on Ocean Avenue development struggles

By Mary Thurwachter

The cluster of yellow, blue and pink Key West-style cottages on the north side of Ocean Avenue between Oak Street and Lake Drive has been part of downtown Lantana's landscape for decades.

Today, many of the 12 buildings are in various states of disrepair and only one — a bungalow at 201 E. Ocean Ave. — is inhabited. It is home to Oceano Kitchen, a small but widely acclaimed restaurant with a big following.

Everyone talks about bringing in new businesses downtown, but that's not likely to happen any time soon because of challenges faced by the town, the property owners and the businesses that would like to locate there, according to Nicole Dritz, Lantana's development services director.

Dritz brought members of the Town Council together in late May for a workshop to address the downtown issues.

The property owners, the sister-and-brother team of Marsha Stocker and Steven Handelsman, want to rent out the buildings to businesses. Their parents, Burt and Lovey Handelsman, previously owned the cottages, which are on four contiguous property parcels.

Although potential businesses have made inquiries, Dritz said the cottages must be brought up to code — and have site plans approved if they have been vacant for more than six months — before the businesses can receive the business tax receipts needed to operate. Some of the buildings have been unoccupied since 2004.

Dritz said the inquiries include those from a jet-ski rental company, a doggie



Twelve small cottages line the north side of Ocean Avenue in downtown Lantana.

daycare and an artist village.

"One developer wanted to take all four parcels and do a unity of title so we would treat it as one, and do a very Key West-style boutique resort," she said.

Jeremy Bearman, owner of Oceano Kitchen, had hoped to rent the former Mario's Italian restaurant building at 225 E. Ocean Ave. to expand his business, but was unable to reach a lease agreement with the owners. He had planned to spend \$500,000 for extensive renovations on the building.

Dritz said the town staff had been working with the property owners and that some improvements have been made, but "they are still not in compliance in terms of what we issued the code violations on."

She said: "The code fines are getting up there and we have told them, 'Listen, if you want a break on those code fines, show us what you're going to do, get an application in, give us something to go on.'"

The owners have been fined \$250 a day per parcel and those fines have surpassed \$300,000, according to Dritz. None of the fines has been paid to date.

The owners prefer not to sell, Dritz said. "They would like to keep the structures as is and get tenants to rent those. They aren't completely taking off the table working with a developer, maybe doing some kind of land lease where they lease the land and the developer comes and builds something on it."

In an email reply to questions from *The Coastal Star*, Stocker said, "We are trying to work out a resolution so that these units can be rented. If we cannot come to a satisfactory resolution we will need to re-evaluate our options."

'Frustrating for everybody'

The empty cottages on Ocean Avenue have been a concern to the Chamber of Commerce for years.

"It's frustrating for everybody — for us at the Chamber, for the town and for the residents. That little street could be so awesome," said Dave Arm.

"As president of the Chamber, I've said I'd love to see that become a mini-Atlantic Avenue or a mini-Lake Avenue, where you could go have a drink in one place, have dinner in another, have dessert in another and go stop at a little boutique or something. "Stroll Ocean Avenue. And right now, you've got a gap in there. That's a damn shame. It's frustrating and there just doesn't seem to be a solution. Until the owners decide to play ball, I can't see anything happening."

Parking issues

Parking also has been problematic for downtown businesses. In 2019, to help the businesses, the town decreased its downtown parking requirement from 25 spaces per 1,000 square feet of gross floor area to 12 spaces. And last

September, when Bearman came to the town seeking relief from the requirements that called for 49 spaces for the Mario's site, he was granted a variance reducing the number to 18.

There are different ways to deal with parking, Town Attorney Max Lohman told the council at the workshop.

"Municipalities that have the constraint parking challenges similar to ours draw a box, they pick a zone, they change the parking requirements in that zone. Many of you have said you've never had a problem parking. ... Which would lead me to think that maybe, under the circumstances, the parking requirements are too strict in that area. And then, it would be something we could look at to potentially change," he said.

"Then again ... if those vacant parcels ever become occupied, there's a chance you might have a parking problem. But honestly, having a parking problem is a good problem to have. If you don't have a parking problem, people aren't coming. So, if you get a parking problem, we will figure it out."

Lohman said it's almost better to relax the regulations and then address the problem when it comes.

He said the town could better utilize the parking lot at Sportsman's Park at night.

"You could potentially monetize that," Lohman said. "Those large boat trailer parking spots could easily be chopped up

into two or three."

Another idea, he said, would be for the town to hire a valet service to benefit all the Ocean Avenue restaurants. "You could assess them (the businesses) the cost of it so they would be specifically benefiting from it. I'm not saying that's the right solution, but I'm saying there are other solutions."

Others suggestions are to add more parking spaces at Lyman Kayak Park or at the tennis courts at the recreation center.

Going forward

Dritz asked the council to weigh in on how to proceed.

"Do you wish for us to continue to capture those site plans like we are, or do you wish to see vacancies filled quickly, keeping those existing buildings with existing spec conditions in play, so that would require a code change to just basically eliminate the need for compliance?"

By consensus, council members agreed to continue enforcing the zoning laws that require site plans, landscape plans and signage. They want to keep the six-month vacancy requirements and will review special exception uses for each zoning district. And they are open to further loosening parking requirements.

"I like what you're doing," council member Lynn (Doc) Moorhouse told Dritz. "A lot of those places look like crap to me. I live next door to this. They're falling down."

Mayor Robert Hagerty said he wanted to stay the course. "I like the site plans. I like working the way you're doing it. The problem I've got is if we leave those houses ... the same way that they are, they are decrepit. People could be injured." ★

Dune Deck Café to pay more rent and work toward accepting credit cards

By Mary Thurwachter

The Dune Deck Café, a popular open-air restaurant at the public beach for nearly three decades, will see Lantana increase its rent by 38% over the next three years.

The Town Council, at its June 13 meeting, voted unanimously to extend the lease of the concessionaire for three years, but the rent will go up each year until it reaches \$65,000 annually in 2025. The breakfast and lunch restaurant currently pays \$47,132 plus sales tax annually.

The higher rate is more in line with what the rent should be, according to a market rent analysis report done by Anderson Carr, a local appraisal firm, on March 28. It will take three years to get to the \$64,045 rent suggested in that report. The rent, before the inclusion of sales taxes, will rise to \$53,000 in 2023, \$59,000 in 2024, and \$65,000 in the new contract's final year.

Council members had discussed the lease during a visioning workshop on April 22 after Dune Deck owner John Caruso had inquired about renewing the lease, which expires at the end of the year.

Besides the rent increase, the new agreement calls for the cash-only restaurant to make it more convenient for customers to pay their checks by making "reasonable efforts to begin accepting credit and debit cards as a form of payment prior to Dec. 31, 2024."

Town Manager Brian Raducci said he thought the agreement was reasonable. "We had a very good negotiation, a very good discussion with Mr. Caruso and his attorney."

Mayor Pro Tem Lynn (Doc) Moorhouse said he would do anything he could to support the Dune Deck, which, like the Old Key Lime House, is a destination point in town.

"Let's face it, they've been through multiple hurricanes,

and they are an outdoor restaurant," Moorhouse said. "It's not like you got walls and AC around to protect you. They don't work when it rains because nobody comes. I think they've done a fantastic job."

Council member Kem Mason agreed. "It's a landmark location. They built it up. They made the name. They're bringing people to our town so I'm behind them 100% and if they leave, we don't know what we might get in there. For me, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

Mayor Robert Hagerty said he understood what Mason and Moorhouse were saying but also understood the reason for the conversation.

"It doesn't mean nobody wants you around," he said, referring to Caruso. "It's not that at all. Everybody enjoys your restaurant, as a matter of fact. It's just that we have to look into the future and not everybody knows what that

entails. I don't want to get rid of it. If anything, I want to improve that location if it's possible."

The Dune Deck has had a home at the public beach for 26 years. During a lease negotiation with the Town Council in 2012, Caruso said he had taken "a rat-infested building that was an embarrassment and created something to be proud of."

He invested \$80,000 of his own money to get the restaurant started and made many improvements over the years, including adding restrooms, new chairs and tables, and an outdoor bar. Customers previously used the beach's public restrooms.

There were two public comments related to the new rent increase. One was from Pastor Ken Baker of First Baptist Church of Lantana, who said the Dune Deck was a staple in the community. He said the town should focus on bringing

in new businesses, meaning "you don't hurt the businesses that are already here by trying to jack up the price."

John Raymer, who made an unsuccessful run for a council seat this year, said the rent was too low compared to what other business were paying and the town should charge more.

"You're doing a disservice to the town of Lantana because that could be additional revenue that could help the town fix the beach and the roads and multiple other things, like hire lifeguards," Raymer said of a rent increase.

In other action, the council made some changes to its rules and procedures as discussed at its visioning session in April. The changes allow the town manager to format the order of the agenda and to adopt a new section allowing for a consent agenda for non-controversial matters that do not require an individual discussion. ★

SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

stretches far beyond Gulf Stream School, with more and more schools forced to turn students away — at least for now.

A recent story from Bloomberg.com reported that enrollments at 15 private schools in coastal South Florida are up 14% on average over the past two years, compared with a 1.7% increase across the country. Those numbers come from the National Association of Independent Schools.

At Saint Andrew's School in Boca Raton, with an enrollment topping 1,300, the Bloomberg report said applications have increased 20% in the last year-and-a-half and the waiting list for the pre-kindergarten through 12th grade school has swelled to more than 200 students.

One of the main factors limiting the number of students enrolled in these private schools is a commitment to small class sizes. At Gulf Stream School, for example, classroom sizes are usually limited to about 15 or 16 students.

The graduation in June of the entire eighth grade included just 28 students.

While annual tuition at many of these exclusive schools can be pricey, it doesn't seem to be affecting applications.

At Gulf Stream School, tuition ranges from \$18,735 a year for a half-day of pre-K for 3-year-olds to \$29,995 for students in the fifth through eighth grades. At Saint Andrew's School, tuition for students in kindergarten through eighth grade can top \$32,000 a year, according to the school's website.

Gulf Stream School also has a cap of 250 students as a result of a 1994 agreement with the town, and Gulf Stream town records show that agreement remains in place.

For the school, maintaining a strong relationship with town officials as well as with the wider community is a priority even as enrollment hits maximum levels, says Head of School Gray Smith.



Smith

"Our discovery is that we can continue to provide — in fact augment — the sense of community and family, and the abiding traditions that make up the Gulf Stream School student, and family experience when the school's classrooms are at capacity," he said. "However, we acknowledge that there is a tipping point between school size and achieving our mission, and we have no intention of crossing that line. Our number one intention is to be the best neighbor we can be."

The cap has meant that in rare instances families have delayed their moves south, more evidence that they are prioritizing the children's



education over the purchase of a home more than ever before.

Pascal Liguori of Premier Estate Properties recalls the recent case where a sale he was handling on a \$6-million-plus barrier island home fell through because the deal was contingent on the family's two children getting into Gulf Stream School.

When that didn't happen, the deal fell through.

"They postponed the move until they could get them in there," Liguori said. "For them, it was Gulf Stream School or nothing."

Steven Presson, luxury Realtor of the Corcoran Group, says that situation is rare. Instead, he says, many of the parents he's dealt with come with a list of three or four schools that they will tour.

"The nice thing about South

Florida is there's not just one great private school, there are a whole bunch of them," he said. "In the Palm Beaches, we're really lucky."

In Delray Beach, St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic School is seeing increased enrollment and waiting lists in certain grades. For next year, the school's enrollment is about 415 students.

The school has waiting lists for its pre-K 3 grade as well as its third, sixth and seventh grades. Other classes had availability of only one to three spaces as of mid-June.

The Hollingers — the Philadelphia couple who will be sending their son Kaje, 6, and daughter Elason, 9, to Gulf Stream School next year — brought their children with them as they looked at a handful

TOP: Some students in lower grades gather on the first day of the school year at Gulf Stream School.

ABOVE: After the graduation ceremony in June, Estella Postma rings the school bell as classmates (l-r) Barbara Gamboa, Gracie Robinson and Lily Thomas wait their turns. Ringing the bell at the beginning and end of the school year is a tradition for eighth-graders.

LEFT: Jake and Beth Hollinger enrolled children Kaje and Elason at Gulf Stream even before they found a house in Florida.

Photos by Rachel S. O'Hara, Jerry Lower and provided by the Hollinger family

of private schools.

The last stop was at Gulf Stream School and it was a hit with everyone in the family. Even the children were smitten by the openness of the campus and large sports fields.

"It just felt magical," Beth Hollinger said. "We didn't know we were ready to move until right then and there."

Falling in love with the school was one thing; getting in was another. Fortunately for the Hollingers, it had openings in the first and fourth grades when they applied earlier this year.

At Gulf Stream, as well as other prestigious independent schools, finding an open spot in some grades is easier than in others. Getting your child into pre-K or kindergarten classes at a South Florida school is tougher because of demand

from parents who want to start their children at that particular school.

"We feel lucky," Beth Hollinger said. "We felt lucky that we were even able to secure a tour."

The Hollingers had the advantage of being familiar with the area, since they vacationed here regularly for the past decade.

"We always wanted to head this way, but the pandemic pushed up the timeline," Beth Hollinger said, adding that virus-related shutdowns were especially difficult for her children, who felt cooped up at home as a result of COVID-related restrictions. "The pandemic put a real damper on their school experience."

In addition to Gulf Stream's physical layout, the Hollingers felt comfortable with the school's small size and family focus, which they say is similar to the school their children were in previously.

Those factors gave Gulf Stream an advantage during the height of the COVID restrictions, making it possible for the school to remain open for in-person classes when many others had shifted to online learning.

Just a month or two after everything was shutting down in 2020, Gulf Stream opened its summer camp. A couple of months later, school was back in session with real classes.

"We've had families who started this year and it was the first time in two years that the children had actually been in a classroom," Smith said.

The layout of the school, with plenty of open space, made it possible for classes to be held outdoors and for classrooms to be reconfigured to keep kids safe.

Gulf Stream also brought a pediatric nurse practitioner on board and offered voluntary COVID tests, thanks to a gift from a parent. The school then opened up the testing to other family members.

The fact that Gulf Stream School could offer children a chance to play outside at a time when playgrounds up north were closed was attractive to many parents and remains attractive to the Hollingers — and their children.

Beth Hollinger says her 6-year-old didn't want to go back to the Northeast after their last vacation, which included the visit to Gulf Stream School.

"He loves being in Florida," she said. ★

Ocean Ridge

Spending plan holds tax rate, extends flood abatement measures

By Joe Capozzi

A \$9.5 million budget proposal for Ocean Ridge would hold the tax rate next year while paying for rising public safety costs and enhancements to town flood prevention strategies.

Even if commissioners on July 5 approve Town Manager Tracey Stevens' request to keep the current tax rate of \$5.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value, residents can still expect higher tax bills next year because of rising property values across town.

Preliminary estimates from the Palm Beach County property appraiser show Ocean Ridge's taxable values rising 18.3% to \$1.4 billion. As a result,

commissioners don't expect to pull money from reserves to balance the budget as they have done in previous years.

Stevens' spending proposal is nearly 8.4% higher than the current budget. One of "the driving forces" of the spending increases, she said in a memo to commissioners, is the "town's commitment to funding enhanced maintenance and drainage infrastructure projects that were deferred for many years."

Other factors include increases in salaries and benefits for public safety services, along with a rise in insurance rates and solid waste collection costs.

At \$3.464 million, the Police

Department comprises the biggest chunk of the budget followed by the town's contract with Boynton Beach for fire rescue services, at nearly \$1.4 million.

On June 6, commissioners spent nearly half of a budget workshop reviewing \$1,438,758 in capital improvements for infrastructure and maintenance, including stormwater issues.

Among more than \$320,000 in flood-prevention projects included in the plan:

- \$85,000 for upgrades to the catch basin and valve replacements on Spanish River Drive to reduce "abnormally long-standing stormwater" in certain areas.

- Up to \$75,000 for repairs to the Tropical Drive pump station, where leaks in at least two of the five flap-gates are causing stormwater to backflow in the system.

- \$70,000 in maintenance to the Tropical and Woolbright pump stations.

- \$45,000 for pipe grouting beneath roads in Inlet Cay.
- \$15,000 for wet well maintenance at the Tropical, Woolbright and Coconut Lane pump stations.

During a discussion about nuisance flooding issues, Vice Mayor Kristine de Haseth asked, "What can residents do to mitigate standing water, especially after a rain event?"

Town engineer Lisa Tropepe said residents can turn off their sprinklers during heavy rain, trim their sod (which is often higher than the crowns of some streets), and make sure swales don't erode.

A few hours later, the commission in its regular meeting received a petition signed by 17 residents of Tropical Drive asking the town to install automatic shut-off valves to reduce flooding there.

Commissioners will shape the 2022-23 spending plan this summer before holding public hearings for the budget at 6 p.m. Sept. 6 and Sept. 19. ★

South Palm Beach

Who's the oldest person in SPB? Town Hall party planners want to know

By Joe Capozzi

Nothing brings neighbors together in South Palm Beach like a good party. That's the idea behind a plan to honor the town's most senior resident with a celebration at Town Hall in August.

Who will the guest of honor be? That's what town officials want to know. They're asking residents to help them identify the oldest person in town.

"We need to find them and celebrate them," said Vice Mayor Bill LeRoy, whose idea for the party, pitched at a June 14 Town Council meeting, was met with enthusiasm by his fellow council members.

"It's just another event for the town to bring everyone together," he said.

LeRoy has long been a proponent of the town hosting community events where residents, the majority of whom live in condos, can mingle and meet neighbors.

Happy with the success of two public events hosted outside Town Hall this year — a Memorial Day celebration and a wine-and-sliders party — LeRoy said he wants Town Hall to host more public gatherings. "Otherwise, you never see each other," he said.

One day in June, LeRoy said he was chatting with a golfing buddy. "He happened to ask, 'Who is the oldest person in South Palm Beach?' And I said,

'I have no idea but we need to find out. And we need to have a party for them.' I was also looking for a good reason to bring the people together in August."

If the inaugural birthday celebration is a success, LeRoy wants to make it an annual event.

"We can do the tent, get a big cake and some beverages, a lovely event to bring us all together."

To identify its most senior resident, the town plans to spread word through social media and in notices posted in condo lobbies.

Someone at the June 14 meeting jokingly suggested reaching out to Al Roker, the *Today* show weatherman who offers tributes to centenarians, but LeRoy said he's confident residents will be able to identify the guest of honor.

"Somebody has got to know who the oldest person in town is. We need to find them, get them out and celebrate them," he said.

In other business, the council in July will review Town Manager Robert Kellogg's budget proposal for 2022-23. Property values in town are expected to exceed half a billion dollars, a 12.7% increase Kellogg said would generate an additional \$193,900 in revenue for next year's budget under the current tax rate. ★

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NELSON

Continued from page 1

held hands in a circle over the buckets and bowed their heads in prayer.

When Delray Beach celebrated Juneteenth the following Saturday, June 18, those buckets of soil would be there in the gym at Pompey Park, their first stop on a long journey of remembrance.

“We scouted the area around the waterway and chose a spot where the soil looked rich,” explains Charlene Farrington, director of the S.D. Spady Cultural Heritage Museum in Delray.

No one will ever know exactly where Samuel Nelson’s body was found on the morning of Sept. 27, 1926, but this canal bank near the southeast corner of West Atlantic Avenue and Sims Road seems most likely.

We don’t know how old Samuel Nelson was, if he was a husband or father, or if he had really committed any crime. We don’t even know if Samuel Nelson was his name. But we do know where he was last seen alive.

“In 1923, Delray Beach built a new city hall, fire department and jail at 14 SE Fifth Ave.,” says Mark Schneider, president of the county’s American Civil Liberties Union and a member of the Community Remembrance Project. “But that address no longer exists. The numbers jump from 12 to 20.”

On the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 26, Nelson was locked in the new jail, accused of attempted criminal assault on a white woman in Miami. The next morning, the jail door was found battered open. Nelson was gone and a short time after, his body, riddled with bullets, was found beside a canal 4 miles west of town.

Three weeks later, on Oct. 17, *The Palm Beach Post* noted the murder.

“NEGRO IS TAKEN FROM DELRAY JAIL AND LYNCHED

“Samuel Nelson, alias Joseph Johnson, negro, was taken from the jail at Delray and lynched. ...”

The brief report had been written by The Associated Press in Miami. The story was on Page 6.

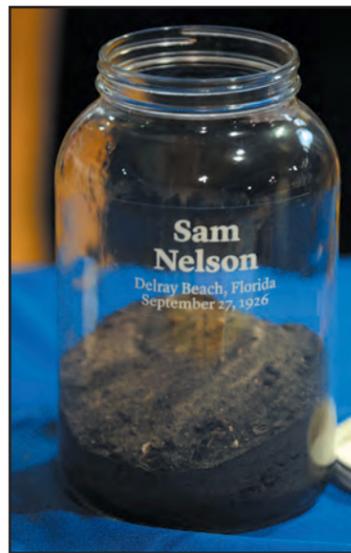
Both the *Pensacola Journal* and *Tampa Tribune* published the same AP story that day.

“NEGRO TAKEN FROM JAIL AND LYNCHED BY MOB AT DELRAY,” the *Tribune* headline read, but the story never mentions a mob, only “unidentified persons.”

The local newspaper took three weeks to report the lynching, but the Delray Beach Town Council needed less than 12 hours to address it.

At its regular meeting that Monday evening, the council discussed appropriating money for the local Chamber of Commerce. It talked about registering real estate brokers. It granted Mr. W.P. Brown a one-week extension on his septic tank.

The lynching of Samuel Nelson was the last item on the



ABOVE: On June 11, the participants in the preservation of soil to remember the lynching of Samuel Nelson took time to pray and reflect. **FAR LEFT:** On June 18, the soil was part of a Juneteenth celebration at the Pompey Park gym. Delray Beach Commissioner Shirley Johnson watched as people spooned soil into bags as keepsakes. **LEFT:** Jars will eventually join those of other victims in a memorial display in Alabama. **Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

agenda.

Police Chief W.M. Croft told the council that he had refused to turn Nelson over to a stranger who claimed to be from Miami, and as far as he knew, Nelson was still in the jail at midnight.

The council then voted unanimously that the Police Department “should be exonerated and be declared free of any blame or neglect in regard to the above mentioned jail delivery.”

There is one further curiosity, though.

On Sept. 18, a little more than a week before Nelson’s death, the historic 1926 hurricane had made landfall as a Category 4 storm just south of Miami, bringing storm surges up to 14 feet in Coconut Grove and tearing the roofs off buildings as far north as Lake Park. Could the stranger Chief Croft claimed to have met really have journeyed from Miami to Delray Beach after that

destruction?

All we know of Samuel Nelson’s lynching ends there, but those four buckets of soil collected in his memory have only begun their journey.

Sometime in 2023, the Remembrance Project hopes to see the soil displayed in jars at the Equal Justice Initiative’s Peace & Justice Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama. The jars will be etched with the words “Sam Nelson, Delray Beach, Florida, September 27, 1926.”

They will not be alone. Founded in 1989 by civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson, the nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative works to free wrongly convicted prisoners and operates Montgomery’s Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

In 2015, the EJI published *Lynching In America*, now in its third edition, which has documented more than 4,000 lynchings in the Southern states between 1870 and 1950,

including 319 in Florida, the most per 100,000 of all the Southern states.

Samuel Nelson is one of two known lynchings in Palm Beach County, and not the first.

On June 7, 1923, Henry Simmons was taken from a rooming house in West Palm Beach and hanged from a tree south of The Breakers hotel in Palm Beach for allegedly being involved in the killing of police officer J.N. Smith, who had stopped three Black men for stealing turtle eggs.

The Remembrance Project is working to confirm the site of Simmons’ hanging before arranging to collect soil there.

In addition to the soil collection, a high school essay contest in the coming school year will satisfy the second of three requirements communities must complete to be represented at the EJI memorial.

The placing of memorial markers at Palm Beach County’s two lynching sites is the third.

