

Obituary

Highland Beach mourns death of mayor, 'one of the best'

By Rich Pollack

Just six days before he was set to begin his second term in office, Highland Beach Mayor Doug Hillman died March 15 following a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 77.

Mr. Hillman's death, which came less than two months after his wife of 54 years, Beverly, died, was a shock to town leaders and residents, with some just learning about his illness less than a month before.



Hillman

Elected mayor three years ago after serving on the town's Financial Advisory Board and having run unopposed this election cycle, Mr.

Hillman was well respected for his leadership style and his ability to use a touch of levity to lighten serious discussions while working to build consensus.

Town Manager Marshall Labadie, who has worked with many elected officials during his career, praised the late mayor as "one of the best."

"It really doesn't get much better than Doug," he said. "His leadership style and his concern for the community set him apart from most local leaders I have worked with. He became a mentor and a friend."

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Turtle monitors hit the beach



Diane Hextall and Suzie Hiles walk zone 4 as representatives of the Highland Beach turtle program. On mornings that they do not find any turtle nests from the previous night, they collect rubbish and assess beach conditions. Hextall has worked for the program for four years and Hiles for 20 years.

Tim Stepien/
The Coastal Star

A look at the start of nesting season, Page 26

Gumbo Limbo loses rehab license; turmoil surrounds new management

By Steve Plunkett



Recuperating turtles were shipped out to other facilities after the veterinarian quit and two key staffers were fired as part of a restructuring. Photo provided

Gumbo Limbo Nature Center's injured and recuperating sea turtles were moved to other facilities, its veterinarian quit, and the coordinator of its turtle rehabilitation program and her assistant no longer have jobs.

"The rehabilitation facility is CLOSED until further notice," the city-operated Boca Raton nature center said on its website March 15, later tempering the language to read that the rehab center was in "transition" and "TEMPORARILY CLOSED."

The unexpected turmoil comes as

Boca Raton was preparing to hand off operation of the rehab program to the nonprofit Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards, formerly known as the Friends of Gumbo Limbo, which has long paid for the veterinarian and her equipment.

The Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center in Juno Beach took six of the program's turtles; Zoo Miami is caring for two and the Florida Oceanographic Society in Stuart has one. Seven of the turtles are patients; two, named Morgan and Cane, were Gumbo Limbo "residents."

The turtles were moved March 14, city spokeswoman Anne Marie Connolly

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Boca Raton

Judge rebukes officials, orders new review of proposed beach house

By Steve Plunkett

A federal judge has ordered Boca Raton to reconsider its 2019 denial of a permit to build a home on the beach and barred Mayor Scott Singer and City Council members Andrea O'Rourke and Monica Mayotte from taking part.

U.S. District Judge Rodney Smith excoriated the three officials for bias they showed under oath and said

some of their actions were apparent violations of Florida's Sunshine Law. He saved his strongest words for O'Rourke.

"The record is replete with her bias all over. ... Her credibility is totally shot," Smith said.

Natural Lands LLC sued the city in federal court, claiming that the vote by Boca Raton's elected officials stripped its property at 2500 N. Ocean Blvd. of all economically

beneficial or productive use. It bought the .34-acre parcel in 2011 for \$950,000; its plans for a four-story, single-family home provoked a public outcry.

After a five-day non-jury trial, Smith on March 24 declined to rule the case an unconstitutional taking of land by the city government, saying case law required that the

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The property at 2500 N. Ocean Blvd. will come back to the City Council for consideration. Photo provided

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Coastal Star



Lin Hurley of Delray Beach reacts after a player scores a goal. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Editor's Note

Setback for turtles can make all of us better stewards

The first sea turtle of the summer has nested — a huge, awe-inspiring leatherback. Our volunteers are out again at dawn looking for the V-shaped trails in the sand that show the arrival of our ancient, reptile visitors.

These leathery ladies are the canaries in the coal mine of the ocean, and by that designation, indicators of Mother Earth's well-being.

Last year, more than 20,000 sea turtle nests were reported along Palm Beach County beaches. Without our stewardship their future is in danger.

This year, three of those stewards departed the rescue section of South County's premier sea turtle hospital. One by choice, two let go. With them went Gumbo Limbo's license to treat injured turtles.

No clear reasons have been articulated, and the center's Gumbo Limbo Coastal Stewards nonprofit management has hired a public relations firm to talk with residents and the media, so we may never know. The scientists — who lost their jobs — are outraged at how the debacle unfolded, alleging chronic mismanagement and a failure of the nonprofit's leaders to support the sea turtle care mission.

The only certainty is that no more turtles reside at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center — and no one knows when they might be back.

The good news is that turtle experts remain at the center to monitor nesting and hatching. If an injured or sick turtle is found, however, it likely will be transported to a hospital more than 40 miles away.

As Tim Stepien's beautiful photographs in this edition show, all along our coast volunteers and professionals are out helping the nesting turtles (and soon their hatchlings), but you, too, can help this summer. Here's how:

Turn off the lights — Nesting and hatchling turtles need the dark. Talk with your city or town and condo boards about making sure no external lighting is visible from the beach this time of year. And if you're on the barrier

island, consider turning off some or all of your exterior night lighting. Urban glow is a growing problem that negatively impacts sea turtles — especially hatchlings.

Clear the beach — If you keep beach chairs on the sand, pull them far away from where a turtle might nest, or a hatchling might head for the sea. If you're a private club member, ask your management to pull chairs and cabanas off the sand at night. Same with beachfront condos with communal beach equipment.

Watch the dogs — Dogs aren't allowed on beaches in Palm Beach County except in designated areas. Service dogs are another exception. All dogs should be controlled so no nests are dug out or holes left behind for hatchlings to fall into. Keep an eye on the kiddos as well.

Stay off the beach — If you are on the beach after dark, carry only a red light and stay quiet. If you see a turtle coming ashore, keep your distance and do not disturb her. No camera flashes. Turtles are easily frightened by light and noise and may return to the water without nesting — sometimes aborting their eggs.

Light no bonfires — These create a double whammy: light and noise on the beach, plus holes in the sand. Save those for the cool winter months.

Slow down — If you're a boater, keep your eyes open for turtles during mating season. They'll often be at the surface and easy to miss if you're driving fast. Hitting a large turtle is not good for your boat, and can be deadly for one of our marine friends. Remember, rescue and rehab will be difficult in our area this summer.

Please be aware and considerate as the miraculous circle of life takes place over the next several months just steps from our front doors.

To learn more on how you can help, search for sea turtles at myfwc.com.



Mary Kate Leming
— Editor

Acclaimed special-needs soccer coach says kids' joy is her biggest reward

By Steve Plunkett

To say it's been a banner year for longtime special-needs soccer coach Lin Hurley would be a huge understatement.

First, she was declared coach of the year for the Soccer Association of Boca Raton's TOPSoccer program, an outreach program for special-needs children that she has been a part of since it started in 2000.

In August she was recognized as the Florida Youth Soccer Association's TOPSoccer coach of the year, and in November with the same honor for the 11-state South Region of U.S. Youth Soccer. Two months later she traveled to Philadelphia to accept accolades as the national TOPSoccer coach of the year.

"This whole thing has been like a dream, it really has. I just love what I do, and I've done it so long, I never expected anything like this to happen," Hurley said as Boca Raton's 2023 season drew to a close in March. "This has made me feel like a rock star."

Vic Nocera, who directs the TOPSoccer program, said Hurley's national recognition was "like an Academy Award."

"It's all made out of glass. Probably weighs about 50 pounds," he said of her trophy.

Hurley's motivation is simple. "I love the children, I love seeing the joy that they have when they come here, the smile on their faces," she said.

As a sophomore at Boca Raton High School in 1966 she "adopted" a special-needs girl who was institutionalized in Miami, driving there every month with fellow high schoolers to hold a party "just

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for something for them to experience."

"That's how I started. I just fell in love with these children and I just knew that this was what God planned for me."

After that came a degree in special education from the University of South Florida, four years of teaching at J.C. Mitchell Elementary, a break to raise her four children, then 25 years teaching pre-K at St. Paul Lutheran, Advent Lutheran and Spanish River Christian schools, all in Boca Raton.

She also launched an after-school program for special-needs kids at the Boca YMCA.

At a Valentine's Day program at Spanish River, the headmaster told students about kindness.

"He said, 'When I think of kindness, I think of Lin Hurley,'" she said.

Since 2000, the year the program began, Hurley has spent Saturday afternoons from January to March at Boca Raton's University Woodlands Park coaching kids 4 to 7 years old. Her co-coaches are Suzie Wrenne, who joined in 2004, and Genie Butrym, since 2006.

The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District presented Hurley, 71, with a proclamation March 6 noting its "profound appreciation for her dedication to our community."

"I've never seen a lady with more energy. I've never seen her without a smile on her face. I've

never seen her not being willing to help any of our parts of our soccer program," said district Vice Chair Bob Rollins, who is also the treasurer of SABR.

"There's some really nice people in this world still, aren't there — like truly, just really, honestly nice people," district Chair Erin Wright said.

Each TOPSoccer athlete gets an official soccer shirt and has one or two "buddies" from middle or high school to help out depending on the athlete's abilities. Buddies earn community service hours and program awards based on their contributions. The program is free to participants, who numbered about 145 this year.

"I love seeing the joy they have when they come here," says Hurley, who moved from Boca Raton to Delray Beach in 2015.

A typical Saturday starts with a group run followed by obstacle courses and a modified game. When players kick the ball into the goal, she immediately blows her coach's whistle and shouts "Woo-hoo," "Yay!" "Good job," and "Gimme five."

"We're basically cheerleaders," she says.

On March 11 she and 6-year-old Ethan Robinson walked hand in hand toward a soccer field for the warm-up run.

At 4-feet-11, Hurley didn't have to reach far to hold onto the young player's hand.

Her husband, Pat, who was on the Ziff estate's management team in Manalapan, towers over her at 6-foot-3 but has this to say about the size difference:

"She's considerably smaller than me, but she has more love in her little finger than I have in my whole body." ★

Highland Beach/Delray Beach

We don't owe you — you owe us, town tells city in fire rescue dispute

Florida auditor general may be final arbiter

By Rich Pollack

For more than a year Delray Beach has claimed that Highland Beach owes it thousands of dollars for fire and rescue services, even going so far as to claim the town is in default.

Now, in a reversal of the story, Highland Beach says that Delray Beach actually owes the town money — close to \$238,000 — under a contract in which the city staffs a town-owned fire station.

That number, which Highland Beach says is based on overcharges by the city the last two years, could grow dramatically if the town discovers it's been paying more than it should have ever since the current contract was signed in 2016.

The state waded into the controversy in March, when a legislative committee instructed the Florida auditor general to take a deep dive into Delray Beach's books related to its contract with Highland Beach and "put these financial disputes to rest."

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee action was taken at the request of first-term Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman, who had been a Highland Beach town commissioner before being elected to the state House in November.

"This is the best method for both municipalities to set the record straight and move on," said Gossett-Seidman,

a member of the audit committee.

During her presentation to the committee March 13, Gossett-Seidman said that one of her biggest concerns was Highland Beach's claim that Delray Beach failed to provide records supporting the city's conclusion that the town owes it \$121,514 for 2021 and \$396,140 for 2022.

"I'm asking Delray Beach to show us the money," she said.

Highland Beach Town Manager Marshall Labadie said the town had repeatedly asked for records from Delray Beach and finally received some of what it was looking for in early February.

When the town's financial team members reviewed those numbers, however, they came to a very different conclusion than did Delray.

"The Town of Highland Beach has determined the City of Delray Beach has overcharged the town for FY 2021 and FY 2022 in the total amount of \$237,852," Labadie wrote in a letter to Delray Beach City Manager Terrence Moore on March 10.

For his part, Moore said Highland Beach's conclusions don't square with the city's analysis of the numbers.

"We've done the math," he said.

In analyzing Delray's "true-ups" — bills sent to the town to cover the difference between what it paid based on projected costs and what the city says it owes based on the actual final costs — Highland Beach used an in-rank average method to reach its conclusions.

That method, which the

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town says is specified in the contract, uses the average of all Delray Beach Fire Rescue personnel in a given rank as a multiplier, which is then applied to the number of employees in the same rank assigned to the fire station in Highland Beach.

For example, if there are five paramedics from Delray Beach assigned to the Highland Beach station, the cost to Highland Beach would be the average pay to paramedics throughout the city's entire fire-rescue department times five.

In a different interpretation of the contract, Delray Beach says the cost to Highland Beach should be based on the actual salaries of the individuals assigned to the station in Highland Beach.

But Labadie said the town calculated the numbers both ways and determined that Delray would owe even more money to the town — about \$100,000 more — using the city's contract interpretation.

Highland Beach also challenged Delray Beach's claim that the town needs to pay back more than \$100,000 for ambulance service reimbursements that the city said it incorrectly refunded to the town. Labadie said that the town may need to give some of

the funds back to Delray, but not as much as the city was requesting.

In his letter to the city about the true-ups, Labadie said the town discovered that the amount of costs being assessed to Highland Beach for the last two fiscal years didn't match the amounts listed in the city's published budget.

That apparent discrepancy also drew the attention of state Rep. Mike Caruso, co-chairman of the joint legislative committee and the representative whose district included Highland Beach and part of Delray Beach until redistricting last year.

"What I see here is that internal controls and operational controls appear to be very lax when it comes to Delray Beach," he said.

Caruso said the work of the state auditor general's office, when it does look at Delray's financial processes, should determine if that is indeed the case.

"We're not accusing the city of doing anything wrong, but just in case, let's have the auditor general go in and check," he said. "This is to make sure the city of Delray Beach is operating in a prudent and efficient manner."

Caruso said the auditor general's team will conduct

a hard look at Delray's finances in relation to its contract with Highland Beach from 2017 to 2023 and then provide its findings to the committee, which can make recommendation as to any further actions.

That process, Caruso said, could take up to 18 months, in part because the auditor general's office is conducting about a dozen other reviews.

By that time, Highland Beach will have its own fire department, having decided in 2021 to break away from Delray due largely to high costs. In 2021, Highland Beach paid about \$4.6 million to Delray Beach and in 2022 the town paid its neighbor \$5.1 million, according to Labadie.

Highland Beach is also interested in getting documentation from Delray Beach similar to what it received for the last two years, this time for the 2016-17 fiscal year through the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The town is now holding off further requests for that information, pending the audit.

Both Delray Beach's Moore and Highland Beach's Labadie say they welcome the audit.

"We are very supportive of any review," Moore said. "Meanwhile the city of Delray Beach will continue to evaluate options to help consider a resolution of this matter."

Labadie hopes the audit will bring an end to the financial disagreement.

"If they owe us money or if we owe them money, so be it," he said. "We just can't get to any conclusion." ★

Q&A session sheds better light on A1A project, residents say

By Rich Pollack

After receiving a flurry of emails regarding the impact that a planned \$8.8 million resurfacing project on State Road A1A would have on Highland Beach, Stacey Cohen went to a meeting hosted by state transportation officials with a pocket full of concerns.

How much of an inconvenience to residents who must drive A1A to get to and from the town would come with the project, she wanted to know. She also was concerned about the impact that wider bicycle lanes would have on the safety of motorists.

By the time she finished talking to traffic engineers and roadway designers, she was a little more accepting of the project, a little less worried and a lot more informed.

"Everyone I asked a question to had a really strong answer," Cohen said.

Not everyone who attended the March 13 meeting had a chance to spend 10 to 15 minutes in the town library's conference room with Florida

Department of Transportation officials like Cohen did.

Many who showed up for the meeting at its start time of 6 p.m. found it difficult to make their way through a large crowd to the tables spread out highlighting the plans for the road project.

Those in the room a half hour to 45 minutes later found FDOT representatives eager to answer questions.

What Cohen discovered in talking to engineers was that the state undertakes resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation projects on state roads every 20 years.

"It's going to happen whether we want it or not," she said.

Project engineer Brad Salisbury says the 3-mile-long project, which is scheduled to begin in May 2024, will stretch from the Highland Beach border with Boca Raton up to Linton Boulevard in Delray Beach.

He said that the project is about improving the road for the future while addressing current issues.

"We're not going to be doing this again in five years," he said.

In addition to resurfacing the road, contractors will be addressing drainage issues that have been a source of constant complaints by residents for more than a decade.

To enhance drainage, contractors will improve swales by putting infiltration rock under the grass that will make it easier for water to percolate down and off the road.

That work, along with widening lanes for bicycle travel, will mean the removal of some shrubs and trees, with FDOT officials saying they plan to relocate as many trees as possible.

One concern that resident Louis Trivento expressed was the future of the sidewalk on the west side of A1A. He learned the sidewalk — known in Highland Beach as the walking path — would be left relatively unscathed with part of it raised during the drainage work.

"We got our answers quickly," he said.

Another concern residents expressed was about including 5-foot bicycle lanes on both the east and west sides of A1A.

Salisbury said that although the lanes are labeled as bike paths, they are actually marked shoulders, which are differentiated from bike lanes, which include a curb. He said that bike lanes are mandated unless that is contrary to public safety.

During the meeting, engineers and traffic planners showed residents many places along the road where a 4-foot shoulder currently exists and explained that in those cases, just 1 foot will be added.

Some residents expressed concern that wider bike lanes would lead to more bicyclists, including more riding in the lanes of traffic.

That's probably not the case, says Bruce Rosenzweig, a former president of the Boca Raton Bicycle Club, who attended the meeting and believes the wider shoulder will do just the opposite.

"This will make the road safer," he said. "There will be more people riding in the bike lane rather than in the road."

Rosenzweig said that current road conditions are inconsistent,

with shoulders narrowing down so much in some areas that bicyclists are forced to go into the road.

"Cyclists in general are more likely to stay in the bicycle lane," he said.

Salisbury said that he and the rest of the team want to hear from residents and will review comment cards that were passed out during the meeting.

He said another town hall-style meeting will take place just before construction begins at which the contractor will be present. ★

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Boca Raton

A new chapter begins as O'Rourke leaves council, Wigder joins it

By Mary Hladky

Boca Raton is ushering in a new era as two new City Council members take their seats on the dais.

Marc Wigder replaces Andrea O'Rourke, a fixture in city affairs who helmed the Golden Triangle Neighborhood Association and the Federation of Boca Raton Homeowner Associations before serving two council terms and advancing to deputy mayor.

Fran Nachlas, who like Wigder won election without opposition, was to be sworn into office along with him on March 31 but assumed her council seat in November after Andy Thomson vacated it to make an unsuccessful run for the Florida House of Representatives.

They take over just as the city's top administrators are in flux. City Manager Leif Ahnell, who has served in that position since 1999, will retire next year. Deputy City Manager George Brown's departure date has not been set, but he had been expected to retire until Deputy City Manager Mike Woika did so in July and was replaced by former North Palm Beach village manager Andy Lukasik.

All this is happening just as the city is awash in change.

The new Brightline train station opened in December, offering the possibility of an economic boom. Cultural leaders are moving rapidly to build a \$115.4 million performing arts complex in Mizner Park. And plans are afoot for major makeovers of the former IBM campus, now known as the Boca Raton Innovation Campus, and the Park at Broken Sound.

O'Rourke, whose political career was bolstered by strident City Hall critic Al Zucaro,



Wigder

would like to be remembered for her support of arts and culture. With a background in art and design, she is a strong supporter of the Center for Arts and Innovation proposed at Mizner and for art in public places. She also pushed the city to hire someone to head what she calls the Department of Art and Culture. That position, not yet filled, drew 29 applicants.

"I think I definitely have brought awareness to the community about the importance of art and culture," she said. "We are just starting to keep up with our neighbors and other cities around the country. I think we are lacking and I don't mind saying it."

Another focus for O'Rourke was on a downtown with a sense of place, or identity, that is walkable, bikeable and less dependent on cars.

To that end, she convinced other council members to bring in a consultant to re-envision a portion of East Palmetto Park Road, slowing traffic and adding shade trees, landscaping and wider sidewalks for outdoor dining and strolling. The council hired the consultant Alta Planning + Design at her final meeting on March 28.

O'Rourke, with land use attorney Ele Zachariades, formed a group that held a visioning session for the road. Her wish is that Alta will work with the team she assembled as it creates a master plan.

"I will continue to stay involved as a resident for the things that are important to me," O'Rourke said.

She fought allowing a restaurant along the

Intracoastal Waterway in the downtown and prevailed instead on building the Wildflower and Silver Palm Parks, riding herd over the details.

She sparked some controversy, and litigation, during her tenure, but she does not second-guess her actions or express any regrets now.

Most notable, she took actions that derailed the redevelopment of Midtown near the Town Center Mall. Developer CP Group's plans would have transformed an area in need of an overhaul into a live, work, play destination that included residential units.

The developer sued repeatedly, but the city prevailed in court in 2021.

CP Group has since proposed a similarly ambitious project at the Boca Raton Innovation Campus, which it owns. The plans have not yet cleared the city's approval process, but so far have avoided any headwinds.

As O'Rourke sees it, the demise of the Midtown project worked out for the best. CP Group, she said, has done much better planning for BRIC, incorporated art and culture into it and preserved its iconic architecture.

"I think that was a positive outcome of the lesson of Midtown," she said. "You can't build buildings for the sake of buildings. You can't build without having a plan."

In another instance, O'Rourke and council member Monica Mayotte landed the city in hot water in 2018 when they spoke against building a luxury assisted living facility in the downtown and a council majority voted against it.

Some of their comments drew a rebuke from the American Seniors Housing

Association, which called them "unlawful discriminatory bias against seniors." The developer sued, and the landowner threatened to do the same.

The council quickly reversed course, approving the project. The developer settled its suit and the landowner backed off.

Now, O'Rourke does not pull back her comments, saying the ALF would have been a "black hole" in the downtown. She denies discriminatory intent, and notes she ultimately voted for the project after the developer made revisions. The Concierge ALF was never built.

O'Rourke is a downtown resident, first in the Golden Triangle and now near The Boca Raton resort. Four council members live in the western part of the city, while Mayotte lives just south of downtown.

Downtown residents "probably are losing a voice" on the council, O'Rourke said. But since the downtown is so important to the city, and so many matters relating to it will be considered by the council, she does not believe downtown residents will get short shrift.

"The downtown has to be a major topic of conversation going forward," she said.

Wigder jumped into his new role with alacrity before he was sworn into office, sitting with the audience at council meetings, reading city documents including the massive ordinance that governs downtown development, and attending community events such as the recent city-sponsored Touch a Truck that allowed kids to check out the city's fire engines and other vehicles.

"As a City Council person, I found it to be awesome," he said of the event. "I was fortunate to be able to talk to the city workers and ask what

they did, ask how things work in the city, understanding all the people who are involved in city operations."

As is customary for new council members, he has received briefings from the city manager and city attorney on policies and procedures to prepare for the role.

Wigder, an attorney, is the father of three children with his wife, Fran. He has a limited law practice and is the founder of Greenhouse Offices, a real estate investment company that manages properties for small and growing businesses.

His public service includes serving as vice chair of the city's Community Advisory Panel, as a member of the Pedestrian and Bikeway Board and as vice president of the board of trustees for B'nai Torah synagogue.

During his campaign, he stressed smartly managing the city's growth and sustainable development, so people can live near where they work, walk to their jobs and restaurants and lessen their dependence on cars.

In his conversations with downtown residents, "they love walkability. I have talked to many people who have reduced the number of vehicles they have.

"That was a big surprise to me," Wigder said. "People who move downtown are embracing the walkable, vibrant downtown."

Other priorities include succession planning to maintain high-quality senior city officials after current officials retire, enhancing communication with city residents, addressing attainable housing, maintaining the high level of city services and public safety and keeping the tax rate low.

"I am coming in with an open mind and I really am trying to help," he said.

O'Rourke is pleased to hand the reins to him. "I have high hopes for him," she said. ★



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Boca Raton

Voters pan mayor's proposal to add a year to council terms

By Mary Hladky

In a sharp rebuke to Mayor Scott Singer, voters soundly defeated a measure that would have increased City Council terms of office from three years to four.

With only 9.8% of registered voters casting ballots in the March 14 city election, the final vote against the referendum was 3,943 to 2,712, or 59% to 41%.

Singer proposed the city charter change and actively sought support for it in emails to residents.

His final missive hit inboxes at 7:15 a.m. election day, describing the charter change as “responsible election reform” that did not affect the existing two-term limit on how long council members can serve.

In making his case, Singer said that of the state’s 25 largest cities, Boca Raton is the only one that does not have four-year terms.

Longer terms would give council members more time to bolster their expertise on city matters. And because they would stand for election less frequently, they could focus on city issues rather than campaigning, he said.

The Palm Beach Post, Sun Sentinel and Boca Raton Tribune editorial pages supported the change.

“The voters spoke. We’ve got work to do, and I’m excited to move forward with my new colleagues,” Singer said after the results were in.

Opponents argued that residents had not called for such a change.

They also said it was a waste of city money to spend about \$250,000 to hold an election that would draw little interest because no council candidates would be on the ballot. Singer, Fran Nachlas and Marc Wigder, who was to be sworn into office on March 31, won election without opposition.

Singer countered that the change would save money over time, since it would result in fewer elections being held.

His idea got off to an uncertain start when the council narrowly voted 3-2 to place it on the ballot.

Deputy Mayor Andrea O’Rourke, whose final council term ended March 31, rejected the rationale that longer terms would make council members more effective. Nachlas said she could not support a change that benefited her with a longer term.

The issue soon was enmeshed

in political intrigue when opponents and supporters of the change used political committees to send mailers to residents that obfuscated who was behind those efforts.

Only a few residents spoke out against the charter change at council meetings, but opposition brewed on social media.

BocaFirst, the successor to the BocaWatch blog that frequently criticized city officials, blasted Singer and council members Monica Mayotte and Yvette Drucker, who supported holding a one-question election, saying that only council members would benefit from the change.

Florida Jolt, owned by conservative former political consultant Jack Furnari, echoed all the criticisms and called the charter change a “slimy and selfish power grab at the taxpayers’ expense.”

A small group of Boca Raton residents, including unsuccessful 2021 council candidates Brian Stenberg and Josie Machovec, also urged residents to oppose the change.

Stenberg said he was “just floored” when three council members agreed to hold an election only to decide a charter change. “Why would you go forward with something like this?”

He sees Singer’s political future as the answer to his question since Singer would benefit from his extra year in office.

“It is easier to run for another office if you can say you are mayor,” he said. “It is so much easier to remain politically relevant when you are in office.”

Stenberg, who said he has no plans at present to seek office again, also sees a scenario playing out where Singer has a great deal of say on who is appointed to replace him if he resigns as mayor to run for another office.

Singer did not respond to a request for comment about Stenberg’s statements. He recently changed his politicking email address from scott@singerforboca.com to Scott@ScottSingerUSA.com.

Machovec, who served as campaign manager for Marci Woodward’s successful run for County Commission last year, said she got involved to increase awareness and didn’t think that “this was a good use of taxpayer dollars.”

Machovec, who also said she has no plans at this time to

stand for election again, said she did not object to putting the matter before voters but not when it was the only item on the ballot.

The mailer urging residents to vote against the charter change came from the Parents Taking Action political committee. Stenberg acknowledges raising about \$6,500 for mailers and using the committee, saying he did so to have an entity that could accept money, pay expenses and handle reporting requirements.

Another political committee, All for One, which has a Plantation address, distributed mailers urging voters to support

the change.

It is unclear who was behind that effort. Recent contributors are not from Boca Raton and don’t appear to have any connection to the city, but the state’s election database does not contain up-to-date information.

No one answers All for One’s phone, and a recording says no one “is available.” Chairperson Matt Feiler could not be reached for comment.

Singer said he does not know All for One, Feiler, or Aston Bright, the previous chairperson.

The Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections billed the city almost \$145,000 to

hold the election, less than the \$255,000 the city had budgeted largely due to about 26,000 fewer ballots cast by mail this year than in 2021. The cost is not based on the number of items on the ballot as long as the ballot does not exceed one page.

Those who contended a one-item ballot would limit the number of voters going to the polls were right.

A total of 6,655 voters cast ballots. In 2021, with two hotly contested council races, nearly 13,000 voted. Nearly 14,800 voted the previous year, when Singer had one opponent. ★



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Ocean Ridge

Voters pick Cassidy, Wiescholek, drop Hurlburt from commission

By Joe Capozzi

Newcomer Carolyn Cassidy and incumbent Martin Wiescholek won seats on the Ocean Ridge Town Commission on March 14, capping a bitter election that changes the power dynamics at the top level of town leadership.

Mayor Susan Hurlburt finished third and, as a result, will leave office when Cassidy and Wiescholek are sworn in for three-year terms at the next Town Commission meeting on April 3.

“I’m so thrilled. I’m so excited that Ocean Ridge has spoken so loudly and clearly that they trust me with their vote, and that just means the world to me,” Cassidy said at her house, where supporters cheered the results.

The top two vote-getters in the three-way race won seats, with Cassidy the overwhelming top choice, taking 533 votes, or 50.33%. Wiescholek got 277 votes, or 26.21%. Hurlburt finished third with 248 votes, or 23.46%.

“People want change. People want things to be back to this wonderful little seaside village that we all love,” Cassidy said. “This is just a cry for, ‘Let’s do it. Let’s do it together.’ I’m excited to work with this commission as a whole and let’s get to work.”



In keeping with a town tradition, Carolyn Cassidy receives an unofficial, private swearing in on March 23 with Town Clerk Kelly Avery. Photo provided

Cassidy, a member of the town’s advisory Board of Adjustment, was endorsed by Commissioners Steve Coz and Geoff Pugh, a pair that often voted on the losing ends of decisions dominated by Hurlburt, Wiescholek and Vice Mayor Kristine de Haseth.

Cassidy ran for commission in 2021 and finished third, 16 votes behind runner-up de Haseth in a four-way race for two seats. Pugh finished first and endorsed Cassidy in that race.

In the latest campaign, her supporters held signs urging voters to cast ballots for only Cassidy, even though two seats were up for election, an apparent attempt to water down the vote totals of Wiescholek and Hurlburt, who campaigned together.

Wiescholek said he was happy to be reelected but disappointed Hurlburt was not. “It’s a huge blow. I hope that it’s not going

to negatively impact the town down the road. Congratulations to Carolyn. The town has spoken. The town has given its voice in a fair election and we are going to move on.”

The arrival of Cassidy potentially creates a new majority with Coz and Pugh, putting de Haseth and Wiescholek in a new minority voting bloc.

Cassidy, a loyal attendee of Town Commission meetings, has voiced concerns shared by Coz and Pugh about several issues, including private property rights, more interaction at commission meetings between residents and elected officials, and what they view as a lack of efficiency in the Building Department.

Before Election Day, and after Cassidy voiced her intentions to run, three top officials left Ocean Ridge: Town Manager Tracey Stevens (last fall), Police Chief Richard Jones

(who announced plans to leave Feb. 10), and building official Durrani Guy, who resigned March 13.

None of those former officials publicly cited the election as their reasons for leaving. But Wiescholek, a vocal supporter of the Building Department, is among those in town who think the timing of the departures was not a coincidence.

“I’m really hopeful that my fears will not come to fruition and we can have a community that is up to certain standards and protected,” said Wiescholek, who has served on the commission since 2020.

Repeating a pledge he made when his campaign started, he said this will be his last term and he will not seek a third term, the maximum allowed under the town charter.

Cassidy’s arrival has the potential to overturn some recent moves by the commission, including a 3-2 vote in February to withdraw a January vote that had given interim Town Manager Lynne Ladner the full-time job.

Another decision that could be overturned is the commission’s March 6 endorsement, by 3-1 vote (Pugh was absent), to consider an ordinance requiring a supermajority vote on changes

to the Floor Area Ratio and other rules dictating the appearance of town property and, by extension, the character of the town. A supermajority means four commissioners instead of three.

Wiescholek proposed the idea, but Coz voted no because he said “supermajority removes the word ‘democracy’ from the equation.” At a candidates forum in February, Cassidy shot down the idea of a supermajority: “Advocating for it suggests you don’t have faith in your elected officials,” she said.

Hurlburt, who served on the commission since 2019, said she was looking forward to enjoying life outside of politics.

