

Along the Coast

‘Predatory’ parking: Drivers stunned by bills from private lots; new state law aims for clearer experience

By Charles Elmore and Anne Geggis

Drivers say they have been stunned by bills of \$55, \$90 or more from private parking lots in southern Palm Beach County, with some reporting they even got charged for rolling through

without parking, records requested by *The Coastal Star* show.

“I’ve fallen victim,” Delray Beach Commissioner Rob Long said at a May 3 meeting of getting billed about \$70 for parking on a movie trip.

“Yeah, it’s crazy,” Long said.

“Even if you know Delray, it’s easy to fall into that trap by accident. These lots — they are predatory.”

State regulations limit what local governments can do about such concerns, but a new Florida law effective July 1 addresses what private parking lot signs

must say, sets down rules for appeals and late fees, and establishes a 15-minute grace period for those just passing through.

Whether that quiets the waves of complaints remains to be seen. Gripes about private lots in the region, including in

Boca Raton and Delray Beach, join a growing pile of similar concerns statewide.

The complaints take issue with systems that tout the convenience of paying by phone or other digital means but deliver charges, sometimes

See **PARKING** on page 16

Hurricane Season

If disaster strikes, municipalities may need millions ready to spend

By Larry Barszewski

If a hurricane strikes South County this year, coastal communities can expect federal and state disaster relief to come to their assistance. But do they have enough money on hand to handle the emergency situations they’ll encounter before those outside dollars start flowing?

That’s a question local elected officials will have to determine as they begin budget discussions this month for a new fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. However, for most of this hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through Nov. 30, the die is cast.

Over the next four months, the amount of money available if an emergency occurs varies from less than \$1 million in Briny Breezes to almost \$88 million in Boca Raton. The local governments don’t guarantee most of

See **RESERVES** on page 20



Natalie Gauthier and Michael Crouteau from Quebec lounge by a cliff of sand in May just north of Boynton Beach Oceanfront Park. The erosion and dead vegetation reflect past storm damage. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Critically eroded beaches make coast more vulnerable as storm season arrives

By Anne Geggis

No hurricane warnings, just high winds and rough waves left part of North County’s coast scraped of sand earlier this year, closing beaches, exposing pool pilings and upending backyard landscaping into the ocean.

It also aroused South County fears it could happen here — particularly in places facing erosion without the benefit of beach renourishment funding from state and federal sources.

With no public beaches west of the high tide line, Briny Breezes, Gulf Stream, Highland Beach and Manalapan must find their own solutions to the

threat facing every piece of Florida that touches the ocean, because they are not entitled to the direct public funding that supports one of the state’s biggest tourism draws and a boon to local property values. South Palm Beach also has no public beach access, but the town was able to get some help with renourishment through an interlocal agreement with Palm Beach.

The state’s list of communities deemed to be facing “critical erosion” grows with every named storm and sometimes just rough weather.

A critically eroded area 3.3 miles south of the Lake Worth Inlet threatens properties in Ocean Ridge,

Briny Breezes, Boynton Beach and Gulf Stream, in addition to Lantana Municipal Beach Park, according to a July 2023 report from the state Department of Environmental Protection. The same report found that 2.9 miles in Delray Beach is critically eroded, threatening property, all its public beach and State Road A1A.

What the state classifies as “critical erosion” in Boca Raton — extending for 5 miles north of the Broward County line — threatens Spanish River Park, Red Reef Park, South Beach Park and South Inlet Park, as well as State Road A1A and private development, the

See **EROSION** on page 21



Homes like this one in Sanibel can withstand hurricanes, but removing a mountain of debris is still costly. **Photo provided**

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Coastal Star



Ocean Ridge Garden Club member Britt Flanagan leads the club's drive to send grade-school students to the Wekiva Youth Camp in central Florida. Eleven will go this summer. **Photo provided**

Editor's Note

80 years after D-Day, recalling true patriots

Eighty years. That's a long time ago. Especially to those who didn't have parents alive to share their memories of Tuesday June 6, 1944 — D-Day.

Staying abreast of current events has driven me to try to understand more about the past. As a result, I've read a great deal on how our country's Civil War began and the origins of Hitler's Reich.

The most important thing I've learned? We should never forget.

The American Civil War resulted in at least 1,030,000 casualties, according to historians and war statisticians — including the deaths of about 620,000 troops and 50,000 civilians. This war, fought on our own soil, was the deadliest military conflict in American history (counting both world wars, Korea and Vietnam).