Until then, the soil that became a memorial made its first public appearance in the Pompey Park gymnasium on June 18, a centerpiece of the Juneteenth weekend in Delray Beach.

The Boynton Beach Community High School band played and politicians spoke.

“This day will be recorded in our nation’s history and tell the story of who we are as a people,” the Spady Museum’s Farrington

told the crowd of about 200 filling the bleachers. “It will make Palm Beach County eligible to receive a monument from the Equal Justice Initiative bearing the names of two men who were lynched here in the 1920s.”

County Commissioners Mack Bernard and Gregg Weiss read a resolution recognizing the importance of both the soil ceremony and the federal Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act, signed into law March 29.

A video of the soil collection was shown, and Yvette Norwood-Tiger sang a moving, mournful rendition of the Billie Holiday classic *Strange Fruit*.

“Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze,

“Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.”

The four buckets of soil from the place where Samuel Nelson’s body was found almost a century ago waited on a table until finally the men, women and children, young and old, Black and white, came down from the bleachers and formed two long lines.

Each was handed a small mesh drawstring bag containing a plastic envelope and a wooden ice cream spoon.

One by one they dipped a bit of soil from a bucket and put it in the plastic bag. That was theirs to keep. And then they added another spoonful to the glass jars bound for Montgomery.

See **NELSON** on page 13

Along the Coast

Gulf Stream turns to Highland Beach as Delray stops doing town's permits

By Steve Plunkett

Gulf Stream is hoping Highland Beach will take over the processing of its building permits after Delray Beach called an abrupt halt to the arrangement it's had with the town since 2009.

Delray Beach says its interlocal agreement with Gulf Stream does not cover engineering, floodplain and landscaping review of Gulf Stream building plans and it stopped providing those services in the middle of May.

"This has stalled Cary Glickstein's (Bluewater Cove) project along with some other projects in town as Delray has done a full stop now that they're aware that their staff lacks the authority to do this review," Assistant Town Attorney Trey Nazzaro said.

Nazzaro told town commissioners on June 10 that in about 2011, a Delray Beach official signed off on an internal staff document that extended the scope of the agreement to include the engineering and related items for Gulf Stream applications.

"But that official did not have the authority to do that. It needed to be brought to the City Commission for approval, which was never done," Nazzaro said.

When Delray Beach stopped doing the reviews, Gulf

Stream asked its consulting engineering firm Baxter & Woodman to pinch-hit on the engineering and floodplain reviews. Landscape architect Dave Bodker of Delray Beach has been recruited to review landscaping plans.

Gulf Stream and Delray Beach officials met to discuss the situation on May 20. Since then, Gulf Stream issued a request and received three bids from third-party organizations, which Town Manager Greg Dunham was still evaluating, and asked Highland Beach if it could do the work.

Overseeing a building department is nothing new for Highland Beach Town Manager Marshall Labadie, Nazzaro said. Starting one "was the first thing he did when he came" to the town in 2018.

"His commission wanted him to bring the building

department in-house, and they apparently have been doing a very good job," Nazzaro said. "Highland Beach has a certain level of expectation of that, sort of a concierge-level of service that you would be getting."

Highland Beach commissioners were receptive at their June 21 meeting to drafting an agreement with Gulf Stream after their building official, Jeff Remas, said he was "kind of excited" about getting the extra work.

"I see this as an opportunity for us to actually improve our services because we'll be bringing on some more people with more hours to have the capability to work in-house with us here, and actually help our plan review process," Remas said.

In their May 20 meeting, Delray Beach officials gave their Gulf Stream counterparts

little reason to think that the interlocal agreement could be extended.

Delray Beach City Manager Terrence Moore said his city would add new costs for the permitting review, plus travel time for building inspectors, plus staff time to teach Gulf Stream how to use its new digital permitting system. Gulf Stream residents previously were paying the same permit fees as Delray residents.

"I think they're trying to recoup some of their expenses," Nazzaro said.

Plus, the Delray Beach delegation warned that the political environment may come to bear.

"It seems that the constituents are very upset with the amount of time it is taking to process their permits, so why are they also processing Gulf Stream's permits," Nazzaro said.

Gulf Stream generates 250 to 300 building permits a year, Dunham said. But Highland Beach's Remas said that did not include sub-permits such as electrical and plumbing and said the total was really 800 to 900 a year.

Highland Beach currently processes 2,000 to 2,100 permits a year, so adding the Gulf Stream work would be a 40% increase, Remas said.

Dunham was not optimistic about negotiating a new agreement with Delray Beach based on his discussions with their officials.

"They really couldn't guarantee the City Commission would be OK moving forward with continuing the relationship," he said.

He and Nazzaro will weigh the three bids the town received and keep talking with Highland Beach to find a solution. ★



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NELSON

Continued from page 12

Nearby, city Commissioner Shirley Johnson watched.

"I'm 76 years old and I grew up here in the northwest section, and I never knew about Samuel Nelson," she said. "Why didn't I know about this? There was no mention in school. Nobody ever said his name. I didn't hear about it until 2017 when Bryan Stevenson came to the Spady Museum and he told me, 'You know, there were two lynchings here.'"

Johnson assembled the little bags of spoons for the ceremony, all 200, so she watched intently as the slowly moving lines made use of them.

"This should be listed as an unsolved murder in our police files," she said. "I'm going to ask the police if they can reopen this case. Don't investigate, just keep it open."

"I know we're never going to know who killed him, but that way Sam Nelson will be remembered."

She sighed.

"And he was just one of thousands." ★

For more information about the Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project and the Equal Justice Initiative, visit www.pbcremembrance.org and www.eji.org.

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Gulf Stream

Little Club could throw wrench into town's road and drainage plan

By Steve Plunkett

A demand by The Little Club to have a separate engineer review the town's drainage plan may cause a three-month delay and add a year or more to the Gulf Stream capital improvement project, officials said.

Town Manager Greg Dunham told commissioners on June 10 that for the past year Gulf Stream's consulting engineers at Baxter & Woodman have been "laboring under the assumption" that The Little Club would let the town enlarge one of its lakes to filter stormwater.

"But recently in meeting with The Little Club, they've expressed the need for them to use a golf course architect and their engineer to review this," Dunham said.

And worse, the club's engineer has other work booked and cannot start this review for two or three months.

Mayor Scott Morgan was not happy with The Little Club's leaders.

"They spoke before the commission in June of 2021, one year ago this month, and made statements that they're in agreement with that (proposal) and that the pond that was selected was the perfect place to do it without interfering with golf play," Morgan said.

Baxter & Woodman engineer Rebecca Travis is supposed to present a draft design of the drainage and roadwork at the commission's July 8 meeting, with 60% completed plans due in December and final plans next April. Dunham said perhaps she can provide another option.

"The schedule that we've got really can't wait two or three months," Dunham said.

No one from The Little Club attended the meeting, and club manager Rob Lehner did not immediately reply to an email seeking comment.

Gulf Stream wants to improve the streets, drainage and water mains on both the west and east sides of its Core area. Part of the plan includes replacing a 24-inch drainage pipe from Polo Drive to a canal off the Intracoastal Waterway with a 48-inch pipe. In order to gain permission from the South Florida Water Management District, the engineers have proposed enlarging a quarter-acre lake at The Little Club to a half-acre. The district does not consider a lake smaller than a half-acre as helping drainage.

"Part of the main reason that we're redoing the roads is to eliminate the flooding that's been occurring for decades," Morgan said.

Commissioner Paul Lyons said he hoped to outlive the construction phase.

"This CIP plan — it's taking a long time. I just want to be sure I have an opportunity to enjoy it," he said of the town's capital improvement plan. The town is in year five of the 10-year plan and wants the Core phase of the drainage project completed in three years.

The mayor said he and Dunham would continue discussions with club leaders.

Dunham said if negotiations with the club fail, Gulf Stream's Plan B would be to use "water filtration trenches" all around town.

But that option also has potential problems.

"These trenches are rather large and our rights-of-way are full of other utilities," he said. ★



The Little Club golf course has a number of lakes. Gulf Stream wants to double the size of a small, quarter-acre lake to provide additional drainage for a town capital improvement project. Photo provided

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Abortion rights protest

Old School Square, Delray Beach — June 24

More than 100 people gathered along Atlantic Avenue to protest the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 landmark decision of the court that established the constitutional right to an abortion during the first two trimesters of pregnancy. The court's June 24 decision shifted abortion rights decisions to state legislatures, with the likelihood that abortions would become illegal or face severe restrictions in about half the country. The decision brought out people for and against it nationwide.

Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star



Along the Coast

Ailing 'pelican man' needs help after his decades of avian assistance

By Larry Keller

Kenny Brown, aka "the pelican man," has spent the better part of two decades responding to calls in South County and beyond to help the whimsical yet graceful birds and other wildlife when they're sick or injured.

Brown's fee: Nothing.

"I appreciate him because he's always willing to help, no matter what," said Monica Slazinski of Delray Beach. Most recently it was to check on a wading bird called a limpkin.

"He was at my house within 30 minutes," Slazinski said.

Now it's Brown, 59, who needs medical assistance for serious lung and other maladies.

Treatment is far from free. So Slazinski established a GoFundMe page to help Brown,

who has no health insurance and no income to pay bills. As of June 27 it had raised \$7,863 from 172 donations.

Brown has been hospitalized three times lately, and was admitted to the intensive care unit once, he said in an interview shortened by his shortness of breath. He is now taking blood thinners for clots on his lungs, and medicine for an enlarged heart. He is dependent on portable oxygen.

"I can't talk much longer," he said in the interview from his home in west Delray Beach. "I keep coughing up stuff. I'm going to be out of breath ... it's very scary."

Brown used to earn a little money with a for-profit no-kill animal trapping service, and doing carpentry jobs. His health has halted that, but he still has

to make truck payments, pay rent and feed his two cats, two birds, a dog and himself.

It's not just individuals like Slazinski who call Brown. So do towns without budgets to cover animal rescues and rehabs.

Ocean Ridge police have called Brown well over 100 times in the past 10 years, Chief Richard Jones said.

"We rely on him a lot ... but Kenny is always there, and he never says no," Jones said. "He's been a huge asset to our department and our community. We're obviously heartbroken that he's ill and in a predicament where he needs help."

While Brown doesn't charge anybody to relocate animals not seriously hurt or to transport those that are to a place that will treat them, a nonprofit Ocean Ridge police support group has donated \$500 to \$1,000 annually to help him offset his expenses, Jones said.

"He's had financial struggles over the years," Jones said. "At one time he was driving an old vehicle that was breaking down all the time, and we'd call him and he'd say, 'Hey, I can't get there right now because the truck's broken down, but I can get there tomorrow.'"

When he bought a newer truck a couple of years ago, Brown was pleased that it would enable him to respond to calls more quickly, Jones said.

In Manalapan, police also regularly rely on Brown.

"He has provided a service to us for over 20 years for free," said Chief Carmen Mattox. "If there's an injured animal in our community, we call 'the pelican man.' The pelican man's response is 'I'm on the way.' He always comes."

Beachfront towns like



Kenny Brown holds a rescued pelican that was suffering from a fishing hook injury in 2010. Now people are helping Brown, who has lung and heart ailments. **Coastal Star file photo**

Ocean Ridge and Manalapan most often call Brown to assist seabirds in distress. But Slazinski has asked for his help with mammals too. "Kenny would, I think, save a rat if he had the ability to," she said.

"Coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, possums — every animal there is in Florida, I've rescued," Brown said. "You have to understand something. There is nobody to rescue injured wildlife."

Local and state agencies "all call me because nobody will help them. You see an animal that's injured or dying that's been hit by a car or hanging in a tree, I'm going to go rescue them and bring them to a hospital."

Now all he can do is hope that somehow he becomes well enough to resume helping shorebirds entangled in fishing line and four-legged critters smacked by motor vehicles.

"I sure hope so," he said, "because I've already had

many, many calls. I couldn't do nothing and it breaks my heart."

To many who have counted on Brown's help, it seems only right to repay his kindness.

One GoFundMe donor wrote: "Kenny came to my home twice when wildlife were in danger, very late into the evening. He wasn't well then with his breathing, but seemed tireless in efforts to save God's creatures in trouble. Kenny is one of God's creatures in trouble right now and needs our help."

Slazinski added, "If we all want a better place, we have to chip in. He's one of the few people who has truly dedicated his life to making this place more habitable for animals and people alike. The least we can do is help him out." ★

Brown's GoFundMe page is at: <https://www.gofundme.com/ff/donate-to-help-kenny-brown?qid=49e499215acd78f83e33b59165c1de10>



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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Ben Baffer

Perhaps no one is more aware of the importance of preserving historic buildings in our communities than someone who builds new ones for a living.

That is one of the elements that has made Ben Baffer an excellent choice for chairman of the Delray Beach Historic Preservation Board. His two-year term in that role will come to an end in August.

Baffer, 57, recently rejoined Kaufman Lynn Construction as senior vice president after spending the last three years with a Miami firm. He also spent two years (2010-12) with Kaufman Lynn in Miami working on the restoration of the Freedom Tower, one of South Florida's most iconic buildings, dating to 1925.

Considered one of South Florida's leading experts on historical restoration projects, Baffer initially joined Kaufman Lynn in 2007 as a senior project manager before a promotion to vice president of operations. He and his family have lived in Delray Beach for 21 years.

"There is so little history in South Florida, compared to other parts of the country," Baffer said. "That makes the few historic buildings we have become so precious, especially in areas that are attractive for development like Delray Beach.

"Historic buildings and sites are our community's collective legacy, and our link to our past. This is critical to our identity as a community, regardless of whether you are a newcomer, a part-time resident of Delray Beach, or if your family has been here for generations.

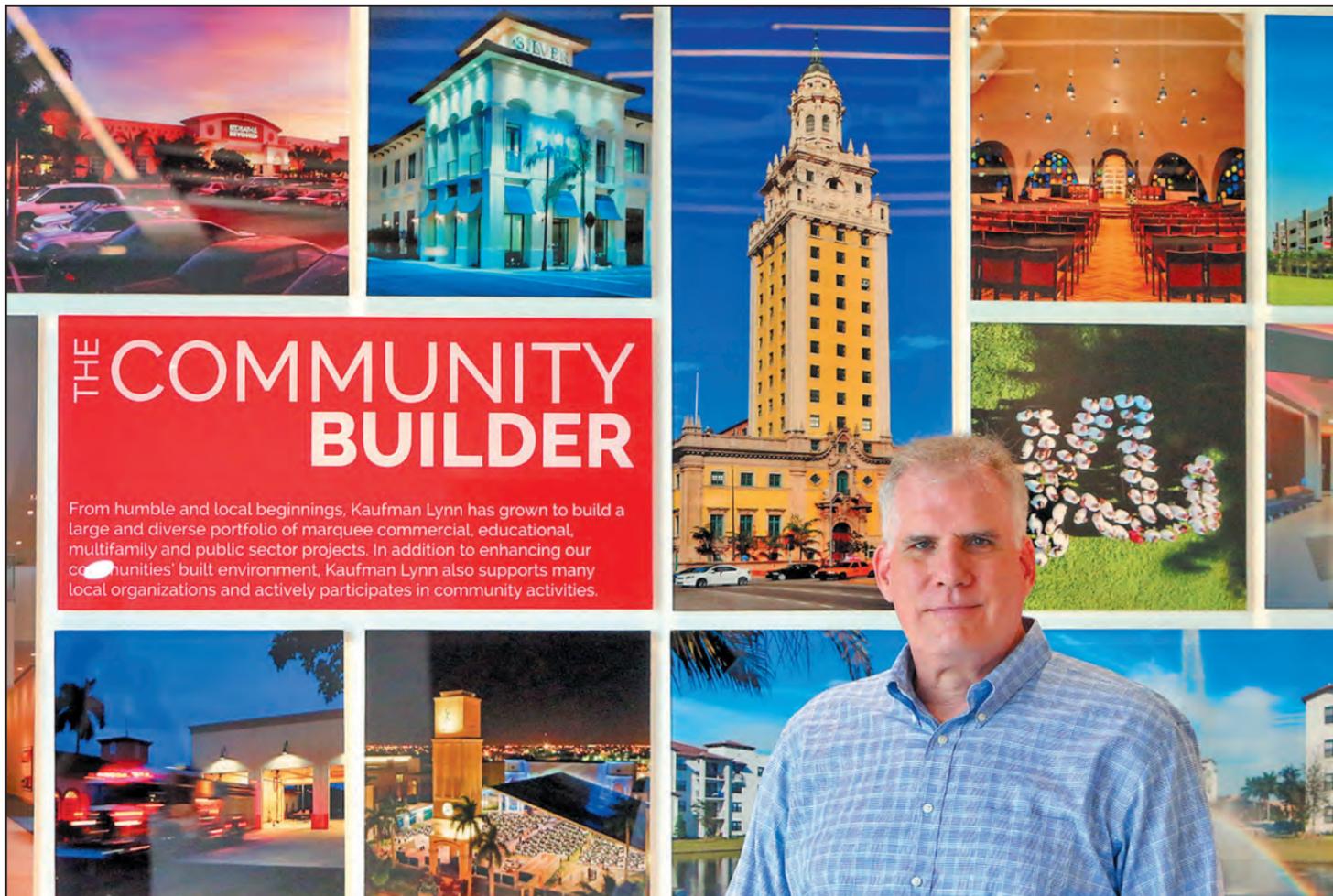
"And from a purely economic standpoint, it is a well-known fact that communities with a strong commitment to historic preservation are able to sustain significantly higher property values."

Baffer said as he nears the end of his final term, he is particularly proud of the way "we have furthered the mission of historic preservation by incorporating things like landscaping, sustainability and resiliency to our purview."

Also, "the fact that we have been able to conduct our business as a board in a manner that has always been civil, collaborative and supportive of one another, the city staff and the applicants who come before us."

"The paradox of historic preservation is that for it to be sustainable, property owners must be able to continuously maintain, improve and invest in their historic properties. If not, historic properties will be left to deteriorate and the historic resource will be eventually lost.

"Our job as a historic preservation board is to help property owners to improve and maintain their historic properties in a way that is consistent with the land development regulations,



Kaufman Lynn Construction executive Ben Baffer, chairman of the Delray Beach Historic Preservation Board, believes that historic buildings and sites 'are our community's collective legacy, and our link to our past.' This photo mural of projects — including the historic Miami Freedom Tower — graces the Kaufman Lynn conference room. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

and the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation. In other words, we are here to help people make good decisions."

Baffer's wife, Kathy, spent 14 years as president of the Seagate Neighborhood Association and is a Realtor in Delray. Their daughter Grace, 19, is a sophomore at the University of Florida, and Ava, 16, is a junior at American Heritage School.

The Baffers bought a small travel trailer camper during the pandemic and have used it extensively for family trips.

— *Brian Biggane*

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

A: I grew up in Newport News, Virginia, which is in the southeastern corner of the state where the Chesapeake Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. Growing up there, I got to know humidity, mosquitoes and the smell of low tide. I grew up on the water, and I knew at an early age that I could never live far from the coast. So, it should come as no surprise that I eventually ended up in Delray Beach. I went to college at Virginia Tech, and then graduate school at the University of Florida.

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

A: I have only worked in one profession, as a general contractor in the construction industry. On the advice of my older sister, who was majoring in architecture, I majored in building construction. This turned out to be the right

decision. I was hired by a general contractor immediately after college, and this is all I have ever done.

Construction is one of the few careers where we have lasting, tangible proof of our efforts and accomplishments, and so much of my professional identity is wrapped up in the buildings and projects that I have built, and I am proud of them all.

However, in 2010 I had the opportunity with Kaufman Lynn Construction to perform a two-year historic restoration of the Miami Freedom Tower. This is the one project I am most proud of since this building is so meaningful to Miami and the Cuban community. This project won numerous local and national restoration awards, including *Engineering News-Record's* "Best Project of the Year." A decade later, people still send me photos of the Freedom Tower lit up at night.

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

A: Instead of chasing the money, find something that you really like to do, because you will spend a lifetime doing it. On the other hand, never forget that your job is still work. They call it *work* for a reason, and if it was fun all the time, it would be called a hobby. Never underestimate the value of showing up on time and giving an honest effort every day. This will pay off in the long run, in ways you cannot imagine.

Q: How did you choose to make your home in coastal Delray Beach?

A: My wife, Kathy, is a

Florida native who grew up in Boca Raton. She owned a small cottage in the Seagate neighborhood before we were married. After we were married and started having children, we realized we needed more space. We did not want to leave the Seagate neighborhood, so in 2003 we built a larger home, and we have been here ever since.

Q: What is your favorite part about living in coastal Delray Beach?

A: Delray Beach is a special place. It has everything you would ever want or need, but still has a small-town feel. Not to mention, the 2 miles of accessible, public-access beach. I also love to remind myself that we are so fortunate to be able to live, work and raise our families in a place where people from all over the world want to visit on vacation. Because of this, I try to make a point to live a little bit of vacation every day.

Q: What book are you reading now?

A: *The Storyteller*, by Dave Grohl. I am a big fan of the Foo Fighters, who in my opinion are one of the last of the great American rock bands. Dave Grohl is about my age and grew up in Springfield, Virginia. I guess he's living out my rock and roll fantasy life. I started reading his book before Taylor Hawkins died, so this just makes it so much more poignant.

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

A: My musical tastes are pretty much stuck in the two decades of the 1970s and 1990s.

When I want to be inspired, I like to listen to my daughter Grace, who is an accomplished classical pianist, and to my daughter Ava, who is becoming an excellent guitarist. I love to listen to both of them play, since as a parent, there is no prouder moment than when you realize your child is really good at something that you cannot do.

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

A: Yes, too many to mention, starting with my father, from whom I inherited my work ethic, and to Mike Kaufman, who taught me the business side of the construction business. As far as life decisions go, I have found it is usually best to listen to my wife, Kathy, who keeps me grounded. She is a great sounding board, and she helps me to make good decisions.

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

A: Vince Vaughn. Mainly because of his height, and the fact that he doesn't seem to take himself too seriously. Vince Vaughn is known for his comedy roles and doesn't necessarily have leading man looks, but he can carry a heavy role when he needs to.

Q: Who/what makes you laugh?

A: I'm not proud of the fact that I still have the sense of humor of a 10th-grader. Totally unsophisticated, basic, stupid humor. *Caddyshack*, *Fletch* and *Animal House* make me laugh hysterically, no matter how many times I've seen them.

Delray Beach

Boca museum drops out as candidate to operate Cornell Art Museum

By Jane Smith

While Delray Beach residents were meeting about the future of Old School Square, Boca Raton Museum of Art officials who were getting a second look at operating Delray's Cornell Art Museum decided they were no longer interested in the gig for now.

After kicking aside the Boca Raton museum's proposals for the Cornell at their April 5 meeting, city commissioners reversed themselves June 14 and told City Manager Terrence Moore to begin new discussions with the museum's representatives.

But Boca Raton museum leaders decided June 23 that "this is not the right time to take on the management of the Cornell Museum," Irvin Lippman, executive director, wrote in a June 27 email to *The Coastal Star*. He said he had also told Moore.

"We realize many renovations still need to take place on the OSS campus," Lippman wrote. "Still, more importantly, there is significant work to be done by the City to reach an undivided consensus about the arts in Delray Beach and what role OSS should play in the future."

On June 14, the City Commission also directed Moore and the city attorney to negotiate with Visual Adjectives, a mother-and-son team that now rents space at the Arts Warehouse in Delray Beach. The two host writing workshops and renaissance festivals that they want to bring to the Old School Square campus.

At the Delray Beach public forum held the night of the decision by Lippman's board, participants talked about some of the things they wanted to see at Old School Square: Create better lighting throughout the campus; add more shade trees; provide a covering for outdoor concerts; host temporary public artworks; and have programs that appeal to the diversity of all city residents.

Nearly 60 attendees gathered at the Fieldhouse on the OSS campus for the forum, called a charrette. They wanted to see better signs on the grounds, local artists having display space in the Cornell, and possibly, having the museum host a Surfing Florida History exhibit that would reactivate the museum more quickly.

Moore said city staff would consult with the discussion leader, Tom Lanahan of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, about the suggestions. Moore planned to present a long-term vision for the campus in his weekly commission information letter on July 1. City commissioners will review the plan at their July 12 meeting.