“I am thrilled,” she said of the results, “because if it wasn’t going to be Martin and I together, then I am glad he won. He’s honest and he has good character. You cannot manipulate him.”

Hurlburt declined to comment on Cassidy’s win.

“I wish them all the best of luck,” she said. “What I’ll miss most is the support of staff and residents who wanted to work for the betterment of the town, but I will not miss politics over government. The tone of this town has gotten very negative, and that’s not me.” ★

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FAU Owls watch party

The Irishmen, Boca Raton — March 25



The Irishmen, a bar less than a mile from Florida Atlantic University's Boca Raton campus, was rocking during the Elite Eight round of the NCAA men's college basketball tournament. A packed house watched FAU defeat Kansas State 79-76 and win a trip to the Final Four. The Owls advanced to a semifinal against San Diego State on April 1 in Houston. Among those cheering for FAU were (l-r) Jonathan Posada of Delray Beach, along with FAU alumni Steve Bond of Delray Beach, Tarik Sadik of Coconut Creek, Merritt Bird of Tampa, Alex Rudchenko of Deerfield Beach and Ryan Pitis of Fort Lauderdale.
Larry Barszewski/
The Coastal Star

Delray Beach

Concurrent art show, tennis tournament may bring downtown to standstill

By Larry Barszewski

Coco Gauff, Jessica Pegula and more than 500 art and craft exhibitors will combine for a traffic-stopping April weekend in downtown Delray Beach.

Gauff and Pegula, professional tennis players from Delray Beach and Boca Raton, respectively, will play in a major tournament at the Delray Beach Tennis Center at the same time that artists and craftspeople will fill Atlantic Avenue from in front of the tennis center through to Federal Highway as part of this year's Delray Affair.

If you're not planning to attend the 61st annual art festival, which will shut down eight blocks of Atlantic Avenue, or the Billie Jean King Cup qualifier tournament that will pack thousands into the tennis center, then it might be best to just avoid the area.

The tournament is Friday and Saturday, April 14-15, and the Delray Affair will be up-and-running April 14 to 16. Affair officials anticipate about 110,000 people coming out during the three-day festival, while the tennis center has a capacity exceeding 8,000 available for the tournament.

If you do plan to attend either event, organizers suggest you save yourself a headache and park at the Tri-Rail station and Palm Beach County Administrative Complex at 345 S. Congress Ave., then take a free shuttle bus into downtown. The shuttles will run regularly throughout the weekend, dropping people off at the police station just west of the

events or at the tennis center.

The tennis tournament is tentatively scheduled to start at noon on Friday and Saturday. The Delray Affair is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on those days and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The shuttles run from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, accommodating people who might want to spend more time at downtown restaurants and enjoy the nightlife, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

There's no similar shuttle service on the east side of the festival, officials said.

Despite the added crowds coming for the tennis tournament, the Delray Affair isn't flustered.

"We aren't concerned about the tournament impacting the Delray Affair. I think both events will benefit from potential additional attendees," said Nancy Stewart-Franczak of Festival Management Group, which is handling publicity for the Delray Affair.

The good news for barrier island residents is that the Atlantic Avenue bridge will be operating under normal conditions throughout the weekend, even though most of Atlantic Avenue will be closed in the downtown area from 2 a.m. Friday to 8 p.m. Sunday. Still, if you're not going to one of the events, organizers suggest people coming from the barrier island use either the George Bush Boulevard bridge or Linton Boulevard bridge instead.

Parking garages at the South County Courthouse and next to Old School Square will be

open, with Boy Scouts on hand to collect a \$5 parking fee that will go to support their activities.

A valet parking service will be available at Delray Beach City Hall on a first-come first-served basis.

Some potential parking places on the Delray Affair's east side are at the Village Lot at 50 SE Sixth Ave., the Gladiola Lot at 51 SE Sixth Ave., and the 4th & 5th Delray Garage at 25 SE Fourth Ave.

The Delray Affair will fill up Atlantic Avenue from Southwest Second Avenue, in front of the tennis center, to Northeast Sixth Avenue.

Although you won't be able to drive across Atlantic Avenue at Swinton, Northeast Second Avenue or Northeast Fourth Avenue, traffic will be flowing over it on northbound and southbound Federal Highway. ★

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Manalapan

New mayor is sworn in with three other commissioners

By Larry Barszewski

Stewart Satter was sworn in as Manalapan's new mayor March 28, succeeding Keith Waters, who had served six years in the position and could not run again because of term limits.

Satter, who served as a town commissioner since 2019, ran unopposed for mayor. Also elected without opposition were John Deese, Simone Bonutti and Kristin Rosen.

"I'm looking forward to working with everyone," Satter told commissioners.

The overall Town Commission has a new look, with three women on the seven-member board for the first time in town history. Rosen is a first-time commissioner and Bonutti returns to the board after a year's absence. They join Commissioner Aileen Carlucci, who was appointed last year to fill the seat that Bonutti had to give up because of term limits.

Rounding out the board are Commissioners Chauncey Johnstone and Richard Granara, whose terms expire next year, as



Commissioners (l-r) Kristin Rosen, Simone Bonutti and John Deese and Mayor Stewart Satter take their oaths of office. **Tim Stepien/ The Coastal Star**

does Carlucci's.

The changes on the commission were done without a single vote being cast, as all four candidates this year ran unopposed. The commission voted to name Deese as vice mayor and Bonutti as mayor pro tem.

The mayor and commissioners are elected to two-year terms and receive no compensation. There is a three-consecutive term limit for the

mayor's position, and the same limit for each commissioner, and there is a combined four-consecutive term limit for serving both as mayor and as commissioner.

In other town news:

- The commission agreed to discuss at their next meeting the need for pickleball restrictions in the town after two La Coquille residents complained of a tournament held at the neighboring Eau, and that the

sport participants are much noisier than those in tennis.

- Police Chief Carmen Mattox submitted a report to commissioners that the Florida Department of Transportation may have found a reason for the flooding being experienced on State Road A1A near Ocean Avenue. FDOT subcontractors cleaning out the drainage system did a video inspection of the drainage pipes.

"During the video inspection

process a portion of the FDOT drainage system was discovered to be collapsed," Mattox wrote in his report to commissioners. "FDOT is assuming that a heavy vehicle drove off the road and parked over the section of pipe causing it to be damaged sometime last summer which is when they believe the flooding began. FDOT is currently discussing options for replacing the broken section of pipe and restoring the system." ★

Gulf Stream

School's temporary 300-student cap to become permanent

By Steve Plunkett

Town commissioners made Gulf Stream School's newly raised 300-student limit a permanent one after twice postponing their decision so residents could come to Town Hall to give input.

The school won permission on Jan. 13 to raise the limit from 250 students to 300 but just for this school year — an approval that came after the school had already blown past the 250-student cap both this school year and last. Town commissioners held off on making the 300 number permanent in order to allow more residents to comment, promising to alert them to the proposal via newsletter.

But the next Gulf Stream newsletter omitted any mention of the school's request, so commissioners decided on Feb. 10 to mail postcards telling residents they would discuss the student cap along with artificial turf and massing in the Core district at their March 10 meeting.

Only four people commented. Jorgette Smith, who lives on Old School Road, was concerned about a document the school had prepared that suggested it could accommodate 320 children.

"I'm just scared we're going to creep up to that the next thing you know," she said.

But Dr. Gray Smith, head of the school, quickly reassured her that would not happen.

"That is the max number we could technically have in

capacity on the campus," Smith said. "We have no intention of going to 320. The reason is ... we think we can achieve our mission at 300, and that's the number that we want. Going beyond that would just jeopardize the mission."

Barbara Sloan, who lives across the street from Town Hall, said, "The traffic is terrible."

But Cuppy Kraft, a real estate agent who lives on Little Club Road, said, "It's terrible everywhere" and that she was "very much in support" of the 300-student cap.

"I think it's vital. The school is the jewel in the crown. And nobody's going to the office anymore, nobody's working five days a week. They're all working from home. And these big new houses that have been permitted in Gulf Stream, they all house children. There may be a ramification down the road that we can't sell those houses if we can't keep attracting young families with children. I hope you get 320."

Michael Tiernan, whose grandson attends the school, agreed with Kraft. "The reason my son is living in Gulf Stream is because of the school," he said. "It is just kind of the heart of this community."

The town also received a few emails, all in support of the higher enrollment figure, Assistant Town Manager Trey Nazzaro said.

Despite the 250-student cap, Gulf Stream School has 293 children enrolled this year. School officials say having 300

will generate a "modest" budget surplus.

Tuition at the K-8 school ranges from \$23,105 a year for pre-K students to \$32,765 a year for students in fifth through eighth grades.

Nazzaro gave a brief history of the school's dealings with Town Hall, starting with the June 10, 1994, developer's agreement that limited students to 250, and a 2013 amendment that required the school to certify its enrollment to the town each year.

But 2013 was also a year the town was struggling to process hundreds of public records requests and it did not ask for the certification.

Commissioner Joan Orthwein was concerned about who would monitor the enrollment certification in the future.

"I mean, no offense, but when you come in and say, 'Oh gosh, we have 305 students,' we're not going to say five go home," Orthwein said.

Nazzaro said Town Clerk Renee Basel already had the task on her calendar to check in October.

He also said the school, which does not pay property taxes, will pay the town \$14,346 this year for police to help manage traffic, a requirement from a 2001 amendment to the agreement.

He will bring back to the commission a formal amendment to the agreement in April and start the procedure to have approved a small food service building planned for the school's parking lot.

License-plate reading cameras approved

Commissioners briefly talked about how to deal with massing in the Core district and with artificial grass — but decided to have a full discussion in April.

They also approved a contract to install solar-powered license-plate reading cameras at Avenue Au Soleil, County Road, Sea Road, Lakeview Drive and Golfview Drive, with each having a camera where they meet State Road A1A, and on Banyan Road at Oleander Way because of Banyan's tree canopy.

Nazzaro said the one-year agreement, which will cost \$15,000 for the service — \$2,500 per camera — plus \$2,100 for installation, will "not be a pilot program but just an initial step."

Mayor Scott Morgan asked if the town could paint the camera mounting poles green to match other signs in the town, and Lyndi Gurevitch of the Atlanta-based vendor Flock Group Inc., said, "It's kind of like, don't ask, don't tell."

"You guys can paint the poles if you want to. Just obviously stay away from the camera. You don't want to ... get any paint on the actual camera."

But commissioners decided to stick with the black poles Flock delivers to avoid the possibility of paint peeling later. The security cameras will be installed six weeks after permits are approved, Gurevitch said.

Neighborhoods such as Hidden Harbour that have private roads will be able to opt in to the LPR system by paying the same installation and service

fees for a camera that the town would be charged.

Dogs and golf carts

At the start of the meeting, Morgan said the commission would not consider an ordinance proposed by a resident to prohibit other residents from towing, walking or otherwise exercising pets while driving a golf cart.

"This is an ordinance that addressed the behavior of one individual, that is, one resident in our town. Gulf Stream is the type of town — we are a neighborhood, we are a neighborly town, and it just struck me that rather than immediately legislating from the dais, we are a neighborhood who should try to work things out amicably if possible."

The resident, whom he did not name, has exercised her dog while riding in her golf cart for 20 years, Morgan said. "However, our town has changed. We have more people, we have younger people and maybe that's the demographic reason, but we have more dogs."

Police told him that about 25 dogs are out for walks in town from 7 to 9 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., "and when a golf cart comes up to them at a rate of speed with the dog running beside it, it can be frightening, disturbing and exciting to some of the dogs."

The woman, who is an early riser, has agreed to exercise her pet before the 7 to 9 a.m. crunch to avoid confrontations.

"I'm hopeful we can resolve this issue like neighbors," Morgan said. ★

Delray Beach

City beach set to capture international recognition

By John Pacenti

It's the Michelin star for beaches.

Delray Beach is on the verge of joining the elite as it is one of only two continental U.S. seashores to be considered for the Blue Flag designation, an international honor that means not only prestige but also more eco-tourist dollars.

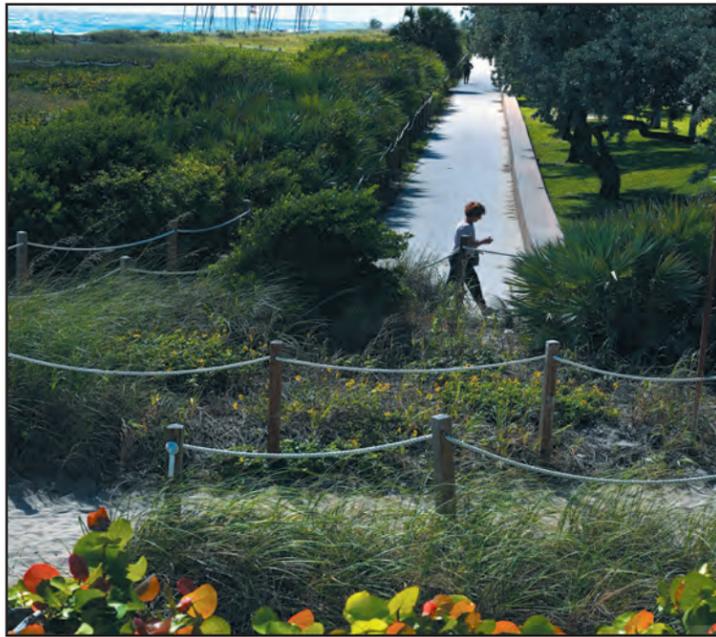
"It is a big win," said Missie Barletto, director of public works for Delray Beach.

"The questions that the international committee is coming back with are getting more and more simple, and less complicated. So, I think that means that they must be close to being on board."

The 36-year program that designates beaches — as well as marinas and tourism boats — worldwide is run by the Foundation for Environmental Education. The United States is just now being considered — though seven beaches in Puerto Rico and four others in the U.S. Virgin Islands hoist the Blue Flag.

The application process is formidable and only Delray Beach and Zuma Beach in Malibu, California, have made the cut for this year.

The committee looks at more than 30 criteria that cover



Delray Beach has a healthy dune and easy public access. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management, services provided and promoting sustainable tourism.

The city's environmental education will include information boards at the beach pavilions. There are talks about installing televisions in the rafters that would explain why the beach is one-of-a-kind.

The city was able to point to sea turtle nest excavations (after hatchlings have left) and a dune walk as part of its educational

offering. It is working on putting together games for children, such as scavenger hunts. The city's Sandaway Discovery Center across State Road A1A from the beach also was a selling point. The city is getting its recycling bins in place on the beach and there will be buckets that people can grab for trash pickup on the sand. They can dump the garbage and leave the bucket for the next person.

"So, just a lot of things like that where the community can also participate and understand

why it's a really special place," Barletto said.

Bill Petry, as a vice president of the Beach Property Owners Association, was on a 12-person committee working to bring the banner to Delray Beach.

"What it does is give the town and beach a designation that is very important to Europeans and there is some cachet with the South American traveler," he said.

"They are trying to make it a designation that will attract a high level of tourist who really enjoys the beach and spends a lot of money — especially during the offseason."

Annie Mercer is the program coordinator for the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association that managed the application process for U.S. beaches before forwarding the finalists to the international committee.

Mercer said five U.S. beaches initially applied. The other three were East Beach on Galveston Island, Texas; Lovers Key State Park in Lee County; and Waikiki Beach in Honolulu.

More than 5,000 ocean and river beaches and marinas and boating tourism operators in 50 countries hoist the eco-friendly Blue Flag label.

Delray Beach, like a horse coming from the rear in a Triple

Crown race, became a candidate in February of last year and raced to the front.

So, what seems to be putting Delray Beach over the top with the judges? The dunes, for one.

"They absolutely love their dunes. They have an amazing, amazing dune system, which I'm excited to highlight for the program," Mercer said.

Barletto said the dunes have been a community project for decades before the city took over their maintenance recently.

"If you would contact the historical society for a picture of what the dunes looked like even in the '50s or '60s, you would see that there's a very, very thin amount of beach," she said.

"Over the years through dune plantings, sand accumulation and beach renourishment, we've managed to build a beach now where it is maybe 150 yards wide."

The city should know the final decision by the end of April. Barletto said there is a tentative May 19 date to celebrate.

"We'll have all of our informational boards up and have all of the environmental education pieces in place, and all the recycling bins will be up there and the flag will be flying," she said. ★



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Highland Beach

Voters choose two newcomers for Town Commission

By Rich Pollack

There will be two new faces on the five-member Town Commission following the March 14 vote, which saw about 22% of Highland Beach's 3,900 registered voters casting ballots.

Newcomer Judith Goldberg defeated challengers Maggie Chappellear and Peter Kosovsky and will serve the year left in the term of Peggy Gossett-Seidman, who resigned to run for state representative, a seat she won.

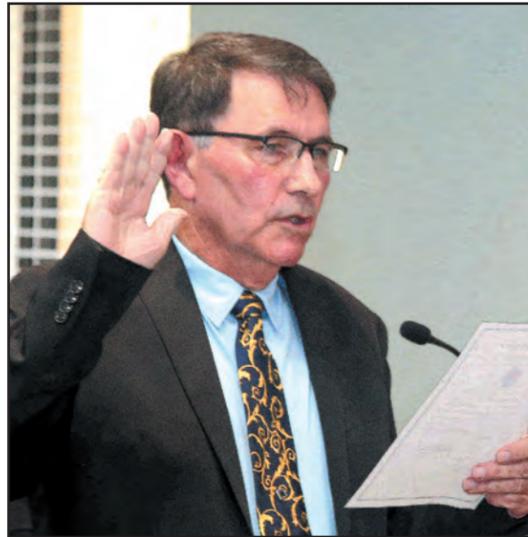
"I am just thrilled to represent this magical town," Goldberg said, adding that she believes her forthright conversations with residents helped her get votes. "I just spoke about the issues honestly."

Goldberg received 434 votes, or 51% of the total votes cast, with Chappellear receiving 30% or 257 votes and Kosovsky about 19% or 159 votes.

In a two-way race for a three-year term, newcomer Don Peters defeated incumbent John Shoemaker 453 to 394, capturing 53% of the votes to Shoemaker's 47%.

"A lot of people worked hard for me and I'm very thankful," Peters said.

The former police officer and town supervisor in Yorktown, New York, said he believes his victory is the result of residents



Newly elected Judith Goldberg and Don Peters are sworn into their positions as Highland Beach commissioners on March 21. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

wanting more of a voice in the way the town is run.

"People just want their government to listen," he said.

Both Peters and Goldberg were backed by the Committee to Save Highland Beach, a political action committee that sends messages to more than 2,000 email addresses.

With about 850 voters casting ballots, the election marked the first time since 2020 that voters had an opportunity to select a town commissioner; all candidates running since then ran unopposed.

During this year's campaign season, transparency and

increased public input in decision-making was a common theme among the candidates.

Chappellear, who first got involved with the town when she supported safer boating conditions on the Intracoastal Waterway, ran her campaign with a focus on being the voice of residents on the commission. A 38-year resident of Highland Beach, Chappellear has also been a strong supporter of dune restoration.

Goldberg, an attorney and mediator, ran her campaign focus on transparency and having energy and vitality for good governance. She is a

supporter of preservation of natural resources and property values and supports effective growth planning.

Kosovsky ran his campaign on public oversight, believing there needs to be more public involvement in the running of the town. In an unusual move in what had been a very civil election season, Kosovsky was openly critical of Goldberg for what he claims were violations of campaign rules.

In the race for the three-year seat, Peters often spoke about keeping taxes low and wanting to see residents having a greater voice in the decisions made by

town leaders.

Shoemaker, who served three years on the commission, ran on his experience and on the effectiveness of the current commission in addressing long-standing issues. He says he ran on continuity, collaboration and competence.

The low turnout, Shoemaker said, may be a reflection of how well the town is operating.

"When things are going well, people don't seem to have as much interest in local affairs," he said.

The election in Highland Beach remained mostly civil, with candidates each spending less than \$10,000 on signs, emails and online and print advertising.

Goldberg, who had a strong online presence, led the pack in expenses, spending more than \$8,200, according to the latest campaign finance reports. Kosovsky was next, spending just under \$4,000, while Chappellear spent just under \$1,400.

In the seat for the three-year term, Shoemaker spent about \$2,250, while Peters spent only about \$750.

In all, the five candidates spent about \$16,500 for their campaigns. ★



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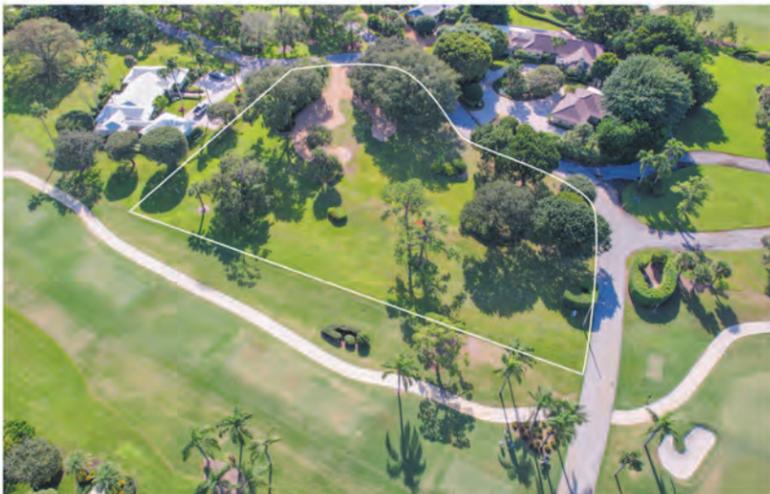
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2500
Continued from page 1

property have no remaining economic value.

“The emphasis on the word ‘no’ in the text of the opinion was, in fact, reiterated in a footnote,” Smith said, sending the case back to the City Council.

But Smith had little good to say about the three elected officials.

“I can tell you, from the beginning I was somewhat taken aback,” Smith said. “I don’t believe it for one minute that they would even consider being fair and impartial to Natural Lands under any stretch of the imagination at all.”

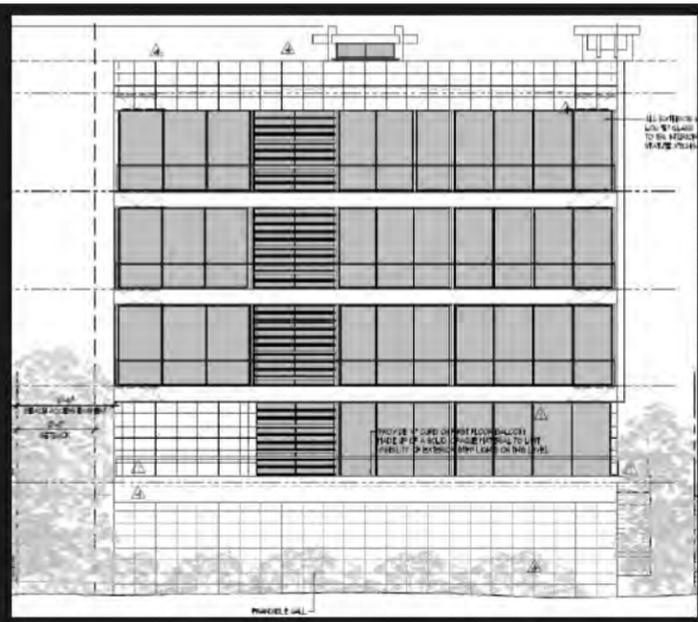
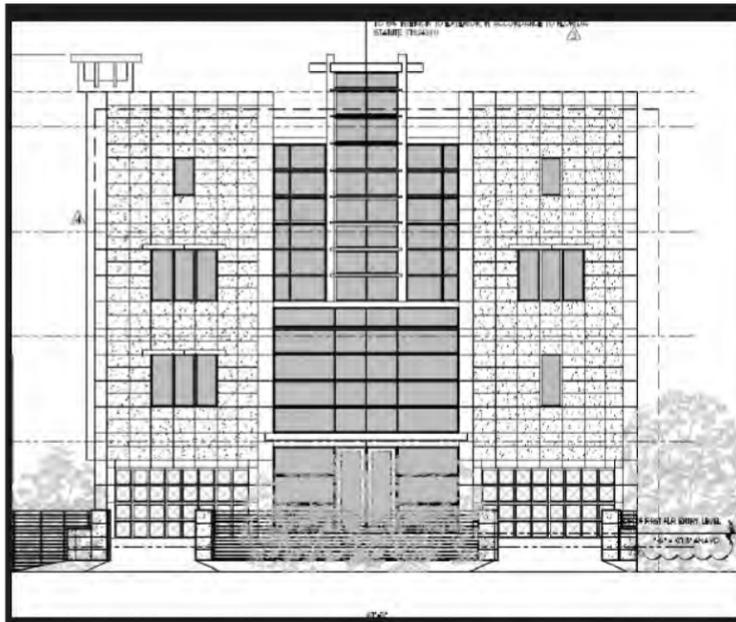
Singer, he said, was obviously biased and his testimony “made it clear as to his stance — he cannot be a fact-finder and impartial decision-maker in this particular matter.”

Smith found that to be particularly irksome because Singer, who was out of town and testified via video recording, is a lawyer. “He could not even address ... what does the term ‘being fair’ mean. He looked at us like a deer in headlights who was a person, a trained lawyer, that he has never heard of the word ‘fair’ before,” Smith said.

O’Rourke, the judge said, presented “unbelievable” testimony on the witness stand. At one point she “pretended” that she did not know she had been prohibited from voting in the case by the Palm Beach County Circuit Court and the 4th District Court of Appeal, he said.

Mayotte, too, “demonstrated complete bias from the start,” said the judge. “Clearly she had no business casting a decision knowing how she felt.”

Of all three council members, Smith said, “their beliefs were strong to the point where it was stronger than Gorilla Glue as



Drawings show **LEFT:** the side of the building that faces Ocean Boulevard with two driveways and **RIGHT:** the mostly glass side of the building facing the beach. **Renderings provided**

to their bias that no property or nothing would ever be built.”

Smith deviated from the earlier circuit court and 4th DCA rulings in the Coastal Construction Control Line vote, which declared only O’Rourke and Mayotte biased, by tagging Singer as well.

Court documents showed Singer on Aug. 23, 2018, for example, emailed a resident that “Based on the potential impact on our dunes and sea life (including turtles), I will NOT support granting a variance that would be needed to allow the coastal construction for this lot and the proposed home there. My policy has been and still is to protect our beaches and green space.”

Midway through the trial, Smith allowed evidence to be presented on the actions of then-Deputy Mayor Jeremy Rodgers, who is no longer on the council, but did not specifically discuss it while making his ruling.

The Natural Lands lawyers discovered that the city had stipulated in similar litigation involving nearby 2600 N. Ocean Blvd. that Rodgers in August 2017 emailed a resident to say,

“I’m of course going to continue going NO on 2500 and likely NO on 2600.”

That case also includes Facebook Messenger exchanges between Rodgers and O’Rourke regarding the beach parcels and Sept. 17, 2018, text messages between O’Rourke and Mayotte, court documents show. Florida’s Sunshine Law prohibits two or more elected officials from discussing issues outside of meetings.

But the end result of the Natural Lands case is that the partnership will again have to submit its application to the city to build seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line. During the trial, Deputy City Manager George Brown and Development Services Director Brandon Schaad testified that the owner could submit a plan for a smaller house.

And despite their emails in evidence to the contrary, Singer, O’Rourke and Mayotte all testified that they might have approved a smaller structure.

Smith relied on that for his ruling.

“The court does not find that there has been a total taking,” he

said, while noting that Natural Lands’ right to build a single-family home on the parcel “is a vested right,” meaning it existed before the partnership bought the property and will stay with the land if Natural Lands sells it to someone else.

Smith’s decision that Singer, O’Rourke, Mayotte and anyone else who was “tainted by them” cannot take part in the reconsideration means three sets of fresh eyes for the application. Term-limited O’Rourke’s last day in office was March 31. Without Singer and Mayotte, the issue will be decided by Yvette Drucker, Fran Nachlas and Marc Wigder, who all took office long after the Natural Lands vote.

Smith also ordered the city to pay Natural Lands’ attorney’s fees and costs.

Gavriel Naim, a Natural Lands partner who sat through the trial, said he needed time to digest Smith’s ruling before commenting on it.

“I won on my right to develop my property,” he said.

Brown, who also sat through the trial as the city’s representative, said only that

when Natural Lands resubmits a plan, “We’ll consider it.”

Natural Lands planned to build a 48-foot-tall, 8,666-square-foot single-family home at the site and obtained a Notice to Proceed from the state Department of Environmental Protection in October 2016.

The City Council caused a public outcry in December 2015 when it approved a zoning variance at 2500 N. Ocean to allow something to be built on the 88.5-foot-wide lot. City rules normally require lots at least 100 feet wide.

It denied the CCCL variance on July 23, 2019.

Singer did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Before the trial, the city offered to pay Natural Lands the \$950,000 it paid to buy the parcel to drop the case. The partnership declined.

During the trial, Celora Jackson of the state DEP testified that any construction project on the beach would have adverse effects on sea turtles but that her department made sure there were no “significant” adverse impacts before issuing a Notice to Proceed. ★

HILLMAN
Continued from page 1

Vice Mayor Natasha Moore said one of Mr. Hillman’s strengths was his willingness to listen to others.

“All of his decisions centered around what he thought would be best for the town,” said Moore, who automatically became mayor until next year’s municipal election.

Mr. Hillman also served as president of his condo association at Dalton Place, as well as president of the umbrella organization at Boca Highland Beach Club and Marina.

“As president of Dalton Place and Boca Highlands, Doug was considered a visionary and smart and business-savvy,” said friend and neighbor Ron Reame, who is vice president of Dalton Place and on the board of governors of Boca Highland. “He was the voice of reason.”

Reame said that Mr. Hillman led efforts to revitalize their building, bringing it up to “five-

star resort” quality.

“Doug was a man of integrity, was kind, helpful, patient, fair and complimentary to all who worked with him,” Reame said. “He was influential and inspiring to our community.”

Moore, who served as vice mayor for two years, said that Mr. Hillman was instrumental in helping her grow in the position.

“Not only was he a colleague, he was also a mentor,” she said. “He put all of us in the right position to make good decisions.”

Prior to coming to Highland Beach, Mr. Hillman served as an executive for some of the best-known men’s, women’s and children’s apparel, accessory and footwear brands, including Levi’s, Dockers, Burlington Hosiery, Keds, Pro-Keds and Sperry Topsiders, as well as London Fog, where he became president. Mr. Hillman also served as a business adviser to the governor of Maryland and as a consultant to the Baltimore

Police Department. He was a professor at both Johns Hopkins University and American University, where he taught advanced marketing courses at

the graduate level.

Mr. Hillman is survived by son Michael, daughter-in-law Michelle, granddaughter Molli and grandson Miles.

A memorial service was held March 19 at Dalton Place in Boca Highland Beach Club and Marina. ★

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Lantana

Zeitler, Castle victorious; voters choose to end runoff elections

By Mary Thurwachter

Not long after the polls closed in Lantana's Town Council races March 14, the winners — incumbent Mark Zeitler and newcomer Chris Castle — celebrated with friends and supporters at Lantana Pizza.

"I've been up since 2 a.m., I'm so wired," Zeitler, 67, the owner of an air-conditioning firm, said by phone after seeing the final results of his Group 3 race. "I look forward to doing good things for the town."

He defeated newcomer Ray Lastella, 32, an entrepreneur with a boat detailing company, by a vote of 493 to 394, or 56% to 44%.

For the Group 4 position, Castle, 37, a maintenance facilities director for PetMeds, won 473 to 408 — 54% to 46% — outpolling John Raymer, 53, an Army veteran who manages Ace Rental Place in Lantana. This was Raymer's second run for office. He ran unsuccessfully last year against veteran council member Lynn "Doc" Moorhouse.

"I've been through all the



Council member Mark Zeitler speaks from the dais after being sworn into office March 27 with Chris Castle (far left), who listens with Mayor Karen Lythgoe and council member Kem Mason. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

emotions from giggles to glee," Castle said. Early results showing mail-in ballots had him worried, he said, but in the end he won comfortably.

Castle and Zeitler were sworn in March 27, as was Karen Lythgoe, who became mayor after running unopposed to finish the term of Robert Hagerty, who resigned in October.