In World War I, the total number of military and civilian casualties was more than 40 million. This estimate includes 20 million deaths and about 21 million wounded. The death total includes 9.7 million military personnel and about 10 million civilians. U.S. military war deaths have been recorded at 117,000. Russia alone lost more than 2 million souls.

How quickly we've forgotten one of the deadliest conflicts in human history.

In WWII, some 70-85 million people perished, including about 21 million to 25 million military personnel and 50 million to 55 million civilians, including the deliberate genocide of Jews

and others by the Third Reich. Coming late to this global conflict, the U.S. is reported to have had 418,500 total civilian and military deaths. Germany by comparison had between 6.6 million and 8.8 million total deaths.

On a recent trip to France, I visited the American

Cemetery at Omaha Beach (inset photo). I have no relative buried there, but the significance of that place, and the other beachheads used during the Allied invasion of Normandy, shook me. A total of 4,414 Allied troops were killed on D-Day itself,

including 2,501 Americans. More than 5,000 were wounded. In the ensuing Battle of Normandy, 73,000 Allied forces were killed and 153,000 wounded.

These young men (most between 22 and 24 years old) who charged ashore from landing craft or parachuted down behind enemy lines were patriots. True patriots.

Somehow, over the past 80 years, that word's been muddled behind red, white and blue board shorts and giant American flags — as if the bigger the flag the more patriotism you exude.

Nonsense. Just consider the graves at Omaha Beach and tell me I'm wrong.

How easily we forget.



— Mary Kate Leming,
Executive Editor

Corrections

An article on Page 14 of the May 2024 edition of *The Coastal Star*, titled "Start of A1A construction delayed," contained incorrect cost information for the State Road A1A construction project in Highland Beach and Delray Beach, south of Linton Boulevard. The project cost is \$8.3 million.

An article on Page 1 of the May 2024 edition of *The Coastal Star*, titled "Pickleball popularity is reshaping recreational offerings," incorrectly reported the position of Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District Commissioner Bob Rollins regarding 18 covered pickleball courts at Patch Reef Park. Rollins voted in favor of the courts.

Ocean Ridge woman a 'Pillar of Pride' for efforts to finance summer campers

By Brian Biggane

An Ocean Ridge Garden Club program that started 25 years ago, designed to send local children to summer camp at Wekiwa Springs State Park, had fallen dormant until Britt Flanagan was asked to take the reins three years ago.

Putting to use her academic background (she has three master's degrees in various areas of psychology), networking skills and, as she puts it, "a little Irish luck," Flanagan revived the program that later this month will send 11 elementary school children off for a weeklong adventure of learning and fun at the park in the central Florida town of Apopka.

Her efforts were recently recognized when she received the Pillar of Pride award from the club. "It recognizes her significant help in getting Camp Wekiva regenerated," said garden club President Sallie Howell.

Flanagan, who lives in Ocean Ridge with her husband, Skip, made a good first impression upon joining the club in 2021 while working at the Save the Seas program.

"As a result of that they said, 'OK, this gal is going to work hard, so we need you to revive the Wekiwa program,'" said Flanagan, 79. "There were students who were interested but frequently never made it to the camp. So, if it was going to fly, we had to help the kids get to camp, not just give them a scholarship."

Her first step was to identify schools to partner with. She ultimately decided on S.D. Spady in Delray Beach and Freedom Shores in Boynton

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Beach.

"We were looking for schools with good environmental programs and with kids who don't get these opportunities," Flanagan said. "At Freedom Shores 80% of the kids get free lunches, and at Spady, it's 50%. The teachers helped us pick out the kids who love to learn and would treasure this experience."

The remaining big hurdle, particularly in the financial end, was transportation. The club was committed to pay not only the sponsorship fee of \$280 per camper, but also the cost of transportation and other amenities — including seven days of clothing, a backpack filled with supplies, snacks and water — that brought the total to close to \$800.

As for the transportation, Flanagan said, "for safety and supervision a van was the best way to go." The club rented a 14-seat van with an experienced driver and picked up the insurance to limit liability.

Once committed to the project, Flanagan spent time learning what the camp was all about. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs has sponsored the Wekiva Youth Camp since 1974 and oversees its programs, which include nature hikes, swimming lessons, environmental programs and nighttime wagon rides through the woods.