The charrette was not streamed live and no city

commissioners attended.

At the start, two men who are aligned with the previous campus operator, Old School Square Center for the Arts, tried to focus the discussion on "who" would run the downtown campus, instead of "what" the attendees want to see there.

"The who has to be defined before the what," said Steven English, the registered agent of a new group, Friends of Delray, that supports the previous campus operators, known as OSSCA. The City Commission voted to end its relationship with OSSCA last year.

City Manager Moore stood steadfast at the charrette, redirecting the discussion to the "what" attendees wanted to see happen.

The attendees were divided into nine groups. Two of the people making presentations for their groups are board members of the former operator.

Patty Jones, the OSSCA board chairwoman, also mentioned keeping the grounds active with events, including yoga. Inside the Fieldhouse, her group wanted to see more activities for kids, along with the weddings and craft shows already held there.

Jim Chard, a former city commissioner and OSSCA board member, said it was important to have an organization that could attract donors and volunteers.

Lori Durante, a publicist and the daughter of a former city commissioner, said her group wanted to allow local artists to have exhibit space at the Cornell while hosting international art exhibits to increase attendance. She also talked about having more affordable ticket prices at Crest Theatre performances. "We need a financially sound operator," she said.

Historic preservationist John Miller, whose group included Brian Cheslack, a lawyer who previously served on the OSSCA board, said the acoustics need to be fixed in the Fieldhouse, based on Cheslack's input.

Suzanne Boyd, a former local TV news anchor and the new marketing manager for the Downtown Development Authority, proposed having a digital sign for Old School Square activities at the northeast corner of Swinton and Atlantic avenues.

Her group also asked for bocce ball courts, swing sets and other family activities. It did not want to see large festivals or big carnival rides on the Old School Square grounds.

The situation between the City Commission and the former operator erupted last August, after festering for years over the former operator's finances.

City commissioners discovered the Crest Theatre was being renovated without their approval in July 2021. In

addition, the bond documents for the work favored the contractor, not the city.

In August, the City Commission voted to end the lease with the former operator in 180 days on a 3-2 vote. Three months later, OSSCA sued the city, claiming wrongful termination of the lease.

"There was so much rancor from the previous tenant that many of our nonprofits were intimidated," Commissioner Shirley Johnson said at the June 14 commission meeting.

Johnson, who was on the winning side of a 3-2 vote ending discussions with the Boca Raton art museum in April, changed her position June 14 to allow the discussions to start up again. Johnson explained her earlier vote as not understanding what the Boca Raton art museum was offering. She heard from Delray Beach residents who wanted to see the museum involved with Old School Square's operations.

Now, before any new operator comes on board, the Cornell museum needs repairs before it can be activated.

It needs track lighting and security cameras that were removed by the previous tenants, said Laura Simon, the DDA's executive director, at the June 14 commission meeting. She also said the adhesive from the tape used to mark the social distancing during the pandemic of the past two years had destroyed the finish on the hardwood floors in the museum.

While the Boca Raton art museum isn't considering running the Cornell, Lippman said its leaders are willing to consult with the city's Parks & Recreation Department on how to activate the grounds with public art while the buildings are being finished.

Commissioner Ryan Boylston's idea for the Summer of Delray Arts fell apart because of the poor condition of the Cornell and because the nonprofits he expected to display at the museum said they wanted to be paid to put up exhibits there.

In other Delray Beach news, commissioners voted 4-1 on June 7 to increase the rates charged to properties served by the city's water system starting July 1. It is the first time since 2009 that the city is raising water rates. Commissioner Johnson cast the dissenting vote, saying there may be other ways to raise the money for a new water treatment plant, estimated to cost about \$125 million.

City water users will notice the first increase in their August bills. The average single-family home uses 6,000 gallons of water a month and will see rates rise by 5.36% to \$60.93 from \$57.83. The next increase will not occur until Oct. 1, 2023, when rates will rise an additional 6.11% to \$64.65. ★

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Ocean Ridge

Lucky 13? Odd speed limit endorsed as first step toward safer Old Ocean

By Larry Barszewski

Ocean Ridge town commissioners hope “13 mph” speed limit signs on Old Ocean Boulevard will bring the town good luck in reducing the growing tensions among the pedestrians, cyclists and motorists competing for space on the popular oceanside roadway.

The oddly numbered limit won’t be enforceable from a statutory perspective, but it could catch motorists’ attention and be a touch-off point for police patrolling the promenade-like boulevard to have discussions with them about the need to go slow there.

“I know it’s not enforceable, but we thought it was a clever way to get people to slow down,” said Carolyn Cassidy, who heads a citizens task force looking for solutions to the road problems.

The task force came about due to safety concerns on Old Ocean, a nearly mile-long road between Corrine Street and Briny Breezes Boulevard, with a few stretches of unobstructed ocean views. It attracts crowds of people — on foot, on bikes, on skateboards, in golf carts and in cars and trucks.

In addition to lowering the speed limit posted on street signs, commissioners agreed



The town hopes 13-mph signs will encourage drivers to slow down on Old Ocean Boulevard, which during the season is crowded with people walking dogs, riding bikes and skateboarding. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

at their June 6 meeting to have some of the roadside vegetation cut back. The trimming will provide space for pedestrians to step off the road when cars pass in both directions, leaving not enough room on the road. Earlier that day, commissioners had agreed to set aside \$3,800 in the town’s upcoming budget for the work, officials said.

But commissioners put off — at least for now — other suggested changes that they fear might ruin the ambience of the town’s signature boulevard or create new problems. Those ideas included placing speed humps to slow cars, painting a center line down the road, installing electronic digital signs that track the speed of oncoming vehicles, and putting

up “resident only” signs.

Despite the commission’s reluctance to install lighted digital signs, it did agree to allow Police Chief Richard Jones to place the town’s portable devices on the stretch of road temporarily to encourage motorists to slow down.

“It is kind of like a country road,” Commissioner Geoff Pugh said, with walkers vastly outnumbering drivers at peak times. “I’d say most of the people that drive down there know that if you drive down there at a certain time of day, you’re going to get the stink eye every time.”

Commissioners and some residents said that drivers aren’t the only ones to blame for the road situation. Many

pedestrians don’t keep to their left and face oncoming traffic; instead they block the road for the cars coming up behind them.

“I think more than cars being the problem are pedestrians that are the problem,” said resident Debby Belmonte. “They’re walking all over the place. ... I think just a couple of signs maybe, for stay to your left, or walk against traffic for your own safety, just some nice signs, it’s a start. Let’s move the pedestrians and get them flowing right.”

Walkers oblivious to the cars trying to get by can be frustrating, said 92-year-old Betty Bingham, a longtime resident who frequently drives on the road.

“I go over Old Ocean all the time. I drive 10 miles an hour. If the people don’t get out of my way, I’d like to bump them,” Bingham said. “A little civility might cure a lot of the problems there, seriously.”

In other matters, town commissioners:

- Approved a one-year extension for the owner of 6273 N. Ocean Blvd. to finish construction started in 2015. Under the agreement, the owner still has to get necessary town approvals for all modifications, has to put up \$450,000 to cover the town’s costs in tearing down

the building if the work isn’t completed on time, and has to reduce the size of a planned rooftop deck to about 2,200 square feet — which neighbors say is still too large. The vote was 4-1, with Commissioner Martin Wiescholek opposed.

- Learned that Town Clerk Karla Armstrong will be leaving to attend law school.

- Approved spending \$59,844 to repair the Porter Street beach crossover, quadruple the \$15,000 the town had budgeted for the work, with increased costs Town Manager Tracey Stevens said were “due to inflation from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.” The town will also spend \$27,026 repairing brick sidewalks on Ocean Avenue east of the Intracoastal Waterway bridge. That cost is actually less than the \$50,000 budgeted for it, because expected permitting through the Florida Department of Transportation will not be needed.

- Learned that the town was the victim of a \$29,100 check fraud incident — one that may involve Postal Service employees. The checks in question were hand-delivered to a mail carrier at Town Hall, Stevens wrote in her commission report. Police are investigating. ★

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Manalapan

Town may have money to play with, thanks to rising property values

By Larry Barszewski

Manalapan's rising property values have town commissioners looking at many things they might like to do next year, given the extra tax dollars that would be available even if they don't raise the property tax rate.

In fact, Manalapan commissioners say they want to lower the tax rate. Higher property assessments mean they can do that and still collect increased property taxes for their budget priorities.

The money could be used to pay for some water treatment plant improvements that have been delayed, or to start getting all residents off septic tanks and onto a sewer system, or possibly to give employees a one-time bonus on top of a 5% pay raise that's already in Town Manager Linda Stumpf's preliminary budget.

During a budget workshop on June 27, commissioners even talked about starting the process of eliminating power poles and placing utilities underground, but only because it might make sense to do it at the same time that sewer pipes are installed.

"It makes common sense that if you can do it, do it all at one time," Mayor Keith Waters said of the suggestion by Commissioner John Deese. "If we want to look at that, that's probably not a bad idea because sooner or later, you know, all these poles are going to have to come down at some point. It might as well be, with what we're doing, sooner, in my opinion."

If the town were to leave its tax rate unchanged of \$3.17 for every \$1,000 of assessed value, it would collect \$1.2 million more in property taxes this year than it did last year because of the

rising property values. Stumpf recommended lowering the tax rate while still allowing the town to collect more taxes from residents.

Under Stumpf's proposal, the town would set a tax rate of \$2.83 for every \$1,000 of assessed value, which amounts to a 12.2% tax revenue increase. Commissioners said they'd prefer to see what might be accomplished with a tax rate of \$3 for every \$1,000 of assessed value, which would produce a 19% tax revenue increase. That would give commissioners \$315,000 more to work with than in Stumpf's preliminary \$6 million operating and capital projects budget, and still be 5.3% under the current tax rate.

"I want to send a signal very clearly, that the millage rate is going to go down," Waters said, referring to the tax rate.

Commissioners will set the town's tentative tax rate at a 9:15 a.m. July 26 meeting before the regular 10 a.m. commission meeting. Residents will get notices of their proposed assessments in August, followed by public hearings in September before commissioners adopt a new budget and tax rate for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1. The town taxes are only a portion of a resident's total tax bill.

Highlights of the commission discussion around Stumpf's preliminary budget include:

Succession plans: Stumpf, who plans to retire in two years, has also been handling the town finance director's duties, something not typical of a town manager. The budget includes \$39,000 to hire a CPA firm to take on those duties, which will make it easier for the town to fill her position.

In the Police Department, Chief Carmen Mattox wants to reinstate a lieutenant's position by converting an existing position. While Mattox has no specific plans to retire, Waters said it would be good to have "somebody else who understands and knows the force" ready to take over.

Employee raises: Stumpf included 5% raises for employees after commissioners said earlier this year they would like to go above the typical 3% raises and keep the town competitive with other similarly sized local governments. When Deese talked about possibly going even higher, Waters warned that the town has to be careful about changes that can't be reversed and could burden the town if property values plummet in the future. Deese said the commission might instead consider a "one-time bonus" that doesn't get built into employee base salaries.

Security guard woes: Commissioners are looking at replacing the firm handling

security at the guardhouse, a situation that Stumpf said "has become untenable" based on continuing complaints from residents. The firm recently added a Barcalounger in the guardhouse, she said. "The complaints I'm getting is that there's no visible gate guard. When we drive by, they're actually inside with the door shut, on their cellphone," Chief Mattox said.

Moving building plans online: Town Clerk Erika Petersen said she is nearing the end of a project to scan all filed Building Department plans and place them online. About 9,000 documents remain and should be scanned during the next year, while all new filings are submitted online-ready.

Capital projects budget: Stumpf suggested almost doubling this year's capital projects budget even before commissioners started talking about other things they might want to include. The amount Stumpf proposed for the projects increased from \$292,615 in the current budget to \$572,894. The main items are \$166,684 to renovate the Police Department squad room at Town Hall and \$134,715 for three new vehicles — two for the Police Department and the other for Stumpf.

See MANALAPAN on page 23



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Briny Breezes

New fireworks rules require \$1,000 permit

By Joe Capozzi

Just in time for the Fourth of July, the Town Council passed a new law regulating fireworks displays in Briny Breezes.

The measure requires a town permit for any fireworks or pyrotechnical displays, along with liability insurance and a performance bond. The nonrefundable permit fee is \$1,000.

The fireworks regulations are part of an ordinance banning the release of balloons and sky lanterns in town as a tool to protect the environment and reduce trash on beaches where sea turtles nest.

When Alderwoman Christina Adams proposed the anti-balloon ordinance, the council felt it made sense to add the fireworks regulations.

"It's an important one for our environment," Adams said after the council's unanimous vote to approve the ordinance on second reading June 23. "Hopefully our neighboring towns will follow suit."

With the Fourth of July just around the corner, council President Sue Thaler suggested the corporation put out an email blast "telling people you can't be setting off fireworks without a permit."

Asked if fireworks are a problem in Briny, Ocean Ridge

Police Chief Richard Jones said: "We have never had any more of a problem than we have in Ocean Ridge. It is usually confined to holidays like the Fourth of July so it is somewhat expected. We ask that everyone in Briny obey the ordinance so that we are not required to conduct any enforcement action on a holiday."

At a council workshop June 23, Briny's sea wall replacement project dominated discussion of Town Manager William Thrasher's budget proposal for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Along with increased costs for police and fire services, the \$1.4 million spending plan includes a new reserve fund of \$200,479 for matching grant requirements and \$30,000 for a sea-wall-funding lobbyist in Tallahassee.

Requests in the budget's property fund include \$20,000 for engineering services, up from \$7,500 in the current budget, and \$13,800 for legal services, up from \$10,000.

Asked by Thaler about those increases, Thrasher didn't offer specifics about the engineering services, but said the increases for legal services are related to the sea wall project.

"I think we're going to run into some headwind in regards to how we approach contracts going forward, particularly in

'23 for the proposed sea wall enhancement project. I'd rather be on the high side than the low side," he said.

Officials with Briny Breezes Corp. said they were uncomfortable with the town putting \$200,000 in the reserve fund when shareholders are being asked to pay \$207,600 for police and fire and \$320,000 for water and sewer. Last year, the corporation paid \$192,700 for police and fire and nearly \$276,000 for water and sewer.

"If the town's got more money, then the amount the corporation is deficit-funding the town should really come down," said Michael Gallacher, the corporation's general manager.

Thrasher said the sea wall project will cost millions and won't happen without money from state and federal matching grants. A future council could reallocate the reserves for other uses if the grants for the sea wall don't come through, he said. "You have to start somewhere," he said. "If we don't start now, we for sure won't be in a position to match funds."

The budget will be discussed again at a workshop July 28. A meeting about the sea wall enhancement project will be held later this year, when more residents are in town, Thrasher said. ★

Along the Coast

County tax roll at its highest since 2006, revised numbers show

By Mary Hladky

Taxable values of Palm Beach County properties have surged more than any year since 2006.

That year, countywide taxable values jumped by a whopping 23%. The Great Recession halted the meteoric rise, with the county experiencing significant decreases for four consecutive years beginning in 2008.

They rebounded into positive territory in 2012 and recently have shown steady growth of about 6% a year.

But a white-hot real estate market and a spike in new construction boosted taxable values by double digits countywide and in all but seven municipalities last year.

Revised preliminary numbers issued by Property Appraiser Dorothy Jacks on June 28 show countywide values increased by 15.2%, up from 5.8% the previous year. The numbers are based on market conditions as of Jan. 1, 2022.

All southeast county municipalities saw strong gains, with Manalapan's 28.2% jump, Ocean Ridge's 18.3% rise and Boynton Beach's 16.5% increase outpacing the rest.

Boca Raton's taxable values rose 14.5%, up from last year's 3.8%, according to Jacks' most recent valuations. Delray Beach's went up 15.4%, an increase from 5.4%; Briny Breezes' rose by 13.6%, up from 10.4%; Gulf Stream's by 13%, up from 2.5%; Highland Beach's by 13.8%, up from 3.5%; Lantana's by 15.8%, up from 9.3%; and South Palm Beach's by 12.7%, up from 4.4%.

The soaring valuations will translate into higher property tax bills for homeowners unless the county and municipalities reduce their tax rates, a potential outcome that has raised alarms at a time when inflation and rising interest rates are straining family budgets.

Pedro Garcia, Miami-Dade's property appraiser, has sent a memo to county commissioners urging elected officials across that county and its School Board

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	\$27.1 billion	\$31 billion	14.5
Boynton Beach	\$6.9 billion	\$8.1 billion	16.5
Briny Breezes	\$65.8 million	\$74.7 million	13.6
Delray Beach	\$12.5 billion	\$14.4 billion	15.4
Gulf Stream	\$1.3 billion	\$1.4 billion	13.0
Highland Beach	\$2.7 billion	\$3.1 billion	13.8
Lantana	\$1.3 billion	\$1.5 billion	15.8
Manalapan	\$1.5 billion	\$1.9 billion	28.2
Ocean Ridge	\$1.1 billion	\$1.4 billion	18.3
South Palm Beach	\$458.5 million	\$516.9 million	12.7
Palm Beach County	\$221.7 billion	\$255.3 billion	15.2

SOURCE: Palm Beach County property appraiser

to cut the tax rate to provide relief to homeowners, the *Miami Herald* has reported.

Palm Beach County Mayor Robert Weinroth said county commissioners should consider reducing the tax rate to offset a tax bill increase, according to the *Palm Beach Post*.

Jacks, in an interview with *The Coastal Star*, was careful to stay in her lane. "It is not my place to counsel (other elected officials) on anything," she said.

But Jacks noted that if taxable values rise and the tax rates stay the same, the county and municipalities will collect more revenue.

"If they need the same amount of money (as last year), maybe they can reduce the rate and keep your taxes about the same. If the values go up and rates go up, the taxpayer is not getting a benefit from increased value."

She then added, "I think tax reduction is a great thing, especially for the folks who are paying taxes."

Boca Raton officials pride themselves on their city's low tax rate, which is possible because the city has the strongest tax base in the county.

"I will not vote for a millage increase," said Mayor Scott Singer. "That is clear."

Beyond that, Singer said in mid-June that it is too early in

the city's budget and tax-rate-setting process to say what will happen.

Boca, like all cities, is facing rising costs for supplies, equipment and building projects due to price increases and supply chain issues. The growing city also needs to hire more employees to keep service levels high, and to retain existing employees.

"Given the incredible inflationary environment, challenges to get staff, cost of construction materials, cost of gasoline, it is hard to say today what if any decrease in the millage rate we will have," Singer said.

"Regardless, if there is no millage rate increase ... we will continue to have one of the lowest millage rates of any full-service city in Florida."

Manalapan Town Manager Linda Stumpf attributed her town's enormous taxable value jump to the construction of new estate homes.

It is welcome news since the additional revenue "gives me a little bit of flexibility" on buying equipment the town needs and increasing staffing, she said.

Contacted on June 22,

Stumpf noted that the town's budget for next fiscal year was not yet finalized and no tax rate had been set.

"I anticipate it will be reduced," she said. "How much I can't tell you."

Ocean Ridge Town Manager Tracey Stevens said her town's strong taxable value showing is the result of continuing tear-downs and rebuilding of single-family homes and skyrocketing real estate values.

Speaking in mid-June, she said it is too soon to know what will happen with the tax rate, although the Town Commission had instructed her in early June to keep it at last year's \$5.50 for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

The additional revenue that rate will bring in would pay for deferred maintenance and capital projects such as stormwater drainage.

The commission's stance could change though, she said, after public hearings on the budget and tax rate this summer.

While taxable values have increased substantially, they do not fully reflect how much property values have increased as demand exceeds supply.

Homeowners don't feel the full brunt of rising property values because state law caps the taxable value increase to 3% for homesteaded properties. Non-homesteaded properties are capped at 10%.

Another factor is that many properties such as churches and schools are tax-exempt.

In May, the median sale price of a single-family home in the county rose to a record \$615,000, up \$14,000 since April and 30% more than one year ago, according to Broward, Palm Beaches and St. Lucie Realtors. The average sale price topped \$1 million.

There are signs, however, that the market is cooling off, in part because of increasing interest

rates. But since the market has been so strong during the first six months of this year, Jacks anticipates valuation increases next year.

Local governments are reluctant to raise tax rates, a politically problematic step. When taxable values rise, they often reduce the tax rate a bit, but not enough to avoid a tax increase.

To prevent a tax increase altogether, elected officials would have to use the "rolled-back" rate, which state law requires them to calculate. That rate would generate the same amount of property tax revenue as the previous year. But again, officials are always in need of more revenue and rarely do that.

New construction has soared in the county to \$4.4 billion, up from last year's \$3.2 billion.

The largest projects added to the tax roll this year in Delray Beach are the Ray Hotel at 223 NE Second Ave. in Pineapple Grove, the Delray Beach Market food hall at 33 SE Third Ave., and the estate home at 707 N. Ocean Blvd., according to the property appraiser's office.

The largest Boca Raton projects are Aura Boca, a luxury apartment project at 789 W. Yamato Road, a single-family home built in 2021 at 450 E. Coconut Palm Road, and another new home built last year at 1908 Royal Palm Way.

In Boynton Beach, the projects are Quantum Lake Villas West apartments near the intersection of Gateway Boulevard and Quantum Lakes Drive, a single-family home at 634 Windward Circle South in the gated Casa Del Mar community, and a McDonald's at 1701 S. Congress Ave.

Municipalities and the county will hold public hearings this summer on their new budgets and proposed tax rates. Final action on tax rates typically takes place in September. ★

MANALAPAN

Continued from page 22

Commissioners have a lot to consider about getting homes off septic and onto sewers.

"We're going to have to do this sooner or later. We've guessed it's like a 10-year window, but it's a guess," Waters said. "If we do the sewers now, we know that we can get some help" paying for the work from other governments, he said.

While Deese and the mayor said it seems to make sense to bury utility and sewer lines at the same time, public support has been mixed.

"I talked with dozens and dozens of people about undergrounding and natural gas, and not one of them was interested in moving to natural

gas. They were all perfectly fine with propane and with the tanks," Waters said.

"Undergrounding with the utilities was sort of up in the air, because half the people said it was a great idea aesthetically, but it really doesn't have any bearing [logistically] because we're attached above-ground going over to the mainland."

Waters acknowledged that much of the natural gas opposition stemmed from the personal cost property owners would have been facing to connect.

If the town could pay for the additional construction needed through taxes, residents probably would have much greater buy-in, he said. ★



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Boca Raton



A transformational gift

Ann and John Wood's \$28 million for scholarships aims to help FAU medical students graduate with less debt and to motivate more donors

By Mary Hladky

Ivan Grela's career goal is to become a physician, but he faced a major hurdle. By his calculations, four years of medical school would cost him \$245,000.

"That is way too much," he said. "My family could not help me with tuition or rent."

That left him with one unpalatable option: take out loans that would saddle him with debt for years to come.

"I was disheartened," said Grela, a University of Florida graduate who was born in Argentina and moved with his family to Miami when he was 9 years old. "I really didn't want to do this. It did make me think twice."

Even so, he applied to medical schools and was accepted by both the University of Central Florida and Florida Atlantic University.

UCF offered a \$6,000 scholarship. FAU, his preferred choice, offered him one established by Boca Raton philanthropists John and Ann Wood that covered his entire first-year tuition and provided \$10,000 for each of the next three years.

That decided the matter: Grela would be attending FAU's Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, where he is now in his second year.

He and the other students who received the scholarships are "extremely thankful," Grela said. "We are so much more relieved that at least we got some sort of aid."

Even so, Grela estimates he will graduate with \$180,000 in loan debt.

His problem is widely shared. Seventy-three percent of medical school graduates had debt, with the median amount at \$200,000 in 2019, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

John and Ann Wood are well aware of this dilemma. That is why they stepped forward again in May with a \$28 million estate pledge to support scholarships for



FAU College of Medicine benefactor Ann Wood and previous Wood scholarship recipients attend a May event announcing a \$28 million gift from Ann and her husband, John, the largest scholarship gift in FAU's history. One current recipient is Ivan Grela, fourth from left, who is a second-year medical student. Photo provided by Alex Dolce/FAU

medical college students — the largest scholarship gift in FAU's history.