Almost 900 residents voted in each race, about a 12.5% voter turnout. Council terms are for three years.

With 60% of the vote, Lantana residents also decided 509 to 345 to change the Town Charter to put an end

to runoff elections. Currently, a candidate must receive at least one more than 50% of the votes in a race to be elected. If no candidate gets a majority, a runoff election is held between the two candidates receiving the most votes in the race.

Forced runoffs in two council races last year made some elected officials consider a change to a plurality system, where the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in a race — whether or not it is a majority — is the victor. Voters agreed. Proponents of the change argued that runoff elections were an unnecessary expense. ★

Hypoluxo Island couple withdraws variance request

By Mary Thurwachter

It's back to the drawing board for a couple who asked the Lantana Town Council to grant a setback variance to build a 7,100-square-foot home on a .36-acre lot on Hypoluxo Island.

The council delayed voting on the variance at its Feb. 27 meeting and expected to take up the matter in March. But shortly after the postponement, the couple, Thomas and Mindee Borzilleri, formally withdrew the variance application, according to Development Services Director Nicole Dritz.

"They will be redesigning their site to meet our required setbacks," Dritz wrote in an email to council members. "We hope to work with them through our building permitting process and get them on their way to construction."

The couple had sought a variance from the required 20-foot rear setback for their waterfront property at 1423 Lands End Road. The Borzilleris bought the parcel in 2021 and tore down the existing house after they found mold issues.

They wanted to locate a retaining wall 13.5 feet from the high-water line, where the town

code requires a 20-foot setback. The couple said flood mitigation rules issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency were a hardship.

Attorney Trey Nazzaro, who represents the Borzilleris, said FEMA was requiring the finished floor elevation of the home to be 10 feet. The home that was on the property previously had an elevation of 6.5 feet. The retaining walls would hold in a significant amount of fill to bring the elevation up to 10 feet, he said.

A pool, ADA ramp and deck also would have encroached on the required 20-foot setback area from the high-water line.

Island residents appearing at the council's Feb. 27 meeting urged denial, saying the proposed house was too large for the property and that the owners should have been aware of town building requirements before they made their plans.

• The council awarded a \$179,600 contract to Boromei Construction Inc. for Maddock Park dog park with Community Development Block Grant funds. The work includes exercise equipment and upgrades to fencing, drinking fountains and pet waste station. ★

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South Palm Beach

Council OKs negotiations with Titcomb to take town manager's job

By Joe Capozzi

Former Ocean Ridge Town Manager Jamie Titcomb has emerged as the Town Council's choice to be South Palm Beach's next manager.



Titcomb

Now the council must decide whether to allow him to serve as an independent contractor or a full-time employee. Titcomb, the town manager in Loxahatchee Groves from 2019 until last June, wants to be South Palm Beach's town manager as an independent contractor for \$12,000 a month.

Although he said he does not want a full-time position because of family obligations that led him to retire last summer, he suggested there could be a scenario that would satisfy the council.

"I'm not necessarily your long-term solution," he told the council at a special meeting on March 6. "I just retired last year. I'm kind of being pulled back out of the mothballs."

At the council's direction, Town Attorney Glen Torcivia was expected to begin negotiations in late March with Titcomb, who would replace departing Robert Kellogg.

Kellogg announced his retirement in November, a day after council member Ray McMillan made an unsuccessful motion to fire him. Kellogg wanted to retire at the end of March but has agreed to stay on until the council finds a replacement.

Torcivia is expected to give the council an update on the negotiations on April 11.

"The most recent conversation I had with the attorney is, he believes if I am going to come here and stay for any duration that I'll probably need to be an employee of the town," Titcomb said in an interview after the March 14 meeting.

But Titcomb did not indicate this would necessarily be a deal-breaker.

He told the council he could serve in "a transitional" capacity for a while, allowing the council to later seek "a long-term traditional manager."

"I have a lot of energy and expertise left in me," he said. "The longer term prospects of this has yet to be seen."

Under Titcomb's proposal, he would make \$144,000 a year, assuming he worked 12 months. And since he is a contractor, the town would not be responsible for paying him any benefits.

Kellogg, who has served as a town manager and South Palm Beach employee since 2019, is making \$110,250 a year.

When the search process for a new town manager was first discussed at a special meeting Jan. 30, council members agreed it should be a full-time position.

Titcomb attended that meeting and told the council he was not interested in a full-time job but was available to offer advice. But he said that in the days and weeks after that meeting, several council members reached out individually to him and encouraged him to apply.

He also attended the March 6 meeting, which started out with council members preparing to discuss the search process. When McMillan suggested the town save time and negotiate with Titcomb, a majority of the council agreed.

One resident said the town should conduct a general search. But council members, noting how they're trying to expedite long-debated plans for a new Town Hall, directed Torcivia to negotiate with Titcomb.

"I am more inclined to go with a work-agreement contract versus being a full-time employee of the town because of the flexibility and my circumstances at this time," Titcomb said March 6.

"I didn't come forward thinking I am looking for a long-term assignment for years to come," he said. "I know this is a full-time scenario in the sense that once you have the mantle and responsibility and the title, you've got to be there for the town as needed. But the details of how that plays out can well be articulated in the agreement to everyone's satisfaction."

Mayor Bonnie Fischer, a South Palm Beach resident since 1976, said she can't recall any time when the manager wasn't a full-time town employee.

Titcomb has applied for the South Palm Beach town manager's job before, in 2015. But he wound up accepting the town manager post in Ocean Ridge, where he worked from October 2015 to March 2019.

Titcomb lives in Atlantis. ★



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Thank You Ocean Ridge!

We did it! Thank you to all who came out to vote on Tuesday, March 14th, and to those of you who voted by mail. **I am grateful for your support and very proud to be your new Town Commissioner.**

A special thank you to my tireless supporters; **I could not have done it without you.** Thank you also to those who endorsed me, who collectively have given many years of service to Ocean Ridge. Your endorsements were critical to my success in this most important election.

The best part of the campaign, without a doubt, was having the opportunity to meet and speak with so many residents. I am confident that this will continue to be my favorite part of the job as your Town Commissioner. **I look forward to hearing from you over the next three years and I will continue to welcome all viewpoints with my full attention and respect.**

Now the work begins! I am ready to get to work with my fellow Commissioners in addressing the challenges before us.

Thank you again for your trust in me ~

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Lantana

Residents object to size of planned restaurant at Moorings

By Mary Thurwachter

When it comes to building a waterside restaurant at the Moorings at Lantana, residents say size matters.

Developers planned for a tiki restaurant of 1,500 square feet when the Intracoastal community was built in 2002. But now, a developer is proposing something much larger, and many residents aren't having it. They have routinely expressed their concerns at Lantana Town Council meetings and have broadcast their complaints on TV, in newspapers and social media.

Gulfstream Hospitality, the firm that opened Atlantic Avenue Yacht Club in Delray Beach last year and is about to open Jupiter Grill in Harbourside Place, wants to construct Lantana Cabana on a man-made island at the Moorings, a 378-unit condominium complex off Dixie Highway in the northern part of the town. The company bought the land two years ago for \$1.01 million.

The upscale grill with Intracoastal Waterway views will showcase dishes by Paul Niedermann of *Hell's Kitchen* fame, according to Dave Magrogan, a partner in Gulfstream Hospitality and CEO and founder of Harvest Seasonal Grill in Delray Beach.

"We are designing a polished, casual coastal grill with exceptional culinary talent and a creative premium menu," he says. "We are not designing a 'burger, hot dog and beer joint,' we are seeking to create one of the best restaurants in Palm Beach County to attract a premium clientele."

Be that as it may, residents say



Opposition is building to a proposed 4,000-square-foot restaurant at the Moorings at Lantana. Rendering provided

the 4,000-square-foot proposal is too big for the .13-acre island connected to the mainland by a dock and bordered by land owned by the homeowners association and surrounded on three sides by moored boats.

It's not just the size of the eatery that worries residents. It's noise, traffic, parking and the two 45-foot towers to house restrooms that will block views.

"The main thing is, the residents don't want it," says Janet Kozan, a property owner and commercial Realtor. "The thing doesn't follow the original development order and I think there is a safety issue for building with walls that close to a sea wall, where people have to leave the restaurant and walk around over 200 feet on a 36-inch dock to get to the restroom. It's dangerous to the restaurant patrons and to the Moorings residents."

Kozan says fire protection is another concern. "When the fire protection intervention service was first planned for a little, tiny one-story building, it didn't have to have things like ladder trucks. There's no way you could get a ladder truck down there now."

Residents can't reject a 1,500-square-foot cabana restaurant, Kozan says. "We're happy with that. But we certainly don't want towers and we certainly don't want a 4,000-square-foot building put in that little parcel with a shoehorn. It will be vertical walls to horizontal concrete to the dock."

Another Moorings resident, Duane Roderick, started a petition on change.org — "Oppose the Lantana Cabana at The Moorings at Lantana" — that collected more than 600 signatures from people who oppose the restaurant. "We have another 250 that do not overlap on paper petitions we did earlier," he says.

"You go down to the pool here on any given weekend and that's the chatter," Roderick said of the restaurant and Magrogan. "This restaurant is horrendous."

Besides being for restaurant customers, "he is saying those public bathrooms are for the boaters, the marina and residents and their guests, but we have our own bathrooms."

Parking is one of Roderick's key concerns.

"He says there are 200 unassigned parking spots in the garage," Roderick says of the Moorings' private garage. "That's not true. You can walk in there any time of the week and it's packed. And we have only one little street coming into here. He says he's going to have his own valet and that most people will come by Uber, bicycle or walking, but where the heck are they going to walk from?"

Magrogan, who says the petition is misleading and inaccurate, responded to its allegations by writing a letter/email on March 5 to property owners. He insists plans always called for a 1,500-square-foot building with another 2,500 square feet of covered seating and service area, and says towers are an architectural detail designed to blend the building into the appearance of the rest of the Moorings complex. He wrote that he is considering adjusting the height and location of the towers, based on comments.

Kozan says she gets her information through research. "I'm dealing with the town and public records and black

and white. I know how this commercial development approval process works. All arrows point to failure as far as I see approval on this thing," she says.

Roderick says he can back up everything he put on the petition.

Magrogan maintains the restaurant will increase property values and be a valuable amenity to residents of the Moorings at Lantana, which was developed as a mixed-use community. He wants to organize an event on the property to have residents meet the chef and the management team, sample food and beverages, view renderings, and have constructive conversations.

The neighbors' view

Neighbors who live on View Street, a mobile home park south of the Moorings, are also worried.

"The first thing I thought about was the noise that would impact my neighbors who are in their 80s and are dealing with various health issues," says View Street resident Annemarie Joyce. "Having their sleep interrupted by a noisy open-air restaurant with a bar would certainly have a negative impact. And the steady breezes would carry more debris into the waterway and onto the peninsula at the end of View Street, leading to increased rodent population."

Joyce says increased traffic on Dixie Highway would make the existing congestion much worse.

"There have been numerous accidents at both View Street and the Moorings intersections. Some of my neighbors are concerned that when people cannot access parking at the Moorings, some drivers will come onto View Street to find parking," Joyce says.

View Street is a private street with no outlet and no guest parking.

Support for project

Although the proposed restaurant has garnered opposition from residents, the Moorings' seven-member Master Association board supports the developer's efforts. Magrogan, as the owner of commercial property there, is a member of the Master Association. The association

president, John Underwood, who also owns a commercial property there for his appraisal company, didn't return calls from *The Coastal Star*. Other board members represent each of the three buildings, the townhomes and the marina. Several board members do not reside on the property.

Ted Cook, who regularly attends town meetings, is a new member of the Master Association but was not on the board when it voted in favor of the restaurant with towers.

"I have no problem with the restaurant that was initially approved by the town for approximately 1,500 square feet," Cook says. "In fact, I would be open to a small increase if those two towers were lowered, and the bathrooms were inside the restaurant for patrons only."

"The people, not all, that bought here thought there would be a small restaurant, but not the size proposed," Cook says. "I'll feel deceived if the larger size is approved by the Town Council, and I doubt I will stay in what will be a circus-type of environment and I'll be paying almost \$1,000 a month for my HOA."

Council to weigh in

It's too early to decide on the matter, says Lantana Mayor Karen Lythgoe, who says she has heard from quite a few Moorings residents in favor of the restaurant as well.

"Comments have been made that the restaurant was one of the selling points to buying into the mixed-use development," she says.

"The council is pleased to hear from so many residents, but since this will likely end up being decided in a quasi-judicial hearing, we will have to decide based on the evidence presented at the time it comes before us and the petitioner has an opportunity to present their evidence and cross-examine witnesses."

Lythgoe couldn't estimate when the issue would come before the council.

"It is my understanding that staff is still working with the owner of the property on final plans that can go to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their consideration," she said. ★

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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Malcolm Balfour

As a journalist, Hypoluxo Island's Malcolm Balfour has pretty much done it all.

Associate editor of the *National Enquirer* for eight years when the tabloid was based in Lantana. Miami-based correspondent for Reuters and the now-departed United Press International. Weekend producer for one of Miami's best-known TV stations. Longtime correspondent for *The New York Post*. And contributor to several nationally syndicated TV shows.

And Balfour, 85, hasn't slowed down. His latest project is *Mississippi Escape!*, a book published in 2021. It reached back to his own history as a student at Mississippi State in the early '60s, during a major turning point in the way colleges in the South dealt with Black athletes.

Coached by Babe McCarthy, the all-white MSU Bulldogs basketball team won the Southeastern Conference title four times in five seasons from 1958 to '63, but the "unwritten law" at the time forbade any Mississippi team from playing a team with Black players.

Then a member of the track team, Balfour was affected as well. "I was eligible to compete in the NCAA championships but was not allowed because they knew Black athletes would be there," he said.

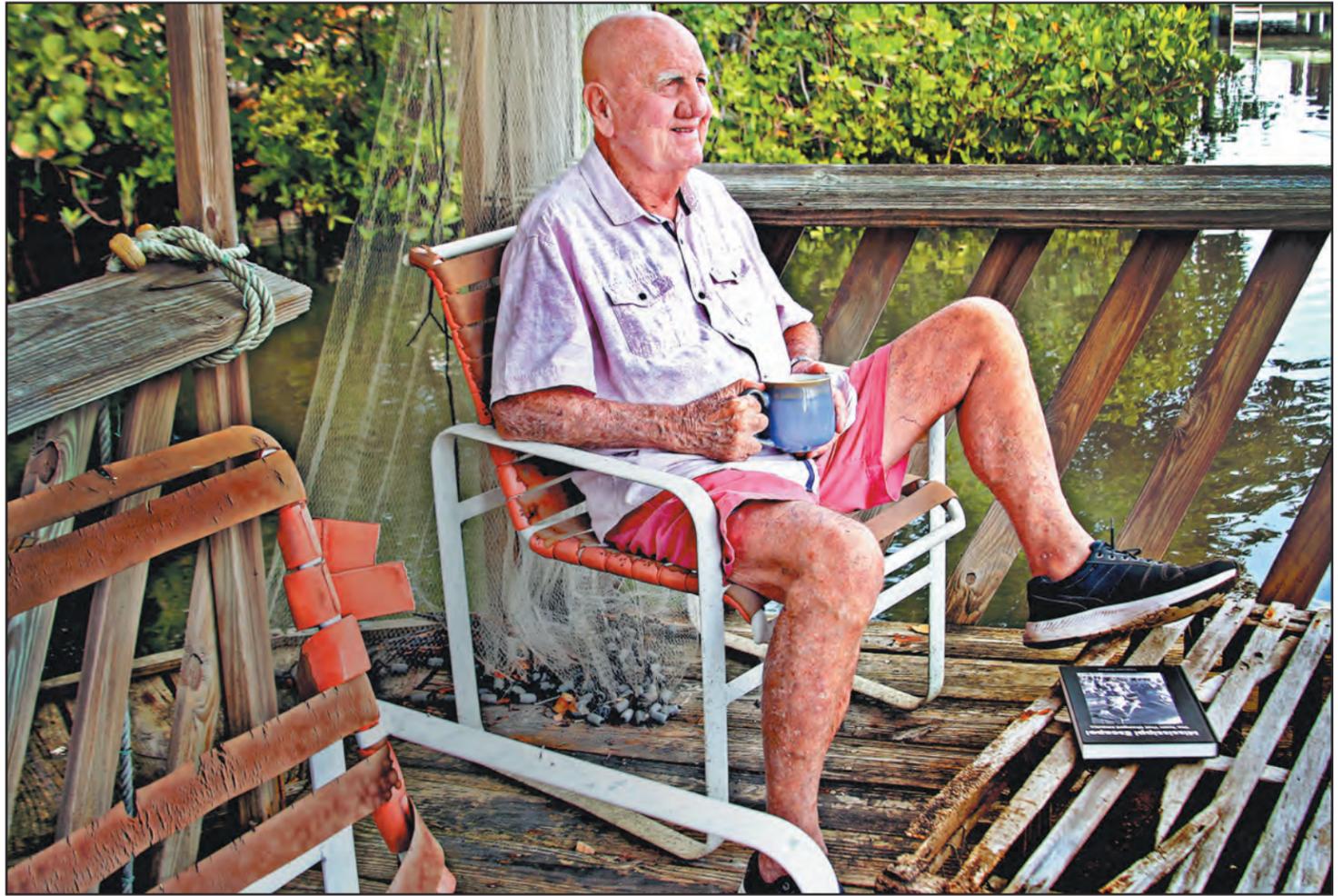
During the 1963 NCAA basketball tournament, MSU President Dean Colvard went against the wishes of the governor and defied an injunction. The Bulldogs essentially sneaked out of Starkville to travel to East Lansing, Michigan, where they were matched in the second round against Loyola of Chicago, which had four Black starters.

"The Mississippi State guys were getting letters from the Ku Klux Klan saying they better not play against the Black guys," Balfour said, "and the Black guys were hearing from the other side saying they shouldn't play against the white guys. So, it was a frightening experience, but they went ahead and played and it changed everything about recruiting in the South."

Loyola won what became known as the "Game of Change" by a 61-51 score and went on to win the NCAA championship. Meanwhile, "almost overnight," Balfour said, Southern schools began recruiting Black athletes.

"I spent two days interviewing Dr. Colvard back in 2004 and went up to northern Kentucky to interview the captain of the team, Joe Dan Gold," Balfour said, recalling the MSU story. "I had to get off my butt to finally put it together."

Balfour, who served on the Lantana Town Council for nine years, and Ilona, his wife of 55 years, remain active in local politics and were major



Malcolm Balfour enjoys a cup of tea on the dock of his Hypoluxo Island home. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

drivers behind the creation of the Lantana Nature Preserve. They have two children: Grant, a writer in the cruise ship industry, who lives in West Palm Beach; and Antonia, a doctor in Marina del Rey, California. They also have three grandchildren, Sofia, Sebastian and Scarlett.

— Brian Biggane

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

A: I attended a rural boarding school in South Africa, then went on to Pretoria Boys High School which has many famous alumni: Max Theiler, who won a Nobel Prize for discovering the vaccine for yellow fever; Michael Levitt, who also won a Nobel, for chemistry, and Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX, Tesla and Neuralink.

I came to the U.S. on a track scholarship to Mississippi State, where I placed second in the SEC championship freshman cross-country race and we won the team championship in track. I majored in English and minored in sociology. I returned to South Africa afterward and then came back to take some graduate courses at New York University on a student visa. That opened up opportunities for me to get work up there.

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

A: I was working for United Press International in New York and they transferred me to the bureau in Miami, which I thought was great. Then I got an opportunity with WTVJ in Miami, where I was a writer and producer. I produced the weekend news and I was

hopeless, but I lasted three years. Then I was hired by the British news service Reuters, which was the greatest thing to happen to me.

I was doing some freelance work at the time for the *National Enquirer* and did a story with the owner, Generoso Pope, about how it was becoming a much better publication. Reuters repeatedly wouldn't run it but on my last try a friend ran it and the big papers in New York, Boston, Chicago all ran it on their front page. Pope was so impressed he hired me.

I stayed at the *Enquirer* for eight years as associate editor. They paid an incredible amount of money in those days, so much I couldn't reject the offer. But Pope would also fire people left and right, and after making that kind of money there you couldn't get that anywhere else.

I never became reliant on the *Enquirer*. I spent most of my career becoming the South Florida correspondent for *The New York Post*, and also did freelance work for TV shows like *Inside Edition*, *Hard Copy* and *A Current Affair*.

We did some things at the *Enquirer* that were extraordinary. Once we were covering the annual American Medical Association convention in San Francisco. I was taking six reporters with me and Pope asked how many I was taking, and he said I should take three times that many.

One of my reporters who I had hired, David Wright, came up with the story that if you have one drink a day it's good for your heart. The AMA asked us to hold the story to run concurrently with the story running in their journal. I thought Pope would never go for it but he did, which became a

feather in my cap as well.

I had my own airplane and a pilot's license so I could fly my crew anywhere. The British papers would hire me to fly their correspondents to the Caribbean to find government officials and their girlfriends.

When the Falklands War broke out I got a call at 4 in the morning from Britain telling me to fly down there. The editor was dead serious, but it would have taken me a week to fly down there because the island was so difficult to reach, so it didn't happen.

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

A: Whatever happens, always show a positive attitude.

Q: How did you choose to make your home on Hypoluxo Island?

A: What really convinced me to buy a house on Hypoluxo Island in 1971 was the island was exactly halfway between the ocean and my job at the *National Enquirer*. I rode to work on my bicycle. We sold our first house after about three years because we wanted to be on the water, so in 1974 we moved to where we are now.

Q: What is your favorite part about living there?

A: Friendly neighbors and lots of trees. We're close to the Lantana Nature Preserve so that's a lovely place to walk.

Q: What book are you reading now?

A: At the risk of sounding like a nepotist, I'm reading my mother-in-law's memoir, *Return of the Swallows*. Her name was Dorothy Prashma and her family left South Africa for Germany in 1933 to claim her

husband's rightful inheritance. What they ran into between the Soviets and the Nazis is very much like what the Russians are doing now in Ukraine. My wife, Ilona, was editor of the book.

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

A: Blues. There's a trail in north Mississippi going up to Memphis known as the Blues Trail and I've been along that. I belong to a blues club in Cleveland, Mississippi, and heard a lot of blues there.

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

A: Warren Burns, the assistant track coach at Mississippi State, was a huge help. I only had a partial scholarship so I really had no money my first year. He would give me a couple packets of cereal every morning so I'd have breakfast and lunch and sometimes even dinner. Then he got me a job on the college paper that paid me about \$15 a month, and also got me a job selling programs at football games. Then after one year I got a full scholarship and he decided to concentrate on getting his master's, so I took over as assistant coach.

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

A: Gregory Peck, if he were still alive. My wife likes him and he's a good, handsome guy. One of my favorite movies is *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Q: Who/what makes you laugh?

A: *Seinfeld* on TV. My wife hates him so she pretends to be asleep.

Highland Beach

Ex-financial adviser sent to prison over theft from slain widow

By Rich Pollack

Maureen Forte can find comfort in knowing that the man accused of bilking her aunt and uncle out of \$3 million is finally behind bars, but she is hoping that the case that lingered for more than four years will serve as a cautionary tale for other vulnerable seniors.

Early last month, 39-year-old David Del Rio pleaded guilty to 36 felony counts in connection with the theft of millions of dollars from widow Elizabeth “Betty” Cabral and her late husband, William.

As part of the plea agreement, Del Rio was sentenced to 15 years in state prison, followed by 15 years of probation. He also agreed to turn over to the Cabrals’ estate two properties he owned fully or in part at Lehigh Acres in Lee County.

“Our family has some relief because he’s going to jail,” Forte, the Cabrals’ niece, said after speaking to Palm Beach County Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey Gillen during the March 2 hearing. “But it’s never going to be enough because nothing is going to undo what’s been done.”

In addition to accepting the prison sentence and agreeing to the property transfer, Del Rio agreed that he understands a homicide investigation into the death of Betty Cabral remains open and that he receives no “promises of leniency, nor immunities” as a result of the plea.

Cabral was found in her Highland Beach apartment with her throat cut almost five years ago. There have been no arrests made in that case. Her husband died about a year earlier.

Prosecutors said the investigation into Cabral’s death is continuing.

“You understand that this deal, as sweet as it is, has nothing to do with the homicide involving Elizabeth Cabral?” the judge asked Del Rio.

In exchange for the plea, prosecutors agreed to drop more than 35 felony charges and to give the Cabrals’ former financial adviser credit for 116 days of time he served in the



David Del Rio was handcuffed and remanded into custody after pleading guilty to 36 felony counts and getting a 15-year sentence. **Jim Rassol/ The Coastal Star**



Maureen Forte, niece of Betty Cabral, said ‘our family has some relief’ with the sentencing of Del Rio. ‘But it’s never going to be enough.’ The Cabral homicide case dating to 2018 remains unsolved.

Palm Beach County Jail. He was under house arrest following his release from jail on bond.

Under terms of the deal, Del Rio pleaded guilty to several counts each of exploiting an elderly person, money laundering, organized scheme to defraud, fraudulent use of personal identification information and grand theft

from a person 65 or older.

Defense attorney Michael Salnick said that had Del Rio gone to trial — which had been scheduled for early this month — and been convicted of the 36 counts, the lowest possible sentence he could have received under state sentencing guidelines would have been 71 years.

Like Forte and even Del Rio, Salnick expressed relief that the case, which lingered during the pandemic years, has come to a conclusion.

“I am happy that we were able to resolve this case for Mr. Del Rio,” he said.

In brief comments to the court, Del Rio appeared remorseful, saying he unfortunately couldn’t take back his actions. He apologized, expressing gratitude to the judge for accepting the deal.

“I feel it’s time to move on,” he said.

In addition to Forte, another of Betty Cabral’s relatives, niece Teresa Regan, told how she kept asking her aunt to come back to live in her home

state of Massachusetts but that she always wanted to stay in Florida.

Regan said that the last time she spoke to her aunt, Cabral told her that she wanted to come back home but that Del Rio told her she couldn’t afford to go.

“I hate him for that,” Regan said. “That just goes to show what kind of person he is.”

Forte, during comments in court, told the judge a little about her aunt and uncle and how they enjoyed living in Florida, where they made friends.

“I just wanted to give the judge an idea of who they were,” she said after the hearing. “They were a lovely couple. This was their dream and then they came upon this opportunistic vulture who ingratiated himself to them and took advantage of them.”

Forte said she appreciated the efforts of Assistant State Attorney Aleathea McRoberts and sheriff’s office detectives, and was grateful to have a chance to let the judge know that allegations from Del Rio

that she and her relatives didn’t care about her aunt were untrue.

“I wanted the judge to know how reprehensible the false story he was telling was,” she said.

Need for caution

Forte, who flew down from Massachusetts for the hearing, said she hopes this case will alert other seniors to the need to be cautious while entrusting others with money.

To help older Floridians avoid becoming victims of financial fraud, the state Department of Elder Affairs created a tip sheet that includes a warning for seniors not to sign anything they don’t understand.

Other tips include:

- Check your bank statements regularly for unauthorized withdrawals.
- Don’t sign blank checks allowing others to fill in the amounts.
- Request assistance from your bank, which may be able to help you control access to your account. ★

Boca Raton

End date for I-95’s new interchange delayed for a week

By Mary Hladky

Completion of major work on the Diverging Diamond Interchange at Glades Road and Interstate 95 was briefly delayed but expected to be finished on April 3.

The Florida Department of Transportation had intended to close the interchange — including traffic on Glades Road at I-95 — March 24 through March 27 to complete its configuration. Instead, the closures were pushed back

to March 31 to April 3, which is after *The Coastal Star’s* deadline for this edition.

The bulk of the project was forecast to be completed the morning of April 3.

“The unforeseen delay is due to an issue with material procurement necessary to complete the weekend operation,” said project spokesperson Andrea Pacini Baynham.

The final work involved the completion of a fourth lane in each direction to allow traffic to move more quickly on Glades Road through the

interchange and improve safety, officials said.

The project won’t be completely finished until May 1, though. Still to be done are the removal of old ramps and creation of drainage ponds, which will be graded and sodded.

The FDOT and Boca Raton have worked together to synchronize the interchange’s traffic signals to further alleviate delays and congestion.

The state and the city have five cameras on the project, which allows

them to make tweaks as they go. Aurelio Matos, the FDOT senior project engineer for the interchange, said there have been no issues with people driving in the wrong direction.

The project was launched in March 2021. The new interchange opened in “temporary condition” on Jan. 30. But without all the planned lanes open, and with light synchronization issues still being ironed out, drivers on Glades Road faced sporadic backups over the past two months. ★

Boca Raton

Bicyclist on morning ride killed at Federal and Palmetto Park Road

By Mary Hladky

Two days after Mayor Scott Singer proclaimed March as “bicycle month” in the city, a crash claimed a bicyclist’s life and highlighted residents’ concerns about pedestrian and bicyclist safety on East Palmetto Park Road.

Bicyclist Mark Rudow, 66, of Boca Raton, was killed around 8 a.m. March 3 when a northbound 2015 Dodge pickup truck, turning from North Federal Highway onto East Palmetto Park Road, struck him as he was crossing the intersection while riding northbound in the bicycle lane.

The driver, who was not identified by the Boca Raton Police Services Department,

was issued a citation for making an unlawful right turn.

Speaking about Rudow’s death, avid cyclist Jim Wood, a contributor to the BocaFirst blog, said, “When something like that happens, it raises awareness of the risks of cycling. It’s a concern.”

Beachside residents have long sought a revamp of the stretch of Palmetto Park Road from the Intracoastal Waterway to State Road A1A to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety as well as the road’s appearance.

On March 28, the City Council approved hiring Alta Planning + Design consultants to draw up plans for making improvements along the span from Federal

Highway to the Intracoastal.

That project was spearheaded by former Deputy Mayor Andrea O’Rourke and land use attorney Ele Zachariades.

“We are very concerned” about the fatal crash, said Katie Barr MacDougall, president of the Riviera Civic Association, shortly after meeting with County Commissioner Marci Woodward about the changes she feels are needed on the eastern portion of the roadway.

From 2020 through 2022, crashes involving three pedestrians and three bicyclists, one of whom was seriously injured, took place along Palmetto Park Road from Federal Highway

to A1A, according to the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency.

Lifelong cyclist Les Wilson, also a BocaFirst contributor, thinks he knows how the fatal crash occurred. The truck driver probably was looking left to see any oncoming traffic and may not have been aware of the cyclist moving on his right side. The cyclist wouldn’t have known the driver intended to turn right unless he used the turn signal, he said.

The City Council unanimously approved a resolution on Oct. 25 to designate Boca as a “Vision Zero city” as part of a national program to reach a goal of no severe traffic injuries or deaths. They also directed

staff to create a plan to achieve that goal.

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the city a \$300,000 grant on Feb. 1 to pay for that plan.

“Vision Zero, that is a game changer in the city,” Wilson said.

In an effort to help the city reach the goal, BocaFirst launched a Vision Zero Project page on its blog.

It includes a detailed map of city bike lanes that Wilson compiled after riding 300 miles of them and a link that allows residents to report bicycle infrastructure problems.

Wilson sees Vision Zero as an answer to making the streets safer for bicyclists. ★

Highland Beach

Stern back on commission as vice mayor for a year

Stand-in Commissioner David Stern has returned to the dais for a year in an



Stern

elevated role in Highland Beach.

Late last month, commissioners unanimously appointed him vice mayor less than a week

after he finished a temporary stint filling three months of the unexpired term of Peggy Gossett-Seidman, now a state representative.

Stern’s latest appointment comes after Vice Mayor Natasha Moore became mayor following

Mayor Doug Hillman’s death earlier in March.

In choosing Stern to fill the one year remaining in the vice mayor’s term, commissioners cited his extensive experience on town boards and his three months on the commission.

Stern has served on the Financial Advisory Board, the Charter Review Board and on a committee auditing the town’s water plant. He also chaired the Code Enforcement Board and the Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

A 25-year-plus resident of Highland Beach, Stern is also president of Highland Place Condominium.