"I aligned myself with a registrar there and learned every detail, and was very

impressed," Flanagan said.

"It's pretty special — a magical experience for the kids."

Campers are not allowed any electronic devices such as smartphones or iPads, so there's a focus on interpersonal communication. They are housed in cabins with four bunk beds, and each cabin has two counselors, one from high school and one from college, both of whom are former campers.

While the Wekiva Youth Camp is open to kids in grades 3-8, the local contingent is confined to grades 4, 5 and 6. The Ocean Ridge club restarted its program in 2022 when it sent eight campers; last year 10 were selected and this year there will be 11.

Delray Beach resident and Spady mother Raiko Knight, whose daughter Rockell attended the camp each of the last two years, said the experience was a life-changer.

"It was a completely different experience than anything she had ever had, and she loved it," Knight said. "It opened up her world so much and you can see it made a huge difference in the lives of a lot of the kids."

Flanagan said the program has gained enough momentum that its initial growing pains have largely disappeared.

"People understand now what it's about, so last year and this year we've had a wait list," she said. "We have a reputation now for providing a great opportunity and a wonderful week for young people."

The Flanagans have two grown daughters, Heather Desmond and Amber Sweedler, and five grandchildren. ★

Letter to the Editor

Completed A1A project will further hurt access to road, Delray Beach resident says

I am writing regarding your coverage of A1A road improvements.

I reside in Delray Beach, one block south of Linton Boulevard on Del Harbour Drive, which only opens onto A1A from the west side of the street: There is no east portion of Del Harbour Drive due to recently built condos, replacing "Wright by the Sea."

Your article explains that "the project will more than triple the length of the left turn lane" going onto the Linton bridge from A1A heading north.

During high season, getting out onto A1A to head north from Del Harbour Drive is frustrating due to the long lines of cars heading north, especially in the afternoon. If you don't find somebody nice enough to let you out, you sit there for as long as eight minutes.

What is this double lane going to do to that wait time, after they get it in place? There is no car-activated light that would let us get out onto A1A. Considering the taxes paid by the residents of Del Harbour Drive, the city of Delray Beach should look into our situation

and come up with a mutually agreeable solution that enhances the new road construction and allows us improved access to A1A.

An example of shortchanging our residents is that 50% of Del Harbour Drive was repaved where five ultra-expensive townhouses were built. The second half of the road saw many of the large heavy trucks that used our circle to turn around in, but the city couldn't afford to strip and repave the balance and start the clock for the total street anew? Perhaps, if there is some new construction land to be had, it would be more than happy to address the situation and repave the balance of the street.

— R. Getschow, Delray Beach

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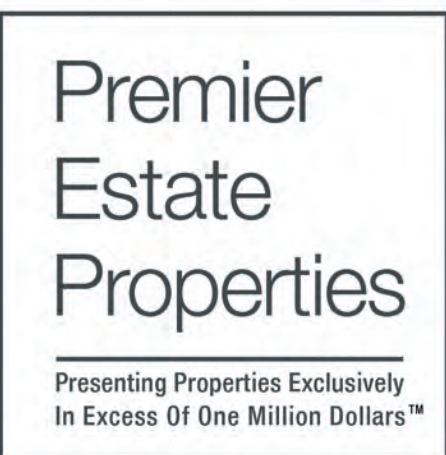
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Delray Beach News

Proposed historic district hits setback — Delray Beach Mayor Tom Carney said at a May 3 goal-setting event he does not support making a nine-block stretch of Atlantic Avenue the city's sixth historic district.

Carney, who campaigned for election on preserving the city's "Village by the Sea" image and reining in development, said the proposed district and its new rules for development are not the way to achieve that goal.

His view would mean a majority of the commission is against it. Commissioners Angela Burns and Rob Long both oppose requiring that any proposed changes to the avenue undergo additional review for their historic appropriateness.

The effort to make a new historic district has been underway since 2017. But Carney says he wants to find a middle ground that stops short of adding a review for historic appropriateness to new development.

"Everybody has the same idea that they want to keep the charm of Atlantic ... and nobody wants to kill the golden goose," Carney said, noting that most business owners there oppose the historic district. "I'm going to be the first to say I'm not sure that doing an actual historic district is the way to do it because it creates a whole level of regulatory burdens."

Water credits run higher than expected — Water bill sticker shock that customers experienced in December and January due to malfunctioning city meter readers spread to the City Commission with the revelation that more than \$571,000 worth of billing was forgiven because of the breakdown.