This gift allows the college to launch an initiative to move toward providing a debt-free medical education, following in the footsteps of a handful of prestigious medical colleges. They include Cornell University, Columbia University, University of California, Los Angeles, and New York University.

"That was our goal," John Wood said. "We are fully aware of the debt load."

Wood, who moved with his wife to Boca Raton in 1983, knows that FAU's annual medical college in-state tuition and fees is \$35,000.

"There is no way an ordinary kid coming from a middle-class home can afford that," he said.

The couple, who owned a prestressed concrete business that built bridges, piers and cruise ship terminals throughout the Caribbean that they sold in 2005, hopes that news of their gift will inspire other philanthropists so that all of FAU's medical college

students can graduate debt-free.

"We are hoping that will be a catalyst to get more people in the community to do the same thing," Wood said.

The couple has helped students for years. After the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland that claimed 17 lives, they began providing 10 four-year scholarships each year to graduates.

Their first gift to FAU's medical college in 2021 originally supported 10 medical students through four years of medical school, and was expanded earlier this year to support an additional 20 students each year.

Two of their charitable efforts are named in the memory of their sons, Bruce and Robert.

While the amount of the Woods' latest gift is extremely generous, it will help about 10% to 15% of FAU's medical students, said Dr. Julie Pilitsis, dean and vice president for medical affairs.

She shares the Woods' goal that the donation inspires

others to join the cause.

"We hope the community rallies behind this to realize the vision of doctors without debt," she said.

This isn't just about helping students afford medical education. It is vital to providing adequate medical care to South Florida residents, Pilitsis said. Florida is expected to be short nearly 18,000 physicians by 2035, according to the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida and the Florida Hospital Association.

"It is really important ... we provide the health care workforce we need today and tomorrow," she said. "In order to do that, we need to attract doctors from the community who want to stay in the community and serve their neighbors."

With debt-free tuition, "I think we can attract the best and brightest and retain our local talent," Pilitsis said. "Taking this burden off is one way to compete."

Joining other trailblazing universities "would really elevate our institution," she

said.

Reducing the cost of medical education also will help FAU attract a diverse group of medical students who are more likely to meet the needs of underserved populations. And it relieves pressure on students to become highly paid specialists rather than badly needed but lower paid primary care physicians.

Grela hasn't decided yet what type of medicine he will practice. But he said he probably would choose primary care or emergency medicine if he didn't have to worry about money.

Since he does, "this makes me reconsider which field I want to go into. I am concerned with the loans piling up, interest rates, how long it will take me to pay this off," he said.

As it aims for debt-free medical education, FAU's medical college, launched in 2010, already is able to point to successes in diversifying its student body and aligning graduates with the most-needed practice areas.

The 64 members of the class of 2022 are 46% female and 54% male; 20% are underrepresented minorities in medicine. Twenty will specialize in primary care, including family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics.

About 30% of FAU's 2022 medical college graduates will conduct their residencies in Florida, and 50% of those residency graduates will stay in the state, Pilitsis said. ★

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The lushly landscaped 15.65-acre former Ziff estate and the sanctuary known as Bird Island are located just north of the Boynton Inlet. The mature landscaping is a result of decades of work in native plant restoration and conservation efforts. A golf practice area is on the east side of A1A. **Google Map image**

ESTATE

Continued from page 1

money’s worth when the final sale came through.

Clark turned a \$79 million profit — an increase of 84% — on the estate that cost him \$94 million, the priciest sale in town until he decided to sell it in an off-market transaction. The sale was handled by Lawrence Moens of Lawrence A. Moens Associates, who brokered



Clark

both sides of the deal. Moens had also handled Clark’s earlier purchase.

The buyer was listed as Florida Realty LLC, a Delaware corporation with a California address that is the same as the one for the Larry Ellison Foundation. Besides the 15.65-acre main property, Ellison took ownership of an approximately 7-acre wildlife sanctuary space on Bird Island.

Forbes ranks Ellison as No. 8 on this year’s list of the world’s wealthiest people. His reported net worth was hovering around \$93 billion at the end of June, while Clark, ranked by Forbes around No. 950, was worth about \$2.9 billion.

Last year, Ellison paid \$80 million for an oceanfront North Palm Beach estate. He also owns almost all of the Hawaiian island of Lanai, plunking down \$300 million for it back in 2012. Other people still live on Lanai, and Ellison’s deal included a couple of Four Seasons resorts that attract the rich and famous to stay there.

His foray into Manalapan — a small town known for its



The main house is two stories and faces the ocean. **Photos provided by Realtor.com**



A seating area with cut-coral walls, pecky cypress ceilings and a wall of live orchids.

expensive homes and quietly wealthy residents — had eyes popping over the purchase price.

“It’s an amazing number,” said Manalapan Vice Mayor Stewart Satter, a developer who recorded a \$40 million sale of his own in March for a vacant ocean-to-Intracoastal lot. “It’s kind of hard for me to believe someone is spending that kind of money.”

Some residents may be concerned about what plans Ellison has for the town’s premier property, but Satter doesn’t think Ellison is looking to develop what he calls a “very, very, special property.”

It includes a 33-bedroom, 38-bathroom main house that sits on both sides of State Road A1A, with the larger portion on the ocean side.

“He’s decided he wants some super-unique property,” Satter said. “No one is spending \$200 million to develop it.”

While Satter himself was interested in the property before Clark bought it last year, he said the value in redeveloping it is overstated. The town can allow construction east of A1A in the area, which is what developers want, but Satter said the “final say” goes to the Florida Department of

Environmental Protection.

“They made the requirements so strict, you effectively can’t build on the east side of the road,” Satter said of state regulators. “The requirements are so strict, you can only build a small house.”

In 2020, the town gave the previous owners, heirs of media pioneer William B. Ziff Jr., the ability to subdivide the property that they had been trying to sell since 2016, but those rights went away when Clark bought it in 2021. Clark’s purchase price was far below the \$195 million the Ziffs originally sought.

The Shutts & Bowen law firm, representing Ellison’s corporation, has requested town records of zoning and development approvals granted for 2000 S. Ocean Blvd., as well as any approvals for items such as variances, site plans or permits. The request is also for 3040 S. Ocean Blvd., which is part of the property.

How unusual is the property? Descriptions mention three tunnels that go under A1A to connect the east and west portions of the

property.

One of those tunnels — “if you want to call it a tunnel,” Mayor Keith Waters says — connects the two portions of the house and includes works of art and other extravagant furnishings. “To say it’s magnificent would be an understatement,” Waters said of the underground connector.

Previously known as the Ziff estate and before that as Gemini, the property has 1,200 linear feet of ocean frontage and another 1,300 feet along the Intracoastal. Besides the main house, it has a guest house, manager’s house, two ocean cottages, tennis courts, swimming pool, regulation golf practice area, a miniature golf course and a botanic garden with 1,500 species of tropical trees and plants.

For a time decades ago, it was considered the most expensive residence in the country. It now at least holds the state title.

The previous top sale in the state was \$129.6 million for a four-parcel purchase on Blossom Way in the town of Palm Beach in 2012 by hedge-fund manager Ken Griffin, said Jonathan Miller, president of Miller Samuel Inc., a real estate appraisal and consultant firm. The most expensive single parcel before last month’s purchase was at 535 N. County Road in Palm Beach, which sold for \$122.7 million last year, Miller said.

“If you look at what’s available in the properties, it’s an age-old saying: There’s only so much dirt on the ocean like that,” Waters said. “Palm Beach is a big, shiny object, and Manalapan is a quiet, subtle, and in my opinion, better version.” ★

Boca Raton



ABOVE: The new passenger waiting area.
RIGHT: Inside the terminal, a portion of the second floor will be removed to create a two-story entryway.
BELOW: Replacing old hangars with new ones will add about 50,000 square feet of hangar space, and a new fuel storage tank will be built. Those changes are highlighted in blue.
 Renderings provided



Boca airport to get \$40 million makeover in deal with Atlantic Aviation

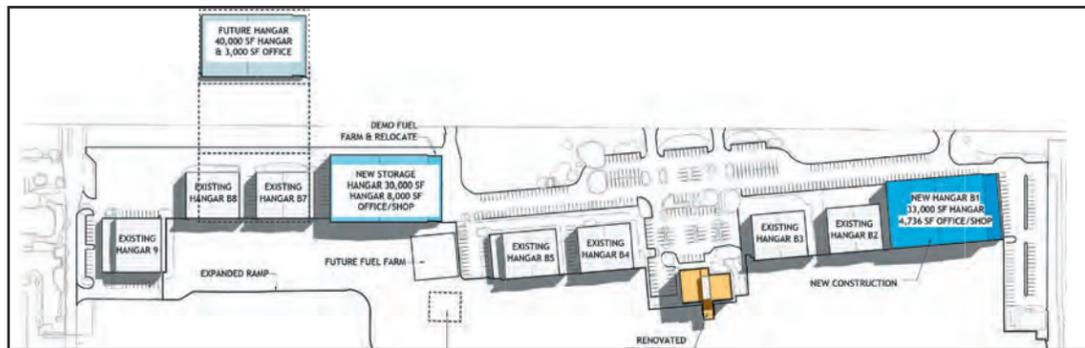
By Larry Keller

Boca Raton is a city with an ample number of cosmetic surgeons serving its residents, and now its airport has an appointment for a \$40 million face-lift.

Atlantic Aviation and the Boca Raton Airport have signed a new 40-year ground lease in which Atlantic will commit \$40 million over the next seven years to replace and add new hangars and make improvements to parking areas and an office building.

Atlantic, which operates in 30 states, is one of two fixed base operators at the airport that provide maintenance, fueling, hangar and tie-down space and other services.

“It’s an opportunity to modernize, revitalize,” said Clara Bennett, executive director of the Boca Raton Airport Authority. And that’s something that’s needed.



“It’s a modernization of facilities that were built over 30 years ago,” Bennett said. “The aircraft are getting bigger. Because some of these hangars were built in the ’80s and early ’90s, they were built with lower door heights ... that cannot accommodate the newer fleet that have taller tails and longer wingspans.”

The Boca Raton Airport is a general aviation facility. It has no commercial flights but serves private aviation and charters and is the site of Lynn University’s flight school.

A seven-member airport authority board operates the 214-acre airfield and leases 41 acres to Atlantic. The new lease was effective June 1, replacing one set to expire in 2033.

The original lease dates back to the 1980s, and there had been 22 amendments over the years, Bennett said. Atlantic maintains structures on the leased land and subleases space to tenants such as aircraft maintenance and charter aviation companies. The company also derives income from sources such as hangar rentals and fuel sales.

Atlantic hopes to break ground by the end of this year and to complete much of the construction of hangars and the airport’s Executive Terminal and office space building within five years of the start of work.

Five hangars will be razed and new ones built resulting in a net increase of about 50,000 square feet of hangar space, said Tony Sherbert, Atlantic’s regional director. For 30 years Atlantic will own the new hangars it builds, after which ownership transfers to the airport authority, he added.

Atlantic also will resurface about 710,000 square feet of ramp or tarmac space and add another estimated 50,000 square feet of space. It also will build a new 90,000-gallon fuel storage tank.

“I think the biggest difference for the passengers of the aircraft is going to be noticeable in the Executive Terminal building,” Bennett said. “It’s pretty dated.”

Plans include eliminating a portion of the second floor to create a two-story entryway, Sherbert said.

In addition to better hangars and a smoother tarmac, pilots “will experience better service levels as well,” Bennett added.

The future upgrades by Atlantic are in addition to millions of dollars spent in capital infrastructure improvements in recent years, Bennett noted. They include widening taxiways, replacing and expanding storm drains and drainage infrastructure and resurfacing the sole runway.

It all amounts to a dramatic expansion from when the airport was built in 1936 and Boca Raton’s population was less than 1% of what it is now.

It became a military airfield in World War II where flight crews were trained in the use of radar, a fledgling technology at the time. The land was later transferred to the state, and 1,000 acres was designated for educational use and became the site of Florida Atlantic University.

The airport has undergone significant changes in the 21st century. The control tower opened in 2000, and a U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspection facility began operating in 2018. It enables international travelers to fly directly to Boca Raton without stopping first at another airport to clear Customs.

Today, Bennett said, there are 209 aircraft based at the airport including 70 jets and 107 single-engine planes. ★



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Boynton Beach

Plans steam forward for development of downtown

By Tao Woolfe

The future of downtown Boynton Beach development has become clearer in the past few weeks with city approval of a \$73 million mixed-use complex and of a new restaurant in and around a historic home, plus action aimed at building a new post office downtown.

The biggest of these projects will be Affiliated Development's apartment and retail complex along the west side of Federal Highway south of Boynton Beach Boulevard.

The Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency and the developer have agreed on two long-negotiated sticking points in Affiliated's contract with the CRA.

Although a few details are still pending, the City Commission, serving as CRA board, on June 7 unanimously cleared the way for the project, which includes both affordable and market-rate apartments, restaurants, office, retail, a parking garage and green space.

Construction could begin as soon as 18 months from now, if the developer can quickly obtain the needed land use and land development approvals, Thuy Shutt, the CRA's executive director, said after the meeting.

The plan provides a new home for Hurricane Alley, a popular bar and restaurant, on Northeast Fourth Street. The new site will have with an outdoor area, as well as 3,000 square feet of indoor seating, according to the plan.

Ace Hardware and other businesses in the area would not be affected, Shutt said.

The city and the Fort Lauderdale-based developer spent months hammering out compromises on the \$5.5 million, below-market price Affiliated will pay for the land; on public spaces in the 545-space free-standing, multilevel parking garage; and the number of affordable apartments.

Under the almost-final agreement, the parking garage will provide 150 spaces — above those required by city code — for public use. If Affiliated needs more spaces (up to a maximum of 10), it must lease them from the CRA.

The developer also agreed 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.

Plans for new post office

The CRA board voted at its June 14 meeting to seek proposals for a mixed-use commercial space at 401-411 E.



Preliminary plans for Affiliated Development's eight-story, \$73 million project in downtown Boynton Beach. The plan will be fine-tuned after details are worked out with the city and existing store owners. **Rendering provided**

Boynton Beach Blvd. that could serve as a new home for the downtown post office.

The existing building at this location, which is owned by the CRA, would be demolished. A newly constructed building would house the United States Post Office, currently at 217 N. Seacrest Blvd., on the first floor.

Other businesses — such as medical offices and/or a tourist information center — could be housed on other floors of a new building, Mayor Ty Penserga suggested.

"Let's let the developer community come up with something creative," the mayor said.

Meanwhile, the CRA is expected to acquire the building on North Seacrest in January from the current owners and then, possibly, extend the post office's lease until a new location is available.

Rich Hancock, a spokesman for USPS, said the post office is committed to staying in downtown Boynton and would be amenable to a new space as long as it can provide 3,200 square feet of retail storefront space and at least 20 parking spaces.

"We are not looking to purchase anything," Hancock said, but USPS hopes to lease space to establish a "long-term postal unit."

Broadstone project

The impending construction of the Broadstone Boynton Beach, a 2.76-acre mixed-use complex at South Federal Highway and Southeast First Avenue, will displace 20 employee parking spaces for Two Georges Waterfront Grille.

Fernando Bonilla, of the developer Alliance Residential Co., asked the

CRA board on June 14 to allow the temporary use of the CRA-owned parking lots at 115 N. Federal Highway to accommodate the employees.

Alliance was offering to lease the parking lots, but Penserga said he did not want to commit to the deal because it could mean depriving Hurricane Alley of parking spaces and it would be difficult for the city to police the lots.

"Public parking spaces are precious," the mayor said, and suggested that Alliance approach other businesses for temporary spaces.

Construction on the eight-story Broadstone complex, with 274 multi-family units and ground floor commercial space, is expected to begin in September.

Pauline's restaurant

The historic Oscar Magnuson house, at 211 E. Ocean Ave., is the future home of an American-style restaurant that will be open seven days a week.

Anthony Barber, the new owner of the site, told the City Commission on June 21 that he hopes to open in the next 18 months. He will renovate the two-story house, which was built in 1919, for inside dining.

More immediate, Barber said, he is planning to use big shipping containers for the kitchen area, walk-in food storage, restrooms, an artisan bar, and a rotisserie grilling area.

Barber, who owns Troy's Barbeque in West Palm Beach and on Federal south of Woolbright Road in Boynton, said he has lived in Boynton Beach for 35 years and looks forward to opening a restaurant in his home city's downtown.

"This project is very special to me," Barber said, adding that he will name the restaurant Pauline's, after his grandmother.

The restaurant will employ some 30 people, Barber said, and he will not seek a loan to finance the venture. Rodney Mayo of the Subculture Group has told the CRA he is providing \$1 million in financial backing for Barber's restaurant and the needed renovations.

"We're partners in the restaurant as well as the property. We're planning on going into the venture together," Mayo said in December.

City commissioners unanimously gave preliminary approval to the restaurant.

"Thank you for investing in your city," said Commissioner Thomas Turkin.

"Congratulations," said Commissioner Woodrow Hay. "It's high time we invested back in our own community — especially minority entrepreneurs like yourself." ★

Along the Coast

GOP has choices for Florida House, Senate in August primary

Republicans from Boca Raton to South Palm Beach will head to the polls Aug. 23 to pick candidates for two Florida House seats and one Senate seat in unfamiliar districts — the result of voting maps that were redrawn this year after the 2020 Census.

Qualified to run in the new House District 91 are Highland Beach Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman and Christina DuCasse, a Boca Del

Mar resident whose husband is a Boca Raton firefighter/paramedic. The winner will take on Boca Raton City Council member Andy Thomson, a Democrat, on Nov. 8.

The seat opened up when Democratic incumbent Emily Slosberg-King decided not to seek re-election. To run for state office, Gossett-Seidman and Thomson had to announce their resignation from their current municipal posts effective after

the November contest.

In House District 87, which now includes Manalapan, Lantana and South Palm Beach, Mike Caruso, who has represented the barrier island from Boca through South Palm Beach and beyond since 2018, will square off against Jane Justice, a real estate agent from Greenacres. The winner will be on the November ballot with Democrat Sienna Osta, a West Palm Beach lawyer. If Caruso

wins, he will have to move north from Delray Beach to his new district.

There will be no primary for incumbent Democrat Joe Casello, whose redrawn District 90 now includes the barrier island from Ocean Ridge through Delray Beach that Caruso formerly represented. The Nov. 8 ballot will pair Casello with educator Keith Feit, a Boynton Beach Republican.

And in Senate District

26, which covers north Boca Raton through Ocean Ridge on the island, Bill Wheelen, a county party insider from Wellington who started the year campaigning for Congress, will face off against Steve Byers, a beekeeper from west of Delray Beach. The winner will face incumbent Lori Berman, a Delray Beach Democrat, in the fall.

— Steve Plunkett



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Business Spotlight

Meet the owner of gourmet butcher shop in Boynton Beach

Passers-by will notice the old Ruth Jones Cottage at 480 E. Ocean Ave. in Boynton Beach has a new occupant — one that is already drawing meat lovers from all around.

The new tenant is Nicholson Muir Meats, a gourmet butcher shop with a small restaurant that has been open since the end of February. The meat market specializes in wagyu beef from ranches in Australia, Japan and the United States, says business owner James Muir.

The historic Jones cottage, moved to the Ocean Avenue site 11 years ago, was occupied by the Little House Restaurant and later Chez Andrea Gourmet Provence, which opened during the pandemic and closed in January 2021.

Muir, who was born in Argentina and moved to the United States when he was 10, studied at the French Culinary Institute, worked at Ian Shrager Hotels and later with chef Rocco DiSpirito in New York.

Before moving to Boynton Beach three years ago, Muir owned his own catering company and restaurant on Long Island. The restaurant, Artaux, received an “excellent” review in 2015 from *The New York Times*. Although the dining spot has since closed, the catering company remains in business.

Muir and his wife, Jennifer, a dentist, have one son, Bruce, 6.

Nicholson Muir Meats concentrates on high-end products and a wide variety of retail items to accompany the steaks — prepared foods, salads, grab-and-go spices, and wine.

“We cut meats to the customers’ preference and tell them how to cook it,” Muir said. “We even have links to different videos that show you how to cook the steaks.”

The restaurant is small, with seating for 12 at a table and six more at the bar.

It has options for vegetarians, including quiches, empanadas and salads. Catering service is also available.

Reservations aren’t essential but “are always a good idea,” Muir says. “We try to make it more like a restaurant, but, honestly, we don’t want to be a restaurant. We’re a butcher that cooks for you.”

How does Nicholson Muir Meats differ from its neighbor, the Butcher and the Bar at 510 E. Ocean Ave.?

“They do all Florida cattle and we do everything except Florida,” Muir explains. “They are more a restaurant and bar, and we are more of a butcher shop where if you want to sit down, we’ll cook for you. Service is very informal.

“We do have beer and wine but we have a less formal atmosphere and we’re not open for dinner. We do Saturday tasting menus twice a month, which you need to reserve



James Muir opened Nicholson Muir Meats this year in a historic home on Ocean Avenue in Boynton Beach. The butcher shop also has a small restaurant and sitting area. Photo provided

ahead of time. We focus mainly on the butcher and meats.”

Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday; closed on Monday.

More than 100 restaurants throughout 39 municipalities from Boca Raton to Jupiter are participating in **The Palm Beaches Restaurant Month**, Aug. 1-31. That’s good news for tourists and local foodies who can cash in on great deals, prix fixe menus, and specialty drinks and dishes all month long.

Restaurant Month, organized through Discover the Palm Beaches, encourages folks to get out, support and sample an array of eateries that make up the local culinary culture.

“We have neighborhood favorites and local mainstays participating as well as highly regarded restaurants with celebrity chefs and exciting new hot spots,” Jorge Pesquera, CEO of Discover the Palm Beaches, said in a news release. “We’re continuing to secure new restaurants throughout the destination and look forward to offering more options than ever before in August.”

Go to PalmBeachesDining.com to browse participating restaurants and menus, and filter by the type of cuisine.

Tickets aren’t necessary, but reservations are encouraged. The website will incorporate the Open Table site to make reservations easily accessible.

Other foodie-specific events around Palm Beach County include Bon Appetit Boca in July (www.bocarestaurantmonth.com), and in September, Flavor Palm Beach (www.flavorpb.com) and Downtown Delray Beach Restaurant Month (downtowndelraybeach.com/restaurantmonth).

John Kelly, the seventh person to serve as **Florida Atlantic University’s** president, will step down at the end of this year.

He will remain with FAU, serving as the university’s president emeritus and focusing on its research capabilities.

The transition was announced on June 20 by Brad Levine, chair of the FAU Board of Trustees, in an open letter to the FAU community.

An interim president will be appointed to serve while a national search is conducted to replace Kelly, Levine said.

Kelly joined FAU as president in 2014 from Clemson University, where he had served in several administrative positions.

“My decision to step aside as Florida Atlantic University president comes at a time that I believe is not only right for me personally, but also for the university,” Kelly said in a statement. “My new role as university president emeritus will afford me the time and flexibility to complete certain projects that are important to me personally, and are important to the Board of Trustees.”

Levine praised Kelly’s accomplishments, including conceiving of the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletic Excellence and improving FAU’s ranking in the state university system.

FAU’s **Daniel Flynn**, Ph.D., won a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award in May for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Flynn, a university vice president, steers all research-related endeavors at FAU’s six regional campuses and is a catalyst for emerging programs that support local entrepreneurship and economic development.

The award was given by the State Department and Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

The Fulbright is the government’s leading educational and cultural affairs program and offers renowned students and accomplished professors support to pursue research and professional projects in partnership with more than 160 countries.

Flynn, who has a doctorate in microbiology, spent more than 20 years in various research-related roles in the fields of cancer cell biology and breast cancer invasion before transitioning into research administration in 2008 and coming to work for FAU in 2015.

As part of the program, Flynn will take part in a two-week group seminar in France to acquaint higher education administrators from America with France’s education and research systems.