— Rich Pollack

Dredging offshore will continue through April

By Steve Plunkett

Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co. is back offshore pumping sand from the ebb shoal just south of the Boca Raton Inlet to beaches south of the inlet.

The roughly 1 mile of beaches between the inlet and the city limit with Deerfield Beach will remain open to the public except for about 500 feet around each day’s active area.

The \$6.5 million project started in March and is scheduled to be completed by May 1. The city’s permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection does not allow sand to be deposited on the beaches from May to November to protect nesting sea turtles.

While signs on State Road A1A say turtle season is March 1 to Oct. 31, intense nesting does not begin that soon.

The turtle conservation program at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, which monitors the city’s 5 miles of beaches every morning during the season, as of March 27 reported only two leatherback nests and no loggerhead or green turtle nests.

Boca Raton routinely nourishes its south beach every seven years, rotating the work with projects on its central and north beaches. Hurricanes and other storms can lead to emergency sand projects.

The cost of the current work will be partly offset by grants from Palm Beach County and the state DEP.

The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District uses its tax revenue to pay for 50% of beach nourishment projects.

Through separate contracts, Great Lakes will also pump sand onto Deerfield Beach and its southern neighbor, Hillsboro Beach. Those municipalities are paying for their own work, supplemented by state and federal money.

Besides widening beaches for visitors, moving sand south helps keep the Boca Raton Inlet navigable to boaters.

“So excited to hear they are dredging the Boca inlet! Needed badly, it has been a little bumpy on the north side going out!!” Boca Raton boater Cindy Galiardo posted on Facebook. ★

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Along the Coast

Turtle nesting season gets underway

March brings five minutes of spring to subtropical South Florida.

It also heralds eight months of sea turtle nesting season, which usually draws more than 20,000 female loggerhead, leatherback, Kemp's ridley and hawksbill turtles to Palm Beach County shores to dig nests and lay their eggs in a cycle that has continued for millennia.

That annual cycle also brings out teams of professionals and volunteers who devote their mornings to monitoring and tagging nests, ensuring that obstacles to nesting are cleared and making sure lighting that might confuse hatchlings is redirected.

Here's a look at the people who monitor our shores, ensuring that cycle that has continued for thousands of years can continue uninterrupted, at least in southern Palm Beach County.



Rebecca Germany, sea turtle conservation assistant at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton, washes the ATV used for turtle monitoring following her early morning beach patrol.



Ecological Associates Inc. environmental monitor Michelle Simpson clears sargassum from a leatherback turtle nest in Delray Beach. It was the first recorded turtle nest in the state in 2023. The eggs were laid in a nest so early in the season, Feb. 16, that it caught EAI personnel off guard and they needed to involve Gumbo Limbo in the marking of the nest because they did not have their equipment on hand for the season. Simpson has worked as a turtle monitor for four years, with this being her first year with EAI. The group is responsible for a little over three miles along Delray Beach.



EAI environmental monitor Michelle Simpson has a tattoo of a leatherback on her right leg and another turtle tattoo on her left wrist.



Lexie Dvoracek logs disorienting and distracting lighting conditions during her first lighting survey of the 2023 turtle nesting season along the shore at Gulf Stream. Dvoracek is the conservation program manager for Sea Turtle Adventures.

Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

GUMBO LIMBO

Continued from page 1

said, following the resignation of veterinarian Dr. Maria Chadam and the firings of the rehab program's coordinator, Whitney Crowder, and her assistant, Emily Mirowski.

Chadam, who cared for Gumbo Limbo's turtles for



Chadam

more than a decade, said in a resignation letter that the time was overdue for her to focus on other aspects of her life.

"A culmination of events has quelled my optimism to a point where I cannot continue as a key member of this organization. This decision does not reflect a concern related to any one person or on any specific event," she wrote in her Feb. 13 letter giving 30 days' notice.

John Holloway, CEO and president of the Coastal Stewards, answered the next day. "Effective immediately, your services under the contract are no longer required," he wrote.

Holloway

"Once she resigned, that put our permit in temporary status," Connolly said.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission issues permits for sea turtle research and rehabilitation, with one provision being that a rehab program must have veterinarians on staff.

Crowder, who was the FWC permit holder for the rehab unit, started working at Gumbo Limbo in 2012 as the assistant coordinator. Mirowski,



Crowder

an eight-year staffer, gained worldwide attention in 2019 with a Facebook post about a baby turtle that died after eating 104 bits of plastic. Both were laid off March 13 and ordered not to return to Gumbo Limbo, but are being kept on the payroll until May 22.

"Unfortunately, as far as the staff members ... it didn't work out the way we intended," Connolly said, praising their contributions to the program. "We would have hoped they stayed onboard."

With Crowder, the permit holder, no longer employed, the FWC ordered that the turtles be relocated.

Mirowski and Crowder say they were "blindsided" by their terminations when they showed up for individual conferences with city Human Resources Director Danielle Olson. They thought they were going to be given details of what to them



Staff and volunteers at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center had to move nine sea turtles to other facilities because Gumbo Limbo no longer had a license to treat them. **Photo provided**



Tanks sit empty after the sea turtle patients were moved to other treatment centers. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

was a vague transition plan.

"I thought HR was there to help you," Crowder said.

In a Feb. 11 letter to human resources, Crowder accused the Coastal Stewards of having "unstable, toxic leadership."

Holloway, she wrote, "manipulates and lies to staff to play people against each other."

In an interview with *The Coastal Star*, Crowder said Holloway also told her that she was overpaid and that her job could be handled part-time.

The city's spokeswoman downplayed the situation.

"Obviously some people aren't happy about certain things," Connolly said.

Holloway forwarded an emailed request for his reaction to Crowder's assertions to Melissa Perlman, his new public relations consultant.

"Unfortunately John has nothing further to say about past HR/personnel issues involving city employees," Perlman responded.

Dr. Mike Chouster, who was listed on the permit as Chadam's backup veterinarian, said he "could have easily provided care if they wanted" but the city instead fired Crowder.

"A lot of what happened doesn't add up," he said, noting that Crowder's and Mirowski's

positions were fully funded in the city's budget and that no one at the city responded to him when he volunteered his services.

"A lot of the problems stemmed from their CEO," Chouster said.

At this point, he said, he would turn down a job offer "on principle" unless the city and the nonprofit reorganize. "I think nobody's going to want to" work there.

Manjunath Pendakur, who chairs the Coastal Stewards board of trustees, said they firmly support Holloway.

"We are relying on his sound management and excellent working relationships" with the city, the FWC and others, he said.

Beach monitoring continues

The changes in the "hospital-type" rehab program do not affect the nature center's sea turtle conservation program, which has a separate FWC permit to monitor nests and release hatchlings, said David Anderson, who coordinates the "beach-related" activities.

"My nesting permit is not affected by the current situation at Gumbo Limbo. My staff and I are operating as normal every morning at sunrise conducting

nesting surveys," he said.

The hatchling drop-off box is still at the center, and Anderson's team will still respond to phone calls about injured, sick or dead sea turtles, taking them wherever the FWC directs, he said. Gumbo Limbo's emergency number is 561-212-8691; the FWC is at 888-404-3922.

On March 25 his team rescued a turtle in the Intracoastal Waterway near the Spanish River Boulevard bridge that had been hit by a boat propeller, made it comfortable overnight, and then took it the next morning to the Marinelife Center in Juno Beach, he said.

Some of the relocated turtles might recover and be released back into the ocean before the FWC rehab permit is reauthorized. Perlman said the Coastal Stewards have hired an experienced veterinarian, turtle program manager and turtle specialist who will start work and be officially announced in early April.

In an earlier email to interested parties, Holloway said the center's two "resident" turtles were on "a long overdue vacation" and urged his membership to donate money to bring them back.

"Of course, we will miss Morgan and Cane while they are away, but everyone is committed to welcoming them home as soon as possible," Holloway wrote, promising "exciting updates" would appear on the group's social media and website.

What's next for fired staff?

Mirowski is getting married in May, but because she lost her job, she and her fiancé will hold off on their plan to start a family, she said.

Crowder was less certain. "I know my future will bring me back to sea turtles, but I am just not sure what that looks like at this time," she said.

A person identified only as "Concerned Citizen" at www.change.org started an internet petition to "Bring Back the Sea Turtles" on March 22. By March 28 it had more than 3,000 signatures.

One of those signing was Chadam, who wrote:

"The city council should be ashamed. The nature

center management should be ashamed. People aren't thronging to the nature center to look at some butterflies, a broken down tower, lack of parking, and a building full of mold and termites ... and the beloved pufferfish is gone so good luck!"

Kirby, the center's celebrity porcupine puffer fish, died Feb. 26.

Another signer was Cody Mott, who works for Inwater Research Group Inc. in Jensen Beach, rescuing sea turtles trapped at Florida Power & Light Co.'s nearby nuclear reactor. Mott was invited to join the Coastal Stewards' Science and Technology Advisory Committee in 2022.

"Mr. Holloway never consulted the committee during the process to transition sea turtle rehabilitation from the City of Boca Raton to Coastal Stewards," Mott wrote on the petition. When Chadam resigned, "the committee was not consulted. ... In the 12 months I sat on STAC it never met, despite Mr. Holloway being the chair."

The city started negotiating last fall for the Coastal Stewards to assume responsibility for the rescue, rehabilitation and release program. As part of the arrangement, donations collected at the door, which used to go to the Stewards, will now be used for maintenance and improvements.

The city owns Gumbo Limbo and the surrounding Red Reef Park; tax dollars from the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District cover all salaries, operations and improvements.

The rehab program has grown tremendously over the years, Connolly said.

While the city and the Beach and Park District "want to support the success of the program, both organizations believe the animal rescue and veterinary component of this program can be better served by a nonprofit organization with fundraising capabilities, membership support, and the flexibility that local government agencies don't have," she wrote in an email. Years ago, she noted, Boca Raton transitioned all operations of the Tri-County Animal Rescue west of the city to a nonprofit. ★

Boynton Beach

Street closure for Pierce project gets OK despite neighbor's protest

By Tao Woolfe

A neighbor of The Pierce has told the city that an approved street closure to accommodate the \$73 million downtown development project would cut off easy access to his property.

Attorney Aaron Williams, who represents the owner of property at 209 N. Federal Highway, declined to say last month whether he had filed suit against the city.

Williams did appear before the City Commission on March 9 to say that the closure of a section of Northeast First Avenue would deprive the property owner of the ability to develop his parcel.

He said the owner, 209 North Federal Highway LLC, would be prevented from obtaining "the highest and best use for the property economically now and in the future" if the abandonment is allowed.

The owner had hoped to have a 125-room hotel built on the site, Williams said.

Williams' traffic engineer, Joaquin Vargas, told the City Commission that the street closure would cause serious traffic tie-ups and safety concerns. It would also reduce the five ways to get to 209 N. Federal to three, and only one of those routes would be an easy one for drivers.



The property owner at 209 complained because parts of Northeast First Avenue and two alleys will be shut during construction. **Staff map**

City commissioners, wary of lawsuits that shut down developments and result in huge legal expenditures, asked many questions of city Planning Director Amanda Radigan, the developer and the city attorney before voting unanimously to approve closures of the three rights of way.

Radigan said the police, fire, engineering and planning staff had all looked at the impact of closing three rights of way and determined that the impact on traffic would be acceptable.

City Attorney Michael Cirullo said he could not predict the outcome of any litigation against the city, but advised that the commission could continue to support the development of The Pierce. Plans for the complex at 115 N. Federal call for 300 apartments and space for offices, restaurants and retail establishments.

"A taking case is a lawsuit for damages. It would not stop the project per se," Cirullo said.

Michael Weiner, attorney for Pierce developer Affiliated Development, said the commissioners should trust the opinions of the many city staff members who reviewed the project.

"You have done your due diligence," Weiner said.

"There's no substantive competent evidence" that the 225-foot closure of Northeast First Avenue would truly shut off access to the property at 209 N. Federal, Weiner added. "It's saber rattling and should not dissuade you."

The commissioners agreed after more than an hour of discussion.

They did reiterate, however, that Affiliated must work with the owner

of the adjacent Ace Hardware store to ensure that delivery trucks and emergency vehicles can easily get in and out of her store.

Commissioners Thomas Turkin and Woodrow Hay asked why the complaining Federal Highway neighbor waited so long to express concerns about traffic.

"I will not be bullied or intimidated by lawsuit threats," Turkin said.

The unanimous vote was the last hurdle Affiliated had to clear with the commission to proceed with the project.

Besides agreeing to the street closures, the commission gave final approval to Affiliated's requests to rezone the 2.3-acre complex to a new mixed-use downtown core designation; tweak the master and site plans; redesign the parking garage; and abandon the alleyways.

The Pierce will offer 150 units each of workforce and market-rate luxury rental apartments and 17,000 square feet of commercial area.

It will feature public art projects, including murals and a huge, perforated metal corner treatment on the south parking garage emblazoned with nautical images and lettering that says "Welcome to Boynton Beach."

The garages will offer 450 spaces, 150 of which will be for public parking. ★

Briny Breezes

Council decides against research trip to see homes on stilts

By Joe Capozzi

As part of an ambitious resiliency project, town leaders are working on a land-use proposal that would give Briny Breezes residents a flood-protection tool allowing them to raise their homes on stilts and pilings.

But their research will not include a field trip to a waterfront mobile home community in Martin County that has homes on stilts, as some members of the town's planning and zoning board had suggested.

"I know that flies in the face of due diligence, perhaps, but I find this to be counterproductive," Town Manager William Thrasher said March 23 when he recommended against a visit.

A trip to Ocean Breeze, a town of 300 residents on the Indian River next to Jensen Beach, would give Briny Breezes leaders a physical look at what raised homes in Briny might look like.

But the idea was proposed at a time when on-again, off-again efforts by some in Briny to market the town for sale have caused divisions among residents, who are also concerned about the effects of rising sea levels on their coastal town.

Briny Breezes' proposed code changes call for the creation of a district allowing homes damaged by storms and floods



In one of Ocean Breeze's residential districts, a single-family manufactured home sits on a traditional foundation next to others elevated on concrete stilts. The one in the center has an exterior elevator. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

to rebuild on stilts or pilings.

"This code may not be perfect on first go-around, but it would at least establish a tool by which a person could improve their home. And if there are major damages we have tools in which we can allow reconstruction," Thrasher said.

The planning and zoning board is still working on the language in the code, but it could be presented to the Town Council later this year.

Thrasher said he has heard "rumors" around Briny Breezes that "the purpose for this exercise is to create another Ocean Breeze. We all know that's not it. We all know that's not possible," Thrasher told the council.

"I am thinking that the tour is counterproductive and can

create more confusion than what we are already dealing with," he said.

Ocean Breeze and Briny Breezes are the only two Florida towns where residents live in a mobile home park bearing the name of the town, according to the census. Both towns are bordered by water.

But the similarities end there.

Briny is a co-op of individual shareholders, and any changes to Briny Breezes' code would require not only approval from the Town Council, but also from Briny Breezes Inc., the corporation of homeowners who own the 43-acre mobile home park.

Ocean Breeze, which has a Publix-anchored commercial district, is managed by a Michigan-based company that

owns other manufactured homes and RV communities across the United States.

"More than half of their community is on stilts, up high. It is different from Briny in the fact that it is owned by a single entity that rents space to these people. It's not a co-op like Briny," Jerry Lower, Briny's planning and zoning director, told the council.

"It's the same thing as Briny as far as dealing with sea-level rise being right on the Intracoastal," he said. "That's where the huge similarities are."

Lower is publisher of *The Coastal Star*.

If any field trip were taken, it could only involve one member of the planning board and one member of the Town Council because of Florida's Sunshine

Law, which requires open meetings.

Council member Liz Loper said she liked the idea of a field trip.

"I would just like to see what one of the raised places would look like. Not to say that's going to be all Briny, but if someone wanted to do it, you could say, 'Well, this is kind of what it would look like,'" she said.

A visualization can be accomplished by going online and seeing photographs of homes with stilts in Ocean Breeze, council President Christina Adams said.

"My big concerns are grouping a lot of us together, the Sunshine Law and misrepresenting what our code is trying to do. I don't want to do that," Adams said before the council agreed to cancel the field trip.

"We want people to be able to build and rebuild and have safe and healthy homes they can live in, but it's not going to be another Ocean Breeze. We are always going to be Briny Breezes, and by taking a group of people, I don't want to misrepresent what we are doing in the town, either."

In other March action, the Town Council named Adams as president. Sue Thaler, a council member for 12 years, had been the previous president.

Budget hearings will be held Sept. 14 and Sept. 28. ★

Along the Coast

Yes, your auto insurance rates have increased in the past year: Here's why

By Charles Elmore

For all the charms of Palm Beach County's southern coast, driving does not always represent one of the unalloyed delights. Now motorists face the prospect of thinking about ways to steer through some of the nation's biggest car insurance bills in 2023.

"We are seeing increases across the board from all of the auto insurance carriers we work with, anywhere between 25% and 50%," said John G. Backer, one of the owners of the Gracey-Backer Inc. independent insurance agency in Delray Beach.

The South Florida region — including Miami through Palm Beach County — ranks as the most expensive among 25 top U.S. metro areas with an average car insurance premium of \$3,447, according to research by Bankrate.com. That's more than double the average annual premium of \$1,328 in Boston.

That's not what every driver in the region automatically pays, but the broad strokes seem clear enough.

What to do? It's a moment to consider some serious shopping around for what competing insurers charge, looking for discounts for things like taking a safe-driver course, or trying to lower premiums by choosing higher deductibles, people in the business say. That means the driver agrees to pay more out of pocket if accidents occur.

"Auto insurance in South Florida is going to be expensive regardless of who you are insured with," Backer said. "Knowing what discounts are available and tweaking your deductibles should help offset these higher premiums."

Debt can do damage

Some ways to lower the bill may not be obvious or widely known. One involves the advice to "clean up your financial house," in the words of Harvey Brown, owner of a Delray Beach-based agency bearing his name.

He is referring to the impact of credit scores, measures of how well someone handles debt. This is a controversial part of the rate-setting business, because it affects premiums apart from a person's tickets or accidents or actual driving record. Industry officials say it does correlate to risk to the insurer, though some consumer advocates argue it is not fair to good drivers who accumulate some debt.

In any case, the Bankrate survey captures how it can matter.

If a driver's credit score decreases from "good" to "poor," insurance costs can go up anywhere from \$37 more in Seattle to \$4,989 more in Detroit.

So where possible, it might be wise to tackle unpaid bills or avoid new debt even if it might seem unrelated to insurance, Brown said.

Whether drivers are affluent executives or seniors on fixed incomes, no one particularly enjoys higher premiums, he said.

"When they get a big increase they get pretty mad at the agent," Brown said. "The first thing we say is we're going to check with other companies."

Both home and car insurance have become a source of heartburn around the region lately.

In the South Florida market, car insurance costs account for 5.51% of the typical household budget, Bankrate found. That is about 2.5 times the percentage in Charlotte, North Carolina, for example.

As for adding a teen driver, welcome to the priciest place to do that — an additional \$3,754, Bankrate figured. Compare that to an extra \$1,666 to add a 16-year-old to the policy in Portland, Oregon.

"The increases are due to a variety of factors," Backer said.

These include rising costs for auto materials and repairs, more advanced technology in cars, appreciating car values, availability of new and used cars for purchase, and rising population

Priciest Car Insurance

Most expensive metro areas

Area	Annual premium	% of household income
South Florida	\$3,447	5.51%
Tampa	\$3,302	5.25%
Detroit	\$3,067	4.77%
Orlando	\$3,078	4.55%
Los Angeles	\$2,641	3.33%

Source: Bankrate.com 2023 True Cost of Auto Insurance Report
www.bankrate.com/insurance/car/the-true-cost-of-auto-insurance-in-2023/

which leads to more congested streets, thus increasing the likelihood of accidents, he said.

Area growth drives up prices

South Florida's popularity as a place to live has figured in other recent insurance narratives. People with the means to do so bought a lot of houses in the county during the coronavirus pandemic, driving up property prices, which in turn lifted home insurance rates. That is because the cost to repair or replace a damaged home has gone up.

With car insurance, some of this is related to issues that came up during the pandemic but are still playing out in the cycles of how insurers set rates, analysts say.

"Although inflation has shown signs of slowing lately, we expect rates to continue to rise in 2023," said Bankrate analyst Cate Deventer. "Full coverage car insurance premiums rose due in part to inflation, supply chain disruptions and labor shortages. These factors all individually increase the cost of claims, and when combined, drove up the cost to repair or replace vehicles significantly."

Nationally, auto insurance costs climbed 13.72% in 2023, to \$2,014 per year, which is 2.93% of the average household income, Bankrate figured. That compared to \$1,771 in 2022.

Quoted rates are based on a 40-year-old male and female couple, driving a 2021 Toyota Camry, and carrying a package of typical coverage that amounts to more than the bare legal minimum in most states. That includes \$500 deductibles for collision and comprehensive coverage.

Some insurers permit higher deductibles such as \$1,000. That costs the customer more if a claim occurs, but helps keep annual premium costs down and saves money in accident-free stretches.

"Overall, higher deductibles should save you money over the long run," Backer said.

Fraud schemes and a high rate of cases going to court in Florida also drive up costs, but drivers can take the wheel into their own hands in several ways, said Mark Friedlander, Florida-based spokesman for the industry-funded Insurance Information Institute.

"Auto insurance is the most competitive insurance market in the country," he said.

Bundling home and auto policies with the same insurer can provide discounts where available, for example.

Ask about discounts for things like not having an accident in the last three years or willingness to pay the full premium up front, he said.

"Shop your coverage," Friedlander said. "Get multiple quotes to compare costs, discounts offered and coverage levels." ★



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Business Spotlight

Soloviev Group picks up \$32 million of downtown Delray property

The Soloviev Group, led by Chairman Stefan Soloviev, purchased properties in downtown Delray Beach for \$32 million in February. They were located at 11 S. Swinton Ave., 2 E. Atlantic Ave., 203-209 E. Atlantic Ave., 9 NE Second Ave. and 5 SE Second Ave.

The Soloviev Group, based in New York City, “is a multisector company that’s been around since the 1970s,” said CEO Michael Hershman. “It has real estate holdings in New York, Colorado and California and we own agriculture. It’s one of the 26 largest landowners in the United States.”

Hershman moved to Delray Beach five years ago. Soloviev moved to Delray four years ago. Both are now full-time residents. They opened an office on Atlantic Avenue a year ago.

“I never thought about living in Florida,” Hershman said. “My wife and I have friends here and we visited and fell in love with Delray. Stefan came down to visit me and fell in love with the place; it’s hard not to. Delray is walkable, friendly and vibrant and it felt like a perfect place to live.”

“We are excited to be part of the community and to be investing in it.”



Soloviev is happy with the tenants and has no plans to redevelop the sites, says the CEO. Staff graphic with Google Maps



Soloviev



Hershman

tenants and we love the way the properties are operated. We look at Delray as a high-growth market, and since we are residents of Delray, we want to keep it as it is: a charming village by the sea.”

Tenants include Atlantic Avenue Yacht Club, Bull Bar, Tin Roof, Coco & Co., and Rack’s Fish House & Oyster Bar.

Representing Soloviev in these deals were Jeff Kelly and John Jaspert of CBRE. Dominic Montazemi and Mike Ciadella of Cushman & Wakefield represented the sellers, which were entities managed by Delray Beach resident Steven Cohen.

Pebb Capital, a real estate and private equity investment firm, broke ground in February

on Sundry Village, a mixed-use development at 22 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach.

Located on about 7 acres, with architecture by Gensler and RLC Architects, Sundry Village will include 99,000 square feet of Class A offices, more than 28,000 square feet of retail and dining space, and multiple structures listed on the local and national registers

NATURAL DIAMONDS VS LAB GROWN DIAMONDS - & THE PRESSURE TO CHOOSE

by Meagan Blanco

In a rapidly changing world, “Lab Grown Diamonds” have become a hot topic - gaining traction as an ethical, cost-effective alternative to traditional natural diamonds. However, lab diamonds fall short in a number of key ways, all of which are important to consider before making a major purchase. As jewelry experts, we’ve been a part of love stories for decades, and choosing your perfect diamond is where your story begins.

The allure of diamonds has always been that they are an incredible, natural product of the earth that took millions of years to form. That appeal is lost when

they are mass-produced in a factory. Lab created diamonds are not finite like their natural counterparts, so there is no guarantee that they will hold any value in the future particularly as their supply continues to soar. In a statement from the Natural Diamond Council, they underscore that “Diamonds are becoming rarer every day because no new significant deposits have been discovered in about 30 years. However, lab-grown diamonds can be manufactured in potentially unlimited quantities similar to any manufactured product, thus they are not finite and cannot be considered rare.” You may save costs today

by purchasing a lab grown diamond, but it may be worth next-to-nothing in the future. Furthermore, many retailers do not accept trades on lab created diamonds, thus leaving its reliability up for debate.

There is nothing rare or distinct about a lab grown diamond. Natural diamonds are considered heirlooms often passed on through generations; they represent lifelines - and can be traced back billions of years to the deepest corners of the earth. Many claim a lab created diamond has the same physical and chemical properties as a natural diamond with exception to their origin. It begs the question: If it looks

like a diamond, and is created like a diamond, then it must be a diamond? The marketing behind lab grown stones fails to give a balanced view of reality. While there is an appeal to purchase a stone with the same molecular makeup and look just like a natural diamond, the similarities end there. The picture is crystal clear - lab grown diamonds are almost worthless in cultural or heirloom value, and verifiably far less in financial value than natural diamonds. They are a product of technology, not of nature, and there is a clear lack of transparency to the consumer.

Lab grown diamonds are created in factories using either extreme heat or extreme pressure, and are marketed with words such as “ethical” and “sustainable”. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says lab grown diamond companies’ claims of eco-friendliness are “difficult to substantiate.” The FTC has also issued several warnings in the past year to jewelry brands claiming that lab grown alternatives are sustainable. Growing diamonds in a lab requires an exorbitant amount of electricity using extreme temperatures and pressures, which must be maintained constantly for weeks or months depending on

the size of the diamond being grown. Brands and consumers are too readily embracing lab created diamonds as a sustainable solution without scrutinizing their full impacts, while overlooking progress made within the mined diamond industry. Conversely, diamond mines have drastically improved mining practices to not only protect the environment around them, but also improve it. According to the Natural Diamonds Council, “Not only does the modern diamond mining industry depend on natural resources, but it is committed to reducing our impact on the Earth as much as possible. The many members that make up our core alliance are all actively working on programs and initiatives that will reduce our collective carbon footprint.”

As a third-generation family jeweler, we strive to educate our clients so they may make an informed decision on purchases that keep family history alive from one generation to the next. Reflecting on the future of the diamond industry, it remains unclear whether the lab created diamond buzz will endure the test of time.

Nevertheless, true love is rare - and so is a natural diamond.

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of historic places that will be preserved. These include the Sundry House, The Rectory and the Cathcart House.

Blewater Builders will be the general contractor, with delivery expected summer 2024. CBRE oversees Sundry Village's office leasing, while **Vertical Real Estate** handles retail leasing.

Changes are happening at **Mizner Park** in Boca Raton, with the opening of new eateries: **Penelope**, **American Social**, **Shaker & Pie**, and **Eddie V's Prime Seafood**. Penelope, with a New Orleans-inspired menu, will occupy the 1,500-square-foot space that was Kapow! American Social will take the space formerly occupied by Truluck's Seafood, Steak and Crab House. Shaker & Pie will open this summer where the Dubliner was once located. Eddie V's Prime Seafood, planning a May opening, will take over the space occupied by Ouzo Bay.

Also, **The Shade Store** is now open, **Spirits and Spice** plans to open in April and **Visual Eyes** will double its existing store, taking over the space that was previously occupied by Le Macaron.

A trust in the name of Michigan-based developer **Frances Mocer** paid \$28 million in February for a six-bedroom, 10,661-square-foot estate on a .56-acre lot at 372 E. **Alexander Palm Road, Boca Raton**. Mocer is a founding partner of a family real estate company that has built communities throughout Michigan.

The seller was 372 Alexander Palm Trust, with local attorney **Jeffrey A. Baskies** as trustee. The home was built in 2022 by Boca Raton-based SRD Building Corp. **David W. Roberts** of **Royal Palm Properties** represented both sides of the deal.

Daniel E. Edwards bought adjacent properties at 553 **Harbor Court** and 526 **N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach**, from **Michelle Broda** for \$22 million, according to public records.

The 12,000-square-foot, five-bedroom main house and 8,000-square-foot, two-bedroom guest house border the ocean and cover almost an acre.

Broda is the widow of **Randall Broda**, who died in March 2022. He was president of **Jay-Bee Oil & Gas** in Cairo, West Virginia. Edwards is a real estate investor. **Compass** agent **Warren Heeg** and **Thomas Reutter** of **Reutter Investments** represented the seller. **Diana Varhley**, an agent with **Beachfront Properties Real Estate**, represented the buyer.

TRX, a fitness company that specializes in strength-training systems, will open a facility at 1110 S. **Federal Highway, Delray Beach**, where it will have

offices, workout facilities and two film studios.

Ingrid Kennemer, a broker with **Coastal Commercial Group**, represented TRX with its multiyear lease in the 12,000-square-foot building, previously occupied by Office Depot. **Drew Schaul**, **Paul Grossman** and **Alex Cesar** of **CBRE, Inc.** represented the landlord.

Moving its headquarters from San Francisco, TRX aims for a "revitalized" new start after being reacquired by its founder, retired Navy SEAL **Randy Hetrick**, who started the company in 2004. He sold his controlling interest in 2019, but in 2022, he bought it out of bankruptcy for \$8.4 million with **Jack Daly**, a Delray Beach resident and former partner at **Goldman Sachs** who will serve as CEO of the company.

"Delray is a vibrant fitness and technology business environment and we think it's a perfect place to have the business here," Daly said.

He also noted that Delray Beach resident **Mark Fields**, former CEO of **Ford Motor Company**, is on TRX's board, as is retired astronaut **Susan Kilrain**.

Florida Atlantic University and **Florida Power & Light Co.**, through its charitable arm the **NextEra Energy Foundation**, have agreed to a four-year collaboration to establish the **FPL Center for Intelligent Energy Technologies**. The center will be housed in the university's College of Engineering and Computer Science.

The \$1 million gift was approved by the university's board of trustees. The new center will focus on research relating to the energy sector's smart technologies and products, along with workforce development.

Yufei Tang, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, will serve as the director of the center. **James VanZwieten Jr.**, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Ocean and Mechanical Engineering, will serve as associate director. The gift also allows for the creation of the **FPL InETech Center** scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students.

The **Boca Raton Airport Authority** received the **Corporate Community Service Award** from the **George Snow Scholarship Fund**. In addition to its contributions to the Snow fund, the authority established a scholarship in 2017 that offers financial aid to Palm Beach County students pursuing careers in aviation and aerospace. The award was presented in February at the **Rhinestone Cowboy Ball**, held at Boca West Country Club.

The **Delray Beach Housing Authority** was recognized

by **Eat Better Live Better**, which provides healthy food to residents living in the authority's properties.

"When Eat Better Live Better needed help securing toys for our families, the **Delray Beach Housing Authority** stepped up and helped us to secure over 100 toys for our families. In addition, they have helped identify other avenues of support for our programs," said **Debra Tendrich**, founder and president of **Eat Better Live Better**.

The top producing **Diamond Star Award** was presented to **Tripta Chawla** as **Lang Realty** recognized its 2022 top agents and teams at a breakfast at **Hunters Run Country Club** in **Boynton Beach**.

Boynton Beach resident **Clovie Moodie** was elected to **Palm Health Foundation's** board of trustees. Moodie has worked as an education consultant, a leadership development consultant, a classroom teacher, a workshop developer/facilitator and coordinator of several programs and systems. She retired in 2016 after 40 years of service.

Currently, she is vice chair of the **Art Advisory Board** for the city of **Boynton Beach** and the **Adopt a School** coordinator for

the **Florida State Leadership Conference**. As a member of **Chapter EX** of the **Philanthropic Educational Organization**, she serves on several committees, and previously she served as the secretary of **KOP Mentoring Network**.