"I don't see anywhere we've discussed giving credit adjustments of \$571,000," Mayor Tom Carney said at the commission's May 7 meeting. That's about 2.3% of the revenue the city budgeted to take in from the sale of water.

The commission in January agreed to credit customers who received erroneous bills, some of them as much as \$5,700, according to then-Mayor Shelly Petrolia.

Vice Mayor Juli Casale noted that the city staff's account of how many people were getting estimated bills instead of manually read ones has not been consistent since the alarm about the faulty billing emerged. At their May 21 meeting, commissioners were presented with an entire list of the credits that were given because the total amount of credits given exceeded the city manager's spending authority. Casale voted against paying the credits.

"I'm really concerned about this whole situation," she said.

New DDA board member resigns after being chosen — Damara Cohn, who owns Mangrove Realty downtown, got a nod at the May 7 City Commission meeting to take the place of Richard Burgess on the seven-member Downtown Development Authority board. But she never took her seat and resigned instead.

Days after the appointment, it was discovered that Cohn's business lease does not include taxes that would qualify her to serve on the board. That lack of qualified residency was also an issue with Burgess and triggered his removal from the autonomous board that oversees marketing, business development and merchant promotion for the central business area.

The City Commission removed Burgess from the DDA board April 16 in the wake of the Palm Beach County Ethics Commission's finding that Burgess lied about the location of his business on his application to get appointed.

DDA Executive Director Laura Simon said that the DDA intends to propose that the city change its rules so that applications to serve on the DDA board are separate from applications for other city advisory boards.

Meanwhile, court records show that Burgess filed suit May 2 against the city, looking for his removal from the DDA board to be quashed. His complaint alleges his removal was a "political witch hunt" that newly seated Commissioner Juli Casale orchestrated.

Water treatment plant plans advance — Replacement of the city's 72-year-old water treatment plant at 200 SW Sixth St. will start involving more than diagrams and signatures on contracts, with actual bricks and mortar construction starting in 2025. Completion is scheduled "by circa late 2027," according to a May 10 memo from City Manager Terrence Moore.

Body-in-suitcases detective honored — Delray Beach Police Detective Mike Liberta was recognized as Detective/



Liberta

Investigator of the Year by the First Responders Appreciation Foundation at an event that drew more than 1,000 attendees at the organization's annual awards banquet in May.

Liberta received the honor for his role in cracking the case involving suitcases containing body parts found along the Intracoastal Waterway last August.

The remains were later identified as those of Aydil Barbosa Fontes. Her husband, William Lowe, is accused of first-degree murder and abuse of a human body. His next court appearance is scheduled for August.

Liberta is scheduled for recognition in front of the City Commission June 4.

— Anne Geggis

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Delray Beach

Fire chief who made allegations against city manager terminated

By Anne Geggis

Less than 24 hours after an investigation concluded no evidence supported his accusation the city manager touched him inappropriately, Delray Beach Fire Rescue Chief Keith Tomey was terminated May 1 for “willful, insubordinate behavior” in numerous incidents.

City Manager Terrence Moore ended Tomey’s seven years of city employment “effective immediately,” replacing him with interim Fire Rescue Chief Kevin Green.

The letter firing Tomey principally cites the chief’s decision to allow on-duty firefighters to participate in the annual Guns ‘N Hoses charity softball game last November. It put Engine 112 out of service for more than four hours, Moore wrote.

“Your poor decision making could have endangered the lives of our residents and the public and created a risk of liability to the city,” Moore’s letter says.

That investigative report on the softball tournament came



Moore



Tomey

out as Tomey’s allegations of inappropriate touching by the city manager surfaced. A third-party investigator the city hired found there was no evidence that Moore touched Tomey inappropriately, however.

The softball game episode was one of a number of incidents that Moore said had forced him to question Tomey’s leadership and managerial skills.

Neither Tomey nor his attorney, Isidro Garcia, who sent the letter making the allegations of the city manager’s inappropriate touching, returned calls or emails seeking comment. Garcia, however, told the *Sun Sentinel* that he intended to sue the city on Tomey’s behalf.

The allegations that Tomey made about the city manager were not cited in the firing

letter. The investigative report did say no specific city policies were violated in Tomey’s involvement in the softball game. But investigator Christopher Bentley dinged Tomey for his “poor decision-making which ultimately resulted in inequities and liabilities for the city.”