“The power of impactful research comes to fruition when discoveries are translated into improved efforts — whether it be innovations in technology, drugs, policy, etc. — that ultimately improve our lives and those lives around us,” Flynn said in a news release.

After the seminar, Flynn says he plans to introduce learned best practices to researchers at FAU, establishing a platform for collaborations with FAU and

French scientists.

Lauren B. Trotta, Ph.D., has joined the **Institute for Regional Conservation** in Delray Beach as a biodiversity conservation fellow, thanks to support from the National Parks Conservation Association.

Trotta will help with the effort to conduct a 20-year



Trotta

review of IRC’s *Rare Plants of South Florida*, a book published in 2002. The publication came after an intensive seven years of work by IRC and collaborators and documented the status of the rarest 25% of South Florida’s native plants, including more than 100 that may have been extinct in the region. The book’s release was followed by land manager workshops and a surge of plant survey and study work by IRC and others.

A Connecticut native, Trotta has a bachelor’s degree in biology from Providence College in Rhode Island, and a master’s and doctorate in wildlife ecology and conservation from the University of Florida.

Previously, Trotta’s research experience focused on understanding the drivers of floristic diversity in Miami-Dade’s urban pine rock land habitat fragments.

Melissa Abdo, director of the Sun Coast regional office of the National Parks Conservation Association, applauded IRC’s long-term efforts to study and share regional biodiversity information and to connect communities in South Florida to their natural heritage.

South Florida is unique in that its ecosystem is anchored

by large national preserve and park sites — Big Cypress, the Everglades, and Biscayne — as well as a mosaic of other protected lands and waters such as national wildlife refuges, state and local parks, and even backyard habitats.

“Bringing a lens of science to understanding how rare plant diversity is conserved across these parks of South Florida will bring such value to our community,” Abdo said in a news release.

Two major awards were presented at the annual meeting of the **Boca Raton Historical Society** on May 18 at the Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum.

The Myrtle Butts Fleming Award, named after one of the Historical Society founders, was given to volunteer **Barbara Montgomery O’Connell** by Executive Director Mary Csar.

The new Dave Ashe Award, named after another founding member, was given posthumously to **Linda Prowe Jackson**. She moved to Boca Raton in 1957 and later served as the museum’s ambassador to Boca High School alumni and other longtime residents, urging them to contribute to the Historical Society’s vast array of Boca collectibles as Ashe did before he died in 2015 at age 90.

“Linda believed in her city

and the importance of history as a guide for the present and future generations,” Historical Society curator Susan Gillis said in a news release. “We lost her last year at much too young an age, but we are pleased to honor her memory by naming her the first recipient of this award and we’re so pleased that it was accepted by her grandson Connor Jackson.”

The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum is the home of the Boca Raton Historical Society, whose mission is to collect, preserve and present information and artifacts relevant to the past and evolving history of Boca Raton. It also aims to maintain a visible role in education and advocacy of historic preservation in the community.

Open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., the museum is in historic Town Hall at 71 N. Federal Highway. For more information, call 561-395-6766 or visit www.BocaHistory.org.



Stacey Lanz with her award.

Stacey Lanz, special events

coordinator for the city of Boca Raton, was recently named “Most Valuable Events Person” by the **Greater Miami Festivals and Events Association** at its ninth annual conference and exhibition.

“This designation by an organization of my peers is a tremendous honor,” said Lanz, who joined the city in 2003 as special events coordinator.

“We are very proud of Stacey, whose talent and dedication make her an integral part of our team,” Amy DiNorscio, amphitheater and community events manager for the city, said in a statement.

Lanz, along with three others, was nominated by the festivals and events group and won via a popular vote that took place online.

“We applaud Stacey for her accomplishments and commitment to excellence in event planning,” said Amanda MacMaster, executive director of the association.

Melissa Perlman, president of the **Gold Coast PR Council** — South Florida’s largest independent association of public relations, communications and marketing professionals — announced this year’s Bernays Award nominees. The awards, given since 2005, honor excellence in local public relations campaigns, marketing

programs and media coverage.

The honors will be presented at the council’s 17th annual Bernays Awards luncheon on July 21 at the Delray Beach Golf Club. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com/e/bernays-awards-2022-presented-by-gold-coast-pr-council-tickets-355212759927.

T.A. Walker, the Taste & See reporter at WPTV News 5, will emcee the luncheon. Honors will be presented in 10 competitive categories along with four special awards selected by the nonprofit organization’s board of directors.

Only one award winner is announced in advance, the prestigious Presidents Award, which is given to a person or organization for truly outstanding performance. This year’s recipient is **Rick Christie**, executive editor of *The Palm Beach Post*, for keeping the daily newspaper running and relevant, breaking major news during a time when the viability of print journalism is under attack, both politically and financially.

In addition to the Presidents Award, three other board-selected awards will be given: PR Star, which goes to a person or organization that made an extraordinary difference last year; the Founders Award,

which goes to a person or organization that has made a lasting contribution to Gold Coast PR; and a new award that will be revealed at the luncheon.

For more information about the Gold Coast PR Council, visit www.goldcoastprcouncil.com.

James Shaw, chairman of the ACLU of Florida’s legal panel, will talk about the state of civil rights in Florida and changes in the law from this year’s legislative session during a Zoom discussion on July 15.

Sponsored by the **League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County**, the Hot Topic discussion begins at noon and is open to all concerned citizens.

To register, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_PQJV197mSSWqCAMg49SLQA.

Steve Plunkett, Mary Thurwachter and Mary Hladky contributed to this column.



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

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Around Town

July 2022

The Coastal  Star

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Ellie and Bob Smela, who opened Ellie's '50s Diner in 1990, are retiring. The restaurant will close July 10. That's Ellie depicted on the sign, sporting a poodle skirt. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Rock, roll & retire!

By Jan Norris

Ellie's '50s Diner is closing after 32 years of serving comfort food with a side of nostalgia

Bobby Darin is jiving out *Mack the Knife* on the jukebox this afternoon at Ellie's '50s Diner. But soon, it'll be The Spaniels, with their classic closing song, *Goodnite, Sweetheart, Goodnite*.

That will signal the end for the retro diner in Delray Beach owned by Ellie and Bob Smela, who agree, "Well, it's time to go."

The iconic building with the neon and '57 Chevy on its sign at 2410 N. Federal Highway has been sold. Ellie's will close for good July 10.

The Smelas sat in the diner, telling their story. Ellie was dressed like a sock hopper: a pink poodle skirt, scarf around her neck, pearl bracelets. Her nails and lipstick were bubblegum pink. You could expect a song from *Grease* was about to play.

But they were chronicling the end of this fantasy theme — the stark contrast between today and the 1950s.

A combination of skyrocketing food costs, broken supply chains, an unpredictable labor force and a 364-day-a-year job has the couple

See **ELLIE'S** on page AT3

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Dining

Summer deals include happy hours worth toasting

The summer doldrums are about to hit, with no holidays or formal excuses to party.

Since people lucky enough to have Northern retreats have fled the heat, it's left to the locals to get in on the dining deals available during the summer.

Here are a few we know of, along with happy hour specials for people who like to dine early.

Corvina Seafood Grill in Boca Raton has a number of drink specials, as well as a longish happy hour even on weekends — a rarity.

The weekly specials are: Sunday Sipping: half-price bottles of wine (for wines under \$100) with an entree, along with happy hour 4-7 p.m.

Martini Monday: Half-price martinis when you dine at the restaurant, and happy hour 4-7 p.m.

Taco Tuesday: \$9 fish tacos and \$5 margaritas all night and happy hour 4-7 p.m.

Hump-day Wednesday: Extended happy hour, 4-9 p.m., \$6 cocktails and \$6 wines.

Half-price Oyster Night Thursday: Half-price oysters by the half dozen, along with happy hour 4-7 p.m.

Corvina's happy hour is also served Fridays and Saturdays, 4-6:30 p.m., at the indoor/outdoor bar, and a "9 for \$9" menu has nine items to choose from for \$9 each.

The **Casimir French Bistro** in Boca has summer discounts daily.

Monday: all-you-can-eat mussels; Tuesday: discounts on all duck dishes; Wednesday: two-course night, meaning with every entree, diners get a free soup, salad or dessert. On Thursday diners get a discount on lobster dinners.

Happy hour, 3-6 p.m. nightly, offers discounts on beer, wines



Pink Poodles, with vodka and pomegranate, and mojitos are offered at Corvina. Photo provided by Svetlana Davis

and appetizers, including a new menu item, flatbreads.

At **Latitudes** in Highland Beach, enjoy the ocean view during happy hour from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Drinks and menu items are \$8 to \$12 during these sunset hours.

Vic & Angelo's happy hour menu is most generous: half-price off the entire menu, along with discounted drinks. You need to get there early, however — happy hour is weekdays only, 3-5 p.m. Vic & Angelo's is on Atlantic Avenue in Delray.

The steakhouse **Cut 432**, also on the Avenue, offers \$6 snacks and half-price house wines, beers and spirits at the weekday happy hour, 5-7 p.m.

Villagio in Boca Raton offers a good deal on some classics such as chicken Parmesan, chicken Milanese and portobello mushroom flatbreads for \$10 during happy hour, to be extended on weekends through the summer. It's from 5-7 p.m., and there are several drink specials to pair with them.

At the **Wine Room Kitchen and Bar** in Delray, diners can get a \$12 charcuterie board as well as \$9 small plates and \$4 bites during happy hour, 3-7 p.m. The Wine Room serves \$8 cocktails, \$5 beers and \$7 wines. On Wednesdays, it's Match Day, and money put on the Wine Room card over \$20 is matched.

At **Prime Catch** in Boynton Beach, sit at the dockside tiki bar to get \$5 drinks and order from the bar bites menu. Happy hour is 3-6 p.m. weekdays.

At the **Rebel House** in Boca Raton, happy hour is 4-7 p.m. every day and features \$6 cocktails and \$6 plates, such as pork cheek empanada or wedge salad. A meat and cheese board is \$10.

Catch brunch at **Rose's Daughter and Brule**, sister restaurants in Delray. There's an \$8 Saturday brunch cocktail menu, plus 20% off all menus during happy hour, 4-6 p.m. all summer long at both eateries.

Caffe Luna Rosa in Delray Beach will offer a four-course wine pairing dinner for \$69 on July 26, Aug. 16, Sept. 6, Sept. 27, Oct. 18 and Nov. 8.

Going just for drinks? The **Old Key Lime House** in Lantana offers 40% off mixed drinks — draft beer and premium wines excluded — 4-7 p.m. weekdays.

In brief: After 16 years, **Dubliner Irish Pub** closed its doors in Boca Raton. Partner Vaughan Dugan said, "Over time, everything evolves, and that's certainly true in Boca and the hospitality industry as a whole. People want fresh ingredients, craft cocktails and comfortable seating to relax while catching up with friends." The Subculture Group will open **Shaker & Pie**, a modern pizzeria, in its place.



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

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Bob Smela says Ellie's '50s Diner has been busier than normal for this time of year since he and Ellie announced it would close July 10. The diner is at 2410 N. Federal Highway in Delray Beach. Call 561-276-1570 or visit www.elliescatering.com for more information. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

ELLIE'S

Continued from page AT1

looking forward to retiring.

They'll be doing some "road trips" and winding down at their second place, a family farm homestead, in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, Bob said.

They started out in the food business opening Ellie's Deli, a sandwich shop, on what was then Delray's Northeast Eighth Street (now George Bush Boulevard) in 1982. From that, they also ran three food trucks that serviced the area's warehouses, construction sites and spots like the flea market and car dealerships.

The Smelas opened the diner in 1990 after Bob told Ellie, "We're not making enough money."

He said, "I had to find a building for us to expand."

They found the property that originally housed a Dairy Queen and then the Bahama Smokehouse.

"People told me I was crazy buying here. It was a bad part of town at that time," he said.

Ellie said their neighbors were "a pawn shop, a dirty bookstore and something else across the street, a sub shop or something."

The main drag was populated with "prostitutes walking up and down the street, among other questionable people," Bob said.

They persevered, and reconstructed the building for a small diner, about 80 seats. Eventually they added a back room with 40 more seats, and later, an event center where weddings and lively New Year's Eve parties took place.

Ellie designed and Bob built out the restaurant, gathering nostalgic pieces for decor, and hiring servers with personalities.

One who's worked here for decades, Donna Giordano, plays the role of crabby server. "People love her, they ask for her," Ellie said. "When someone says it's their birthday, she'll say, 'Oh, bummer!'"

It's all part of the fun atmosphere, a throwback to the '50s diners along the East Coast, Bob said. Those eateries coincided with the birth of rock 'n' roll, teens coming of age, and



Bob Smela says hello to Libby Vollmer, who with her husband, Jack, are longtime customers and huge fans of Ellie's '50s Diner.



Ingrid Paoletti, since the beginning, and Heather Gordon, for three months, have been part of the diner's staff.

cars that were showy works of art. They also served the average worker solid, if plain, comfort food at reasonable prices.

Kitsch decor a hit

There's a kitsch factor that "makes everyone smile," Ellie said. Elvis, Marilyn and Sinatra are life-size cutouts set around the rooms and pasted on restroom doors. Bettie Page, James Dean, Charlie Chaplin and John Wayne, too.

No matter if some diners are more in tune with Green Day than *Blue Suede Shoes*, everyone seems to enjoy it, she said.

Pink and aqua neon strips frame the ceiling. The front counter is a Formica pattern called Boomerang, a design found in 1950s kitchens everywhere, and the swivel stools of chrome and leatherette.

A "Lost in the '50s" sign hangs over the service window and a Coca-Cola red and white clock keeps time above

the milkshake machine. High school graduation portraits of guys with outgrown crew cuts in skinny ties line the front wall.

All of it is now for sale. Live entertainment they introduced proved to be a draw. Elvis impersonators were popular on Valentine's Day, and the Beatles tribute band from Orlando, which appeared more than once, played to sold-out crowds.

"We have a Neil Diamond impersonator — Neil Zirconia — who performs with his wife. He's very popular, too," Ellie said.

The vintage car shows held monthly in the parking lot drew hundreds of enthusiasts as well. One last, huge car show was held in mid-June — with another record-setting crowd.

Regulars were like family

The Smelas got to know most of their regulars by name.

"Remember Ed? He came



This Marilyn Monroe likeness (\$1,300) and other artwork at the diner were sold.

in for breakfast for 25 years or more," Bob said. "He sat in booth No. 5 and brought his crossword puzzle. He was 98, and still sharp."

Ed's daughter told them about his death last month. "When we don't see our regulars for a while we wonder what happened," Ellie said.

The Smelas' family-like friendliness is what attracted Libby and Jack Vollmer. They've been coming to Ellie's for decades, mostly for breakfast or lunch on Sundays.

"It's such a great atmosphere," Libby said. "It's so bright and cheerful. We love the waitresses. They seem like they really enjoy their job and are like family. Bob and Ellie treat them very well."

The Vollmers, now in Boynton Beach, came to Delray Beach in 1965, and lament the closing as yet another iconic Delray spot gone. "Few older businesses are still here. The Patio, Ernie's Tap Room, Hand's, Wenzel's — all the names are gone. And now Ellie's. We're sad about it," Libby said. "They were part of a tradition. We don't know where we'll go now."

Bob Smela is worried that a lot of his diners won't have a place to get the quality food Ellie's served, such as the restaurant's most popular dish, turkey dinner.

"We cooked whole turkeys on the bone and made mashed potatoes from scratch. We have a machine in the back that peels 25 pounds at a time in three minutes, and another one to mix them," he said.

The prime rib nights were noteworthy as well. "We cook them in the Alto-Shaam," he

said, referring to a specific roasting oven. "It comes out perfect."

Other foods such as fried bologna and liverwurst were items not found on most menus and came from Boar's Head, he said.

"They had liver and onions, too," Libby Vollmer said. "All their food was great."

Ellie's own Elvis cake, a pineapple-walnut cake with cream-cheese icing, was a shop favorite. "She makes two or three a week and they sell out," Bob said.

"That reminds me, I need to call George and tell him I'm making one," she said. George is another regular who always buys two slices — one to eat and one to go. "He loves it."

The people, new and old, were the best part of the diner, the Smelas said, and the part they'll miss most about it all.

"You have to like people to be in this business," Bob said. It gave him joy, he said, to serve quality food and see people return for it.

They've found a bigger audience since the closing was announced.

"We've been busier than any other time pre-COVID for this time of year. Once people heard we were closing, they rushed in," Bob said. "Maybe we shouldn't have closed."

He looked at Ellie and she shook her head.

Would you do it again? he was asked.

Both shook their heads at once. "It's too hard," Ellie said.

"No way," he said. "I couldn't afford it."

He pointed to rents on Atlantic Avenue. "They're insane." The only way to make money is to own the land under you, he said, and even that's iffy today. He's glad to be selling with the real estate market on the upswing.

He's unsure whether the new owners, whom he declined to identify, will keep the property a restaurant, but says it's possible, since they've asked for the kitchen equipment to stay.

He wishes them well but shakes his head.

"I'm going to be a consultant to others who want to open a restaurant. I will try to talk them out of it." ★

Celebrations

Boca Bacchanal

Private homes and The Boca Raton — May 6 and 7



More than 400 wine enthusiasts enjoyed a two-day celebration of exquisite food and drink. The annual benefit for the Boca Raton Historical Society included five memorable vintner dinners and an amazing Grand Tasting. 'As always, Boca Bacchanal was a festive weekend that celebrates and enhances the appreciation of wine and food while bringing together world-class chefs and vintners, offering their finest specialties, while providing the entire community with a delightful opportunity to support the heritage education programs of The Schmidt Boca Raton



History Museum and the Boca Raton Historical Society,' society executive director Mary Csar said. **TOP:** (l-r) Todd and Maria Roberti with chefs Emilia Egusquiza and Salvatore Spina at a vintner dinner. **INSET:** LeAnn and Russell Berman at the Grand Tasting. **Photos provided by Jacek Gancarz**

Monopoly Event & Casino Night

Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, Boca Raton — April 30



Supporters of Boca Helping Hands passed go at the 16th annual Monopoly-themed fundraiser, which attracted more than 150 guests. Boca Helping Hands President Gary Peters served as the tournament mediator. 'This event is so much fun and unique,' Peters said. 'Think about how you loved Monopoly as a kid. This event is a way to enjoy the game and give back to our community.' Proceeds will assist 27,000 people in South Florida with everything from hunger relief to job training. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Eric Shaw and Beverlee Schellenberger with Mr. Monopoly. **Photo provided**

Palm Beach Heart Ball

The Breakers, Palm Beach — April 14

The American Heart Association had its 67th gala in support of lifesaving research and education programs to fight heart disease and stroke. A total of 350 guests attended the black-tie affair — which had not been held since 2020 because of the pandemic. They enjoyed dinner, dancing, a gorgeous orchid auction and an exciting live auction surrounded by greenery and decor befitting the 'Garden of Plenty' theme. **RIGHT:** Laurie Silvers and Mitch Rubenstein. **Photo provided by Capehart**



Philanthropy Notes

Kids in need to get school supplies at July 30 event in Delray

According to the National Retail Federation, the average family spent nearly \$800 last year to prepare one child for school — an amount that is the highest in the history of the survey.

Back to School PBC is an annual event that helps

prepare at-risk children for the upcoming academic year. Children are paired with volunteers to pick out new backpacks, supplies, uniforms and socks and shoes.

Children also receive haircuts, healthy meals and snacks. Participating families

have access to basic health care. The South County event takes place July 30 at the Village Academy Center, 400 SW 12th Ave., Delray Beach.

"Thousands of low-income families in our community struggle to provide the basics, let alone prepare their children

for the upcoming school year," said Ali Rubin, of the Spirit of Giving Network, a nonprofit that partners with Palm Beach County's Countywide Community Revitalization Team to spearhead the event.

Back to School PBC serves more than 5,000 students annually, and donations are needed.

"Now, more than ever, it is critical that we continue to provide these families with the sense of stability, security and support that Back to School PBC offers," Rubin said.

For more information, call 561-385-0144 or visit spiritofgivingnetwork.com.

Literacy Coalition has new AmeriCorps director

Lorie Graham has joined the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County as the new Literacy AmeriCorps director.

Graham comes to the organization from the Palm Beach County School District, where she taught English

for eight years. She also has experience with nonprofits.

"Her wealth of varied experience in education, nonprofit management and communications makes her the perfect fit for this job," said Kristin Calder, the coalition's CEO.

Graham is focused on recruiting more Literacy AmeriCorps members. Recruits work 35 to 42 hours each week providing services to ensure children and adults have the reading skills necessary to succeed in school and life.

"We're excited that Lorie has joined our team," Calder said.

For more information, call 561-279-9103 or visit literacypbc.org.



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Art

Shining in the swamp

Wellington resident wins Dina Baker award for older woman artists

By Jan Engoren
Contributing Writer

Michele Hundt's business is running an apparel boutique for members of Wellington's equestrian community.

But her passion is art, and her work in that field has been recognized by the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, which has named her the winner of the 2021-22 Dina Baker Fund for Mature Female Artists grant.

"It was a great surprise and an honor to receive this grant," said Hundt, 69. "To have Dina Baker recognize my work and my passion of fine art was an unbelievable honor, and it's validation that I'm going in the right direction. When I got to [Palm



TOP: *Cypress Swamp III* by Michele Hundt. ABOVE: The artist with one of her horse paintings. Photos provided

Beach County], I decided to pursue my passion — what came from the heart. After doing commercial art for so long, I

found myself again."

Her work, based on the natural environment in the blue cypress reserve where she lives in the Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club, is on display in the Cultural Council's Donald M. Ephraim Family Gallery through July 30.

The Dina Baker Fund for Mature Female Artists was created to help female artists ages 60 and older. The award, named for local artist Dina Baker, comes with a \$10,000 grant that can be used for professional development, arts-related exhibitions, equipment and supplies, health-care costs or basic living expenses.

"Michele took this opportunity to spend the year working on a new series of work focused on the cypress swamp," says Jessica Ransom, director of artist services for the Cultural Council. "Her works strive to evoke the sense of deep, damp darkness of the reserve while also

See HUNDT on page 6

Music

Chamber Music Festival returns, in abbreviated format

By Greg Stepanich
ArtsPaper Editor

Over the 30 years of the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, its musicians have presented more than 500 pieces, mostly from worthy but infrequently visited corners of the repertoire.

It's a remarkable legacy, and its mix of adventurousness and first-rate playing can be explored on the six recordings its musicians have made for the Klavier label.

And yet, the best-selling concert program in this series' history, which began in July 1992 in the Duncan Theatre's small recital hall, was one devoted exclusively to the work of classical music's most familiar name.

"The best-selling program we ever played was all-Beethoven," said flutist Karen Fuller, who with clarinetist Michael Forte and bassoonist Michael Ellert founded the festival as a way to keep playing during the off-season, while bringing music to year-round residents in the depths of summer.

Fuller said that's one reason, when the musicians began to plan this summer's concerts, they turned to Beethoven, specifically the *Archduke Trio*.

"Everyone is going to know it. It's such an iconic piece," she said.

As with so many arts organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic was an upheaval event for the festival. Putting on a virtual summer series in 2020 turned out to be very expensive from the standpoint of video creation and reduced ticket revenue.

Last year, in another nod to COVID, there was one week of

See CHAMBER on page 6

Theater

London offerings remain a pleasing mix of wise, witty and worrisome

By Hap Erstein
ArtsPaper Theater Writer

In the 50 years that I have been going to London, the city has gone through major changes. But one thing has remained constant: London is still one of the greatest places for theatergoing.

On a recent trip there, I saw a wide range of theatrical offerings — a contemporary take on American politics (*The 47th*), a Shakespearean classic with a modern twist (*Much Ado About Nothing*) and a classic sex farce (*Boeing Boeing*).

The 47th is the tongue-in-cheek projected history of the 2024 campaign

for the U.S. presidency, the title referring to the 47th person who would hold the office. It is, of course, a uniquely American story, but the Brits are simply better than we are at crafting timely political tales for the stage.