Katherine Alano was



Alano

appointed financial controller of **Boca Helping Hands** in February. Some of the executive roles she held were with the NFL's **Tampa Bay Buccaneers**, the **Straz Center**, **Veredus Corp.** and **Bugatchi Uomo**.

The **U.S. Association of Blind Athletes** has named 16 individuals who will serve as the organization's sport



Hutchison

ambassadors for 2023. Among them is sighted guide **Je'Von Hutchison** of **Boynton Beach**, a track and field athlete. He won a bronze medal in the 600 meters at the 2015 **USA Track & Field Indoor Championships**. Hutchison holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in business administration from **Hampton University**.

"As a pro track athlete and U.S. Paralympic guide, I have witnessed the tremendous

impact that sports for the blind can have on people's lives," he said. "Being a **USABA** sport ambassador, my goal is to raise awareness about the significance of sports for people with visual impairments and encourage more people to take part in these activities."

Feeding South Florida's fourth annual "Feed Your Creativity" art competition is underway and students are invited to participate. Winners will have their artwork displayed on one of **Feeding South Florida's** semi-trailer truck outer wraps, serving as a 36-foot moving billboard. This competition is part of **Feeding South Florida's** "Summer Hunger Ends Here" initiative, which aims to raise awareness and funds to end hunger for children during non-school months.

All participants' artwork will be displayed during gallery night, **May 17**, at the school of the first-place winner. Online submissions start **April 15** and must be submitted by **May 5**. Visit <https://feedingsouthflorida.org/events/> for more information, the competition toolkit, key dates, additional awards, and how to submit final artwork.



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

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Around Town

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April 2023

The Coastal  Star



Suzanne Perrotto of Rose's Daughter in Delray Beach with Guy Fieri on *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*. Photo provided

Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives



The Butcher and the Bar in Boynton Beach held a watch party when the restaurant appeared on Food Network's *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*. Seated at bar are (l-r): Renata Jaremko, Joe Piscchio, Elizabeth Greene and her husband, Graham. Foreground: Ashley Weber and Roy Madalinski. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Food Network
 star shines
 a spotlight on
 local eateries

By Faran Fagen

A hot dog with attitude, a giant and juicy food truck burger and short-rib pappardelle sure to make any mom proud all made their way into the culinary spotlight last month when celebrity chef Guy Fieri brought his Food Network show *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* to South Palm Beach County.

Of course, the food items shared the limelight with the chefs who “made them great” and with the restaurants where they have distinguished themselves as favorites.

Although the episodes aired in March, filming was done in December and the restaurateurs continue to savor the memories, photographs and the added business the exposure brought them.

Now back to the edible stars.

In Boynton Beach, the Butcher and the Bar's signature hot dog is a 100% Florida beef — no fillers — natural casing favorite. Head butcher Logan Gates grinds the meat with a variety of spices.

For just the right taste, the New York-style delicacy is smoked to cook it through

and cooled. For service, it's reheated on the grill, put on a split-top bun from Old School Bakery, and topped with a house-made sauerkraut and yellow mustard.

“Guy told us people are going to travel from around the state to eat these menu items, so you better stock up or they'll disappear,” co-owner Eric Anderson said.

The Butcher and the Bar (aired March 17) is one of five South Florida eateries featured in the latest season of *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*.

See DINERS on page AT5

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Philanthropy Notes

American Humane raises funds to support 'Pups4Patriots'

It was an evening of altruism for almost 200 supporters who came to celebrate man's best friend at American Humane's fifth annual "Pups4Patriots" dinner dance at Club Colette in Palm Beach.

To date, the program has delivered nearly 270 service dogs to U.S. military veterans — at no cost to them — to help with post-traumatic

stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries. The affair raised enough money to pair six more dogs with service men and women.

"There is no pill or therapy session that can put a smile on a vet's face like a wagging tail," American Humane CEO and President Robin Ganzert said. "We want every veteran to know that they do not need to face this battle alone."

For more information, call 800-227-4645 or visit www.americanhumane.org/program/military/

Cocktails in Paradise

The recent Cocktails in Paradise event — the second of three in the Historical Society of Palm Beach County's series — sold out once again, this time at La Coquille Club in Manalapan.

The Magnificent Morgans, an exhibit created for the event, showed images taken by the father-and-son photography duo of Bert and Richard Morgan. For more than half of the 20th century, their images preserved the lifestyles of the rich and famous and the area's culture.

Attendees also were treated to a presentation tracing the path of commercial air travel and proof that the first international trips were piloted in Palm Beach County prior to the August 1919 flight from London that is publicized as the earliest.

For more information, call 561-832-4164 or visit <https://pbchistory.org>.

Rhinestone Cowboy Ball

The George Snow Scholarship Fund had its 29th annual Rhinestone Cowboy Ball, with more than 300 guests who enjoyed dinner, live music, an open bar, casino games and wrestling with a mechanical alligator.

The event set a fundraising record, \$150,000 and counting. Proceeds support efforts to provide scholarships to students in need.

"We really can't thank our sponsors enough," CEO Tim Snow said. "Their commitment to the George Snow Scholarship Fund and our events has changed the lives of hundreds of deserving students."

Call 561-347-6799 or visit <https://scholarship.org>.



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Pay It Forward

Grand Awards Celebration

Boca West Country Club



April 18: This is the day members of Impact 100 Palm Beach County have been waiting for — when they announce which local organizations will receive \$100,000 grants that will help transform their nonprofit missions. Time is 10 a.m. for the mimosa reception and 11:30 a.m. for lunch and presentations. Cost to attend for non-member guests is \$60. RSVP at 561-336-4623 or impact100pbc.org. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Board members Holly Schuttler, Kelly Fleming, Kimberly Boldt-Cartwright and Jeannine Morris. **Photo provided**

Star Maker Awards

The Addison, Boca Raton



April 19: The Florida chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters will honor Lifetime Achievement Award winner Arlene Herson and raise funds for its scholarships, competitions and mentoring programs for performing and visual artists. Time is 5:30 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$350. Call 561-945-0999 or visit nsaflorida.org. **LEFT:** (l-r, sitting) Judi Asselta, Dr. Ronald Rubin, Shari Upbin, (standing) Kirsten Stephenson, Herson, N'Quavah Velazquez and Alyce Erickson. **Photo provided**

Pay It Forward

Note: Events are current as of 3/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL

Saturday - 4/8 - Boca Raton Regional Hospital's Sip, Shop and Celebrate

at J.McLaughlin, 426 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Clink and drink while browsing the merchandise knowing that 15 percent of sales will benefit the hospital's nursing program. Noon-4 pm. Free. 561-955-4142 or donate.brhh.com.

4/8 - Boca Raton Regional Hospital's Go Pink! Rock N Roll Dinner at Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Jam out to Living on a Bad Name, a Bon Jovi tribute band, at a favorite bar and brewery to raise money for the fight against breast cancer. 6 pm. \$35 show ticket, \$75 VIP ticket. 561-931-2889 or crazyunclemikes.com.

Tuesday - 4/11 - Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse's Heart of a Woman Luncheon at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 2425 W. Maya Palm Drive, Boca Raton. Celebrate the strength, courage and determination of women with keynote speaker Mildred Muhammad, a domestic-abuse advocate and survivor. 10:30 am silent auction, noon luncheon. \$195. 561-265-3797 or avdaonline.org.

Wednesday - 4/12 - CityHouse's Seaside Soirée at Colony Hotel & Cabaña Club, 525 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. Partner with a charity that provides hope and renewal for homeless single mothers and their children while indulging in dinner, live music and a silent auction. 6 pm. \$200. 561-571-0983 or cityhousedelray.com.

Friday - 4/14 - American Association of Caregiving Youth's Community Caregiving Champions Breakfast at Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center, 5150 Town Center Circle. Learn about the issues caregivers ages 18 and younger face at an event supporting solutions to improve their graduation rates and return a sense of normalcy to their lives. 8-10 am. \$100. 561-391-7401 or aacy.org.

Saturday - 4/15 - Boca Helping Hands' Monopoly Event & Casino Night

at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 2425 W. Maya Palm Drive, Boca Raton. Roll the dice at the annual evening of music, entertainment, auctions, gaming, cocktails, dinner and, of course, Monopoly. 6 pm. \$250. 561-417-0913 or bocahelpinghands.org/monopoly.

4/15 - Florida Atlantic University's President's Gala at 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Support student scholarships for those in the health field while enjoying an open bar, gourmet dining and live entertainment. 7 pm. \$300. 561-297-3000 or gala.fau.edu.

Tuesday - 4/18 - Impact 100 Palm Beach County's Grand Awards Celebration at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Dr., Boca Raton. Watch as nearly 1,000 women announce which local organizations will receive \$100,000 grants that will help transform their nonprofit missions. Mimosa reception 10 am, lunch and presentations 11:30 am. \$60 for non-member guests. 561-336-4623 or impact100pbc.org.

Wednesday - 4/19 - National Society of Arts and Letters' Florida Chapter's Star Maker Awards at The Addison, Two E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. Honor Lifetime Achievement Award winner Arlene Herson at an event that benefits the nonprofit's scholarships, competitions and mentoring programs for local performing and visual artists. 5:30-10 pm. \$350. 561-945-0999 or nsaflorida.org.

Saturday - 4/22 - Best Foot Forward Foundation's BFF Bash at The Polo Club of Boca Raton, 5400 Champion Blvd. Learn how youths in foster care are finding success in life through education and prepare to be inspired with the event theme An Enchanted Evening. 6:30-10:30 pm. \$250. 561-470-8300 or bestfoot.org.

Tuesday - 4/25 - Place of Hope's Angel Moms Brunch and Benefit, Hope in Bloom, at Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, 2425 W. Maya Drive, Boca Raton. Support programs that serve foster

children and those who have aged out of the system as well as homeless youths, single mothers, families in transition and human-trafficking survivors. 10 am-2 pm. \$225. 561-483-0962, Ext. 61 or placeofhoperinker.org.

Saturday-Sunday - 4/29-4/30 - Boca Raton Historical Society's / The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum's Boca Bacchanal at various locations throughout the city and The Addison, Two E. Camino Real. Enjoy wine tastings from internationally acclaimed vintners and delectable cuisine prepared by renowned chefs during the vintner dinners at various locations throughout the city and signature dishes by local restaurants plus a silent auction during the Grand Tasting at The Addison. 7 pm both days. \$350 for Saturday's vintner dinners, \$125 for Sunday's Grand Tasting. 561-395-6766, Ext. 101 or bocabacchanal.com.

MAY

Wednesday - 5/3 - Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County's Business & Professional Division's Industry Icon Event at 9901 Donna Klein Blvd., Boca Raton. Share the journey of industry icon Caryl Stern, who will speak about different perspectives on the intersection of business and philanthropy. 6 pm. \$55. 561-852-3128 or jewishboca.org/bpicon.

Sunday - 5/7 - Tri-County Animal Rescue's "Moms & Pups Bark & Brunch" at The Addison, Two E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. Enjoy food and festivities for dog moms and their fur babies to help generate proceeds for the shelter's medical fund. 11 am-3 pm. \$300. 561-482-8110 or tricityanimalrescue.com.

Saturday - 5/13 - Milagro Center's Heart & Soul Celebration at Lakeside Terrace, 7880 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Stroll down memory lane with The Memory Lane Band during an evening filled with music, food, drinks and live and silent auctions. 7-10 pm. \$125. 561-279-2970 or milagrocenter.org.

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Pay It Forward

Concert to headline benefit for Boca Regional's breast cancer care

By Amy Woods

The first-of-its-kind Go Pink Rock N Roll Dinner promises to catapult guests back to the '80s with a special performance by a nationally known Bon Jovi tribute act.

Boston-based Living on a Bad Name will take the stage April 8 at Crazy Uncle Mike's in Boca Raton in a benefit for the Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation's Go Pink Challenge.

Proceeds support breast cancer care at the Eugene M. & Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute and the Christine E. Lynn Women's Health & Wellness Institute.

"We've had such great feedback," Alyssa Kern, the foundation's events coordinator, said of the five-



The nationally known Bon Jovi tribute band Living on a Bad Name will perform at the April 8 fundraiser. **Photo provided**

man band that bills itself as the only Bon Jovi tribute act to have been chosen to replace the real deal. "Our staff is very, very excited for this event. I think it's going to be so awesome."

Francesca Thompson, the marketing director at Crazy

Uncle Mike's, said the concert more than likely will sell out.

"We've had, so far, a good response for tickets," Thompson said. "And this is our first time working with the Go Pink Challenge."

The Go Pink Challenge kicks off following the Go Pink Luncheon, an October mainstay at The Boca Raton that draws more than 1,000 guests and generates \$1 million-plus. A yearlong campaign, it encourages people in the community to step up and support the cause by organizing third-party fundraisers in the fight against breast cancer.

"Anything we do is a win," Go Pink Challenge Chairwoman Nicole Flier said. "Not only will we be the recipient of what money is raised, but more importantly, it gets the word out."

Alan Rose, a member of the foundation's Philanthropy Guild, is underwriting the event. The local philanthropist plans to fly the band into town for the show and cover the costs of a VIP experience that will include an open cocktail hour and a gourmet burger bar.

"I felt it my duty to support the efforts of the hospital," Rose said. "I'm in part two of my life. I'm going to be here for, hopefully, a few more decades if I live as long as my father did and just wanted to ensure that there is good health care."

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



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If You Go

What: Go Pink Rock N Roll Dinner

When: 6 p.m. April 8

Where: Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton

Cost: \$35 show ticket, \$75 VIP ticket

Information: 561-931-2889 or crazyunclemikes.com

DINERS

Continued from page AT1

The other four establishments and their air dates were: Boca Raton food truck Cheffrey Eats (March 17); Rose's Daughter, which serves Italian-American cuisine in Delray Beach (March 3); La Cosinita Latina in West Palm Beach (March 24); and Hellenic Republic, which serves Greek and Mediterranean food in Coral Springs (March 24).

The series has showcased Fieri tasting and evaluating food for the soul at stops throughout the United States on the Food Network since 2007. The Rebel House in Boca Raton appeared on the show last year. Also last year, Fieri bought a house in Lake Worth Beach, and uncorked a style of his show at the South Beach Wine & Food Festival.

And, by the way, Fieri doesn't really drive around in that souped-up 1967 red Camaro seen in the promos. The convertible is shipped on a trailer to each locale and Fieri is simply filmed opening and closing the car door.

Savory burgers

Jeffrey Lemmerman is the owner of Cheffrey Eats. His food truck offers mouth-watering burgers in the parking lot of Barrel of Monks Brewing in northern Boca Raton.

Since the December filming, Lemmerman was itching to talk about his appearance on the show. On March 3, when the new season began, he and his following were finally able to spread the word.

"We have a very supportive community," Lemmerman said. "The responses have been very genuine and heartfelt."

The March 17 watch party took place inside Barrel of Monks.

Lemmerman said Fieri was "blown away" by the size of his operation.

"He couldn't believe the high volume of food we produced and he was surprised we have such a vast menu with the size of our kitchen," Lemmerman said. "It was a very humbling experience for us."

When he took a bite of one of Lemmerman's signature burgers, Fieri said, "A lot of these ingredients were made with love."

Lemmerman felt proud.

"We order our patties daily and season them daily for the freshest burgers," Lemmerman said. "And each burger is given the same close attention. Consistency is the key."

Fieri tasted two of Lemmerman's items: the Barnyard Burger, an eclectic chicken breast over an Angus chuck blend burger, plus candied bacon and cheddar on a kaiser roll. For dessert, he had brownie-batter cheesecake in a mason jar.

The filming lasted 20 hours, just two of those hours with Fieri. He insisted on doing the interview in front of a mural of Fieri's face that Lemmerman's



The Butcher and the Bar team in Boynton Beach includes (l-r) Kal Foks (cook), Matthew Swig (lead bartender), Logan Gates (head butcher/executive chef), Taylor Tucker (manager), Marit Hedeem (managing partner) and Eric Anderson (managing partner). At right is Food Network's Guy Fieri. Photos provided



Suzanne Perrotto of Rose's Daughter says she was relieved when Fieri gave her short-rib pappardelle a glowing review.



The porchetta sandwich from the Butcher and the Bar. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star



Jeffrey Lemmerman of Cheffrey Eats has a portrait of Fieri on his food truck.

Featured on Diners, Drive-ins and Dives

The Butcher and the Bar, 561-903-7630, 510 E. Ocean Ave., Unit 101, Boynton Beach

Rose's Daughter, 561-271-9423, 169 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach

Cheffrey Eats, a burger truck outside Barrel of Monks Brewing in Boca Raton. 954-647-4145, 1141 S. Rogers Circle, No. 5, south of Clint Moore Road

brother, Brian, painted on the food truck.

"We've always been pigeon-holed, and people knew us as only a food truck guy before they knew us," Lemmerman said. "Now the phone is ringing off the hook."

Lemmerman believes in personal attention so much that he doesn't take online orders. He likes talking to people so he can get to know them and build longtime customers.

Homage to Mom

Suzanne Perrotto, chef/owner of Rose's Daughter in Delray Beach, first drew inspiration from her mother, Linda Rose Kaufman, a chef.

She skillfully and lovingly showed Perrotto how to combine Italian cuisine with seasonal ingredients. Those skills and the resulting dishes are on display today at Rose's Daughter.

Perrotto's short-rib pappardelle and black truffle paste garnered rave reviews

from Fieri.

The episode on Rose's Daughter aired on the March 3 opener and generated much buzz in the restaurant just north of Atlantic Avenue. The watch party was a modest staff-only affair on the restaurant's back patio.

"It's surreal, seeing yourself on television," Perrotto said. "It's definitely part of promoting the business."

Perrotto slow-roasts her short rib for almost a full day, and a main ingredient of the pasta is Caputo 00 flour, which has higher protein content than regular flour. This means that the dough will stretch more easily and doesn't require as much kneading as other flours. Using Caputo 00 flour allows you to roll your dough thinner and avoid tears while it stretches to the right size.

Kaufman watched her daughter's restaurant on *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives* from bed. She's in recovery from open-heart surgery, although Perrotto

said she is "getting a little better each day."

What began as a need for carpal tunnel surgery turned into something much more serious after the prep work revealed a leaky heart valve.

"It's just a miracle she survived," Perrotto said. "She wouldn't have made it without the surgery."

Kaufman took part in the filming just before the operation and kept her sense of humor in front of the cameras. At one point, the producer asked her to cook something in the kitchen, and she responded, "Cook? I'm too old for that sort of thing."

"She's brutally honest," Perrotto said. "I would know — she was my first mentor. Mom is from Brooklyn, and the restaurant layout mimics New York neighborhood style, with tables close together, so you're sitting near strangers."

The atmosphere was not lost on Fieri. He commented on how relaxed he felt.

"I guess he wanted a pillow so he could take a nap," Perrotto said.

But the celebrity chef with the spiky hairdo was wide awake when he tasted the pappardelle.

"I was so relieved when he took the second bite," Perrotto said. "I literally stared at him for two minutes of chewing until he finally made very flattering comments."

A special porchetta

As for Anderson, he turned the watch party for the Butcher and the Bar, where everything is made from scratch, into a refined event. The pots and pans — and even the silverware — were cleaned to a shine. Samples of each item spotlighted in the

episode — the hot dog and porchetta sandwich — were shared with guests.

For the porchetta — a type of pork — executive chef Gates adds fennel, lemon zest, other herbs, salt and pepper, rolls it and ties it, skin out. Then it is roasted, gradually, raising the heat, and finished under very high heat to crisp the skin.

To serve, the staff removes the skin, and chops it into fine, crunchy bits. The meat is sliced thin and warmed on the flat top while the ciabatta bun from Old School Bakery is toasted. The bread is spread with a gremolata (parsley, garlic, lemon zest, and oil) and topped with a fennel salad that is dressed with a house-made preserved lemon vinaigrette.

"Since word officially got out on March 3, it's been a whirlwind," Anderson said. "We've been extremely busy, which we appreciate very much. We were obviously very excited to see how things turned out, what made the show, what didn't, and how our food and ourselves looked on TV."

Anderson said since he doesn't often get the chance to appear on national television, he wanted to put his best foot forward. It happened to be St. Patrick's Day, which he said brought him luck.

"We really appreciate having this opportunity and want to thank Food Network, Citizen Pictures and Guy Fieri for this amazing opportunity," Anderson said. "And more importantly, thank you to all our regular and new customers for their support and well wishes. We wouldn't be here without them." ★

Celebrations

'The Main Event'

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — Jan. 27



The Dreyfoos School of the Arts Foundation celebrated 30 years of excellence during a musical night of performances by students and alumni. Proceeds will benefit the foundation, which provides more than \$1.5 million in support to the school each year.

ABOVE: (l-r) Linda Silpe, Don Silpe and Dorothy Lappin. **RIGHT:** Gil Cohen with event Chairwoman Lisa Marie Conte Browne. **Photos provided by Capehart**



CAST Party

The Polo Club of Boca Raton — Feb. 27



Florida Atlantic University's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters raised more than \$80,000 for student scholarships at its Culture, Arts and Society Today Party. Chairs of the event were Melanie Cabot, Maurice Plough and Beth Schwartz. Entertainment was provided by FAU faculty members and students, a jazz band trio and visual-arts pop-ups. The night ended with a performance by the Commercial Music Ensemble.

ABOVE: (l-r) Francesca Daniels, Michael Horswell and Myrna Skurnick. **INSET:** Margo Green and Nancy Dershaw. **Photos provided**



Celebration of Generosity

Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa, Manalapan — Feb. 24



Close to 200 guests attended the benefit for Baptist Health Bethesda Hospital put on by the Baptist Health Foundation. The event honored members of the Giving Society and other donors and featured a cocktail hour, dinner and dancing. Contributions made that evening, which totaled more than \$400,000, will help the Bethesda Hospital Emergency Services Campaign to renovate the emergency department at Bethesda Hospital East.

TOP: (l-r) Daniel and Fina Mulvey, Brenda Sands, and Dawn and Larry Edwards. **NEXT:** (l-r) Baptist Health Foundation CEO Alex Villoch with Julie Shen-Sivitilli and Rob Sivitilli. **NEXT:** (l-r) Herb and Linda Kahlert and Lucy and Mike Brown. **NEXT:** Dianne and Bill Jayne. **NEXT:** Barbara and Ben Lucas. **Photos provided by Capehart**



Culture & Cocktails

The Ben, West Palm Beach — Feb. 6



The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County welcomed 140 guests to the third of four conversations in the 18th season of the popular series. The event took place in a beautiful rooftop ballroom and featured the topic 'History's Mysteries: 20th Century Secrets & Scandals in Palm Beach County.' **ABOVE:** (l-r) Lauri Saunders, Denise Alman, Susan Gillis, Mary Csar and Kirsten Stephenson. **Photo provided by Jacek Gancarz**

Celebrations

60th Anniversary Ball

The Boca Raton — Jan. 21



Boca Raton Regional Hospital’s Diamond Jubilee drew a sold-out crowd of nearly 1,200 and raised \$4.2 million to benefit, enhance and advance patient-care services. Honorary Chairwomen Christine Lynn and Elaine Wold were recognized for their dedication, as were 13 doctors for the multitude of philanthropic gifts made in their honor by grateful patients. Lionel Richie performed.

ABOVE: Richie and Lynn. Photo provided

LOOP for Literacy

Bryant Park, Lake Worth Beach — Feb. 11



The fundraiser for the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County set a record this year, bringing in \$88,000. More than 500 runners, walkers and cyclists supported the benefit along with generous sponsors and powerhouse individuals and teams. Proceeds will go toward reading programs for adults and children. ABOVE: (l-r) Debra Ghostine, coalition CEO Kristin Calder, Laura Silver and Leslie Coughlan. Photo provided by Tracy Benson Photography

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Dining

Japanese concepts get new sites in Boca, the Eau; burlesque is out in Lantana

Spring brings a number of new spots, moves and closures in the area.

Chef **Eric Baker**, owner of Rebel House and Uncle Pinkie's Deli on Palmetto Park Road, has decided to change those spaces out for his other format, an izakaya-style restaurant, **Alley Cat**, now in Royal Palm Place in Boca Raton.

The move will afford staff a much larger kitchen and dining room, including a private sushi bar/dining room at Uncle Pinkie's.

Although Baker has owned Rebel House for four years, he's been connected as a former patron since its opening more than a decade ago.

Izakaya is a Japanese format of small-plate, sharable dishes paired with cocktails and sake, and is popular with groups.

Some of Baker's dishes include lobster ceviche with sweet potatoes and coconut; crab tacos with nori shells and avocado; and barbecue lamb ribs finished with yuzu, chili and sesame. A pastrami sandwich on the menu is a nod to Uncle Pinkie's.

The new Alley Cat is slated

to open in early April at 297 E. Palmetto Park Road.

Seems the burlesque brunch that helped launch the rebranding of **Ravish Off Ocean** in Lantana was too much for the town. The brunch was shut down after only three weeks after the town hit the place with a code enforcement violation as "activities going on at the burlesque show were not up to town code."

Ravish co-owner **Alexandra Dupuis** says the show involved dancers who would shed some of their clothes during their performances, but it was tasteful dancing.

The weekly brunch show that began Feb. 12 was so popular it was sold out for weeks ahead. "I've had to call and cancel reservations for weeks out," she said.

Town Mayor Karen Lythgoe was a frequent attendee, Dupuis said.

"Yes, code enforcement shut down the burlesque show," Lythgoe said. "It was a fun time for all in attendance and attracted a lot of business.

However, code needs to be



Eau Palm Beach in Manalapan welcomes Böken to the dining options it offers. Photo provided

adhered to. We are in the process of reviewing all code as part of our Master Plan project so of course the burlesque show will be discussed."

Dupuis was told Ravish didn't have a permit for live entertainment or live music. That stumped her because the previous incarnation of Ravish that she took over had featured music and live entertainment, as do several other venues on Ocean Avenue — also with no special permits.

While waiting for the town to reexamine the code that Dupuis calls outdated, she is now featuring an Arabian Days brunch with belly dancers.

She'd like to bring back the burlesque show, but for now, doesn't want to rock any boats.

"I've got a talented chef," she said, "**Johnny Demartini**, who's got a great reputation. We have a great menu."

He opened Lionfish on Atlantic Avenue, has been a sous chef with the Max Group and worked at various other area restaurants.

Ravish Off Ocean, 210 E. Ocean Ave., Lantana. Phone 561-588-2444; ravishkitchen.com. Reservations taken for Sunday brunch.

Böken, a new omakase restaurant, is part of the **Eau Palm Beach's** multimillion-dollar renovation that started in 2022. The 10-table Japanese "chef's choice" spot is the first of its kind in the area.

Guests leave the menu design and ingredients entirely up to the chef, Chris Cantel. From a menu of sushi, sashimi and nigiri, including fresh catch and premium imported fish, Cantel will craft a five-course meal for diners, along with a sake menu and wine pairings.

The restaurant hosts two omakase seatings Thursday through Saturday from \$155 per person. Monday through Wednesday, diners can choose a la carte from the menu.

Polpo is the new Italian restaurant in the Eau, which also has several bars and cafés.

Böken, at Eau Palm Beach, 100 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. Phone 561-533-6000; eauptalmbeach.com.

In May, a New York steakhouse plans to open its first outpost, in Boca Raton. **Gallaghers Steakhouse**, based on a speakeasy from the

1920s in Manhattan, will be off Glades Road on Executive Center Circle.

Known for 21-day, dry-aged steaks cooked over hickory grills, Gallaghers cuts the meats in-house — a practice owner **Dean Poll** says is disappearing.

Gallaghers opened in 1927 on 52nd Street in Manhattan. It's an upscale, relaxed experience, Poll said, featuring silver place settings, custom linens and a professional service team. Photos of celebs who have dined at Gallaghers will line the walls.

Decor will be 1920s speakeasy, South Florida style. The kitchen will be visible from the 200-seat dining room, and the glass-enclosed meat locker will be visible from the bar. Outdoor seating for 100 will be available, and two private dining rooms will accommodate groups.

The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner daily.

In brief: Ta-boo, the iconic "ladies who lunch" restaurant on Worth Avenue in Palm Beach, has been served an eviction notice by its landlords. The new owners of the building say they already have a new tenant to liven up the place. But if hue and cry from the old-timers who revere the meet-up spot have their way, the restaurant may get a reprieve. Stay tuned. ...

A revival of the former **Falcon House**, in a 100-year-old Delray Beach house, didn't make it. **Sean Iglehart** of Boynton Beach's Sweetwater closed the renamed Falcon in March. No word on what it will become. ...

A special chef is making an appearance for the annual "More Than a Meal" **Meals on Wheels** luncheon April 5. **Lorena Garcia**, of TV and restaurant fame, will speak at the Kravis event to raise money for the program that feeds homebound seniors in the county. Tickets are \$225; go to mowpb.org for more information.



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

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Art



Music, Pink and Blue No. 2, above, by Georgia O'Keeffe, and Old Canal Port by Oscar Bluemner are part of the Norton's Dawn of a New Age exhibit. Whitney Museum of American Art photos

Marvels of modernism

Norton expands canon of American modern art with two new exhibits

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Contributing Writer

The Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach has not one, but two new exhibits exploring the various ways American artists have employed abstract styles to convey their experiences of modern life.

With works on loan from the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, *At the Dawn of a New Age: Early Twentieth-Century American Modernism* highlights art produced between 1900 and 1930 by both well-known and lesser known modernists. It works in concert with an exhibit of Norton art, *From Man Ray to O'Keeffe, American Modernism at the Norton*.

Dawn of a New Age is an attempt to remedy the historical record, in that some of the artists, including women, people of color and non-New York-centric artists, "were left out of the historical equation," said Ellen Roberts, senior curator of



American art at the Norton Museum.

"These artists all expand the canon of American modernism," she says. "It's so exciting to have this work here and great to exhibit these two shows side by side, so they can talk to each other."

The exhibit includes paintings, sculpture, works on paper and photographs.

According to Roberts, early modernists in the United States came of age during a period of great optimism, new manufacturing plants and new methods of communication and transportation, all reflected in modern artists adopting new and experimental ways of looking at the world, prioritizing emotional experience and harmonious design.

"Modernism has always been a significant focus for the Norton," says Ghislain d'Humières, director of the museum.

See MODERNISM on AT13

Theater

Dramaworks explores family dysfunction in 'August: Osage County'

By Hap Erstein
Theater Writer

Often compared to Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*, Tracy Letts's *August: Osage County* is an exploration of yet another dysfunctional family, an epic play that also was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.



Letts

It premiered in 2007 at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre, where Letts is a company member and resident playwright. It quickly transferred to Broadway where it won the Tony Award, was then adapted into a movie in 2013 and is now being produced at Palm Beach Dramaworks, where it opened March 31.

A fictional account of

Sooner State-born Letts's own family, the darkly comic play centers on a sudden family reunion following the disappearance of the clan's patriarch, Beverly Weston. His soon-to-be declared widow Violet, a pill-popping drug addict, has recently been diagnosed with cancer. The last thing she needs is the return of her three grown daughters — Barbara, Ivy and Karen — with their various own family members in tow.

Making her Dramaworks debut as Violet is Sara Morsey, who says of her character, "She's savage, she's acid-tongued, she's aggressive, she's blunt. She's grown up in such a background of poverty and neglect, abuse. She's a really damaged person who now has cancer on top of it all and is trying to make a life for herself.

See OSAGE on AT14

Theater

Entertainer Alan Cumming delights in not acting his age

By Jan Engoren
Contributing Writer

Although he grew up in Scotland speaking the King's English, when actor, singer, dancer, emcee, author, reality show host and all-around performer Alan Cumming first came to the United States at the age of 30, the two most foreign words for him were Tucson and Boca Raton.

"I had never heard that name before," he says. "I thought it was a Mexican dish."

Since then, he's added Boca Raton to his vocabulary and has been here more than a few times. Cumming will be returning April 22 for his latest cabaret show, *Alan Cumming Is Not Acting His Age*.