The investigation into the charity softball tournament started when a firefighter in the game was injured and filed a workers compensation claim, Bentley’s report says.

Tomey had alleged, however, that the softball tournament would not have been investigated if Tomey hadn’t rebuffed Moore’s sexual advances in August 2022 as the two drove to and from an exhibition of city employee art, including Moore’s, at the Arts Garage. He said that Moore “rubbed up his thigh and just briefly made contact with his groin area,” according to a third-party investigator’s telling of Tomey’s allegations.

Moore wrote that Bentley, during his investigation into the softball tournament, noticed the same thing Moore had about Tomey’s attitude

regarding city resources and official duties.

“[Bentley] remarked in his report your cavalier attitude regarding these serious concerns, something that I, too, have witnessed in my interactions with you when forced to address your issues in management, fiscal responsibility and accountability,” Moore wrote.

Tomey’s five-day suspension for failing to follow city policy after a Broward County accident in October 2022 involving his city vehicle was also included in Tomey’s contention he was being retaliated against. But city policy requires employees to take a drug test immediately following an accident whether they are at fault or not, which Tomey did not do until three days after the accident, Moore said in the termination letter. And Moore did not hear about the wreck until he received a request to approve a rental for Tomey.

“I recall that during that disciplinary procedure you refused to acknowledge any wrongdoing ...” Moore wrote. “This appears to be a pattern

of willful, insubordinate behavior coupled with poor decision making that despite repeated counseling and a five-day suspension, has worsened.”

Moore cited another incident that occurred before the arts show allegations. In July 2022, Tomey distributed a memorandum that went to fire rescue personnel that disclosed the medical condition of an employee. The employee sent a “demand letter” and the city had to pay \$25,000 to settle the claim, Moore said.

Tomey’s termination was effective immediately, according to Moore’s letter, and his health benefits continued through May. Tomey’s departure does not involve a financial settlement, a city spokeswoman said.

Since he was terminated “not in good standing,” there are no payouts, the spokeswoman said. Tomey had been earning an annual salary of \$179,587.

Green, Tomey’s replacement, has been with the city’s Fire Rescue since 2012. ★

George Bush Boulevard bridge replacement costs rising

By Anne Geggis

A \$1 million county study of what might replace the 75-year-old George Bush Boulevard bridge is underway and a state review awaits as the bridge’s replacement cost keeps rising.

The bridge — one of Delray Beach’s three spans across the Intracoastal Waterway — is experiencing “increased maintenance concerns and infrastructure failures,” according to county officials.

That’s a reference to when the bridge became a poster child for the country’s troubled infrastructure in 2022 when it was stuck in the upright position for two months because of equipment issues.

It’s operating correctly now, but the future is clear.

“Right now, that bridge definitely needs to be replaced,” David Ricks, Palm Beach County engineer, told county commissioners last November.

Still, the only certainty is the replacement’s rising cost.

In 2022, replacing the bridge was projected to cost \$45 million but the latest cost estimate Ricks presented shows it would be more like \$75 million to design and replace the bridge. The county’s five-year capital improvement plan shows no more money than the \$1 million budgeted after this fiscal year through 2028.

“We’re definitely going to be looking at the state or federal level to help us with the cost of that,” Ricks said.

A U.S. Department of

Transportation report in May found that the projected five-year increase in highway construction costs could mean that the \$673 billion the federal government allocated for transportation projects — roads, bridges, transit, airports and rail — will buy only 60% of what was originally intended when it passed in 2021.

When the replacement happens to the George Bush Boulevard bridge, it will be a long time coming.

Hal Stern, president of

the Beach Property Owners Association, said he’s not expecting that reconstruction anytime soon.

“The design phase could last as long as three years,” Stern said. “The challenge is that it’s such a low bridge. How can they raise the bridge without impacting the areas on either side of the bridge? It’s challenging.”

The Intracoastal bridges at Ocean Avenue in Boynton Beach, Ocean Avenue in Lantana, and in Lake Worth

Beach were all reconstructed with higher spans over the years, according to the Delray Beach Historical Society.

Both Atlantic Avenue’s Intracoastal bridge, which was built in 1952, and the George Bush Boulevard bridge were designated local historic sites in 2000 by the City Commission.

Increasing bridge height can be fraught with complications, as can designating a bridge as a historic one.