Playwright Mike Bartlett also penned *King Charles III*, the suppositional tale of the current prince who has been cooling his heels while his mum, Queen Elizabeth II, continues to set platinum-level longevity records on the throne.

The 47th, like *King Charles III*, is written in iambic pentameter, which gives the play a Shakespearean heft, even if it gives Donald Trump — at the

center of the production, as played by the sublimely on-target Bertie Carvel — a more articulate-than-accurate mode of speech. Those who paid attention in English class will catch Bartlett's references to the Bard's canon, from Trump as Lear to a bit of Richard III malevolence to the speechifying of Mark Antony and on and on.

It is Bartlett's supposition that two years from now Joe Biden will have had enough of commanding-in-chief and he will cede the nomination to Kamala Harris (the remarkable Tamara Tunie), who accepts the heavy mantle, then

See LONDON on page 7



John Dorney and Isabel Della-Porta in *Boeing Boeing*. Photo provided

HUNDT

Continued from page 5

showing the unique moments of growth in that foreboding space.

"It is a balance of dark and light and one that Michele Hundt will likely continue to explore," Ransom says.

Hundt, who is originally from Cleveland, settled in Wellington 20 years ago. With her husband of 38 years, Doug, a real estate agent, she runs the ShowChic Dressage boutique in Wellington, which specializes in high-fashion dressage apparel.

A graduate of the Cooper School of Art in Cleveland, Hundt studied drawing at the Cleveland Museum of Art and figure drawing at the Cleveland Institute of Art. Her work has appeared in the former Mulry Fine Art Gallery in Palm Beach and the Artists Haven Gallery in Fort Lauderdale. For more than 17 years she served as a designer and artistic director at various companies in the Midwest.

An admirer of Mark Rothko ("my favorite") and Vincent van Gogh ("very moving"), Hundt says her work is designed to take you with her on an emotional and visual adventure.

"I want you to feel something and see something deeper," she says. "That's what the natural



Marta's American Dream, a work by Michele Hundt on display at the Cultural Council's gallery. Photo provided

environment in Florida is for me ... it's very emotional."

Her painting *Cypress Swamp III* (2021), in earth

tones of greens and browns, with a highlight of pink flower brushstrokes, depicts the blue cypress trees in which she takes

If You Go

Michele Hundt's exhibition runs through July 30 at the Council's headquarters, 601 Lake Ave., in Lake Worth Beach.

Hours: noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Admission: Free

Info: palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions

solace in a bold and graphic manner.

Hundt also does abstract figural paintings, yoga paintings and horse and equine art from her boutique, which doubles as her studio. She mostly paints in the equestrian off-season, as during season, she is busy with her shop and a ShowChic Mobile Boutique that she brings to events.

The boutique is adorned with her colorful and boldly stylized equestrian abstracts.

"I had been painting horses in an abstract way and wanted to venture out to something new and to memorialize the blue cypress trees in the preserve where I live and share them with others," Hundt says.

She submitted the application for the Dina Baker grant at the urging of a friend.

"I have lots of ideas I want to work on," says Hundt, who always knew she wanted to be

an artist, and considers it a gift. "I'm never at a loss for ideas; it's just a matter of prioritizing. There's so much inspiration to draw on."

Despite her professional and business accomplishments, Hundt, who considers this honor as a highlight of her career so far, is quite modest and says, "The best is yet to come." She said she plans to use the \$10,000 grant for continuing art education.

She defines success as gaining an understanding of her work and doesn't want to rest on her laurels.

"I don't want to feel too successful, or I will quit working," she jokes. "Always striving and reaching keeps me going and keeps me young."

"Life is about choice," Hundt says. "I've been fortunate in my life and able to change with the times. You need to stay flexible and resilient. I have the feeling things are getting better."

With no plans to retire, or spend only time tending to her orchids, Hundt says, "I love what I do and will go on as long as I can. I paint because I have to. I want to reach people in a positive, emotional and spiritual way."

Her advice to other mature female artists?

"Just keep going."

CHAMBER

Continued from page 5

concerts, with three one-hour programs played twice each. But patrons were not enamored of that approach, and preferred the festival return to full-length programs, Fuller said.

"We talked about what our options were, but in the end, our financial situation really dictated that we just do the one weekend of concerts," she said.

And so this year's festival will be one program presented in north, central and south county venues. It consists of two meaty chamber works: the *Nonet* (Op. 139) of the Romantic composer Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901), and the *Archduke Trio* of Beethoven (Piano Trio No. 7 in B-flat, Op. 97).

Fuller said the festival has always been about a mix of ensembles and repertoire, and even with just one concert, organizers wanted to stay in that spirit. That meant finding a chamber work for large forces.

"We knew we wanted a nonet, and we wanted something that was not too far out there," Fuller said. "And we decided we wanted to do one that we haven't done before."

The Rheinberger Nonet is scored for woodwind quintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon) and string trio (violin, viola and cello) plus double bass. Best-known today for his organ music, Rheinberger was a prolific composer who had a remarkable career as a teacher in Munich, counting among his students some of the best-known composers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Published in 1885, the nonet

If You Go

What: Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival
When: 7:30 p.m. July 15 at Palm Beach Atlantic University's Persson Recital Hall, 326 Acacia Road, West Palm Beach; 7:30 p.m. July 16 at First Presbyterian Church, 717 Prosperity Farms Road, North Palm Beach; and 4 p.m. July 17 at Unity Church, 101 NW 22nd St., Delray Beach
Tickets: \$35
Info: 561-547-1070; pbcmf.org

is a four-movement work whose musical language is congruent with a German Romantic style.

"The Rheinberger will be very pleasing for the audience," Fuller said.

The *Archduke Trio*, written in 1811 and dedicated to the Austrian Archduke Rudolf, Beethoven's student and patron, is widely considered the greatest of Beethoven's piano trios. Violinist Dina Kostic, cellist Susan Bergeron and pianist Lisa Leonard will perform the work, which is a prime example of Beethoven's "middle period," which produced some of his most celebrated pieces, including the Fifth Symphony.

Having reached its three-decade anniversary, the festival now stands at a crossroads. The pandemic's impact on its finances has been substantial, and Fuller said the founders have begun to discuss what the organization's future looks like.

"I hope that we're going to be emerging from this — all of us — and we will be able to go forward from here," she said.

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Art

Haring/Alechinsky show: More friendly sparring than 'Confrontation'

By Gretel Sarmiento
ArtsPaper Art Writer

There would be blood — we thought — in the duel of two titans from the art world.

But visitors showing up to *Confrontation: Keith Haring and Pierre Alechinsky* don't need to broker a peace deal after all.

The renowned artists appear more allies than foes in an exhibition running through Oct. 2 at NSU Art Museum in Fort Lauderdale. Take it from this show, a little confrontation can be healthy and strengthen all parties involved.

If the name Haring evokes images of animated inoffensive silhouettes, that would be approximately accurate, but it's best to leave preconceived notions on the doormat. Haring's flat, featureless shapes feed on subjectivity. They have universal reach because they can be anywhere and anyone. Projecting our own stories onto them is part of the fun.

Take an untitled work from 1982 that features the bold colors and thick solid lines that characterize the American pop-art artist's style. Multiple tentacle-looking arms sprout from the central character who

holds and drops smaller beings for entertainment.

It is this extraordinary ability to charge and animate the flat reductive figure — here in bright red — that distinguishes Haring from a talented crowd emerging out of New York City in the 1980s. His graffiti-inspired drawings first showed up in subway stations and basements before making it into museums. Haring's body of work preserves its urban, politically charged, and airy quality. It never aims for the *sophisticated* label.

Except for this section of the show, most of the viewing experience is electrified by bright walls dressed in primary colors. It oscillates between the anticipated and the surprising, such as an acrylic piece titled *Moses and the Burning Bush* (1985), through which the artist becomes prophet, broadcaster of an invitation to join the ultimate immersive experience: Life.

Best appreciated from a distance, this euphoric piece is intentionally overwhelming and noisy. It alone is worth visiting the exhibition for.

Opposite from the yellow wall hosting *Moses* hangs a selection of light and amusing works by Haring and Alechinsky. One of



them features three figurines sporting Xs on their chests and making the classic motions reserved for the three wise monkeys: see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. The X is a characteristic protest by Haring against the transformation of humans into targets via inaction. He died from AIDS in 1990 at the age of 31 and in this work ardently equates silence to death and ignorance to fear.

The courtship with Alechinsky's pieces develops slowly, but gains steam toward

the end of the gallery stroll with paintings such as *L'esprit des chutes* (*The spirit of the falls*), which is done in India ink. The Belgian artist specifically selected this 1978 piece for the show because it alludes to *Niagara Falls*, an earlier painting of his which Haring saw at Carnegie Institute. On display is the technique of mounting paper on canvas that Alechinsky picked up in Japan and later taught to his contemporary.

Although it is clear

Alechinsky's pieces are less cheerful and transparent than those by his counterpart, both artists shared an aversion to oil paint and canvas and a keen interest for experimenting.

Tucked away on the second floor, *Confrontation* is more a call to disarm rather than *en garde*. It's a friendly spar, at the most. The real battle is within us, between what we thought we came for and what we actually find.

The decision is whether or not to acquiesce.

If You Go

Confrontation: Keith Haring and Pierre Alechinsky runs through Oct. 2 at NSU Art Museum, 1 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.
Hours: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tues. through Sat., noon - 5 p.m. Sun.
Tickets: \$12, \$8 seniors and military, \$5 students
Info: 954-525-5500; nsuartmuseum.org

Moses and the Burning Bush (1985) by Keith Haring. Photo by Gretel Sarmiento

LONDON

Continued from page 5

wrestles with the responsibility. Trump, of course, has no such qualms, as he is broadly caricatured from his initial entrance on a careening golf cart.

Also much in evidence for recognition's sake are the Trump offspring — Ivanka, Don Jr. and Eric — though they are mere pawns in this race for the kingdom. Ultimately, when Trump becomes hospitalized mid-campaign, the play darkens and has echoes of *Angels in America*, with Trump as Roy Cohn, his real-life mentor.

For the most part, however, director Rupert Goold sees the future in comic terms and the Old Vic audience is clearly amused by the depiction of American politics off the rails. It would be interesting to see how *The 47th* plays in the Colonies. Hardly a play that intends, or even tries, to change minds, it is a canny look at what we have just gone through and, perhaps, what lies ahead.

'Much Ado About Nothing'

One of the most welcome additions to the London theater scene was the re-creation of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, which opened in 1996. The wooden circular structure is architecturally similar to the playhouse where the Bard and his troupe first performed many of his immortal plays, with reserved seat benches.

Much Ado About Nothing is one of four productions playing in repertory this summer, along with *Julius Caesar*, *King Lear*



Bertie Carvel as Donald Trump in *The 47th*. Photo provided

and *The Tempest*. The romantic tale of Benedick and Beatrice, a pair of verbal wits whose apt match is obvious to everyone but themselves, makes for a crowd-pleasing evening, thanks to upbeat direction by Lucy Bailey and a playful cast of classically trained performers.

Bailey moves the play from Sicily to Northern Italy and in time to 1945, just before the fall of Mussolini's regime. That allows a celebratory mood as Benedick and his band of brothers return home triumphant from the war.

Those liberties aside, this is a fairly faithful production to Shakespeare's intent, heavier on the comedy than the darker shades of the second act, but a welcome kickoff to the Globe's summer season.

Much Ado is arguably Shakespeare's most formulaic romcom, given an emphasis on the physical comedy thanks to the deft playing of Ralph Davis (Benedick) and Lucy Phelps (Beatrice), who each go to great lengths for every laugh. The secondary lovers, Hero

(Nadi Kemp-Sayfi) and Claudio (Patrick Osborne), have the more bitterly dramatic subplot, but even it is played with a lighter touch than usual.

Not that the play needs comic relief, but *Much Ado* has the Bard's all-but-can't-miss laugh-getters in language-mangling constable Dogberry and his handful of bumbling watchmen. George Fouracres, apparently a popular veteran Globe clown, brings to mind an Italianate Inspector Clouseau, and his underlings add to the fun with some welcome audience participation schtick.

The result is a satisfying 2½ hours on stage, further evidence that, generally speaking, the Brits do Shakespeare better than we do. *Much Ado* continues to Oct. 23, and should please even the Bard-averse.

'Boeing Boeing'

And what would a trip to England be without that enduring cultural phenomenon, the British sex farce, the sort of winking, door-slammings, slightly naughty fluff that used to be packaged with airfare and a hotel stay for the not very discerning tourist trade?

At the Theatre Royal Bath, in a charming Roman spa town about an hour and a quarter out of London by train, I caught a classic of the genre, Marc Camoletti's 1960 *Boeing Boeing*, translated from the original French by Beverley Cross and Francis Evans in a version that most recently became a Tony Award winner on Broadway in 2009. It takes place in the Parisian apartment of French businessman Bernard (John

Dorney), a guy who prides himself on schedule efficiency that allows him to juggle affairs with a trio of comely flight attendants — American Gloria of TWA (Isabel Della-Porta), Italian Gabriella of Alitalia (Nathalie Barclay) and German Gretchen of Lufthansa (Jessica Dennis) — who fly out of nearby Orly Airport.

With the assistance of his put-upon housekeeper Bertha (stolid Jo Castleton), Bernard keeps the three stewardesses apart and unaware of each other, until faster airplanes make hash of his plans.

If you have ever seen a sex

farce, it would be difficult not to be ahead of *Boeing Boeing's* plot twists, but director Michael Cabot gives the production a deft, tight touch that earns its laughs. He is aided considerably by Dorney, who physicalizes his meltdown as he tries to salvage his scheme and keep the stories and bedrooms straight.

Also contributing to the mirth is the set design by Bek Palmer — with its seven highly slammable doors — and his kicky 1960s uniforms for the leggy stews. The production is traveling the provinces, bringing welcome escapism to locals and tourists alike.




JULY 8-24, 2022

Based on the classic 1989 film. Westerberg High is ruled by a shoulder-padded, scrunchie-wearing junta: Heather, Heather and Heather, the hottest and cruelest girls in all of Ohio. But misfit Veronica Sawyer rejects their evil regime for a new boyfriend, the dark and sexy stranger J.D., who plans to put the Heathers in their place - six feet under.

713 Lake Avenue, Lake Worth Beach
www.lakeworthplayhouse.org | 561.586.6410






Reviews

Here are excerpts from reviews on the Palm Beach ArtsPaper website. Full reviews are at palmbeachartspaper.com.

Jurassic World: Dominion (opened June 10)

Nostalgia, as they say, never goes out of style. And in a pop-culture space increasingly populated by aging Gen-Xers and millennials with time on their hands, affection for the more sanguine 1990s has reached its pinnacle of saturation. *The X-Files*, *Sex and the City*, *Friends*, *Scream* — and we might as well throw *Top Gun* in there — are just a few of the franchises that have gone back to their various wells, their stars creakier in the joints and grayer at the temples but still quick with a quip, and still able to hold the gun straight.

For the *Jurassic Park* franchise, the trend lines have finally grown too seductive, and *Jurassic World: Dominion* is the fan fiction its most ardent followers have been pining for. For the first time since the 1993 original, Laura Dern, Sam Neill and Jeff Goldblum are reprising their roles of paleobotanist Ellie Sattler, paleontologist Alan Grant, and chaos theorist Ian Malcolm.

Much has changed since these scientists consulted on John Hammond's catastrophic folly of a theme park. Following the events of *Jurassic World* and its successor, *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*, dinosaurs have now been loosed upon the world, spreading to all of its continents in a reptilian diaspora.

Their presence has led to a scourge of black-market animal trading and illegal breeding operations, though Biosyn, a biotech giant with a focus on sequencing dinosaur DNA, purports to be on the side of science and progress, with applications to cure cancer and other lofty objectives.

The company is also responsible for releasing a swarm of genetically engineered locusts that are decimating farmland across the South and Midwest — at least, the farmland that doesn't use patented Biosyn seeds.

This is how Dern's Ellie Sattler enters the picture. Now an activist with an ax to grind with Monsanto — er, that is, Biosyn — she hatches a plan, with former partner Alan Grant, to sneak into the organization's research compound in Italy and prove the company is behind the killer insects.

But it isn't long before Ellie's crusade merges with that of *Jurassic World* heroes Claire Dearing and Owen Grady (Bryce Dallas Howard and Chris Pratt), who have their own reasons to take down Biosyn and its smarmy CEO, played with relish by Campbell Scott.

Jurassic World: Dominion labors to inject scientific bona fides, animal-rights bromides and populist politics into its storytelling, but unlike the Michael Crichton cautionary tale that birthed the franchise,



Bruce Linser and Larry Buzzeo in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, at Island City Stage through July 10. Photo by Matthew Tippins

they are all window dressing. After a certain point, its hulking surfeit of action sequences, each piled onto the next in a narrative Jenga tower of sound and fury, merely numb the senses rather than engaging them.

Dominion weaves in elements of a Western, a spy drama, a conspiracy thriller and a jungle adventure, in a script that sends its characters from west Texas to the Dolomite Mountains to the narrow streets of Malta. Adding a frisson of crazy in an already chaotic world, dinosaurs attack from the air, the sea and on terra firma.

This is why director Colin Trevorrow is not Steven Spielberg, who, for all his commercial concessions, proved that to stage suspense effectively, we need to see as little of the threat as possible, and let our minds fill in the gaps. This movie is so overstuffed with CGI that even the majesty of its anthropomorphic beasts grows tiresome.

At least there's Jeff Goldblum, imbuing his witticisms with a cerebral patina and almost salvaging a screenplay mired in leaden clichés.

Cynical and cash-grabbing as their casting may, he and his fellow *Jurassic Park* alums still have an inherent charm as they fly and sledgehammer and spelunk their way through a story whose message hasn't evolved since the original film: *Don't muck with nature*.

This is reportedly the final film in the *Jurassic World* trilogy. Time will tell how the broader franchise will revive itself with yet another variation on the theme. — *Palm Beach ArtsPaper staff*

The Mystery of Irma Vep (through July 10 at Island City Stage, Wilton Manors)

The Mystery of Irma Vep is a high-octane, mystery/thriller/satire that's getting plenty of guffaws from summer audiences in Wilton Manors.

The show is peculiar in its uniqueness. Playwright Charles Ludlam, a pillar of the LGBTQ+ community for his contributions to literature and stage shows during his AIDS-shortened career as an actor and author, tasks a two-man cast with making 35 costume changes and portraying eight characters in a rapid-fire fright-fest.

An energetic tale, *Vep* lampoons various theatrical, literary and film genres while drawing werewolves, ghosts, mummies and things-that-go-

bump onto a stage that's deftly adorned as a Victorian manse. This campy melodrama scares up hints of Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein* while clawing the veneer off a raft of film and stage classics.

Add to that the fact that the title is the name of a character in the 1915 French movie serial *Les Vampires* and is also an anagram for the word "vampire" — a fact not lost on the two multi-talented, multi-tasking starring players, Larry Buzzeo and Bruce Linser.

Irma Vep opens eerily at Mandacrest Estate, a venue festooned with weapons decorating the walls, French doors leading to dark, forbidding moors — all overpowered by a large painting of a staid, matronly woman.

The set, by master carpenter and lighting designer Ardean Landhuis, is the home of Lord Edgar, an Egyptologist, and Lady Enid, his second wife. Edgar has yet to recover completely from the death of his first wife — the woman in the portrait whose stern demeanor continues to haunt her former home.

Buzzeo and Linser buzz about like dervishes changing costumes and genders to become Lord Edgar, Lady Enid, Nicodemus, the wanderer; Jane, the housemaid; an intruder; Pev Amri; Alcazar, and a secretive, indistinguishable character whose identity, once revealed, flips the action on its head.

Irma Vep is played in loony, campy style, with the performers nodding, winking, smirking and otherwise attracting attention.

The action is great, absurd and exaggerated as Linser becomes Jane, in a long black dressing gown, or Edgar, in spiffy hunting gear. Meanwhile, Buzzeo morphs from Enid in dressing gown and piled-high red hair to Nicodemus, the tattered, trappy troll who calls the moors home.

The show is filled with lots of verbal quips and sight gags.

"I wish I could list all the literary and cinematic references in this play," said Island City's Artistic Director Andy Rogow, who helms this antic production. "It's a treasure trove for any theater lover."

He said Ludlam, the pioneering playwright who died in 1987, once described the play as "an ironic deconstruction of the horror genre with a high-camp celebration of it." — *Dale King*

Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through Aug. 1 were current as of June 15. Check with the presenting agency for any changes.

ART

Boca Raton Museum of Art: Through Jan. 22, 2023: *The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop*. Runs with *Bonnie Lautenberg: Art Meets Hollywood — Artistic!*. Through Aug. 21. \$12; \$10 seniors. 11 am-7 pm daily. 561-392-2500, or bocamuseum.org.

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County: Through July 30: *Amy S. Broderick: Ledger and Loom*, paper compositions by the FAU professor; *Michele Hundt*. Free. noon-5 pm T-Sat. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions.

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Through Aug. 7: *Art Connects Across the Ages*. 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 Sept. 25: *Beyond the Wall: Visions of the Asian Experience in America*. \$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 Sept. 11: *Dürer, Rembrandt and Picasso: Three Masters of the Print; A Remarkable Gathering: The Fisher Landau Family Collection*; through Sept. 25: *The Howard and Judie Ganek Collection*, through Sept. 25. \$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

Sunday, July 3-Sunday, July 31
Miami Beach Classical Music Festival: Now in its ninth season, led by founder Michael Rossi of the Washington Opera. The main event is what may be the first fully staged performance of Wagner's *Das Rheingold* in South Florida, set for July 16 in the Temple House on South Beach. Other operas include Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (July 10, Temple Emanu-El), Bizet's *Carmen* (July 21 and 23 at the Faena Forum), Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (July 22 and 24, Faena Forum), and Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* (July 23 and 24, Faena Forum, afternoon performances). There also is a chamber music program by students at the Betsy Hotel on July 18, and on July 7, a program featuring the festival's conducting students and music by Mozart, Verdi, Schumann, Saint-Saens and two young American composers, Shawn Okpebholo and Jesse Montgomery. Also in the mix are free Sunday night outdoor orchestra concerts at Lummus Park. www.miamimusicfestival.com.

Friday, July 15-Sunday, July 17
Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival: The festival musicians perform two works: *The Nonet* by Joseph Rheinberger, a 19th-century Lichtensteiner best known for his organ works, and Beethoven's *Archduke Trio*. Concerts are at 7:30 pm Friday at Palm Beach Atlantic University's Persson Recital Hall, 326 Acacia Road, West Palm Beach; 7:30 pm Saturday at First Presbyterian Church, 717 Prosperity Farms Road, North Palm Beach; and 4 pm Sunday at Unity Church, 101 NW 22nd St., Delray Beach. \$35. 561-547-1070 or www.pbcmf.org.

Thursday, July 21-Friday, July 22
South Florida Symphony Chamber Music: The Key West-based orchestra offers a series of chamber concerts through July. This month's concert features violinist Huifang Chen, violist Felicia Besan, cellist Claudio Jaffé and pianist Catherine Lan in works by Mozart, Schumann and local composer John Gottsch. Both concerts begin at 7:30 pm; the July 21 concert is at Temple Israel of Greater Miami, 137 NE 19th St., Miami. The July 22 concert is at the Center for Spiritual Living, 4849 N. Dixie Highway, Oakland Park. \$30. 954-522-8445 or southfloridasymphony.org.

DANCE

Saturday, July 30-Sunday, July 31
Boca Ballet Theatre: Dan Guin and Jane Tyree's company wrap their summer workshop with two performances of *Sleeping Beauty*, with Tchaikovsky's beloved score and Marius Petipa's classic choreography. American Ballet Theatre's Devon Teuscher and Les Grands Ballets Canada's Roddy Doble are the special guests. 7:30 pm Sat, 2 pm Sun at Spanish River High School, 5100 Jog Road, Boca Raton. 561-995-0709 or www.bocaballet.org for ticket information.