Well-known in the U.S. for his role as campaign manager Eli Gold in the CBS series *The Good Wife*, Cumming, 58, has performed in concert halls across the globe, including the Sydney Opera House, London Palladium, Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall. Cumming has played God, the devil, Hitler, the pope, a teleporting superhero, Hamlet, all the



Actor Alan Cumming will bring his one-man show to Mizner Park on April 22. Photo provided

parts in *Macbeth* and the emcee in *Cabaret* in the West End and on Broadway.

He is a five-time Emmy award nominee and two-time Tony award winner as well as Olivier and BAFTA award winner and the author of two children's books, a book of photographs and stories, a novel and a best-selling memoir, *Not My Father's Son*.

"We are thrilled to have this iconic performer grace our stage as The Studio at Mizner Park makes its mark as one of South Florida's newest venues," said Peg Anderson,

See CUMMING on AT14

Music

West Palm drummer's T's Express celebrates gospel of Corea, Hancock

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

In case you hadn't noticed, even though it's hard to miss, tribute acts have become all the rage by offering discounted versions of the material that lowest-common-denominator fans — especially of classic rock — can't seem to get more than enough of.

As a result, tributes are sadly turning up in South Florida concert venues and clubs that in previous years booked much more substantial artists.

But some tributes have thankfully sprung up to salute music that's more challenging and adventurous. On a national level, Massachusetts-born drummer Jonathan Mover (whose credits include Joe Satriani, The Tubes, and Aretha Franklin) formed the quintet ProgJect — a nod to progressive rock icons like Emerson, Lake & Palmer; Genesis, Yes, King Crimson, Jethro Tull, and Rush — in 2022.

Another drummer, West Palm Beach resident Tim Moss, chose roads even less traveled musically last year. His quintet, T's Express, has a link on his personal Facebook page and salutes the banner work of jazz and fusion keyboardists and composers Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea (1941-2021).



T's Express (l-r): drummer Tim Moss, bassist Mike Schweisthal, saxophonist/flutist Carle Vickers, guitarist Adam Douglass, and keyboardist Tom Wierzbicki. Photo by Regina Campbell

Both legendary musicians emerged from the bands of traditional jazz trumpeter-turned-godfather of jazz/fusion Miles Davis (1926-1991), and though the keyboardists recorded material together afterward, their paths were often dissimilar.

Corea's compositions were always more exacting and technical, often fusing into Latin and classical terrain. Hancock's are usually more improvisational, funky, and modern, as evidenced by his hip-hop-influenced 1983 hit single and video, "Rockit."

So Moss, a longtime area freelance drummer, had to do some research in finding the right versatile personnel

for the demanding project in keyboardist Tom Wierzbicki, saxophonist/flutist Carle Vickers, guitarist Adam Douglass, and bassist Mike Schweisthal.

"I had to cherry-pick the right players, and I think I have," says Moss. "Tom studied classically and can play very technically. I've played jazz with him for about 10 years, and I figured if anyone could pull off both Chick and Herbie, he was the one. But it wasn't until I found Mike that I thought I could put this thing together. I mentioned the idea to him, and he started naming all these Chick tunes. I knew I'd found my bassist."

"For guitar, I needed someone who could shred,

but I didn't want a rocker. I saw Adam's band, and he was interested in auditioning, but I told him he already had. He was the guy. And Carle was someone I'd played with, so I knew where he was going to go, and that he'd be a good fit."

Moss, a native of Bethlehem, Conn., has a pretty direct connection to Corea's music. He studied with Dave Weckl, the gifted musician who was Corea's primary drummer of choice for most of his final 35 years, many with the keyboardist's self-titled Elektric Band.

"Since the first time I heard Chick's Elektric Band, I knew I wanted to be in a group like that," Moss says. "But Weckl's parts are obviously not easy. When I studied with Dave, he told me the only real difference between us was that he was practicing almost around the clock."

"He also said, 'Start listening to music that doesn't have drummers in it, and then play to that. But don't play what you think I would play. Play what you would play.' It was the greatest advice I've ever heard. We're working on learning 'Got a Match?' by the Elektric Band now."

Recent performances at Village Music in Wellington and Rudy's in Lake Worth Beach showcased the versatility of T's Express in tackling the often-disparate Hancock and Corea catalogs.

On the Hancock jazz standard favorite "On Green Dolphin Street" and his own composition "Cantaloupe Island," Wierzbicki displayed the acoustic piano tones that Hancock became renowned for in the 1960s, when he began writing future standards himself.

Hancock's cover of gifted pop singer Peter Gabriel's "Mercy Street" utilized the versatile Vickers' tenor sax, plus Moss coming out from behind his drum kit, sitting out front, and

If You Go

See T's Express from 7-10 p.m. April 27 at Village Music, 10410 W. Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington (561-798-5334).

playing a hand drum.

And "Watermelon Man," from Hancock's 1973 album *Head Hunters* — itself a funk/fusion update of the keyboardist's own Latin-tinged 1962 hit-turned-standard — found Schweisthal nailing the tone and harmonics of Paul Jackson's inventive and futuristic bass line.

Vickers' flute on the Brazilian-influenced Corea standard "500 Miles High," and alto sax on his shuffling "Blue Miles," proved the perfect accompaniment to their different feels. And "Spain," perhaps Corea's best-known composition (often feared for the challenges it provides to musicians attempting it), got a roaring run-through thanks to the solos of Wierzbicki and Schweisthal.

Corea employed more guitarists (including Bill Connors, Al Di Meola, Frank Gambale, and West Palm Beach-born Scott Henderson) in his various ensembles than Hancock did, so it's natural that Douglass also shined on the late composer's pieces. Berklee College of Music-trained, he did complex solos on the swinging "Morning Sprite" and playful "Armando's Rhumba" (also highlighted by the creative soloing of Moss over the remaining band's vamp) exploded.

"As we go through these Chick tunes," Douglass says, "I'm finding that there are a lot of complicated lines that several of us are playing in unison. So mastering the exact timing of those phrases, memorizing them, and playing them in an ensemble setting is very challenging and rewarding. Herbie's tunes, like one we're rehearsing called 'Actual Proof,' are also difficult and rewarding, but he seems to come from a more organic and groove-oriented place as a composer."

Moss has become a recognizable figure in area jazz circles, and the veteran drummer has never sounded better. One of his other recent stops was at Village Music in Wellington, where he played with Paul Simon's Grammy-winning South African *Graceland* bassist Bakithi Kumalo to celebrate the music store and venue's 10th anniversary.

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MODERNISM

Continued from page 11

“Drawing from the Norton’s extensive holdings of American art alongside work from the Whitney, we can present a fuller, richer history of the movement,” he said in a prepared statement. “Our founder, Ralph Norton, became deeply fascinated by modernism in the final years of his life, gifting era-defining works to the museum.

“In the subsequent decades, we have taken up the mantle of ensuring our collection most accurately embodies the spirit and diversity of American creativity at this time, as reflected by the works on view from the Norton’s own collection.”

While many of the works are by well-known artists such as Man Ray, Marsden Hartley and Georgia O’Keeffe (seven of her works are on display), others are by lesser-known artists such as Patrick Henry Bruce, Chiura Obata, Agnes Pelton and Nancy Elizabeth Prophet.

A movement at the time tried to depict sounds visually, called synesthesia. Included are examples of these works, including O’Keeffe’s *Music, Pink and Blue No. 2*, from 1918, and *Noise Number 13*, by the poet and painter E.E. Cummings, as well as Joseph Stella’s portrayal of *Der Rosenkavalier*, which captures the sound and energy of Richard Strauss’s landmark 1911 opera.

“I found that I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn’t say any other way — things that I had no words for,” O’Keeffe said at the time.

Still lifes, nature and landscape paintings, such as *The Chromatic Exercise*, or *Old Canal Port*, by German-born Oscar Bluemner, are part of the exhibit. Bluemner was largely overlooked during his lifetime (1876-1938), but is now regarded as a significant influence on the development of American modernism.

A number of husband-and-wife works are included in the show, including Rebecca Salsbury’s 1933 reverse print on glass, *Black Vase and Pink Rose*. She was married to photographer Paul Strand, whose photographs such as his 1930 *Wire Wheel* and 1931 *St. Francis Church* also are part of the show.

Other couples in the show are William and Marguerite Zorach, Arthur Dove and Helen Torr and O’Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz. William Zorach’s 1913 *Woods in Autumn* complements his wife’s 1913 oil painting *Bathers*.

A number of African-American artists are included in the canon, including Henry Bannarn and Beulah Ecton Woodard, part of the Norton’s collection. On loan from the Whitney is *African Dancer*, a 1933 work by the African-American sculptor Richmond Barthé, active during the Harlem Renaissance.

Also on loan from the Whitney is Gaston Lachaise’s sculpture *Dolphin Fountain*, and



New York Mural by Stuart Davis can be seen in the *From Man Ray to O’Keeffe* exhibit at the Norton Museum of Art. **Norton Museum photo**

If You Go

From Man Ray to O’Keeffe, American Modernism at the Norton and *At the Dawn of a New Age: Early Twentieth-Century American Modernism* run through July 16 at the Norton Museum of Art, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. **Info:** 561-832-5196; norton.org

the sculptures of Polish-born Elie Nadelman, including his allegorical figures depicted in the bronze *Spring* and his two bronze *Standing Female Figures* from 1925-26.

Exploring the dichotomy between what’s real and unreal, dreams and reality are paintings by Marsden Hartley from his early and strongest period with *Painting Number 5*, and *Forms Abstracted*.

Lesser known but just as talented, Florine Stettheimer had no interest in selling her paintings and wanted them destroyed upon her death. Lucky for us, her 1931 oil painting titled *Sun*, depicting an ethereal background and brightly colored flowers, is part of the show.

Also lesser known, James Daugherty and his 1914 pen-and-ink and watercolor painting, *Three Base Hit*, captures the movement and energy of the modern world alongside the more well-

known Max Weber’s 1915 *Chinese Restaurant*.

A centerpiece of the Norton collection is Stuart Davis’s *New York Mural*, a painting he created as a submission for a new mural for Rockefeller Center during the Great Depression.

It’s on display as part of the *From Man Ray to O’Keeffe* exhibit.

Somewhat abstract and tongue-in-cheek, the painting depicts iconography of New York City including the Empire State Building, political symbols of the time such as former New York governor and 1928 presidential candidate Al Smith’s bowler hat, bananas representing the song “Yes! We Have No Bananas,” and a tiger head with a crooked tail representing Tammany Hall and the crooked politicians that dominated New York City politics at that time. A moon in the top left corner is drinking champagne, a possible dig at Prohibition.

“These two exhibitions side-by-side will give visitors the opportunity to see fantastic examples of work by artists that are very well-known, but also to see work by a host of immensely talented artists who are not now household names,” says Roberts.

“Viewers will be able to come away with a more complex, diverse and accurate picture of early 20th-century American modernism,” she notes.

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OSAGE

Continued from page 11

"I think she's a disappointed person too, because there was a promise of great hope and upward mobility in this Oklahoma family," says Morsey. "But things got really bumpy and rough. It's been a bumpy ride for her and it is going to get bumpier."



McCafferty Playing Violet's eldest daughter, Barbara, will be Kathy McCafferty, whom Dramaworks audiences have seen in *The Little Foxes*, *Streetcar Named Desire* and *Outside Mullingar*. As she says of her *Osage County* character, "She's the typical oldest child in that she has had to co-parent her younger siblings and help take care of her parents. I think she has very carefully crafted her adult life in opposition to her parents."

Despite her friction with her mother, Barbara has much in common with Violet.

But, notes McCafferty, "I don't think she sees that. I think everyone else sees that. That's sort of the journey of the play. And, I think, over the course of

If You Go

August: Osage County runs through April 16 at Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St. in West Palm Beach.
Tickets: \$84
Info: 561-514-4042; www.palmbeachdramaworks.org

time she has been drawn home to help with various crises. And when she comes home — as we all do, and I think this is the part where I hope audiences can relate — we believe we will go home and still be who we are in our normal lives and not be drawn back into family dynamics."

Despite the dire situation the Westons find themselves in, playwright Letts manages to inject the play with humor.

"I think that's the secret weapon of this play. I just think very few people pull off a classic three-act structure that is funny," says McCafferty. "If you compare this to *Long Day's Journey into Night* or to a Greek tragedy, I feel this play is a Greek tragedy with humor."

Asked why it deserved a Pulitzer Prize, Morsey responds, "The scope of the play, the depth of the characters. The structure of the play I think is amazing. I don't know any other play

that's structured like this. It's all in this one house and it's all happening right at the same time."

"It's just brilliantly crafted," adds McCafferty. "I don't think there's anything in there accidentally. The timing, the way it moves from start to finish is just brilliant."

Asked whether Letts intends the audience to identify with the Westons or merely be relieved that their family is not like them, McCafferty says, "I think the answer is both. ... You don't have to like me, but I hope that at some point you understand the struggle of what the character is going through."

"I think if you grew up anywhere in Middle America you've got to identify if you're honest with yourself," says Morsey. "I certainly identified pretty quick."

"Because it is a great human interest story. I think people do find themselves in it. You're not going to get bored. It is funny, but there's a lot of human emotion in it. You are going to feel like you can't believe what you saw and you're going to be so glad that you did."



Morsey

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Organized by the American Federation of Arts in collaboration with Whitfield Lovell. Major support for the national tour and exhibition catalogue are provided by National Endowment for the Arts and the Terra Foundation for American Art.

World premiere of the exhibition in Boca Raton is made possible with the generous support of the Gerald & Olivia Shapiro Family Foundation, our Leadership Fund Donors, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

IMAGE: Whitfield Lovell, *The Red XIII*, 2021, conté on paper with attached found object. Museum purchase. Courtesy of American Federation of Arts, the artist, and DC Moore Gallery, New York

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CUMMING

Continued from page 11

president of the Cultural Arts Association Board, the organization responsible for managing the venue, which opened in December.

Much to his own surprise, most recently Cumming agreed to host streaming service Peacock's reality competition series *The Traitors* in a remote Scottish castle. He is having a blast.

"I never imagined myself hosting a reality show," Cumming says by phone from New York, where he lives, "but they asked and I said yes."

"I try to stay open to all opportunities. I enjoy my work and as an artist like connecting to others."

Staying open and saying yes are part of Cumming's vernacular and zest for life and cabaret — the perfect format for his type of showmanship.

"Cabaret is eclectic," he says. "It's exciting. One moment you can laugh, and cry the next. You can be provocative or funny. It's a smorgasbord of genres and emotions."

"It's a good match for me and my interests," he notes. "I can get them all out in one evening."

"I like to feel engaged with life, share my feelings with the audience and see what other people are feeling," he says. "I enjoy being provocative and am a very in-the-moment, hungry-for-life person."

"All my drive is about being interested and curious about life and about the work I do. I'm like a magpie — I like shiny objects."

His current life, with its

If You Go

Alan Cumming Is Not Acting His Age comes to The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, at 6:30 and 9 p.m. April 22. This event contains adult language or content.
Tickets: \$99-\$150
Info: www.thestudioatmiznerpark.com

frenetic pace and great success, is not something he ever foresaw.

"My life is completely different and in another sphere from growing up in rural Scotland," he says. "I could never have imagined the life I have now."

"I was happy living in London and never even visited the United States until I was 30," he remembers. "I've given some thought to my success and know I'm talented, but there are others more talented. I believe my success comes from being open to most anything."

"I'm open to all ideas — even bizarre ideas," he says. "I'm open to circumstance, fate and keeping a good attitude."

With so much on his plate, Cumming has a complicated color-coded calendar system, but also goes with the flow.

On a recent visit to Boston to shoot *Masterpiece: Mystery* (which he hosts), Cumming went out with the crew to the local bars and nightclubs to have a few drinks, meet the locals and enjoy the evening.

"It's about not having a plan, just letting the evening take you," he says. He finds that relaxing.

Cumming shows no signs of

slowing down — he's headed to Canada to shoot a film, is working on a docuseries about people who've built homes on islands, is starring alongside Liam Neeson and Jessica Lange in the crime thriller *Marlowe*, is planning to write a novel and is shooting one more season of *The Traitors* — but aging is on his radar.

"We worship at the altar of youth, especially in this country," he says. "We don't value getting older. We've decided as a culture that aging is the worst thing that can happen to a person, when it's something that is inevitable."

"We don't respect the process or our elders," he says. "Getting older imparts some wisdom and getting to know oneself better. Why is it that we only associate beauty with youth? We lose sight of who we really are."

But in his one-man show, he promises to make aging fun.

On his nights off, Cumming enjoys going to the theater to support friends, such as Katie Holmes in *The Wanderers* and fellow Tony Award winner Danny Burstein, and nights out at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

"My tastes are eclectic; I enjoy interesting, quirky or old-fashioned shows," he says.

Coming to Boca, he says he hopes he doesn't get COVID-19, as happened on his last visit.

Besides being entertaining and fun, he says the show is inspirational. "It will inspire you to seize the day. That's what I aim to do each day."

"I'm just very lucky to make my mark on the world doing something I love," he says.

Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through May 5 were current as of March 24. Check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.

ART

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens: Through June: *SculptHER*, works in paper and wood by four female sculptors, each from a different country; *Harry Benson: Picturing History*, celebrity photos by the Scottish photographer; and *Abundance of Riches* by Luis Montoya and Leslie Ortiz, 1972-2022, monumental sculptures of ordinary objects like a vine with two tomatoes, as created by the West Palm Beach artists. \$15. 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm W-Sun. 561-832-5328. Info@ansg.org.

Armory Art Center: Through April 15: *Sam Perry Retrospective*, paintings, drawings and animations by the late Amory Art Center instructor, who died of cancer in 2021. Opens April 20: Art Deco-era buildings in Palm Beach County; through May 19. Free. 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm M-F, 10 am-2 pm Sat. 561-832-1776 or armoryart.org.

Boca Raton Museum of Art: Through May 21: *Oswaldo Vigas*, works by the late Venezuelan modernist; *Whitfield Lovell: Passages*, drawings, assemblages and installations by the contemporary African-American artist. \$12; \$10 seniors. 501 Plaza Real (Mizner Park), Boca Raton. 11 am-7 pm daily. 561-392-2500, or bocamuseum.org.

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County: Through April 8: *Visualizing Climate Disruption*, works by 15 Palm Beach County examining the existential crisis of global warming. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-Sat. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions.

Flagler Museum: Through April 23: *The American West During the Gilded Age*, an examination of aspects of the West during the late 19th and early 20th centuries that affected the character of the nation. T26; \$13 ages 6-12. 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm M-Sat, noon-5 pm Sun. 561-655-2833, www.flaglarmuseum.us

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Through April 5: 45th Annual Members Show and Sale. Opens April 13: *Exhibit A: The Art of Ashleigh Walters*, paintings by the WPTV broadcast journalist, through April 22. \$5 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, lighthousearts.org.

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens: Through April 2: *Washi Transformed: New Expressions in Japanese Paper*, more than 30 textured works using washi, a traditional form of Japanese paper. \$15; \$13 seniors; \$9 children; free for members, ages 5 and under. 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. 10 am-5 pm T-Sun. 561-495-0233, morikami.org.

Norton Museum of Art: Through July 16: *From Man Ray to O'Keeffe: American Modernism at the Norton* with *At the Dawn of a New Age: Early 20th Century American Modernism*, complementary exhibits of works by major modernist painters of the first half of the 20th century. Through June 4: *Symbolic Messages in Chinese Animal Paintings*, five works laden with political and social meaning; through June 11: *New York Vanguard: Promised Gifts from Stephen and Madeline Anbinder*, ten mid-20th century paintings and drawings by major artists such as Helen Frankenthaler and Robert Motherwell. \$18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for ages 12 and under, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm, M, T, Th, Sat; 10 am-10 pm F; 11 am-5 pm Sun. 561-832-5196, www.norton.org.

Society of the Four Arts: Through April 2: *Contemplating Character: Portrait Drawings and Oil Sketches from Jacques-Louis David to Lucian Freud*, 81 works on paper by 68 artists from the 18th century to the present. At the Esther B. O'Keeffe Gallery. 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm daily. 561-655-7226, fourarts.org.

CLASSICAL

Sunday, April 2
Sitkovetsky Trio: The piano trio led by the Anglo-Russian violinist Alexander Sitkovetsky, with pianist Wu Qian and cellist Isang Enders, offers the familiar trios by Tchaikovsky and Ravel, as well as *Freakshow*, a work from 2016 by the young Irish composer Sam Perkin. At 3 pm. Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. \$40. 561-655-7226; fourarts.org. Wednesday, April 12

Juho Pohjonen: The rising young Finnish pianist offers the rarely heard *Ballade* of Edvard Grieg along with the canonical finger-twister *Gaspard de la Nuit* of Ravel, and all four *Ballades* by Chopin. At 7:30 pm. Society of the Four Arts, 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. \$40. 561-655-7226; fourarts.org

Atlantic Classical Orchestra: Harpist Bridget Kibbey joins David Amado and the band for a

Harp Concerto by the contemporary Brazilian composer João Lopes. Also on the program: Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* and Beethoven's deathless *Fifth Symphony*. 7:30 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 717 Prosperity Farms Road, North Palm Beach. \$35-\$60. 772-460-0851 or atlanticclassicalorchestra.com.

Sunday, April 16
Palm Beach Symphony: Violinist Joshua Bell joins Gerard Schwarz and the orchestra in the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, with Bell's own cadenza. The same composer's *Hebrides Overture* is also on the program, as is the groundbreaking *Third Symphony* of Beethoven. 8 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469; www.kravis.org. Friday, April 21

Jerusalem Quartet: The veteran foursome presents Mendelssohn's String Quartet No. 4 (in E minor, Op. 44, No. 2) and the String Quartet No. 1 (in D, Op. 11) by Tchaikovsky. 7 pm, Rinker Playhouse at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$75. 561-379-6773 or www.cmspb.org. Sunday, April 30

The Symphonia: Principal conductor Alastair Willis leads the orchestra in Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* (No. 6 in F, Op. 68), American composer Anthony DiLorenzo's *Jabberwocky*, and the early 20th-century British composer Ethel Smyth's overture to her opera *The Wreckers*. 3 pm, Roberts Theater at St. Andrew's School, 3900 Jog Road, Boca Raton. \$55-\$90. thesymphonia.org.

DANCE

Friday, April 21-Sunday, April 23
Miami City Ballet: The company presents Jerome Robbins' *West Side Story Suite* (Bernstein), Balanchine's *Symphony in C* (Bizet), and a new ballet by the young Durante Verola set to the music of Cuba's Ernesto Lecuona. 7:30 pm Friday, 2 pm and 7:30 pm Saturday, and 1 pm Sunday at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$35 and up. 561-832-7469; www.kravis.org

Saturday, April 22-Sunday, April 23
Giselle: The popular Adolphe Adam ballet about a brokenhearted girl who, after her death, must decide whether to make common cause with the vengeful spirits who inhabit the forest and haunt her unfaithful lover. With Sterling Boca and Oksana Maslova of Philadelphia Ballet. Presented by Boca Ballet Theatre at Spanish River

High School, 5100 Jog Road, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. \$45. 561-995-0709 or www.bocaballet.org.

JAZZ

Saturday, April 8
Jeff Rupert Quartet: The tenor saxophonist and his quartet (pianist Richard Drexler, bassist Bill Kramer and drummer Marty Morell) are joined by vocalist Lucy Yeghiazaryan for a survey of the highlights of the Great American Songbook. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org. Wednesday, April 12

Jeff Hamilton Trio: The legendary Big Band and session drummer is joined by pianist Tamir Hendelman and bassist Jon Hamar for a concert on the Gold Coast Jazz Society series. 7:45 pm, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$65. Call 954-462-0222 or visit browardcenter.org.

Saturday, April 15
Anderson Brothers: Multi-instrumental jazz woodwind players Peter and Will Anderson, joined by a trio, pay tribute to the King of Swing, clarinetist Benny Goodman. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 N.E. 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org.

Saturday, April 22
Lauren Henderson: The jazz vocalist, accompanied by her quartet, pays homage to her African-American and Latin roots, as exemplified in her 2022 Spanish-language album, *La Bruja*. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org.

OPERA

Thursday, April 13; Saturday, April 15
Tosca: Giacomo Puccini's 1900 melodrama about the singer Floria Tosca, her lover Mario Cavaradossi, and the evil Baron Scarpia, the Roman chief of secret police who will stop at nothing to claim Tosca for his own. With Toni Marie Palmertree as Tosca, Arturo Chacon Cruz as Cavaradossi, and Todd Thomas as Scarpia. At Florida Grand Opera. 7:30 pm both performances at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW 5th Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$47 and up. 800-741-1010 or fgo.org.

POPULAR MUSIC

Wednesday, April 12

Jimmie Vaughan and the Tilt-A-Whirl Band: The veteran bluesman and member of the Fabulous Thunderbirds makes a stop with his band in Boca. 7 pm, The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. \$65. funkybiscuit.com or 561-395-2929.

Friday, April 14, Sunday, April 16
Janet Jackson: The pop superstar and member of a legendary musical family is joined by rapper Ludacris for two shows on her *Together Again* tour. 8 pm both concerts at the Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$188-\$1,536. ticketmaster.com.

Tuesday, April 18
Billy Idol: The pop star best-known for 1980s hits such as *White Wedding* and *Eyes Without a Face*. 8 pm both concerts at the Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$45-\$105. ticketmaster.com.

Friday, April 21
Drive-By Truckers: The darkly funny, gritty Southern rockers have just released a new record, *Welcome 2 Club XIII*. With special guest Lydia Loveless. 7:30 pm, Culture Room, 3045 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale. \$48.50. ticketmaster.com.

Saturday, April 29
Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo: The leather-lunged pop singer whose 1980s hits included *Hit Me With Your Best Shot* and *Heartbreaker* is accompanied by her longtime musical and life partner Giraldo for their *De Novo* tour. 8 pm at the Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$45-\$105. ticketmaster.com

THEATER

Through Sunday, April 2
The Odd Couple: The 1985 female version of Neil Simon's deathless 1965 comedy, with Florence Unger and Olive Madison as the titular ill-matched roommates. A Boca Stage production at the Sol Theatre, 3333 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-300-0152 or www.bocastage.net.

Plaza Suite: Neil Simon's durable 1968 play about three couples who check into the same suite at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan. Through April 2 at the Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St., Delray Beach. \$42. 561-272-1281, ext. 5, or delraybeachplayhouse.com.

Oliver! The 1960 Lionel Bart musical based on Charles Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist* ("Consider Yourself," "I'd Do Anything"). Through April 2 at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. \$68-\$120. 561-575-2223 or

jupitertheatre.org. Saturday, April 8-Sunday, April 23
Refuge: A bilingual play by Satya Jnani Chavez and Andrew Rosendorf about a young Honduran girl who crosses the U.S. southern border into Texas. Part of a rolling world premiere with Denver's Curious Theatre and Kansas City's Unicorn Theatre. At FAU Theatre Lab, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton. 561-297-6124 or fauevents.com.

Through Sunday, April 9
Wicked: The popular Stephen Schwartz musical based on Gregory Maguire's novel about the life of the Wicked Witch of the West, a denizen of Oz. Sixteen performances at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$63 and up. 561-832-7469; www.kravis.org

Opens Friday, April 14
Newsies: The 2011 Alan Menken musical based on the 1992 film about the 1899 newsboys' strike in New York City. Through April 30 at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org Through Sunday, April 16

August: Osage County: Tracy Letts's 2007 drama about the dysfunctional Weston family of Pawhuska, Okla. Winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize. At Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. \$84. 561-514-4042 or palmbeachdramaworks.org.

Opens Thursday, April 20
Million Dollar Quartet: The 2006 jukebox musical based on the Sun Studios jam session in December 1956 that brought together Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins. Through May 14 at the Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. \$99. 561-995-2333 or thewick.org.

Wednesday, April 26-Sunday, April 30
Ain't Too Proud: The 2018 jukebox musical that tells the story of The Temptations from their beginnings in 1960s Detroit to worldwide fame and entry into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Eight performances at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$40 and up. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org.

Opens Friday, April 28
Noises Off: Michael Frayn's 1982 comedy about the production of a play from behind the scenes, in which things go from bad to a truly chaotic worse. Through May 14 at the Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St., Delray Beach. \$42. 561-272-1281, ext. 5, or delraybeachplayhouse.com.

THE JEWELS OF LAKE WORTH BEACH

EXHIBITION DATES: APRIL 14 - APRIL 29, 2023



ROSEMARY OTTO and RAY LARSEN

Showcasing works of two longtime resident artists with diverging whimsical styles, generous use of brilliant colors and playful subject matter. The artwork of Rosemary Otto and Ray Larsen are on display and for sale at HATCH 1121 Gallery in Lake Worth Beach from April 14 – 29, 2023. The public is invited to attend the show Opening Reception and Sale. Gallery hours 2pm to 8pm, Wednesday – Sunday. For more information please contact: Roger Bennett (561) 566-2760.



OPENING RECEPTION:

April 15th – 5pm to 9pm

HATCH 1121 | 1121 Lucerne Avenue | Lake Worth Beach, Florida 33460



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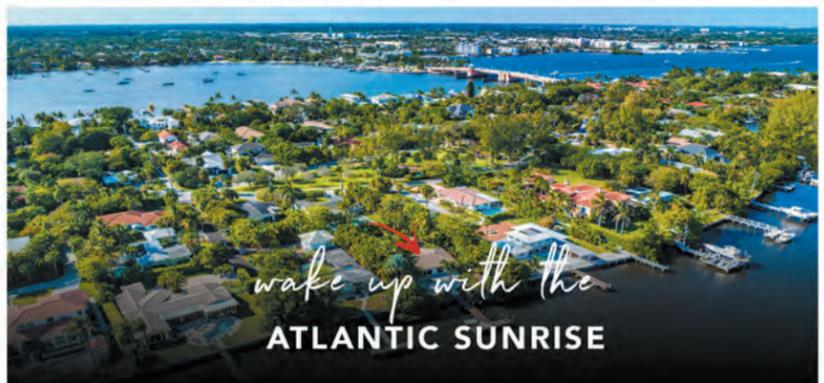
tropical oasis
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Outdoors

More seaweed heading to beaches as summer approaches

By Larry Barszewski

Sea turtles aren't the only things returning to south Palm Beach County beaches this year.

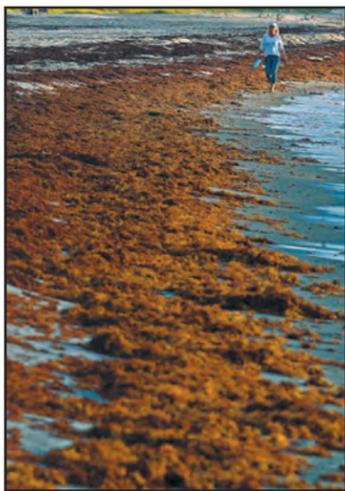
So is seaweed. Lots and lots of it.

Not since *Jaws* has so much attention been given to a potential menace lurking off the coastal shoreline. Most every major television network, including cable, has run news segments in recent weeks about the massive amount of sargassum — a brown, free-floating seaweed — heading this way.

The sargassum — or the “blob,” as some have dubbed it — has also made the pages of the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal* — even *The Guardian* in England.

It is accumulating in the Atlantic Ocean at a record pace, forming the Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt that stretches 5,000 miles from the west coast of Africa to South America and is hundreds of miles wide.

Offshore, it is a floating buffet, offering food and a place to hide for small fish, juvenile sea turtles and other marine life.



Will we have a repeat of last summer? August 2022 staff file photo

On the beach, though, it decomposes and produces a rotting-egg stench as it releases hydrogen sulfide gas. Beach visitors stepping in or touching the seaweed can get skin rashes and blisters from jellyfish larvae, sea lice and other marine organisms on the sargassum.

“I don't want to scare away tourists by giving a false alarm: ‘Look, there's a gigantic blob coming your way.’ No, that's not the case,” says professor Chuanmin Hu, an optical oceanographer at the University of South Florida in Tampa who

studies the sargassum. “What my group has been saying is there's a gigantic blob in the Atlantic Ocean and a small amount of that blob will sooner or later come to Florida. And that doesn't mean every beach will get a lot of sargassum.”

So, if you're wondering whether the sargassum washing ashore on South Florida beaches will be more or less than last year's, the answer is yes.