“In Boca Raton, the Camino Real bridge was given historic

status by the city in order to avoid making the bridge higher, which would have significantly changed access to the Boca Raton Club, the Royal Palm community and businesses east of that bridge,” Tom Warnke, archive coordinator at the Delray Beach Historical Society, wrote in an email.

Meanwhile, the Linton Boulevard span over the Intracoastal Waterway needs \$20 million in repairs, Palm Beach County’s Ricks said. ★

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Highland Beach

Fire Rescue's first calls include kitchen smoke, worker's three-story fall

By Rich Pollack

The new Highland Beach Fire Rescue Department was in only its third week of operations when the call came that a construction worker had fallen off a building.

Within minutes firefighter/paramedics arrived and treated the man, who had fallen from the third floor of the building he was working on and landed on his van.

Although his injuries weren't life-threatening, the worker was rushed to the trauma center at Delray Medical Center as a precaution based on how his injuries occurred.

The incident, Highland Beach Fire Rescue Chief Glenn Joseph says, illustrates just the kind of calls for which the members of his department have to be prepared.

"It shows that anything can happen on any day of the week," he said.

In its first 20 days since its May 1 start, Highland Beach Fire Rescue responded to just short of 40 calls, an average of about 1.8 calls per day, and the operations went smoothly.

"It's going well," Joseph said. "For the most part it's going smoother than I expected."

Along with mostly medical-related calls, the firefighter/paramedics handled a fire call that involved a smoking pot on the stove that set off smoke detectors.

When not responding to calls, the firefighter/paramedics have been working their way through the condos and other buildings in town, doing "area awareness training."

They jot down on iPads the locations of elevators, fire alarms, automated external

defibrillators, and other items of which they might need knowledge in an emergency.

That information is then fed into a database that is accessible to the whole department.

"I think it's terrific that they're coming through the buildings with an iPad and marking down where everything is," Town Commissioner Evalyn David, who saw the firefighters in her building, said during a commission meeting in May.

During that meeting, commissioners heard from Joseph and Town Manager Marshall Labadie that final punch list items at the town's new fire station were being finished off and that the station was completed \$500,000 under budget and ahead of schedule.

Labadie also said that the town is in the process of having plans developed for the portion of the old fire station that could be converted into an area for community activities, such as the popular food truck events the town holds several times each year.

During the meeting, commissioners passed a resolution naming the new fire station in honor of former Mayor Doug Hillman, a driving force behind the creation of the town-run fire department, who died in 2023.

A bronze plaque recognizing Hillman will be displayed in the lobby of the station as a lasting tribute to his contribution and "enduring impact on the safety and welfare of the Highland Beach community."

Commissioners also approved a proclamation commending Labadie for his efforts leading to the creation of the new fire department.

Labadie was recognized for his "leadership, perseverance, oversight and management" that led to the successful creation of the department. ★