JAZZ

Friday, June 8
Tal Cohen: The young Israeli pianist draws on traditional Israeli folk music and klezmer styles to cook up his own version of "Jewish jazz." 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 N.E. 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$25-\$30. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org.
Saturday, July 23-Sunday, July 24
Larry Carlton: The jazz guitarist and legendary session man plays four "greatest hits" shows featuring music by Steely Dan and The Crusaders. 6 pm and 9 pm both nights. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. \$60-\$90. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com.

POPULAR MUSIC

Thursday, July 21
The Doobie Brothers: The California pop band whose music was inescapable in the 1970s (*What a Fool Believes*, *Black Water*) is finally out on its 50th anniversary tour, which COVID had interrupted. 7:30 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$17 and up; www.livenation.com.
Pure Prairie League: The Ohio country rock band is best known for its 1972 smash hit, *Amie*. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. \$50-\$80. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com.
Sunday, July 24
Incubus: The eclectic California band (*Drive*) experiments with a multiplicity of genres; they're joined in West Palm by Sublime with Rome, the renamed reboot of Sublime (*What I Got*). iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$45 and up; www.livenation.com.

THEATER

Thursday, July 7-Sunday, July 17;
Thursday, July 21-Sunday, July 24
Richard III: Shakespeare's poetic tale of the 14th-century king deposed by the future Henry IV, with some of the Bard's most cherished writing, including John of Gaunt's ode to England. Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival presents the play outdoors at Carlin Park in Jupiter from July 7-17, and the week following at Commons Park in Royal Palm Beach. 561-762-8552 or pbshakespeare.org.
Friday, July 8-Sunday, July 24
Heathers: Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy's 2014 black comedy about clique politics and murderous intent at an Ohio high school in 1989. \$38-\$46, other special packages available. Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410 or lakeworthplayhouse.org.
Friday, July 15-Sunday, July 17
Time Stops: A world premiere of a musical by Brett Boles that concerns a writer named Emma Portman who writes a musical about the life she wanted her late daughter to have enjoyed. At Rinker Playhouse, Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$45 and up. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org.
Thursday, July 14-Sunday, July 31
Rubenology: The Making of an American Legend: A world premiere one-man show starring Cuban-American actor Ruben Rubasa, who recounts the 84 years of his life in show business, Cuba and America. Co-written by Vanessa Garcia. At GableStage, Biltmore Hotel, 1200 Anastasia Ave., Coral Gables. \$40-\$45. 305-445-1119 or gablestage.org.

Health Notes

\$1 million donations from couples boost Boca hospital campaign

The fundraisers at the Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation have more big reasons to smile. A recent pair of \$1 million donations to the Keeping the Promise campaign came from Jonathan and Laura Beinners and Ken and Maggie Rosenberg of Boca Raton.

With the Beinners' gift announced in late May, the campaign to construct and upgrade hospital facilities has collected more than \$230 million toward its \$250 million goal.

That sum included 43 donations of seven or eight figures.

The Beinners' generosity will be acknowledged with the naming of the Jonathan and Laura Beinners Administrative Offices Suite in the new Gloria Drummond Patient Tower. The tower is the centerpiece of the project.

The eighth-floor nurses' station in the tower will be named for the Rosenbergs.

Both couples cited the importance of health as the motivation for their donations.

"In the old days, if you got sick, you would run back to New York to see your doctors," Ken Rosenberg said in a news release. "Now, we are running back to be here in Boca Raton to have the quality facilities and physicians offered by this growing hospital."

Laura Beinners said: "Without your health, it



Philanthropist couples Jonathan and Laura Beinners (at left) and Maggie and Ken Rosenberg have made \$1 million gifts to Keeping the Promise — The Campaign for Boca Raton Regional Hospital. The project has raised more than \$230 million toward its \$250 million goal. **Photos provided**



becomes really hard to enjoy your life. Jon and I always support the hospitals, wherever we are. Now that we're in Boca for the school year, we wanted to add Boca Regional to our list.

"Our family recognizes the importance of education, health and human services, and local and national Jewish causes. We feel very fortunate to be able to support key agencies in the communities in which we live and are so grateful that we are in the position to do so."

The Beinners have three sons and a daughter and the couple, through their philanthropy, want to teach them the importance of giving back.

A semiretired executive

with Goldman Sachs, Jonathan Beinners recognizes the importance of strong leadership and felt it was important to support the hospital and its leaders.

"Successful hospitals rely on leaders who are skilled and committed," he said. "The two go hand-in-hand. Laura and I wanted our gift to both support the hospital and salute its leadership."

Lincoln Mendez, CEO of Boca Regional, said that the hospital is always grateful for extraordinary gifts, but these two were special.

For the Beinners, "this one is particularly moving because it is their very first gift to us,

and the seven-figure generosity tells us the Beinners believe in our vision, this initiative and Keeping the Promise."

As for the Rosenbergs, Mendez said: "Ken and Maggie were motivated by the great care that they received from Boca Regional doctors, including Dr. John Strobis and other outstanding physicians, who have all had a profound impact on his and his family's health."

The campaign is the largest fundraising initiative in the hospital's history and is supporting its most ambitious period of growth and expansion.

Campus redevelopment plans include the new Drummond

tower, where patients will be welcomed in the Louis B. and Anne W. Green Lobby with plans for retail, dining, meeting space, a sanctuary, outdoor courtyards and other conveniences for visitors.

The tower will feature all new surgical suites and all private patient rooms exceeding the latest safety standards for care. In the current hospital building, all existing rooms will be converted to private in a comprehensive renovation of all patient units.

An expansion of the Marcus Neuroscience Institute is well underway with emphasis on neurovascular/stroke, central nervous system tumors, spine, and epilepsy/seizure disorders.

The recently opened 972-car Schmidt Family Parking Facility will be connected to the Marcus Neuroscience Institute once the new tower is complete.

Also underway is construction of the Toby and Leon Cooperman Medical Arts Pavilion, with outpatient surgery, physician offices, an ambulatory surgery center and adjacent parking.

For more information, call 561-955-4142 or visit donate.brhh.com.

— Christine Davis and Amy Woods

Send health news to Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com.

Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JULY 2

Saturday - 7/2 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

7/2 - 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

7/2 - 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

7/2 - 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
7/2 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

JULY 3-9

Sunday - 7/3 - 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
Tuesday - 7/5 - 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 - 7/6 - LGBTQ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

JULY 10-16

Monday - 7/11 - 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

7/11 - Healing & Wellness Practices of the Ancient World at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-544-8577; bocalibrary.org

7/11 - Adult Zumba Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Every M 7-8 pm. Runs through 8/22. \$50/10 classes; \$6/1 class. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

JULY 31-AUGUST 6

8/5 - Coco Connections Market at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Wellness market with 30 local vendors, health/wellness professionals w/various healing modalities, live music, 2 free yoga, meditation or fitness classes per event. 1st F through 12/31 9 am-2 pm. 561-870-4090; thecocoyogi.com/market

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Paws Up for Pets

Community Cat Medical Fund helps felines get veterinarian care

In the dedicated world of helping community cats in Palm Beach County, Xan Rammacher saw a gap and is doing her best to fill it.

She estimates that more than 250,000 community cats roam throughout the county. By definition, community cats live outside and do not have owners. Some are friendly toward people and would love to be adopted and live indoors. Others are feral and do their best to avoid human interaction.

But all these cats need to eat and they need to be spayed, neutered and receive necessary vaccinations. And some of these cats also get sick or injured and need medical treatment.

After spending about five years performing TNVR work, meaning trap, neuter, vaccinate and return, and paying out of her own pocket to cover medical expenses for kittens and cats with respiratory infections or injuries, Rammacher had a lightbulb moment.

“I realized there was truly a need to help the injured and sick homeless cats in our community that don’t have an advocate,” she says. “It is a very helpless feeling not being able to help a suffering animal.”

Rammacher launched the Community Cat Medical Fund about a year ago. And she did all the paperwork to ensure her group met the qualifications to



Xan Rammacher’s Community Cat Medical Fund in its first year provided funding for medical treatment of more than 60 sick or injured felines roaming Palm Beach County. Photo provided

be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Rammacher is doing her best to complement volunteers who feed these cats, who perform TNVR and who agree to give foster care to felines ideal for adoption. She also salutes the work done by shelters, including the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League based in West Palm Beach.

On the CCMF website, Rammacher makes clear what her nonprofit can and can’t do.

“CCMF is not a traditional rescue. We are not a trapping, transporting, fostering service,” she says. “We financially provide assistance for veterinary care for community cats. We exist to be a resource for trappers whenever

we can financially provide assistance for veterinary care for community cats.”

To celebrate CCMF’s first anniversary, Rammacher organized a fundraiser in late May at the Cactus Grille & Tequila Bar in Palm Beach Gardens and announced that CCMF provided funding for veterinary care of more than 60 community cats in its first year.

In recent posts on her group’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CCMFINC), Xan shares the plight of a community cat named JR who “got in a tussle” with another community cat and suffered an eye injury that cost \$700 to treat. She spotlights a pair of black-and-white cats.

The one dubbed Wallie received antibiotics for a persistent cough and the other she calls Louie underwent a much-needed dental cleaning.

Rammacher’s effort to fill in the medical gap for these cats gets applause from people in the community-cat world.

“The sad truth is, most or all shelters are not able to provide medical care to suffering community cats,” says Paul Bates, who heads the community outreach TNVR program at Peggy Adams. “Most people who feed community cats simply cannot afford to pay for medical care for them. Community cats suffer and die horrible deaths in the streets.

“Xan is providing lifesaving medical care to community cats. No one else is doing this in our county.”

That makes Bates a fan of Xan.

“We have many people who TNVR cats in our county and bring them to our free TNVR service at Peggy Adams,” Bates says. “But what happens when a community cat trapper comes across a cat in a colony that is very sick or has a broken leg? What Xan is doing is truly lifesaving work.”

Word of Rammacher’s work also prompted Cuddly, a crowdfunding site focused on animals, to give CCMF a \$5,000 grant. Learn more about Cuddly by visiting www.cuddly.com.

Rammacher is not shy about CCMF’s biggest needs: monetary donations and local foster volunteers.

“Generally, the cats only need a couple of weeks to recover” after medical care, she says. “CCMF can provide the food, litter and any equipment needed during foster. Your spare room or bathroom could literally be the cats’ only chance between a healthy return to life or

Learn more

The Community Cat Medical Fund Inc. is a nonprofit that helps caretakers of community cats pay for needed veterinarian services. The fund also supports people who humanely trap and give foster care to these cats. Go to comcatmedfund.org or facebook.com/CCMFINC for more information.

suffering on the streets.”

Rammacher knows firsthand about fostering and adopting. She shares her home with husband, Ray, and their three former community cats. The oldest is Taz, now 14. Xan rescued Taz as a tiny kitten in a rainstorm at a mall parking lot.

Fittingly, the first two community cats on which she did TNVR care as a volunteer she ended up adopting: a mama cat, now 5, named Jane and her 4-year-old son, Tarzan.

“Rescue in itself can be very hard and forming the right support network is vital to survival,” says Rammacher. “CCMF cannot exist without local volunteers from community cat trappers, fosters, transporters, rescue partners and colony managers. We must all work together for the betterment of the cats.”

Arden Moore is a bestselling author, professional speaker and master certified pet first-aid instructor. She hosts a nationally syndicated radio show, Arden Moore’s Four Legged Life, and

the weekly Oh Behave! podcast on PetLifeRadio.com. Learn more by visiting www.ardenmoore.com.



SUMMER AWE & WONDER

Mounts Botanical in July | Details at mounts.org/events

PALM BEACH COUNTY RESIDENT DAYS

Free admission for PBC residents with proof of residency. Begins Saturday, July 9th | Continues monthly on 2nd Saturday

GARDEN CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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Happy Birthday Rosie!
aka the Delray Beach Mermaid



Robert Wechsler and Anita Casey of Delray Beach are the proud owners of Rosie, the red Irish Setter who just loves the water... she is now 10 years old!



CELEBRATE YOUR PET

Email a photo and 30 words (or less) of text that includes Owner’s name and city. Celebration price is \$150 payable by check or credit card. Please no logos, phone numbers, email or social media addresses. More info: contact Chris@the.coastalstar.com or by phone 561-901-7717.

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/22. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JULY 2

Saturday - 7/2 - Shark Feedings at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. T-Sat noon; Sun 1 pm. Free w/\$6 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org
7/2 - 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
7/2 - 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; gumbolimbo.org
7/2 - 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
7/2 - Sea Turtle Talk at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 8+; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 2 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
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
7/2 - Alligator Meet & Greet 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

JULY 3-9

Tuesday - 7/5 - Toddler Tales at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Stories, music, movement. Age walking to 23 mos. Every T through 7/26 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
7/5 - 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
7/5 - Tots in Tutus at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 2-5. Held again 7/12. Age 2-5 11-11:45 am. Per session \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. RSVP: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org
7/5 - Baby Rhythms w/First Steps Dance & Tumbling at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 6 weeks-walking. Held again 7/12. 11:45 am-12:15 pm. Per session \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. RSVP: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org
7/5 - Crafty Kids at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6-8. Every T through 7/26 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
7/5 - Teen Game Day at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Snacks provided. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/5 - Happy Little Painters at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Supplies & snacks provided. Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/5 - Anime Night at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-18. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
7/5-6 - Sensational Story 'n More at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children's books come to life through interactive performance, singing, movement, props. Age 2-5. Every T 10-10:45 am & W 3-3:45 pm through 8/31 10-10:45 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Wednesday - 7/6 - Outdoor Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library under the banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Enjoy stories, rhymes, more. Held again 7/20. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
7/6 - Preschool Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 3-5. Every W through 7/27 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
7/6 - 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
7/6 - Summer Science Fun at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Hands-on science fun; explore a variety of experiments/activities. Age 3-7. Every W through 8/10 10-10:45 am. Per class \$8/member; \$10/

Kids Juneteenth Freedom Day Celebration

Lantana Library — June 18



Lawn games and inflatable sprinklers were all part of the holiday weekend fun at the Lantana Library, currently housed at the town's recreation center. Alaric Wang, 5, of Lantana, plays a fishing game and Milly Marzipan, children's musician, performs for the kids. Photos provided

non-member + admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/6 - Storytime with Darlene at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Age 0-5. Every W 11-11:30 am. Free w/\$6 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

7/6 - Yoga Fun at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Ages 2-5. Every W through 8/10 11-11:30 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/6 - Group Swim Lessons at Meadows Park Pool, 1300 NW 8th St, Boca Raton. Every W/F through 7/29. Level 1 & 2 3:30-4:15 pm; Level 3 & 4 4:30-5:15 pm. \$80/resident; \$100/non-resident. 561-393-7851; mybocaparks.org

7/6 - 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

Thursday - 7/7 - 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

7/7 - Tumble Tots at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 2-5. Held again 7/14. 10-10:30 am. Per session \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. RSVP: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/7 - Kid's Music Circle with Noam Brown at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. All ages. Every Th through 8/11 11-11:45 am. Per session \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. RSVP: 561-742-6782; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/7 - Summer Feature Film: The Lion King at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 5-12. Includes free popcorn; bring water bottle or drink. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

7/7 - Messy Play at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Explore, develop important readiness skills. Age 2-5 yrs. Every Th through 8/11 3-3:45 pm. Per class \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/7 - Youth Summer Program: Design a Sea Creature at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 7/8 - Construction Zone at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Explore different blocks, building materials. All ages. Held again 7/22 & 8/5. 10-11:30 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/8 - My Image, My Power at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Work w/a self-image coach, develop important life skills. Registrants must commit to all 6 sessions. Books, journals, refreshments provided. Age 9-12. Held again 7/15. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

7/8 - The Art of the Story at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children create their own art in the style of the featured book. Age 3-7 yrs. Every F through 8/12 3-3:45 pm. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/8 - Children's Friday Special: Salty Sue

the Pirate 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

7/8 - 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 - 7/9 - Youth Olympics at Pence Park, 600 SE 4th St, Boynton Beach. Compete in a series of activities: 50-yard dash, "Mile" run, standing broad jump, distance throw. Age 3-5. 9-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6640; boynton-beach.org

7/9 - Gymnastics Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-11. Every Sat through 7/30 9-9:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

7/9 - Saturday Morning Art (smART) at Boca Raton Museum Art School, 801 W Palmetto Park Rd. 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

7/9 - Gymnastics/Cheerleading Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic cheer & tumbling techniques. Age 5-10. Every Sat through 7/30 10-10:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

7/9 - 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. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

7/9 - Drama & Musical Theater Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-12. Every Sat through 7/30 11-11:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

7/9 - Group Swim Lessons at Meadows Park Pool, 1300 NW 8th St, Boca Raton. Every Sat through 8/27. Level 1 & 2 noon-12:45 pm; Level 3 & 4 1-1:45 pm. \$80/resident; \$100/non-resident. 561-393-7851; mybocaparks.org

7/9 - 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 7/23 Noon-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

7/9 - Opera Story Time at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Palm Beach Opera provides a sing-along storytelling experience for younger audiences. Held again 7/16 & 30. Age 7-10. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

JULY 10-16

Monday - 7/11 - 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 7/25 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

7/11 - Teen Fiber Arts Studio: Knitting Dishcloths at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

7/11 - Teen Tech Sandbox: Beginning 3D Printing at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

7/11-15 - Garden Explorers Camp at Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 N Military Tr, West Palm

Beach. Science-based fun. Bring refillable water bottle, lunch, hat, sunscreen, bug repellent. Materials, snacks provided. Age 7-11. Held again 7/25-29. 9 am-3 pm. \$250/member; \$290/non-member; \$50/optional extended care. Registration: 561-233-1757; mounts.org

Tuesday - 7/12 - Artist of the Month at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 3-7. 2nd T through 8/9 3-3:45 pm. Free w/paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/12 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2nd T 4 pm. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

7/12 - 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 7/26. 5-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Wednesday - 7/13 - Bilingual Outdoor Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Held again 7/27. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 7/14 - Thursday Performance Showcase at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Features a roster of professionals in the arts & sciences. Age 5-12. Held again 7/21, 28 & 8/4. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

7/14 - Youth Summer Program: Fish Prints with Morikami Museum at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/14 - Teen Art Program: Henna at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 12-18. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 7/15 - Fabulous Fun Friday: Ice Cream Day at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Fun with crafts/activities match the theme of the week. Held again 7/29 & 8/12. 10-10:45 am. Per session \$8/member; \$10/non-member + admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/15 - Climate Kids' Ocean Lovers Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Learn marine biology, wetlands conservation. Age 8-12. Held again 7/29. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 7/16 - Family Summer Snorkel at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Bring your own snorkel, mask, water shoes (no fins allowed). Age 10+; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 10-11:30 am. \$15/resident & member; \$19/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

7/16 - Must Love Sharks at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. In celebration of SharkFest and SharkCon 2022, give-away bags w/assigned book to read, specially curated STREAM-oriented worksheets to complete, recommended digital resources to explore. Pick up grab bags beginning 7/1; 2 weeks to complete assignments before in-person program. Age 7-9. Noon-1:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

7/16 - The Little Mermaid Jr. at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Performed by summer camp participants. 2 pm & 6

pm. \$20/adult; \$15/student. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

7/16 - Kids Night In at Ezell Hester, Jr. Community Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Parents enjoy a night out while kids have a fun-filled evening. Dinner provided. Age 8-12. 6-10 pm. \$25/resident; \$32/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

JULY 17-23

Tuesday - 7/19 - OtakuFest at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Make candy sushi, try Japanese snacks, discuss anime/manga w/friends. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 7/21 - Movement with Matthew at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 2-5. Every Th through 8/11 10-10:30 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

7/21 - Youth Summer Program: Tie-Dye Bandana at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 7/23 - 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. Registration: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

7/23 - Lego Leaders! at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Join other Lego lovers, take on a different book-inspired Build It! Lego Engineering Challenge. Held again 7/30. Age 6-11. 11:30 am-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

7/23 - 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

JULY 24-30

Monday - 7/25 - Teen Fiber Arts Studio: Beginning Crochet at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

7/25 - Readers are Leaders Book Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Receive a free copy of the book to keep. Zoom or in person. Grades 4-7. 4th M 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 7/27 - Crafty Holiday: Independence Day at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Drop in, take a craft to make at home. Age 3-6. Free. 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Thursday - 7/28 - Gymnastics Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every Th through 8/18. 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

7/28-30 - No Strings Attached at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Th/F 11 am; Sat 2 pm. \$15/adult; \$10/child. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Saturday - 7/30 - 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

JULY 31-AUGUST 6

Monday - 8/1 - Teen Fiber Arts Studio: Embroidered Backpack Charms at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

8/2 - Teen Game Day at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Snacks provided. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Wednesday - 8/3 - Group Swim Lessons at Meadows Park Pool, 1300 NW 8th St, Boca Raton. Every W/F through 8/26. Level 1 & 2 3:30-4:15 pm; Level 3 & 4 4:30-5:15 pm. \$80/resident; \$100/non-resident. 561-393-7851; mybocaparks.org

Thursday - 8/4 - Touch A Truck at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Fire truck, ambulance, police, other vehicles; spend time w/the men & women who provide service in our community. Age 5-11. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 8/6 - Gymnastics Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-11. Every Sat through 8/27 9-9:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

8/6 - Drama & Musical Theater Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-12. Every Sat through 8/27 11-11:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

Finding Faith

Stations of the Cross carvings honor retired cleric at St. Paul's

Some people see the hand of God working in our lives in tiny ways. This is one of those stories.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach wanted to honor Father David Angelica for years of devoted service to the church family, and the brotherhood found a way that also honors the church and supports a small-business owner in a country at war.

One of Angelica's favorite devotions was praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent with the congregation. The stations are the 14 stopping points along the Way of the Cross, the path that Jesus is believed to have followed on Good Friday. Praying the Stations of the Cross is a traditional way of commemorating the last day of Jesus' life.



Angelica

Early Christians made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to walk the Way of the Cross in person, but that's not realistic anymore, so the custom arose of replicating the devotion in a new setting, using artistic representations to commemorate each stop.

For Angelica, leading parishioners through the events of that day was a liturgical high point each year and he used photographs glued to cardboard that he hung from screws on the trusses between St. Paul's stunning stained-glass windows.

Church member John Putnam praised Angelica in a profile he wrote, calling him a Renaissance man for his many gifts — "prayer, contemplation, preaching, compassion and counseling." He also pointed to Angelica's robust sense of humor.



The screws are still there, but Angelica retired early in 2022 and has relocated to Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Bill Hurd of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew said his group had been looking for something to replace Angelica's photos for a couple of years but couldn't find the right pieces until Hurd checked Amazon.

Hurd, who has been a member of St. Paul's for 42 years, says the decision to purchase the carvings was a "no-brainer." Now the photos have been replaced by ornate wood carvings of the stations made by an artisan named Maxim Kozak of Lviv, Ukraine.

"My name is Maxim Kozak," he says on his Amazon page. "I'm a happy man, happy father and happy husband. My family is my inspiration."

Hurd said, "The quality is amazing for the price. He offered two finishes and we chose the darker finish to

match the wood trusses in the church."

The pieces look as if they belong there and certainly represent an upgrade. Each plaque is about 10 inches square and much of the work is done by a machine process Kozak invented.

Kozak, a father of two, has always loved woodworking, and he became interested in "the ability to use modern technology in this craft," because it improved both "maximum production speed and product details."

Most of Kozak's pieces are made from oak, which is a very hard, sturdy wood, not generally suited to fine carving. Kozak wrote: "For me the main thing is the result. So, I use superfine tool in order to most accurately reflect all the details."

The pieces are exquisitely detailed and highlighted with



ABOVE: Ukrainian artisan Maxim Kozak, pictured with his family, crafted a set of the Stations of the Cross for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach. LEFT: Kozak's interpretation of the First Station of the Cross: Jesus is Condemned to Death. The oak carving shows soldiers leading away Jesus after he was condemned by Pontius Pilate, who in the background is 'washing his hands' of the death. Photos provided

gold paint. As you look at them in the changing light, Jesus' crown of thorns glows like a halo. Most of Kozak's work is devoted to religious iconography, but he also makes other home furnishings. Each of the 14 panels cost about \$60, including shipping. Since the Russian invasion, a friend has been helping Kozak send out the art through Poland.