Where the wracks of sargassum land is at the mercy of coastal currents, tidal action and wind patterns. Some stretches of beach will see smaller amounts than in 2022, while other sections will see significantly more pile up.

“Predicting nature, especially in this regard, is dangerous because we don't fully understand what's going on in the vast ocean,” Hu says.

But make no mistake, there's an awful lot of sargassum out in the ocean — more than 6 million tons of it in the belt as of February — and more is expected. Last year peaked at about 22 million tons in the ocean in July. Last year's amount broke the previous record set in 2018, and this year may well top the 2022 level.

imagery. It's made up of clumps of sargassum spread out over about 2 million square miles of the ocean. If you took out the spacing between clumps, the sargassum would cover an area roughly the size of Lake Okeechobee, Hu says.

The amount of sargassum in the belt doubled in size in December and doubled again in January, before shrinking by about 20% in February, according to USF research data. Early indications were that it was growing again in March.

It's anticipated that it will keep growing as we head into the peak summer months, fueled by nitrogen and phosphorous flowing into the ocean from the Congo, Amazon and Mississippi rivers.

While Southeast Florida could see large amounts of sargassum this summer, it's unlikely to have beaches with anywhere near the 6-foot-high piles known to rise up on some islands in the Caribbean.

Sargassum is carried here on strong ocean currents. The sargassum is at its densest as it flows through the Caribbean, along the Caribbean Current, depositing huge piles along the shores there.

Then, as it heads toward Mexico it is picked up by the Yucatan Current and then the Loop Current that takes it through the Gulf of Mexico.

The sargassum that hasn't been washed ashore then moves into the Strait of Florida between Cuba and the Florida Keys, traveling along the Florida Current.

That current then takes the sargassum into the Gulf Stream, which carries it northward just off the East Coast, where a good wind out of the east will push it to shore.

The worst of the sargassum beaching here is expected in the summer months, but last year significant amounts showed up in April and May and kept landing on local beaches even into September.

“Mexico is already being heavily impacted,” says Florida Atlantic University professor Brian LaPointe of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.

Where sargassum will come ashore, like where a hurricane will make landfall, is hard to pinpoint with great precision. There is great variability because sargassum floats on top of the water and is heavily influenced by winds. Better satellite imagery of the coastal ocean is needed to make more accurate forecasts, LaPointe says.

“We're hoping in the future to be able to give better predictions on sargassum landings,” he says. “Right now, we're kind of constrained by the technology.” ★

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 3/22. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL 1

Saturday - 4/1 - Sand Sifters Beach Clean Up at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Meet at south pavilion, lower parking lot. Bring water, hat, sunscreen. 8-10:30 am. Free. jefflev02@gmail.com

4/1 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. Age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 10-11:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

4/1 - Outdoor Marine Aquarium Feedings at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 12:30 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

4/1 - 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

APRIL 2-8

Sunday - 4/2 - Intracoastal Adventures: Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Includes short talk about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. Age 7-adult; each child under 12 must be accompanied by one adult. Held again 4/15 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & members; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Tuesday - 4/4 - Golden Hour Guided Tours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour through outdoor aquariums, open-air butterfly garden, nature trail; ends w/sunset views of the Intracoastal Waterway from the beach by the Seminole Chiki. Age 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 4/14 & 18. 6-7:30 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Wednesday - 4/5 - Virtual Ocean Expert Exchange: Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease in the Caribbean w/Dr. Valeria Pizarro presented by ANGARI Foundation. 10 am. Free. Registration: angari.org/coral-disease

APRIL 9-15

Friday - 4/14 - Beach Treasures at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca

Raton. Learn about seashells, the animals that make them. Caravan to Red Reef Park, 1400 N State Rd A1A, to search for ocean treasures. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 4/25 2-3:30 pm. Free. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 4/15 - Great American Cleanup Annual beach cleanup, part of a national effort to beautify the nation. Throughout Palm Beach County including Spanish River Park, 1301 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages. Start times 8-9 am depending on location. Free. Pre-registration required, space is limited: 561-686-6646; keepPBCbeautiful.org

APRIL 16-22

4/22 - Lantana Beach Cleanup Event at Oceanfront Pavilion, 100 N Ocean Blvd. Part of Great American Cleanup. Gloves/bags provided; free event parking. 8:30-10 am. Free. Register:561-585-8664; Nshawah@lantana.org

APRIL 23-29

Thursday - 4/27 - Early Birding w/Al at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about native & migratory birds from an experienced birder. Binoculars recommended. Meet on nature center front porch. Age 10+; child must be accompanied by an adult. 8:30-10 am. Free. 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

4/27 - Virtual Speaker: Michael McCoy, Ph.D., The Role of Predators. Part of FAU Research in Action Series; Via Zoom. 1 pm. Free. Registration: fau.edu/research/community/research-in-action

Saturday - 4/29 - 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

APRIL 30-MAY 6

Thursday - 5/4 - 28th Annual Lantana Fishing Derby Captain's Party at Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S Dixie Hwy. 6-9 pm. 561-585-8664; lantanafishingderby.com

Saturday - 5/6-7 - 28th Annual Lantana Fishing Derby & Kid's Fishing Derby at Old Key Lime House 300 E Ocean Ave, Bicentennial Park 321 E Ocean Ave & Lantana Recreation Center 418 S Dixie Hwy. Derby Sat 7 am-3:30 pm; Kids Derby Sat 8:30 am-11:30 am at Bicentennial Park; Awards BBQ Sun 11:30 am-4 pm. Check website for schedules/times/locations/fees: 561-585-8664; lantanafishingderby.com

Not a single blob

The sargassum belt is not a single blob, though it may look that way from satellite

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Religion Notes

Holocaust remembrance concert set for Jewish Federation campus

The Center for Jewish Engagement, a program of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, will host a concert at 6 p.m. April 18. "Echoes of Hope" features the music of eight Jewish composers murdered during the Holocaust and one who survived.

The concert commemorates Yom HaShoah Ve-Hagevurah, the remembrance day of the Holocaust and the Jewish Memorial Day for the Shoah, which begins the evening of April 17 and ends the evening of April 18.

The program includes selections from string quartets by Erwin Schulhoff; songs by Ilse Weber, Pavel Haas, and Carlo Taube; movements from string trios by Hans Krasa and Gideon Klein; the first movement of Piano Sonata No. 7 by Viktor Ullmann; and popular works by Joseph Achron and Ernest Bloch.

Violinist David Lisker, a Juilliard graduate, is the featured performer. Also performing: violinist Regi Papa, violist Katarzyna Bryla, cellist Michael Katz, soprano Leila Bowie, and pianist Renana Gutman.

The concert takes place in Zinman Hall on the Jewish Federation campus, 9901 Donna Klein Blvd., Boca Raton. Tickets are \$18 at <https://jewishboca.org/events/echoes-of-hope>. For more info, call 561-852-3173.

Tribute to Howard McCall

The Boca Raton Historical Society, in association with St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, will host a special program from 6-8 p.m. April 13 on Howard McCall, the beloved church member who died in 2011 at 88 after battling pancreatic cancer.

Called "the architect of St. Gregory's," Mr. McCall was an important preservationist. His company, McCall and Lynch, Architects and Planners, designed many of the homes in Royal Palm Yacht Club and Camino Gardens, as well as the Royal Palm and Fifth Avenue shopping centers. But he's most loved as the man who designed St. Gregory's Episcopal Church.

This program is offered in conjunction with *MiMo in Boca Raton*, an exhibit at the Historical Society museum.

A tour of the church sanctuary, at 100 NE Mizner Blvd., begins at 6 p.m. with guides Howard "Buzz" McCall Jr. and Derek Vander Ploeg.

Then a lecture by architect Anthony Abbate, a professor at FAU, takes place in Harris Hall.

The event is free for Boca Raton Historical Society and St. Gregory's members, \$10 for non-members. Reservations are required at 561-395-6766.

For more information, visit www.BocaHistory.org.

Chocolate lovers wanted

Cason United Methodist Church members declare



Violinist David Lisker will perform April 18 at 'Echoes of Hope,' a concert put on by the Center for Jewish Engagement at Zinman Hall west of Boca Raton. Photo provided

that this is the season of love and they're celebrating with chocolate!

Anyone with a signature dessert or favorite homemade chocolate confection is invited to showcase the delicacy at the Cason Chocopalooza at 6 p.m. April 14 at the church.

To earn a chance to

be crowned the Cason Chocopalooza champ for 2023 (and win a gift card), entrants must provide two full-size servings of their succulent sweets. One will be tasted and the other will be auctioned off. A \$10 entry fee is required. Judges will include local community leaders.

Interested in tasting? For \$10, sample all the entries and bid on your favorite.

Proceeds benefit the missions and ministries of Cason UMC. Chocopalooza takes place in Fellowship Hall at the church, 342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach.

To register or to purchase tasting tickets, visit www.casonumc.org/chocopalooza.

Music at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Episcopal Church hosts the finalists from the Lynn University Conservatory of Music 2023 Chamber Music Competition as its guest performers at 3 p.m. April 16 at the church, 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach.

The next Music at St. Paul's concert is May 7 and features the Delray String Quartet. For more information, call 561-278-6003 or visit <https://musicstpauls.org>.

Book club meets

The Rev. Todd Petty of Church of the Palms leads a monthly book club that discusses novels with deep meaning. The book for April is *The People We Keep*, by Allison Larkin.

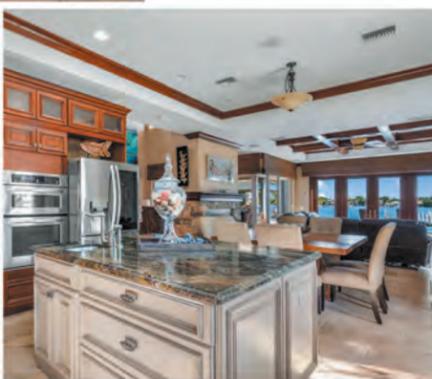
The club meets at 11:15 a.m. April 23 at the church, 1960 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Call 561-276-6347 or visit www.churchofthepalms.net.

Cinco de Mayo

The Knights of Columbus hosts a Cinco de Mayo dinner and dance party, 6-10 p.m. May 5 in the Parish Center at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 St. Mark Place, Boynton Beach. Tickets are \$35.

Raffles are also planned. Proceeds support the KOC charities. Call 561-734-9330 or visit www.stmarkboynton.com.

— Janis Fontaine



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FEATURES

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Paws Up for Pets

Need a top-notch sitter? Professionals outline their services

I recently traveled to New Orleans to speak at a professional pet sitters conference. The auditorium was filled with people dedicated to caring for other people's cats, dogs, birds, chickens, horses, hamsters, and even tortoises and snakes.

My talk focused on giving practical pet first-aid tips and tricks to the attendees, who are often regarded as "aunts" and "uncles" to their clients' cherished pets.

As a profession, pet sitting is not that old. Many credit Patti Moran, the founder of Pet Sitters International, for starting this industry in 1983 when she began charging money for caring for other people's pets in their homes.

Up until then, most people with pets would ask the neighbor kid or a family member to make sure their pets were fed while they left for a business trip or a vacation.

She launched PSI, now a global organization, in 1994. An equally major organization is called the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters.

Speed forward to 2023. Pet sitting is a recognized profession. Why, there is even a National Professional Pet Sitters Week celebrated each

Where to look

You can find sitters in your area who are licensed, insured, bonded and certified by visiting these two established pet sitting organizations:

- National Association of Professional Pet Sitters — <https://petsitters.org>
- Pet Sitters International — www.petsit.com

And here are the websites of the three locally owned companies cited in this column:

- A Best Friend Pet Sitting Inc. — www.abestfriendpetsitting.com
- Debra's Dog Den — www.debrasdogden.com
- Jill's Next Door Dog Walking & Pet Services LLC — www.jillsnextdoor.com



Debra Kossoff owns Debra's Dog Den in Delray Beach, providing overnight sitting for her clients. 'I found that a dog is most comfortable in his own home,' she says. Photos provided

March. Some professional pet sitting companies staff dozens of employees, and some sitters earn six figures.

As we climb out of the coronavirus mess, many pet parents are finally taking a long cruise or global excursion, but they do not want to leave the care of their pets to just anyone. If you are like me — and I am betting you are — your pets are beloved family members who

unleash unconditional love. My four cats and two dogs are my most priceless assets.

With pets gaining in popularity, the demand for pet caretakers who are insured, licensed, bonded and certified in pet behavior and safety is on the rise.

But what does it take to be a professional pet sitter? And what motivates a person to leave the corporate world to run

a company focused on caring for the pets of others?

For answers, I reached out to a few professional pet sitters in Palm Beach County.

Jill Merjeski operates the award-winning Jill's Next Door Dog Walking & Pet Services LLC in Highland Beach. Debra Kossoff specializes in providing overnight sitting as the solo entrepreneur of Debra's Dog Den in Delray Beach. Denise

Purificato is celebrating her 16th year as owner of A Best Friend Pet Sitting Inc. in Delray Beach.

A Best Friend Pet Sitting, Delray Beach

Purificato was inspired to start her pet care business when her family had nine pets — two dogs, five cats and two horses — and she had to find someone trustworthy to care

Dr. Jessica Banting



Welcome Dr. Jessica Banting

A Boynton Beach native, Dr. Banting graduated from the University of Florida's Veterinary School cum laude in 2006, and has practiced veterinary medicine in our area since graduation. She enjoys dermatology, internal medicine, acupuncture, and developing relationships with clients and patients. She shares the passion of providing quality compassionate care for our clients and patients with Dr. Rob Martin and our veterinary teams of Colonial Animal Hospital and Colonial Gateway Veterinary Center.



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for them while the family went on vacation.

She cares for many older pets or ones with medical needs. That means knowing how to properly give medications and recognizing any age-related changes in pets that she can pass on to her clients.

"I've cared for senior pets who had cataracts, have become blind or just have difficulty seeing," she says. "Some older dogs may have difficulty walking, so I will guide them or carry them outside when possible."

One of the rewards of her job is winning trust from her clients.

Purificato says, "I have enjoyed developing a bond of trust with my clients and when they travel, they love the updates and photos I send that show that their animals are comfortable, safe and doing well."

Jill's Next Door Dog Walking & Pet Services, Highland Beach

Jill Merjeski left a career as a senior academic adviser at Drexel University in Philadelphia to launch her pet sitting business in Palm Beach County in 2016. Four years later, her company was named Pet Advocate of the Year by Pet Sitters International and last year, her company was tabbed as the Best Palm Beach County Pet Sitters by *The Palm Beach Post*.

"These are big honors, especially considering we started from nothing," says Merjeski. "I am always educating people that my company is part of a professional association that provides continual education and certifications to its members. We are licensed, bonded and we rely on the latest technology to communicate with our clients."

Merjeski uses software called Time to Pet that provides verified GPS-timed visits by her sitters to clients' homes, sends out texts and emails to clients and enables clients to schedule or pay invoices online.

"This software gives clients the peace of mind of knowing where their pets are, who is caring for them during what time and much more," says Merjeski.

Her company also offers a taxi service to shuttle pets to veterinary or grooming appointments or to pick up pets at day cares when their pet parents find themselves working late.

Although she enjoyed her academic career, she loves running a professional pet sitting business.

"The best thing I love about pet sitting is the freedom I have, plus the opportunity to work with animals," says Merjeski. "I create jobs that people love and support."



Jill Merjeski provides verified GPS-timed visits by her sitters to clients' homes. 'We are licensed, bonded and we rely on the latest technology to communicate with our clients,' she says of her company, Jill's Next Door Dog Walking & Pet Services.

Debra's Dog Den, Delray Beach

While Merjeski runs a large business, Debra Kossoff prefers being a solo entrepreneur. She focuses strictly on providing overnight sitting to her clients who may be out of town for days or weeks at a time. She is also a certified professional dog trainer who incorporates positive-reinforcement-based techniques.

Kossoff has a master's degree in early childhood education. She was a teacher and worked in hospitals as a certified child life specialist. In many ways, those skills naturally transfer to her pet sitting duties.

"I am a student of learning, and it took me until my late 50s to find my true passion — and that is caring for and working with dogs," says Kossoff.

Her overnights serve as an alternative to boarding dogs.

"I found that a dog is most comfortable in his own home," she says. "My job is to keep the dog feeling comfortable when his owner is away. I also give their people peace of mind while they are away from home. To be successful, you need to be organized, dedicated and adaptable."

As she talks, she lets out a laugh because a client's dog — Bandit, a playful Australian shepherd — is pawing her for attention.

"Dogs are very perceptive of people," she says. "They know safe, dog-loving people. I love my job, and why not? I have a job where I get to laugh, smile and feel loved."

Arden Moore is an author, speaker and master certified pet first-aid instructor. She hosts a radio show, Arden Moore's Four Legged Life (www.fourleggedlife.com), and the weekly Oh Behave! podcast on PetLifeRadio.com. Learn more by visiting www.ardenmoore.com.



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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/Cs, 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!! **\$8,795,000**



Double Waterfront Estate — Boca Raton

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Delray Beach — Lake Ida

This Magnificent furnished Estate is poised on nearly 1 Acre of the most unique and beautifully landscaped lots, complete with unique plants and rare trees, winding walking paths and even a putting green. The home features soaring ceilings, a butterfly staircase, a gourmet chef's kitchen w/ custom cabinetry, quartz and marble counters, Wolf oven, Sub-Zero refrigerator and a 7 burner Laganche Gas Stove w/ oven. The living room has a 2 story floor to ceiling window and fireplace. The first floor also features a Media/ Game room, a bedroom & bedroom/office. Upstairs there is a gorgeous oversized Master and stunning bath, a loft and 3 additional bedrooms. Impact glass, full house generator, salt water pool, summer kitchen and a gated entrance to your 3 car garage. **\$5,250,000**



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. **\$2,195,000**



Port de Mer — Hillsboro Beach

Enjoy living the Beach Life in this beautiful Oceanside Corner unit on the North End Hillsboro Mile! This unit features an open kitchen with Granite and Stainless-steel appliances, hardwood floors, wet bar, large bedrooms, impact glass, and a Washer & Dryer in the unit. Complex features 2 Pools, garage parking and Pets allowed w/ weight restriction. All of this and blocks to all the fun restaurants, bars and shops of the "Deerfield Curve" **\$549,000**

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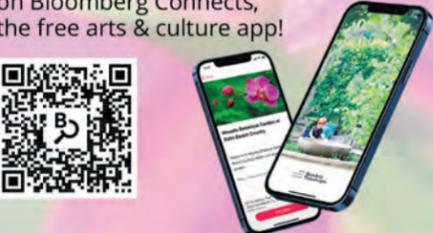
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Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 3/22. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL 1

Saturday - 4/1 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

4/1 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West, 1221 S Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every W 6:30-7:30 pm and 1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

4/1 - Judo Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Warm-up exercises, instruction, practice, tournament training. W 6:30-8:30 pm mixed ages/ranks; Sat 10 am-noon all groups. Per month \$21.50/resident; \$27/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

4/1 - 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

4/1 - OA (Overeaters Anonymous) Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 11 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

4/1 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

APRIL 2-8

Sunday - 4/2 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. Every Sun 4:30 pm. \$10/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

4/2 - CODA (Codependents Anonymous) Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sun 6 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Monday - 4/3 - Adult Zumba Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Every M 7-8 pm. Runs through 6/12. \$50/10 classes; \$6/1 class. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

Tuesday - 4/4 - Al Anon at St. Mark Catholic Church St. Clare Room, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every T 10 am & Th 7 pm. Free. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com

4/4 - 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 - 4/5 - Stretch & Strengthening Mindfulness Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W 10:30 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

4/5 - LGBTQ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every W 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Thursday - 4/6 - Virtual Speaker: Joseph Bartholomew, Ph.D., Double Stigma: Addiction and Recovery. Part of FAU Research in Action Series; Via Zoom. 1 pm. Free. Register: fau.edu/research/community/research-in-action

APRIL 16-22

Wednesday - 4/19 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: Decoding Sugar Messages to Create New Diagnostics and Therapeutics: Mia Lace Huang, PhD. 1-hour virtual lecture. 4 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu

APRIL 30-MAY 6

Saturday - 5/6 - Judo Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Warm-up exercises, instruction, practice, tournament training. W 6:30-8:30 pm mixed ages/ranks; Sat 10 am-noon all groups. Per month \$21.50/resident; \$27/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us



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Health & Harmony

East Boynton practice takes holistic approach to combat aging

Beauty may be skin deep, but for Dr. Joseph Gretzula and his team at Beauty Within, 100 NE Sixth St. in Boynton Beach, true beauty emanates from within.

A graduate of the University of Miami and a practicing dermatologist in Boynton Beach for 35 years, Gretzula is also a pharmacist and pharmacologist and serves on the medical staff at Baptist Health Bethesda Hospital East.



Gretzula, 66, moved his business to east Boynton — his dermatology practice is next door to Beauty Within — and says he is committed to the revitalization of the city and its efforts at redeveloping its downtown.

Early in the coronavirus pandemic, Gretzula came up with the idea of a science-based aesthetic and wellness center that incorporates a holistic approach with the goal of improving patients' biologic ages for longer and healthier lives. Beauty Within opened in December 2021.

The concept is designed to improve biological age through epigenetics and artificial intelligence.

"I'm approaching life differently as I age," says Gretzula, who practices what he preaches. He wears an Oura ring to monitor his sleep cycle, a Withings watch to check his blood pressure and uses a hand-held Lumen device that measures metabolism and helps him improve metabolic efficiency and enhance fat burning.

A resident of Ocean Ridge, Gretzula



Nicole Hill, certified physician assistant, demonstrates UltraClear skin resurfacing laser on Dr. Joseph Gretzula. It treats fine lines, deep wrinkles, sun damage, age spots, scarring, acne scars and hyperpigmentation. **Photo provided**

rides his bicycle to the Ocean Club of Florida where he works out on the elliptical machine, listens to music or lectures on his headset and pumps some weights. This all makes him "feel like a million bucks."

"It's important to manage your

sleep, your stress, practice mindful meditation, eat healthy and pay attention to your microbiome," he says. "Everything affects our skin. We're all about the whole patient and making lifestyle changes."

"We provide a culture of care and consider the patient as a whole person."

In addition to the usual injectables such as Botox and Juvéderm, the center offers body treatments with the UltraClear laser, the first cold ablative fiber laser which is FDA approved for all skin types; facial rejuvenation; its signature weight-loss program; neutraceuticals, and a variety of other wellness and anti-aging programs.

Gretzula draws on his pharmaceutical background, using natural peptides and amino acids as appetite suppressants to aid in weight loss and natural bioflavonoids to lower cholesterol, without the side effects of statin drugs.

Gretzula is the third provider in Florida, and the 25th in the country, to offer the UltraClear laser treatment and is proud of his high-tech equipment, which includes the InBody machine designed to measure body composition.

Beauty Within (mybeautywithin.com) is a true family business. Gretzula's daughter, Alexia Gretzula, and her fiancé, Max Krzyzaniak, both work in the office. The two met at Miami University in Ohio and moved here during the pandemic.

Krzyzaniak, 24, has already received Botox treatments to smooth wrinkles on his face and Morpheus8 micro-

needling under his arms to alleviate hyperhidrosis, or excessive sweating. Combined with radiofrequency energy, micro-needling works to halt the sweat glands from overproducing — something he was not used to in Ohio.

The center recruited Nicole Hill, 34, from Orlando. She is a certified physician assistant with over 10 years of experience in advanced aesthetic practices and a national trainer for Allergan Medical Aesthetics.

She works with patients to develop comprehensive treatment plans to enhance their beauty and well-being goals.

She says her most requested service is for facial rejuvenation, including volume replacement, skin tightening and skin resurfacing.

Hill says her clients range in age from 18-90 with an approximate ratio of 70% women to 30% men.

Men, she says, come for facials, laser treatments, IPL photofacials for facial rejuvenation and injectables, as well as noninvasive body contouring, which utilizes radio frequency to get rid of their love handles.

"We have a great team here," says Hill. "We try to be warm, comforting and welcoming to our clients."

And, as Dr. Gretzula likes to say, "Aging is optional."



Jan Engoren writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.

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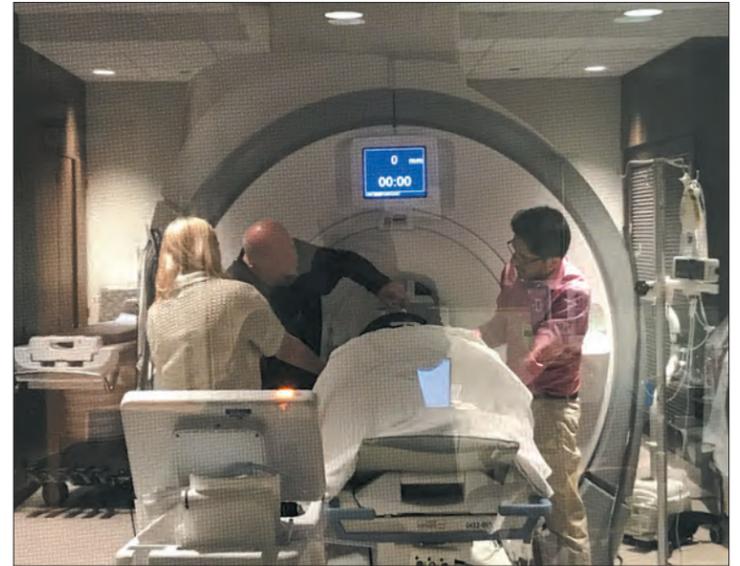
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Health Notes



Technicians at Delray Medical Center work with an Alzheimer's patient using ultrasound technology as part of a study in collaboration with FAU. Photo provided

Ultrasound technology used in treatment of Alzheimer's patient

Delray Medical Center is treating an Alzheimer's patient using ultrasound technology as part of a study being conducted in collaboration with Florida Atlantic University's Institute for Human Health and Disease Intervention.

In the FDA-approved clinical trial, this technology is used to disrupt patients' blood-brain barrier. The Delray Medical Center patient enrolled in the clinical trial received the first of three treatments at the hospital on Feb. 15.

To find out more about Delray Medical Center's focused ultrasound program, visit www.delraymedicalctr.com/services/neurosciences/focused-ultrasound.

Peter B. Licata, Ph.D., has been appointed to the Delray Medical Center governing board.



Licata

Licata is the regional superintendent of the south region of the Palm Beach

County School District. He earned his Ph.D. in global leadership from Lynn University and he has served as adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University, where he taught courses preparing future school administrators.

Caron Treatment Centers has announced its new older-adult program at Caron Florida's new Keele Medical Center.

The residential program, with 15 private en suite bedrooms, provides comprehensive diagnostic assessment, 24/7 on-site medically managed care, daily health assessments, substance use and mental health disorder treatment, chronic pain management, relapse prevention, spiritual counseling, holistic services, on-site physical therapy and family support.

The Keele Center is located at 4575 Linton Blvd., Delray Beach.

Send health news to Christine Davis, cdavis9797@gmail.com.

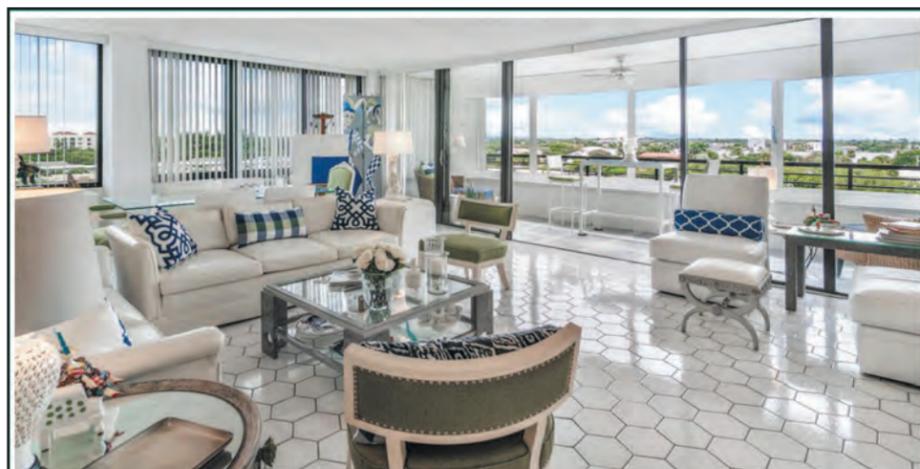
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Tots & Teens

Friends group of Boca Raton library expands off-site programs

By Janis Fontaine

The Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library is like a perpetual motion machine promoting a love for reading. Friends members sell donated books in their store in the lobby of the Downtown Library and then use the money to promote reading and literacy programs, make free books available and increase the demand for books, all at the same time.

In partnership with the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District and the city's Recreation Services, the Friends recently expanded two popular reading programs: Little Free Libraries and the StoryWalk.

A Little Free Library is a curbside box filled with books that can be borrowed at no cost by adults or kids. There's nothing to sign, no deposit to make. People just bring the books back when they're



Boca Raton parks and recreation aren't only about nature and play. They can be about reading, too. **LEFT:** A sign points visitors to a StoryWalk at Patch Reef Park. **RIGHT:** A Little Free Library is available to visitors at the Swim and Racquet Center. **Photos provided**

finished so someone else may enjoy.

"There are seven Little Free Libraries now" in Boca Raton, with three added recently, said Tracy Wasserman, president of the Friends board.

Nationally, the LFL program was started to eradicate "book deserts," Wasserman said. A

book desert is usually a rural community that has no local library or other established source of books. "There are 2,500 book deserts in the United States."

Since the first book-sharing box was built in Minnesota in 2009, more than 250 million books have been shared through

registered Little Free Libraries. The LFL organization's vision is "a Little Free Library in every community and a book for every reader."

Boca Raton's new LFL's are in Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail; Patch Reef Park, 2000 Yamato Road; and at the Swim and Racquet Center, 21626 St.

Andrews Blvd.

The other LFLs are at Hillsboro El Rio Park South (200 SW 18th St.), Happy Faces Library (165 NE 21st St.), Sand Pine Park (300 Newcastle St.), and the Little Free Library of Palm Beach Farms, one block east of Pine Breeze Park on Southwest 20th Street.

Find Little Free Library locations all over the United States online at www.littlefreelibrary.org — and you can even find out how to start your own.

The second project the Friends support is the StoryWalk, designed to build children's enthusiasm for reading while encouraging healthy physical activity.

StoryWalks are nature walks in which kids stop at kiosks to read a page or two of a book (often nature-related), then move on to the next kiosk for more of the story. Kids find joy in reading as the story reveals itself bit by bit.

The first StoryWalk project was built in 2007 in Montpelier, Vermont, in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. There are now three in Boca Raton. Each StoryWalk has a different book featured and books are changed every few months, Wasserman said.

All three have been paid for by the Friends.

- The StoryWalk at Patch Reef Park, 2000 Yamato Road. Book: *Dance Like a Flamingo: Learn How to Move and Groove Like the Animals Do!* by Moira Butterfield (author) and Claudia Boldt (illustrator).

- The StoryWalk at Serenoa Glade Preserve at George Snow Park, 1101 NW 15th St. Book: *Peep and Ducky Rainy Day* by David Martin.

- The StoryWalk near the butterfly garden at the Pondhawk Natural Area on the west side of the Spanish River Library, 1501 Spanish River Blvd. Book: *Croc O'Clock* by Huw Lewis Jones.

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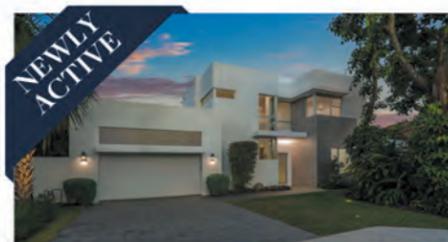
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The Friends' story

The Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library is a nonprofit that has provided support to the library for decades, since the group's founding in 1990. When a benefactor left the Friends a \$300,000 bequest, the Friends gave \$250,000 to the library for its expansion. The bookstore brings in between \$5,000-\$6,000 a month, which easily paid the \$6,000 bill for the Patch Reef Park StoryWalk.

The Friends' bookstore is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and accepts donations until 3:30 p.m. It has books for all ages, both fiction and nonfiction, plus coffee table books, cooking and recipe books, puzzles and games, and audiobooks on CD.