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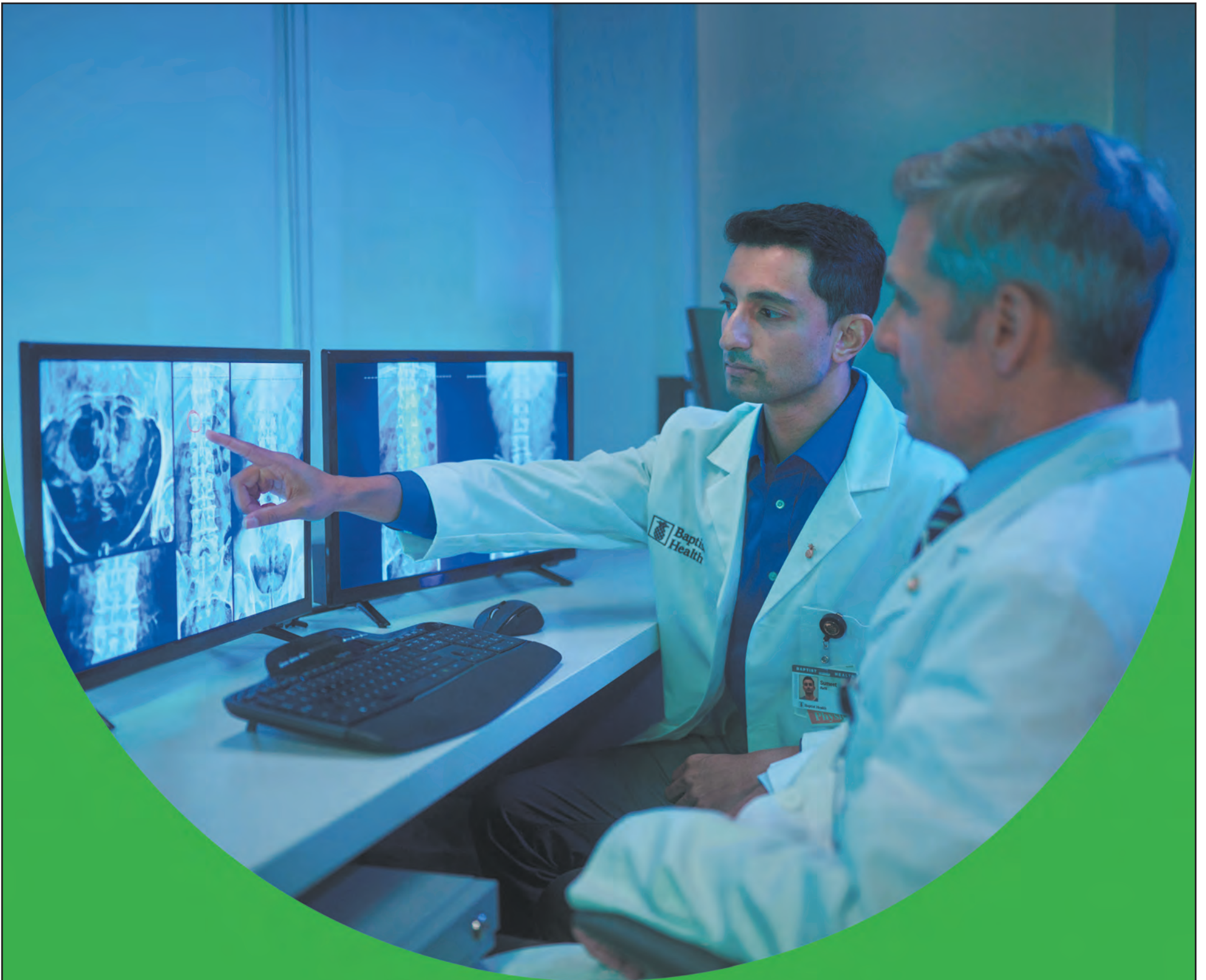


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Along the Coast

State attorney silent on ocean trash-dumping charges for two teens at Boca Bash

By Mary Hladky

Boca Bash always is a wild event, but this year's April 28 bacchanal on Lake Boca drew national and international attention when two teenagers attending it were captured on video dumping trash into the ocean.

The two boys, from Gulf Stream and Boynton Beach, turned themselves in after the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission charged them with causing pollution that can harm human or animal health, a third-degree felony. The Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office will make final charging decisions.

The teens aged 15 and 16, whom *The Coastal Star* is

not naming because they are juveniles, attend Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach and Boca Raton High School, according to the FWC's arrest reports. They were identified by teachers at their schools and by other juveniles who were on the boat.

The incident was captured on video by Wavy Boats, which uses drones and zoom cameras to capture boats facing rough waters across Florida, and posted on social media platforms. The video became an instant hit.

The teens were on a boat named Halcyon out of Gulf Stream that carried about 13 young people, the FWC reports said.

The video shows that as the



This frame grab from video shot by Wavy Boats, an online video producer, shows the trash dumping. Two teenagers on the boat surrendered to law enforcement. **Photo provided**

vessel exited the Boca Inlet in roiling waters, one teen left the helm, picked up a large basket and dumped its contents into the water. He then held the basket over his head, "pumping the basket up and down as if he was celebrating the dumping of the trash into the water," the

reports state.

The second boy followed suit, picking up a trash bin and dumping it. The basket and bin contained plastic water bottles, cans, beverage cartons, food bags and other items.

They then headed back to Boca Bash, an unsanctioned,

loosely organized annual event that draws as many as 10,000 people and hundreds of boats on the last Sunday in April.

"The illegal dumping of trash into our marine environment is a serious crime," FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto said in a news release. "Callous disregard for Florida's environment will not be tolerated."

In all, the FWC made 20 arrests largely on charges of boating under the influence or drug possession.

Boca Bash organizers immediately denounced the trash dumping.

"We cannot be more angered or disturbed by these actions," they said on a Boca Bash Facebook page. "By no means do we believe this is a representation of the gathering. We implore and expect boaters to keep the waterways clean, uphold proper boating etiquette and follow state laws on the water."