"One of the appeals was that the artist was a small-business owner doing this to feed his family," Hurd said.

Kozak has been selling on Etsy since 2015 and has sold more than 10,000 pieces, which has allowed him to hire others to help with designs, production and shipping. Kozak's business has a motto: "All we do is for you to believe in miracles."

Praying the Stations of the Cross in whatever form is an opportunity for Christians to meditate on Jesus Christ's suffering and the needs of

suffering people today. St. Paul's also donated the Lenten offering plate collections to Episcopal Relief and Development's Ukrainian Crisis Response Fund.

Father Paul Kane has kept in touch with Kozak via email and said last month that he last heard from him at the end of May. "Maxim and his family were still at home in Lviv, and he seemed positive," Kane said.

When the plaques were hung, a gold sign dated March 6, 2022, below the first carving read: "Given by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in thanksgiving for the ministry of Father David Angelica."

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations,



causes and community events. Contact her at fontaine423e@outlook.com.



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On vacation this month

Coastal Star columnists on vacation this month include:



Joyce Reingold writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to joyce.reingold@yahoo.com.



Willie Howard is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Email tiowillie@bellsouth.net.

Religion News

New rabbi welcomed at Temple Beth El

Temple Beth El of Boca Raton continues to grow and planned to welcome



Rabishaw

Rabbi Elana Rabishaw as its fourth full-time rabbi on July 1. She will join the clergy team that includes Rabbis Dan

Levin, Jessica Spitalnic Mates and Greg Weisman, Cantor Lori Brock, and cantorial soloists Michelle Auslander Cohen and Jake Harris.

An open house for prospective members will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 16, at the Schaefer Family Campus at 333 SW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. Call 561-391-8900 or visit tbeboca.org.

No One Buried Alone rite

The No One Buried Alone ministry will hold a memorial service from noon to 1 p.m. July 6 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Cemetery, 10941 Southern Blvd., Royal Palm Beach. Everyone is welcome.

The NOBA project started officially in May 2011 after the death of a 100-year-old patient at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis.

Father Gabriel Ghanoum, who had been the medical center's director of spiritual care since 2010, began the initiative to take care of her and other individuals in Palm Beach County who died without known relatives or next of kin. With Adriana Gorrondona at the Palm Beach County Department of Human Services and Our Lady Queen of Peace, the No One Buried Alone ministry was born.

The ministry maintains that every human being deserves a dignified burial. The first

compassion service was held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Cemetery on July 27, 2011. In 2013, the remains of 29 infants were laid to rest in the baby section. Last Nov. 13, 171 individuals were laid to rest. Because of the pandemic, more people died and more of them died alone.

Ghanoum told the *Florida Catholic*: "When we name each person from the list, I say 'I love you' because love was absent in their final moments on this Earth. These are our brothers and sisters in Christ, we love because God loves them. That is enough and all that matters."

No One Buried Alone is an ecumenical ministry open to all regardless of faith or background. To learn more, visit <https://ourqueen.org/no-one-buried-alone> or call 561-793-0711.

B'nai Torah gets big gift

B'nai Torah Congregation, the largest conservative synagogue in Southeast Florida, announced at the end of April that Boca Raton residents Donna and Gerald Kramer gifted one of the largest single donations the synagogue has ever received. The temple wouldn't share the exact amount, but the Kramers confirmed that the amount was "seven figures."

The gift was made in honor of David Steinhardt, senior rabbi at B'nai Torah Congregation, who has held the position for more than two decades. Steinhardt said he was "profoundly appreciative that they have chosen to honor me in such a significant way."

For more information, visit www.btcboaca.org.

— Janis Fontaine

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/22. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JULY 3-9

Tuesday - 7/5 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Masks optional, social distancing practiced. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 7/6 - 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 - 7/7 - 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

7/7 - 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

7/7 - Women's Discipleship Group at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

7/7 - Islamic Center of Boca Raton Open House at 3480 NW 5th Ave, Boca Raton. All welcome. Refreshments, tour of the mosque, Q&A. 1st Th 7-9 pm. Free. 561-395-7221; icbr.org

Friday - 7/8 - 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

7/8 - 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

JULY 10-16

Monday - 7/11 - 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

7/11 - 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



On the Grounds of The Boca Raton Resort

Absolutely Extraordinary Estate on the grounds of the famed Boca Raton Resort and located on the most fabulous lot in all of Mizner Lake Estates with incredible views of the golf course, lake and grounds of the resort. Features include an impressive gated entrance, beautiful living room with a decorative fireplace and high detailed ceilings, formal dining room with a wine room, huge chef's kitchen with custom cabinetry, new appliances and separate bar area. The first floor Master has a large sitting area adjoining the room and 2 Master baths, there's a rich wood library with a full bath and 2 large bedrooms on the 2nd floor. The 3rd floor consists of an entertaining area, bar and balcony The loggia is a dream w/ summer kitchen, great pool/spa and a separate guest house. Live the Boca Dream **\$12,500,000**



Direct Intracoastal Point Lot Boca Raton

Beautifully Renovated Intracoastal Point Lot with 200 feet of Waterfrontage, dockage for a large yacht and 6649 sq ft under air. Features include new Impact glass doors and windows, 4 new A/C's, Gorgeous kitchen open to the family room and pool, Huge first floor master w/ a stunning bath and fabulous closets, one more ensuite bedroom on the first floor and 3 ensuite bedrooms upstairs. the "creme de la creme" is the upstairs living area and the incredible home gym that has been featured in magazines! The is a Crestron whole home audio, video distribution system w/ 10 in touch panels in all rooms and a Lutron lighting system. All of this and the most incredible long and wide Intracoastal views!! **\$8,950,000**



Double Waterfront Estate Boca Raton

Beautiful Custom Built home located on a rare "Double Waterfront" gated street with a total of 300 ft. of deepwater. (150 ft. front and 150 ft. back Features lovely architectural details w/ soaring ceilings w/ wall of glass to bring in beautiful light and views of the water from almost every room. Custom built-in library, Den, coral fireplace, kitchen w/ granite, Wolf & Sub-zero appliances, wine bar, sunny breakfast room, Extensive outdoor living w/80ft covered patio, Newer Roof, 2 covered balconies, dining gazebo, summer kitchen, heated pool and spa, Lush landscaping, stone columns, old Chicago Brick drive and walkways, mosaics, and etched glass create a timeless charm. 2 new docks in front and back, new boat lift, jet ski lift and floating dock for kayaks and paddleboards. A true paradise **\$5,995,000**



Boca Raton Walker's Cay Deepwater Beauty

This Beautifully Redone Deepwater home, in the exclusive Walker's Cay of Boca Bay Colony, has it all: A new Roof, All Impact Glass Doors and Windows, Custom Chef's Viking Kitchen, 20+ SEER high efficient A/C's w/ linear diffusers, two 48" refrigerators, fireplace, indoor/outdoor speakers, 12 perimeter cameras, generator, smart home, automated shades, high ceilings thru-out, 204 bottle wine cooler, cellular alarm system, toto toilet and free standing tub, A/C and dehumidified garage, tankless hot water heaters, LED lighting thru-out, built in safe, receptacles & USB outlets in drawers, jets in all showers, hidden bookshelf for Audio video closet, heated pool w/ spa and 16k boat lift all located on a super wide canal (110 ft) **\$4,695,000**



Block to Beach - Modern Townhouse Boca Raton

Absolutely Stunning Modern Beachside Townhouse with an Open Floorplan and Floor to Ceiling Windows offering an abundance of natural light and views of your private pool, loggia and lush landscaping...all giving the feel of bringing the outside in. Features include a Gorgeous Kitchen with Sub Zero appliances, Natural Gas Cooktop, Walk-in Pantry and custom wood soft close cabinetry. All of the Bedrooms are En Suite and oversized, the master has 2 large built out closets and a spa like master bath-both with ocean views. The loggia features a great stone covered BBQ area and pool with a waterfall. The 2 car garage has custom built in cabinetry and there is a gas generator. All of this and a block to the beach and a short stroll to the fun restaurants, bars and shops of the Deerfield Curve **\$2,695,000**



Gorgeous Townhome with Private Pool-Highland Beach

This beautifully redone 4 bedroom Townhome is Perfectly located across from the beach and on a wide canal with beautiful Intracoastal views! Features include a large private pool, partial impact glass, beautiful new white tile floors, great open kitchen, downstairs bedroom/ office with a full bath adjoining, Master bedroom with water views and a stunning master bath and walk in closet, 2 more spacious bedrooms upstairs and 2 baths, both with great "East" facing balconies. 2 car garage **\$2,495,000**

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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/22. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JULY 2

Saturday - 7/2 - Ocean Ridge PD Back to School Supplies Drop-Off at Ocean Ridge Police Department, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. School supplies distributed through Guardian ad Litem of Palm Beach County. Through 8/1. 561-732-8331; oceanridgeflorida.com

7/2 - Sand Sifters Beach Clean Up at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Bring water, hat, sunscreen. Bags, gloves, grabbers provided. 8-10:30 am. Free. jefflev02@gmail.com

7/2 - Delray Beach Summer GreenMarket every Saturday through 7/30, Old School Square Park, 50 NE 2nd Ave, one block north of Atlantic Ave. Fresh local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. 9 am-1 pm. 561-276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market

7/2 - 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

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 - Current Events Forum at Highland Beach Library, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. Moderator Chuck Lehmann: 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us

7/2 - Demetrius Klein Dance Company at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Part of Summer Performing Arts Series. 5:30 pm doors open; 6 pm show. \$20-\$35. 561-472-3338; palmbeachculture.com/summer

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

JULY 3-9

Sunday - 7/3 - Musical Arts in the Park at Bryant Park, 100 S Golfview Rd., Lake Worth Beach. Bring blanket/chair. Every Sun through 8/21 4-6 pm. Free. facebook.com/BryantParkNeighborhood

Monday - 7/4 - Independence Day Tuesday - 7/5 - Career & Employment Help with CareerSource PBC at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Assistance w/ employment, re-employment, resumes, filing for unemployment. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/5 - 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

7/5 - Bingo Tuesday at St. Lucy Catholic Church, 3510 S Ocean Blvd, Highland Beach. Games, food, fun. Every T 6 pm doors open; 7 pm games start. \$15/11 games. 561-278-1280; stlucycommunity.com

7/5 - 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

7/5 - 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

Wednesday - 7/6 - Alliance of Delray Residential Associations Virtual Meeting: Property Insurance, How High Can It Go? Panelists Senator Lori Berman & Representative Kelly Skidmore. 10 am. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83438734250>. allianceofdelray.com

7/6 - Social Services Assistance at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Topics include homelessness, nutrition needs and veterans', senior, and crisis services. Adults. Every W 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/6 - Exploring Pastels Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every W through 7/27 1-4 pm. \$140/resident; \$175/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

7/6 - Fisherman's Friends (2020 PG-13) at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

7/6 - 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

Thursday - 7/7 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

7/7 - Tech Talk at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30-11 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/7 - Transactional to Transformational Fundraising: Driving a Culture of Philanthropy at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Part of Institute for Cultural Advancement. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-472-3338; palmbeachculture.com/institute

7/7 - Podcasting with Adobe Audition presented by Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/7 - 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

7/7 - Workshop: Indigo Ferns in Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach.

July 4 Events

Note: Events are current as of 6/22. Please check with organizers for any changes.



Lake Worth Beach 4th of July at Bryant Park, 100 S Golfview Rd. Raft parade, raft race, live music, car show, craft vendors, food court, fireworks. 10 am-9 pm. Free. 561-586-1600; lakeworthbeachfl.gov/event/4th-of-july-celebration

Delray Beach July 4th Celebration at E Atlantic Avenue & A1A. Sandcastle contest, entertainment, sand sculpture, flag raising ceremony, family activities, fireworks. 5-9:30 pm. 561-243-7250; july4delraybeach.com

Boca Raton Fabulous Fourth at Countess de Hoernle Park/Spanish River Athletic Complex, 1000 NW Spanish River Blvd. Live music, kids crafts, carnival rides, food/beverage for purchase, more. Free shuttle from Boca Corporate Center parking begins at 5 pm. Blankets/chairs permitted. No pets, coolers, sparklers, fireworks, or alcohol permitted on site. 5:30-9:30 pm. 561-367-7073; myboca.us/1456/Fourth-of-July

Lantana July 4th Celebration at Bicentennial Park, 321 E Ocean Ave. Live concert by Nikki Kidd & The Collective. Food

& craft vendors, stilt walker, mime, family games, Name the Town Seagull, Most Patriotic Baby Contest. Bring chairs/blankets. Free parking/shuttle buses available 6-10:15 pm from Lantana Town Hall & Finland House parking lots. 6:30-9:30 pm; 9:15 pm fireworks. 561-540-5754; lantana.org/enjoy-lantana-events

Boynton Beach: Red, White & Blue with a Waterfront View at Intracoastal Park Clubhouse, 2240 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Live music, food trucks, fireworks display. Bring chairs/blankets. 6:30-9:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6010; boynton-beach.org/July4

Age 16+. Held again 2-4 pm 7/9. 6:30-8:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

7/7 - Flamingle Wine Glass Painting Party at The Cheese Shoppe and Artisan Market, 204 E Ocean Ave, Lantana. 7-9 pm. \$45/person. 561-515-9919; cheeseshoppemarket.com

7/7 - Monique Marvez: The Art of Laughter at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

7/7-8 - Film Screening: Boom for Real: The Late Teenage Years of Jean-Michel Basquiat (2017) at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Th 6-7:30 pm; F 2-3:30 pm. \$5/member & student w/ID; \$15/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Friday - 7/8 - Investment Research with Value Line at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

7/8 - Concert: The Long Run - Tribute to The Eagles at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Raton's Summer of Music series. 7 pm doors open; 8 pm performance. Free. 561-393-7700; myboca.us

Saturday - 7/9 - 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 6-7:30 pm 7/22 & 9-10:30 am 8/6. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

7/9 - Palm Beach County Resident Days at Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 N Military Tr, West Palm Beach. Free admission for PBC residents w/proof of residency. 2nd Sat regular garden hours. Free. 561-233-1757; mounts.org

7/9 - Business Plan Writing Series at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Laptops provided for use in class. Adults. 8-week course through 8/27 9:30-11 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

7/9 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting. 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

7/9 - 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 through 8/6 1-4 pm. 561-651-9565; delraycra.org/events

7/9 - J.M. and The Sweets at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Part of Summer Performing Arts Series. 5:30 doors open; 6 pm show. \$20-\$35. 561-472-3338; palmbeachculture.com/summer

7/9 - Otis Cadillac & the El Dorados Rhythm and Blues Revue Featuring The Sublime Seville Sisters at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

7/9-10 - Big Band Hits from the Golden Age at Florida Atlantic University Kaye Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Sat 7 pm; Sun 2 pm. \$27; \$15/faculty/staff/alumni; \$13/child under 13. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

JULY 10-16

Sunday - 7/10 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 4-5:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

7/10-17 - USTA Boys' 16s & 18s National Clay Court Championships at Delray Beach Tennis Center, 201 W Atlantic Ave; The Club at Boca Pointe, 7144 Boca Pointe Dr, Boca Raton; Seven Bridges Tennis Center, 16701 Cabernet Dr, Delray Beach; Broken Sound Country Club, 2401 Willow Springs Dr, Boca Raton; Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Dr. 440+ top-ranked players; singles & doubles play. 8 am daily. Free/spectator. Schedules/draw information: 561-330-6000; yellowtennisball.com/nationalclays

Monday - 7/11 - 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

Tuesday - 7/12 - An Hour to Kill Mystery Book Club: Macbeth by Jo Nesbo 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

7/12 - The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/12 - 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 - 7/13 - Surfacing Your Core Message Virtual Session at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Part of Institute for Cultural Advancement. Noon-1:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-472-3338; palmbeachculture.com/institute

7/13 - Caramel (2008 PG) at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. In Arabic w/English subtitles. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

7/13 - 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

7/13 - 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 - 7/14 - Video Editing with Adobe Premiere Pro Class presented by Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

7/14 - Virtual Historical Fictionados Book Club: The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 7/15 - Concert: Back In Time - Tribute to the 80s at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Raton's Summer of Music series. 7 pm doors open; 8 pm performance. Free. 561-393-7700; myboca.us

7/15 - JayCee Driesen's Tribute to Shirley Bassey and Friends at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

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Municipal Meetings

7/5, 19 & 8/2 - Boynton Beach - First and third Tuesday at Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org
7/5 & 8/1 - Ocean Ridge - First Monday at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com
7/8 - Gulf Stream - Second Friday at Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org.
7/11 & 25 - Lantana - Second & fourth Mondays at Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org
7/12 - South Palm Beach - Second Tuesday at the South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com
7/12 & 19 - Delray Beach - First & third Tuesdays at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 4 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov
7/19 & 8/2 - Highland Beach - First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us
7/26 - Manalapan - Fourth Tuesday at Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Agenda: manalapan.org
7/26 - Boca Raton - Second & fourth Tuesday at the auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us
7/28 - Briny Breezes - Fourth Thursday at Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

7/15-17 - Rent at Florida Atlantic University Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 7/31. F/Sat 7 pm; Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$27; \$15/faculty/staff/alumni. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com
Saturday - 7/16 - Basic Orchid Care: What's Wrong with My Orchid! at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
7/16 - 9th Annual Boca Burger Battle: A Grilling Affair! at Sanborn Square Park, 72 N Federal Hwy. Beef & alternative burgers, food tasting stations, craft beer, wine. No pets please. Rain or shine. Age 21+. 6-10 pm. \$55-\$100/general admission; \$75-\$125/VIP. 561-338-7594; bocaburgerbattle.com
7/16 - Lava Cap Winery Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$60/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com
7/16 - Dancing in the Moonlight: An Evening with Moonlight Thief at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$15-\$20. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

JULY 17-23

Sunday - 7/17 - Blackmer's Market at Spady Museum, 170 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Food, clothing, accessories, community organizations, service providers. Family fare. 3rd Sun through 3/19 11 am-4 pm. Free/admission. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com
7/17 - Sick Puppies Student Showcase at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 2 pm. Free. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com
Monday - 7/18 - Behavioral Finance and Investment Principles at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 10-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-367-7021; bocalibrary.org
7/18 - Sustainable Swaps: Zero Waste at Home and on the Go at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
7/18 - Poetry Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$5-\$7. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Tuesday - 7/19 - Sewing for Beginners at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Learn basics, practice skills. Machines provided. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
7/19 - FAU Astronomical Observatory public viewing day at Florida Atlantic University Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1st F & 3rd T 7 pm. Free.

Schedule subject to change; check website: 561-297-7827; cescos.fau.edu/observatory
Wednesday - 7/20 - Book Buzz: Adult Book Club - Black American Refugee by Tiffanie Drayton at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
7/20 - Belfast (2021 PG-13) at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
7/20 - Cutting the Cord: Streaming Services at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
7/20 - Friends Virtual Book Club: State of Terror by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Email for zoom link: spanishriverbookclub@yahoo.com; 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Thursday - 7/21 - Marketing Insights at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Part of Institute for Cultural Advancement. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-472-3338; palmbeachculture.com/institute
7/21 - Multi-camera Video Streaming with OBS Studio Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Learn about online streaming video content using OBS Studio, a free broadcasting program. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
7/21 - Concert: Con Brio String Quartet at Highland Beach Library, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us
7/21 - Workshop - Color and Comparisons: How Colors Interact at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 6-7:30 pm. \$20/member & student w/ID; \$25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
7/21 - Workshop: Leaf Studies in Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 16+. Held again 2-4 pm 7/23. 6:30-8:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org
7/21 - Sick Puppies Student Showcase at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. 9 pm. Free. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com
Friday - 7/22 - Concert: Chicago Rewired - Tribute to Chicago at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Raton's Summer of Music series. 7 pm doors open; 8 pm performance. Free. 561-393-7700; myboca.us

7/22-24 - Respect: A Musical Journey of Women at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Runs through 8/7. F/Sat 7:30 pm; Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$39-\$49. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
Saturday - 7/23 - 100 Point Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$300/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com
7/23 - The Jimmy Vivino Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

JULY 24-30

Monday - 7/25 - Happy Hour at Louie Bossi's, 100 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. Benefits Fuller Center. 5-7 pm. \$25/includes 1 complimentary beverage, happy hour bites. 561-391-7274 x134; alagerstrom@fullercenter.org
7/25 - Introduction to Adobe Premiere Part 2: Editing Lab at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
7/25 - 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
7/25-26 - Auditions: The Lifespan Of A Fact at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 7 pm. First come first served. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org
Tuesday - 7/26 - Friends Virtual Book Club: Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead 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
7/26 - Crafts & Coffee: Rope Coil Bowl at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Materials & instruction provided. Adults. 5-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
Wednesday - 7/27 - Britt-Marie Was Here (2019 NR) at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. In Swedish w/English subtitles. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
7/27 - Art & Jazz on the Avenue on West Atlantic Avenue between NW 6th & NW 4th Avenues. Live music, art, special promotions by retailers/merchants. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com
7/27-28 - Spiny Lobster Mini-Season. Myfwc.com

Thursday - 7/28 - Introduction to VFX with Adobe After Effects at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
7/28 - Happy Birthday, Mrs. Kennedy (on Zoom) at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org
Friday - 7/29 - Concert: Absolute Queen - Tribute to Queen at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Part of Boca Raton's Summer of Music series. 7 pm doors open; 8 pm performance. Free. 561-393-7700; myboca.us
7/29 - 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 - 7/30 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-9:30 am. Registration: 561-369-5501; seaangels.org
7/30 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. For experienced paddlers age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9:30-11 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
7/30 - Boynton Beach Night Market at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave. Live music & entertainment. Stroll the plaza, visit downtown merchants & restaurants. 6-10 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; boyntonbeachcra.com
7/30 - Start Me Up: Tribute to The Rolling Stones at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

JULY 31-AUGUST 6

Monday - 8/1 - Smart Money Mondays at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
8/1-2 - Auditions: Fun Home at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 7 pm. First come first served. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org
Tuesday - 8/2 - National Night Out 2022 at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Hosted by Delray Beach Police Department & Delray Citizens for Delray Police. The community & law enforcement stand against crime & drugs. Giveaways, live music, fire & K9 displays, more. Family fare. 6-10 pm. Free. facebook.com/delraybeachpolice
8/2 - Writing Workshop: Creating an

Outline at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
8/2 - 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 - 8/3 - Investment Research with Morningstar at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
8/3 - 6th Annual Lip Sync Battle at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Benefits Nat King Cole Generation Hope. Local celebrities & community favorites perform to raise awareness/funds to support access to quality music education for children in need. 6-9 pm. \$50/VIP; \$35/general admission. 561-523-6553; sstjohn@natkingcolegenhope.org
Friday - 8/5 - Summer First Fridays at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org
8/5 - First Friday Art Walk presented by Delray Beach Art Trail. Self-guided tour through a myriad of styles in art, photography, furnishings, live entertainment. Check website for monthly participants. 1st F 6-9 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; downtowndelraybeach.com/ArtWalk
8/5 - The Damon Fowler Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$35-\$40. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Saturday - 8/6 - Spiny Lobster Regular Season Opens; remains open through 03/31/23. Myfwc.com
8/6 - 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
8/6 - Workshop: Paint Your Pet Portrait at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 11 am-2 pm. \$110. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org
8/6 - Spred the Dub at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Part of Summer Performing Arts Series. 5:30 pm doors open; 6 pm show. \$20-\$35. 561-472-3338; palmbeachculture.com/summer
8/6 - Beckstoffer Cabernet Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$225/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com
8/6 - Libra Sene with The Sounds of Love at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

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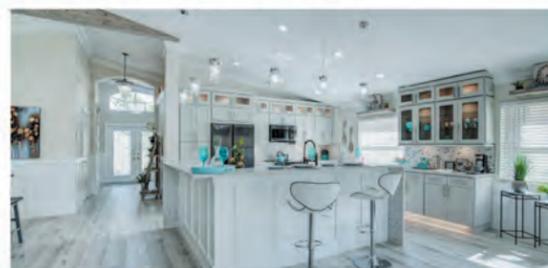
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