It's in the lobby of the Downtown Library at 400 NW Second Ave. Call 561-544-8596 or visit www.bocalibraryfriends.org/bookstore. ★

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 3/22. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL 1

Saturday – 4/1 - Seed Library Showcase at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Library houses a variety of seeds to check out all year long; new seeds available. Visit the Youth Library, check out flower & vegetable seedlings. Free w/ library card. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/1 - Adaptive Pickleball Clinic at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. In recognition of World Autism Month, children w/autism & other special needs play pickleball. 9-10 am. Free. 561-742-6652; boynton-beach.org

4/1 - Free Fun Saturday at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Museum hunt for kids, interactive exhibits, more. Family fare. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766x100; bocahistory.org

4/1 - MAP Dance Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every Sat through 5/27. Age 4.5-6 combo 10-11 am; age 7-18 ballet 11 am-noon; age 7-18 hip hop noon-1 pm. \$125/resident; \$156/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/1 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Sat 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/1 - Saturday Morning Art (smART) at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Studio workshops; families/intergenerational groups focus on artistic family fun to learn, create, enjoy visual arts. 10-11 am. \$5/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

4/1 - Pulp, Paper & Play Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-17. 10:30 am-noon. Per class \$5/resident; \$7/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/1 - 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

4/1 - Tail Waggin Tutors at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Elementary school children read to certified therapy dog. Grades K-5. Held again 4/15 & 5/6. Noon-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/1 - April Pools Day at John Denson Pool, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Family fare. 12:30-4:30 pm. Regular admission applies. 561-742-6646; boynton-beach.org

4/1 - Daily Shark & Stingray Feedings at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. T-Sun 1 pm. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

4/1 - Daily Aquarium Feedings at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. T-Sun 2 pm. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

4/1 - Animal Encounters at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. T-Sun 3 pm. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

APRIL 2-8

Monday - 4/3 - My First Book Club at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 4-6. Held again 4/10 3:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/3 - Fun with Fernanda: Bilingual Spanish-English Story Time at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 0-4. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/3 - PAWS to Read at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Join Ms. Rose & her therapy dog, Cloud, to practice reading. Age 5-12. Every M through 4/24 4-5 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/3 - Introduction to Painting for Tweens at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. Held again 4/10 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Tuesday - 4/4 - Reading & Rhythm for Toddlers at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Age 3 & under. Held again 4/11 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/4 - Play & Learn for Toddlers at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Help your child learn literacy skills during playtime w/ literacy-based toys. Age 2-3. Held again 4/11 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/4 - The Time Machine at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Performed by ACT for Youth Touring Program. Grades K-8. 11 am. \$8/adult; \$7/child 12 & under. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

4/4 - Teen Tech Sandbox at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17.

Every T 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/4 - MAP Dance Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every T through 5/30. Age 4.5-6 ballet/tap 4-5 pm; age 7-12 modern 5-6 pm; age 13-18 modern 6-7 pm. \$125/resident; \$156/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/4 - Teen Game Day at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

4/4 - Teen Book Club: Blood and Ash by Jennifer L. Armentrout at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. In person & via Zoom. 1st & 3rd T 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/4 - Karate Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-17. Every T/Th through 5/11 5:30-6:30 pm. \$85/resident; \$106/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/4 - Teen Crafting Hour: Candle Making at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-18. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/4-5 - 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. 10-10:45 am. Free w/paid admission. 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

Wednesday - 4/5 - Bilingual Outdoor Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Held again 4/19 & 5/3. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/5 - Oh Baby Story Time at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Pre-literacy class: music, stories, rhymes. Age 3 months-2.5 years. 1st, 2nd & 3rd W 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/5 - Tales for 2s & 3s at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Held again 4/12 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/5 - Play & Learn for 2s & 3s at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills during playtime. Held again 4/12 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/5 - Little Artists at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age preschool to kindergarten. Held again 4/19 & 5/3 10:30-11 am. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

4/5 - Young @ Art at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Create fun arts/crafts, learn the principles of art. Age 5-7. Held again 4/19 & 5/3. 3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/5 - Youth Chess Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 12-17; all skill levels. Every W 4-5 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 4/6 - 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

4/6 - STEAM Stars at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. S.T.E.A.M.-inspired activities, hands-on exploration. Age 8-12. 1st & 3rd Th 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/6 - Make & Take at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. Held again 5/4 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/6 - Gymnastics Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every Th through 6/11. Age 4-6 5:30-6:15 pm; age 6-10 6:30-7:15 pm or 7:15-8 pm. \$90/resident; \$105/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

Friday - 4/7 - Youth Symposium at Sims Center, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Learn, engage, share with peers. Age 11-18. 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-742-6641; boynton-beach.org

4/7 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Public



Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Age 0 months to non-walking. Held again 4/14 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

4/7 - Play & Learn for Babies at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Learn literacy skills during playtime. Age 0 months to non-walking. Held again 4/14 11:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/7 - Preschool Playdate at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Interactive play. Age 1-7. Held again 5/5 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 4/8 - Handle Life Basketball at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 3-14. Every Sat through 5/13 9-10 am. \$70/resident; \$88/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

4/8 - Little Wonders at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Hike, crafts, stories. Age 3-4 w/an adult. 10-11 am. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

4/8 - Nature Detectives at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New mystery each month. Age 5-6 w/an adult. Noon-1 pm. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

4/8 - College Readiness at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Grades 9-12. 1-2:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

4/8 - Got Gaming Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 4/22 & 5/6 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

APRIL 9-15

Sunday - 4/9 - Chess Moves: Open Play or Tournament Play at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6+. Held again 4/23 10 am-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/9 - Rookie Rooks: Beginner Chess for Youth at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 8-12. Held again 4/23 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Monday - 4/10 - Kindergarten Readiness Story Time w/Ms. Tea at Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Age 3-5. 2nd & 4th M 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 4/11 - Artist of the Month at Schoolhouse Children's Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 3-7. 3-3:45 pm. Free w/paid admission. Registration: 561-742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

4/11 - Teen Tuesday at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 4/25 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

4/11 - Manga Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/11 - Bedtime Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. 6:30-7 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Wednesday - 4/12 - Special Guest Storytime with Suzy Hammer at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 10-10:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/12 - Teen & Tween Crochet at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-18. Held again 5/2 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 4/13 - Snips, Snaps, Tales, & Tunes at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Join Ms. Lovely; story/related craft develops listening skills, print awareness, fine motor coordination. Age 3-5. 3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/13 - Creative Writing Class at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades K-8. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 4/14 - Astro Hour: Come In & Space Out! at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 8-12. 2nd & 4th F 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 4/15 - Handle Life Basketball at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 3-14. Every Sat through 5/20 9-10 am. \$70/resident; \$88/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

4/15 - Gymnastics Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-11. Every Sat through 5/6 9:15-10 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/15 - Gymnastics/Cheerleading Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Every Sat through 5/6. Age 5-11. 10:05-10:50 am. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/15-16 - Creation Station at Boca Raton Museum of Art Wolgin Education Center, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. Noon-4 pm. Free w/ admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

APRIL 16-22

Sunday - 4/16 - 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. 10-11 am. \$5/resident & member; \$8/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

4/16 - The Rock & Roll Playhouse: The Sounds of Phish at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Family fare. 11 am doors open; noon show. \$15/general admission; free/kids under age 1. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

Monday - 4/17 - Story Chasers Book Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. In person or Zoom. Grades 1-3. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/17 - Movie Night: TBA at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 4/18 - Community Superheroes at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 3-7. 3:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/18 - STEAM Lab: Earth Day Slime at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/18 - DIY Seed Bombs at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Craft a "seed bomb" packed w/wildflower seeds; bring life into any outdoor space. Age 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/18 - Climate Resilience: A Presentation by FAUs Climate READY Teen Ambassadors at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13+. 6-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/18 - Teen Crafting Hour: Crochet Basics at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-18. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/18 - Tiny Mites Indoor Football at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Age 3-7. Every T/Th through 5/25 6-7 pm. \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

Wednesday - 4/19 - Tween Book Jam: Moonflower by Kacen Callendar at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 4/20 - Lego Lab at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 4:30-

5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 4/22 - Drama & Musical Theater Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-12. Every Sat through 5/20 11-11:45 am. \$75/resident; \$90/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/22 - Fiber Arts Studio: Crochet at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

APRIL 23-29

Sunday - 4/23 - The Science of Nature at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 7-8. 10-11 am. \$5/resident & member; \$8/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Monday - 4/24 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 4/25 - Booktastic Book Club: The Alien Next Door: The Marvelous Museum by A.I. Newton at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Free copy of book upon registration. Child attends independently. Age 7-8. 3:30-4:15 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

4/25 - Readers are Leaders Book Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Free copy of the book to keep. Grades 4-7. Last T 4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/25 - Anime Night at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 10-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Wednesday - 4/26 - Library on the Go! I Believe I Can! at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Each month librarian Ms. Tea drives the Library on the Go golf cart to a different Delray location for an engaging pop-up library program & children's books to peruse/enjoy. Pop-up location announced on the website. Age 5-9. 3:30 pm. Free. Sign-in sheet provided on site: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/26 - Art Tales at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Story time, art activity. Age 4-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. \$5/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

4/26 - Pajama Playdate at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Interactive play. Age 1-7. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Thursday - 4/27 - Picture Book Club at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

APRIL 30-MAY 6

Tuesday - 5/2 - Teen Game Day at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

5/2 - Teen Book Club: Graceling by Kristin Cashore at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. In person & via Zoom. 1st & 3rd T 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 5/3 - Oh Baby Story Time at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Pre-literacy class: music, stories, rhymes, lap bounces. Age 3 months-2.5 years. 1st, 2nd & 3rd W 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Thursday - 5/4 - Make & Take at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 5/5 - Preschool Playdate at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Interactive play. Age 1-7. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 5/6 - Pulp, Paper and Play Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-17. 10:30 am-noon. Per class \$5/resident; \$7/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

5/6 - Intro to Kickboxing at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org

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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 3/22. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL 1

Saturday - 4/1 - Pickleball at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Adults. Sat 9 am-noon; M/W 6-8 pm. \$5; \$50/30-visit pass. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

4/1 - 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

4/1 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every Sat 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/1 - Current Events Discussion at Highland Beach Library, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us

4/1 - Open Figure Studio w/Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 18+. Held again 4/13 6:30-8:30 pm, 4/22 & 4/27. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

4/1 - Virtual Saturday Morning Writers' Group presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1st & 3rd Sat 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

4/1 - 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. 2-6 pm. Free. 561-651-9565; delraycra.org/events

4/1 - Workshop: Wearable Art w/Upcycled Fabric at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 2-5 pm. \$85. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

4/1 - Artist at Work: Michel McNabb - Enamel Jewelry at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$5/member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

4/1 - Museum Club: Billy Stritch - Cy Coleman Revisited at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 6 pm dinner; 8 pm show. \$210. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

4/1 - Schola Cantorum of Florida: Expressions of Peace at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$20. Scholacantorumfl.org

4/1 - Concert: Motown Comes to Mizner presented by Deney Terrio at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Features Tavares, Evelyn Champagne King, The Tramps featuring Earl Young, Heatwave, France Joli, The Blue Notes, Lime, more. 6 pm doors open; 7 pm show. Tickets start at \$63.50. 561-393-7700; myboca.us

4/1 - August: Osage County at Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St, West Palm

Beach. Runs through 4/16. Times/tickets: 561-514-4042 x2; palmbeachdramaworks.org

4/1 - Salsabor All Stars Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$45-\$50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

4/1-2 - First Weekend Mural: Earth Day/Environment/PEEPs Show by Sara Gayoso at Flamingo Clay Studio, 15 S J St, Lake Worth Beach. 1st weekend each month Sara creates a new mural on the window. 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-598-8344; flamingoclaystudio.com

4/1-2 - Marty's Back in Town: A Dysfunctional Comedy at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 3 pm. \$35-\$45. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

4/1-2 - Damn Yankees at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Runs through 4/2. Th/F/Sat 7:30 pm; W/Th/Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$99. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

4/1-2 - Neighborhood 3 by Jennifer Haley at Florida Atlantic University Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Sat 7 pm; Sat/Sun 2 pm. \$12. 561-297-6124; fauevents.universitytickets.com

APRIL 2-8

Sunday - 4/2 - Student Composition Spring Concert at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

4/2 - Tal Cohen Trio: Songs from a Childhood in Israel at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 4/3 - Jazz & Java: The Swing Era, Big Bands, More at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Discuss/listen to America's great voices from 1950s to present. Adults. Every M through 5/8 10-11:30 am. \$120. Register: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

4/3 - Dramawise: August: Osage County w/Gary Cadwallader at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member; \$50/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

4/3 - Computer Basics Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/3 - Advanced Squares at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every M 2-4 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/3-4 - Celebrating Broadway's Landmark Musicals: A Musical Memories Concert at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Runs through 4/4. M-Th 2 pm; T/W 7:30 pm. \$42. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Tuesday - 4/4 - Career & Employment Help w/CareerSource PBC at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Assistance w/employment, re-employment, resumes, filing for unemployment, career path assistance.

Easter Holiday Events

Note: Events are current as of 3/22. Please check with organizers for any changes.

APRIL 1

Saturday - 4/1 - Easter Egg Hunt at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1615 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 9-11 am. Free. 561-582-4430; osl-lw.org

4/1 - Easter Egg Hunt & Festival at First United Methodist Church, 625 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 10 & under. 10 am. Free. 561-395-1244; fumcbocaraton.org

APRIL 2-8

Sunday - 4/2 - Easter Egg Hunt at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Bring your own basket. Noon. Free. Reservations: 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

Friday - 4/7-8 - Springfest Celebration & Egg Hunt at Miller Park, 1905 SW 4th Ave,



Delray Beach. 10,000+ eggs filled w/candy, surprises. Food, games, crafts, more. Bring a basket; hunt divided into age divisions. Sat age 12 to adult 7 pm. Sun age 1-12 8:30 am. Free. delraybeachfl.gov

Saturday - 4/8 - Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt at Maddock Park, 1200 W Drew St, Lantana. Family games, hayride, arts/crafts, vendors. 8:30-10:30 am. Info: 561-540-5754; lantana.org

4/8 - Easter Egg Hunt at Flagler Museum, One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 9 am gates open; 10 am egg hunt. \$40/adult; \$25/child. 561-655-2833; flaglermuseum.us

4/8 - Easter Story Hour in the Garden: The Classic Tale of Peter Rabbit at Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St. Story time, scavenger hunt, Easter craft. Age 3+ with parent/guardian. 10 am-noon. \$10/child. 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

4/8 - Egg-Stravaganza at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E. Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Games, activities, egg hunts. Family fare. 10 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

APRIL 9-15

Sunday - 4/9 - Easter Egg Hunt at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Follows 10 am Mass & 4:30 pm Spanish Mass. Free. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com

Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

4/4 - Friends Divided: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson by Gordon S. Wood at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Part of Presidential Biography Book Club. Adults. 10:30 am. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

4/4 - Creating a Legacy Letter w/Merle Saferstein at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 11 am-12:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$50/member; \$65/non-member; \$65/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

4/4 - Boca Raton Garden Club at 4281 NW 3rd Ave. Speaker Rosemarie Zannino: A Visit from Gardener Emily Dickinson. 1 pm. Free. 561395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

4/4 - 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

4/4 - Internet Basics Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/4 - Poets on the Fringe at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every T 4-5:45 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

4/4 - Beginning Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 5/23 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

4/4 - Bingo Tuesday at St. Lucy Catholic Church, 3510 S Ocean Blvd, Highland Beach. Every T 6 pm doors open; 7 pm games start. \$15/11 games. 561-278-1280; stlucycommunity.com

4/4 - Comedy Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 1st T 8-10 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 4/5 - AARP Smart Driver Course at Delray Beach Public Library, 100

W Atlantic Ave. Certified instructor. Open to drivers of all ages. Payment due at start of class. 9:30 am-3:30 pm. \$20/AARP member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-266-9490; delraylibrary.org

4/5 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Creating Button Pins w/a Button Maker at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

4/5 - Expressive Pastels Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every W 1-4 pm. \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/5 - Microsoft Excel Basics Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/5 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd W 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

4/5 - Passover begins

Thursday - 4/6 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Limit 10 quilters at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

4/6 - Line Dancing at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Basic modern western square dancing. Every Th 10:30-11:30 am. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/6 - iPhone Workshop at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1:30-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

4/6 - Workshop: Shadow Play w/Sumi Ink at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 2-4 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

4/6 - Concert: Rhythm Chicks at Highland Beach Library, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

4/6 - Intermediate Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every Th through 5/25 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

4/6 - Workshop: Intro to Creativity Hilma af Klint Week at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6-8:30 pm. \$55. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

Friday - 4/7 - Great Books Discussion Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every F via Zoom 10 am. Free. 561-266-0798; delraylibrary.org

4/7 - Mizner Park Friday Night Artisan Market every Friday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 4-9 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

4/7 - First Friday @ 5 Concert: Whisky Six Band at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children's activities, food trucks, concert. 5-8 pm. Free. 561-742-6010; boynton-beach.org

4/7 - Plein Air Art Exhibit at Chapel 4, 200 SE 7th Ave, Delray Beach. Part of First Friday Art Walk. 6-9 pm. Free. pleinairpalmbeach@gmail.com

4/7 - Beginner Squares at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every F 6:15-7:15 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

4/7 - J Bliss: The Art of Laughter at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 4/8 - Workshop: Fanzine at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 16+. 2-day workshop concludes 4/15. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$50. 561-330-9614; artwarehouse.org

4/8 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting. 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

4/8 - Open VR (Virtual Reality) Lounge at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Explore virtual reality, try out an Oculus VR headset. Held again 4/22 & 5/6. 2:30-4:30 pm.

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Delray GreenMarket

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SHOP SMART

Shop with 60 of South Florida's premier farmers, bakers, and culinary artisans.

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Free Parking until 4pm in Old School Square Garage, 95 NE 1st Ave • (561) 276-7511

Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1st F & 3rd T 7:30 pm. Free. Schedule subject to change; check website: 561-297-7827; cescos.fau.edu/observatory

Wednesday - 4/19 - Lunchbox Matinee: Hank Williams & His Honky Tonk Trio at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 12:30 pm. \$60. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

4/19 - Film: Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise (2019 NR) at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/19 - Microsoft Excel Advanced Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/19 - Town Hall Teatime: Pop Goes the Page! FAU Libraries Distinctive Collections Division at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 2 pm. \$10/non-member. 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org

4/19 - Eco-Watch Lecture Series presented by Gumbo Limbo Nature Center at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 13 & up; child under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6:30-8 pm. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

4/19 - FAU Symphony Band & Chamber Winds at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

Thursday - 4/20 - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Club presented by Delray Beach Public Library at The Coffee District, 325 NE 2nd Ave. 3rd Th 9:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/20 - 3D Printing & Design w/TinkerCAD Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/20 - Workshop: Indigo Ferns in Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

4/20 - Evil: Religions' Greatest Problem w/Michael Gold at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member; \$50/one-time guest pass at door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

4/20 - 37th Annual Boca Raton Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 W Plaza Real. Benefits Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise Foundation

college scholarships & Golden Bell Education Foundation. 5:30-8:30 pm. \$100/teacher; \$75/guest. 561-395-4433 x223; bocaratonchamber.com

4/20 - Music That Moves You at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

4/20 - Evening of Jazz: Phil Hinton Trio at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 7-8:30 pm. \$20/member; \$30/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

4/20-22 - Hank Williams & His Honky Tonk Trio at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. F/Sat 7:30 pm; Th/Sat 2 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Friday - 4/21 - Exhibition: Biennial 2023 at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 6/24. T-Sat noon-5 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

4/21 - Exhibition: As It Was: The Show That Never Happened at Florida Atlantic University Schmidt Center Gallery, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 5/20. T-F 1-4 pm; Sat 1-5 pm. Free. 561-297-2661; fau.edu/galleries

4/21 - Art Under the Stars at Katrina Moldova Art Gallery, 1717 Avenida Del Sol, Boca Raton. Benefits Boys & Girls Club of Boca Raton. Auction, raffle, DJ, more. 6-9 pm. \$50/ticket; \$75/2 tickets; \$10/raffle ticket. 561-683-3287; bgcpbc.org

4/21 - Free Concert: Never Stop Believin' at Old School Square Pavilion, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6:30 pm gates open; 7:30 pm concert. Free. 561-243-6209; delraybeachfl.gov/parksandrecreation

4/21 - Michele Satta Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$50/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

4/21 - Smooth STB: Santana Tribute Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 4/22 - 6th Annual Play4JA Golf Tournament at Palm Beach Par 3, 2345 S Ocean Blvd. Presented by/benefits Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches & Treasure Coast. 7:15 am breakfast; 8:30 am shotgun start. \$650/foursome; \$200/individual golfer. 561-242-9468; palmbeachtreasurecoast.ja.org

4/22 - Tree Giveaway at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 300 free trees in celebration of Arbor Day. Must be able to confirm Delray residency. First come, first served. 9-11 am. Free. communitygreening.org

Green Markets

Lake Worth Farmers Market every Saturday under the overpass at A1A and Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 9 am-1 pm. Runs through 4/9. Free. 561-547-3100; lakeworthfarmersmarket.com

Delray Beach GreenMarket every Saturday at Cornell Art Museum Front Lawn, 51 N Swinton Ave. Fresh local produce, baked goods, gourmet food items, plants, live music, children's activities. 9am-2pm. Closed 4/15 for Delray Affair. 561-276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market

Lantana Green Market every Sunday at the Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S Dixie Hwy. 10 am-2 pm. 561-515-9919; shorelinegreenmarkets.com

Mizner Park Farmer's and Artisans' Market every Sunday at 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 10 am-5 pm. 561-362-0606; miznerpark.com

4/22 - Greener w/Gumbo: Sustainability Every Day at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Discover ways to live more sustainably in 2023 at interactive presentation w/DIY planet-friendly project to take home. Adults & child age 12+; child under 18 must participate w/parent/guardian. 10-11 am. \$9/member; \$12/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

4/22 - Tree Giveaway at Centennial Park, 120 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. 300 free trees in celebration of Arbor Day. Must be able to confirm Boynton Beach residency. First come, first served. 10 am-noon. Free. communitygreening.org

4/22 - Planting a Garden with Farmer Jay at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

4/22 - Art Talk: Biennial 2023 Panel Discussion w/Curator Juana Williams at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

4/22 - Gardening in Small Spaces with Farmer Jay at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 2:30-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

4/22 - Alan Cumming Is Not Acting His Age at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Two shows: 6:30 pm & 9 pm. \$100-\$160. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

4/23 - An Americana Rock Night with The Riverbreaks at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$25-\$30. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 4/24 - The Last White Man by Mohsin Hamid part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/24 - Collage Workshop at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 1-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

Tuesday - 4/25 - Franklin D. Roosevelt: A Political Life by Robert Dallek at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Part of Presidential Biography Book Club. Adults. 10:30 am. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

4/25 - Crafting in the Library: Spring Wreaths w/Paper Flowers at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 6-8 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Wednesday - 4/26 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Knitting 101 at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 4/27 - Coding Basics: Resources for Getting Started at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/27 - Concert: Turquoise Choir - Turkish Music at Highland Beach Library, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

4/27 - Authors Speak: Dr. Traci Baxley - Social Justice Parenting at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. Free. Registration: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

4/27 - Friends Virtual Book Club: The Winners by Fredrik Backman presented by Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Email for zoom link: DTLbookclub@bocalibraryfriends.org; 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 4/28 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Create a Quilling Project to Take Home at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

4/28 - Learn Basic Cricut Design Session 2: Designing with Text at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

4/28 - Garage Queens w/Special Guest Nicky Monet at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$30-\$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

4/28-29 - Dances We Dance directed by **Clarence Brooks** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. F/Sat 7 pm; Sat 1 pm. \$25/general public; \$18/faculty/staff/alumni. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

Saturday - 4/29 - Achievement Centers for Children & Families 4th Annual Golf Tournament: Swing to Achieve at Palm Beach Par 3, 2345 S Ocean Blvd. 8 am registration; 9 am shotgun scramble; 1-2:30 pm post-event reception: cocktails/bites. \$200/golfer. 561-276-0520; achievementcentersfl.org

4/29 - Tree Giveaway at Centennial Park, 120 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. 300 free trees in celebration of Arbor Day. Must be able to confirm Boynton Beach residency. First come, first served. 10 am-noon. Free. communitygreening.org

4/29 - Workshop: Intro to Creativity Paul Klee Week at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$55. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

4/29 - League of Women Voters: A Taste of the League - New Member Online Orientation. On Zoom. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. RSVP: 561-276-4898; lwpvbc.org

4/29 - Mother's Day Luncheon at Intracoastal Park Clubhouse, 2240 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. 11 am-1 pm. \$18/resident; \$23/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6644; boynton-beach.org

4/29 - Bassel & The Supernaturals at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

4/29-30 - Spring Plant Festival & Sale at Mounts Botanical Garden, 561 Military Tr, West Palm Beach. 70 vendors & artisans. Sat 9 am-4 pm; Sun 9 am-3 pm. free/members and child

under 6; regular admission/non-member. 561-233-1757; mounts.org

APRIL 30-MAY 6

Sunday - 4/30 - Lecture: Whitfield Lovell: Memory as Method at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 3-4 pm. \$8/member; \$15/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

4/30 - Seraphic Fire: First/Last: 20th Anniversary Concert at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. 4 pm. \$62. 305-285-9060; seraphicfire.org

4/30 - Jeff Harnar - I Know Things Now: My Life in Sondheim's Words at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 5/1 - Computer Basics Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Tuesday - 5/2 - Boca Raton Garden Club at 4281 NW 3rd Ave. Speaker Taryn Palo: Everything About Air Plants. 1 pm. Free. 561395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

5/2 - Internet Basics Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

5/2 - Bright Puppy Class at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. For puppies from 9-20 weeks old. Age 18+. Every T through 5/30 6-7 pm; \$185/resident; \$231/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

5/2 - Comedy Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 1st T 8-10 pm. \$5-\$10. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 5/3 - Virtual Speaker: Ata Sarajedini, Ph.D., To Galaxies and Beyond Part of FAU Research in Action Series; Via Zoom. 1 pm. Free. Registration: fau.edu/research/community/research-in-action

5/3 - Microsoft Word Basics Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

5/3 - The Basics Dog Class at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. For puppies from 9-20 weeks old. Age 18+. Every W through 5/31 6-7 pm; \$185/resident; \$231/non-resident. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

Thursday - 5/4 - Image Compositing w/Adobe Photoshop Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Friday - 5/5 - Food Truck Friday at Lake Wyman Park, 1500 NE 5th Ave, Boca Raton. 11 am-2 pm. Free. 561-367-7073; myboca.us/specialevents

5/5 - Solo Gallery Exhibition: Gerald K. Stone at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 6/17. T-Sat noon-5 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

5/5 - iPad Basics Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

5/5 - Knights of Columbus Cinco de Mayo Dinner & Dance Party at St. Mark Catholic Church Parish Center, 643 St. Mark Pl, Boynton Beach. Raffles benefit KofC charities. BYOB; soft drinks provided. 6-10 pm. \$35. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com

5/5 - Alex Carabano & James Camacho: The Art of Laughter at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$30. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

5/5-7 - Closer by Patrick Marber at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Runs through 5/14. F/Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. \$25. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

5/5-7 - Blue, A Rhapsody in Blubber by **Lynn McNutt** at Florida Atlantic University Theatre Lab, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 5/14. F/Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 3 pm. \$25. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

Saturday - 5/6 - 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. 1-5 pm. Free. 561-651-9565; delraycra.org/events

5/6 - Twilight In The Garden 2023 at Delray Beach Historical Society Heritage Gardens, 3 NE 1st St. History exhibits, silent auction, food, drink, live music. 6 pm. Call for info/tickets: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

5/6 - Comedian Dom Irrera at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$30-\$40. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

5/6 - Yvette Norwood-Tiger: Celebration of Life in Jazz Tour at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

5/6-7 - First Weekend Mural: May (Labor) Day/Mother's/Cinco de Mayo by **Sara Gayoso** at Flamingo Clay Studio, 15 S J St, Lake Worth Beach. 1st weekend each month Sara creates a new mural on the window. 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-598-8344; flamingoclaystudio.com

APRIL 23-29

Sunday - 4/23 - South Florida's Craft Show: Makers, Creators & Influencers at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Noon-5 pm. Free. msha.ke/southfloridascraftshow

4/23 - Music in the Museum: Winner of Lynn University's John Oliveira String Competition at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 3-4 pm. \$5/



3590 S. Ocean Boulevard 205 | Palm Beach

Stunning 1 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom with all impact glass and amazing ocean and pool views! This light filled unit is spacious and impeccably maintained. New air conditioning unit and hot water heater. *This is the least expensive oceanfront condo currently listed at Mayfair House.* Relax by the pool, or take your lounge chair to the ocean via the private beach access. Building amenities include doorman and exercise room. Offered at \$469,000.



Michelle Noga
561-801-3885
MNoga@Raveis.com



Paula Wittmann
561-373-2666
PWittmann@Raveis.com



House of the Month

Sea vistas abound from the master suite, which has abundant details and walnut floors.



A dune cross-over provides access from this home to the beach. The home is 20 feet above sea level.



Open flow and sun-filled spaces connect the living room, dining room, den and kitchen on the first floor.

Stylish compound with oceanfront views in Ocean Ridge



ABOVE: Amply equipped with top-of-the-line appliances and efficiently organized, the chef's kitchen allows space for inspiration as well as performance.

RIGHT: The swimming pool/spa is conveniently located between the main house and the guest quarters.



The British West Indies architectural style is the cornerstone inspiration for this two-story oceanfront home in Ocean Ridge. With 7,485 total square feet and four bedrooms, four full and two half baths, the home is full of quality finishes and the finest of natural materials.

The main house has three separate bedroom/suites (including owner's suite). A guest outbuilding has a one-bedroom luxury suite complete with bamboo floors, along with a kitchen, living room and workout room.

Adjacent to the main home's owner suite are a sitting room, a luxurious bathroom with recycled glass countertops and custom-fitted dressing rooms. Other outstanding features include a Macassar ebony finished wet bar and fireplace in the casual family room and a temperature-controlled walk-in wine cellar.

On the entirely practical side, the home has a brand new sea wall, a 60K whole house generator, impact glass windows, an attached three-car garage and an outdoor shower near the tropically surrounded pool/spa. Offered at \$16,500,000.

Call Candace Friis, 561-573-9966, or Phil Friis, 561-706-1922. The Corcoran Group, 901 George Bush Blvd., Delray Beach, FL 33483.

Each month, The Coastal Star features a house for sale in our community. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers and provides readers with a peek inside one of our homes.

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1. William Raveis is the largest independent brokerage by total sales volume (\$21.5 billion) according to RISMedia, 2021. 2. Winner of Best Luxury Real Estate Agency Award in FL, CT & MA in 2022 by Luxury Lifestyle Awards.

Featured Listings



Boca Raton
1131 Spanish River Road | \$19,950,000
Nick Younker | 440.867.3930



Villa Magna | Highland Beach
2727 S. Ocean Blvd. 801 & 805 | \$5,600,000
Terri Berman | 561.445.2929
Laura Gallagher | 561.441.6111



Long Lake Estates | Boca Raton
18146 Long Lake Drive | \$4,950,000
Matthew Bachrad | 917.628.4021
Danielle Stern | 818.216.2320



Delray Harbor Club | Delray Beach
1035 S. Federal Highway 406 | \$1,795,000
Terri Berman | 561.445.2929
Laura Gallagher | 561.441.6111



Bermuda High West | Delray Beach
2150 S. Ocean Blvd. 2D | \$1,595,000
Terri Berman | 561.445.2929
Laura Gallagher | 561.441.6111



Delray Beach
800 Andrews Avenue 7 | \$1,200,000
Michael Mullin | 561.441.0635



Boynton Beach
9569 Calliandra Drive | \$849,900
Jody Coltogirone | 561.436.3728



Villa Borghese | Delray Beach
7083 Via Genova | Reduced to \$479,000
Clark Parriott | 443.250.2910
Amanda Clark | 954.234.9203

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Southport Office | 203.255.6841



Brooklyn, NY
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