When FWC investigators spoke to the father of one of the boys, he said, "This is not a representation of who we are," the arrest reports said.

"We take the responsibility of caring for our oceans and our community very seriously, and we are extremely saddened by what occurred last weekend at Boca Bash," the parents of one of the teenagers said in a statement. "We want to extend our sincerest apologies to everyone who has been impacted and rightfully upset by what occurred."

A spokeswoman for those parents said they were not granting interviews. Their son's attorney did not respond to an email and a voicemail seeking additional information.

Juvenile court records are not made public, and a spokesman for the State Attorney's Office said the office doesn't comment on the outcome of juvenile cases. The office can choose to make a statement, but had not done so as of May 24.

The FWC takes the law enforcement lead for Boca Bash because Lake Boca, actually a wide section of the Intracoastal Waterway, falls under state jurisdiction. The Boca Raton Police Department and other law enforcement agencies assist its investigators. ★



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Hillsboro Shores — Block to Beach

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Waterfront Tri Plex - Highland Beach

An Absolutely Fantastic Triplex located on 100 ft of Water frontage just off the Intracoastal and only Steps to the Beach. This Property is being Sold as One Unit-The Downstairs Condo features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a 2 Car Garage, and a large screened patio. The two units upstairs are adorable and each feature 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and screened patios. Each unit has a washer/dryer and the views from all units are gorgeous as the canal is 150 ft wide and a straight shot out to the Intracoastal for the boater. There is also a terrific pool/ patio which is great for entertaining. Plenty of parking in front and the owner controls the HOA. **\$3,549,000**



Hillsboro Shores-6 bedroom and block to beach

Enjoy the luxury of living in this spacious and bright 6-bedroom home in the exclusive Hillsboro Shores neighborhood. This amazing property sits on a large corner lot, just one block away from the private beach access that you can join for a nominal annual fee. The home features a stunning updated kitchen, Marble and Bamboo wood floors, a huge master suite on the ground floor, an additional large bedroom downstairs as well, and four more generous bedrooms upstairs. The home is also equipped with impact glass doors and windows. The backyard is an oasis of relaxation, with a beautiful pool, a cozy tiki hut, and lush tropical landscaping. **\$2,595,000**



Hillsboro Shores-6 bedroom and block to beach

This stunning 1st floor CORNER unit has direct ocean views and large private walk out patio steps to the sand, no elevator rides necessary. Inside, the living area is open and spacious and the kitchen features quartzite countertops and Italian cabinetry, Subzero, Bosch and Thermador appliances. Master bedroom has ocean views and stunning master bath. Two additional ensuite bedrooms are like private retreats, each with sliders to a large private patio and views of the pool. The 4th Room (17' x 17') can be used as a media room, office or den. Smart home controls are at your fingertips, managing electric lighting and speakers. 2 underground parking spaces and the building is pet friendly. Walk to shops and restaurants of Deerfield Curve and the Cove! **\$2,295,000**



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Along the Coast

Boca council member announces candidacy for Florida Senate in 2026

By Mary Hladky

Boca Raton Deputy Mayor Yvette Drucker has joined the 2026 race to succeed term-limited state Sen. Lori Berman, D-Boca Raton, who represents Palm Beach County's Senate District 26.



Drucker is a Democrat who announced her candidacy on May 3, will face state Rep. David Silvers, D-Lake Clarke Shores, in the Democratic primary. Republican state Rep. Rick Roth of West Palm Beach also has announced his candidacy for the Senate slot.

"I am ready to bring my passion and experience to the State Senate and continue the remarkable work Lori Berman has done fighting for Democratic values and standing up to extremism in Tallahassee," Drucker said in a statement announcing her run.

Drucker was elected to the Boca Raton City Council in 2021 and won reelection with 77% of the vote in March.

She is a first-generation Cuban American who is a longtime volunteer with many organizations, including the Junior League of Boca Raton.

As a council member, Drucker has made improving transportation and mobility a top priority.

She is now on the executive board of the Palm Beach County Transportation Planning Agency and serves on several committees of the Florida League of Cities. She also serves on the National League of Cities Transportation and Infrastructure Services Federal Advocacy Committee.

Senate District 26 includes much of Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach and stretches west to Belle Glade.

Berman was elected to the state Senate in a 2018 special election and previously served four state House terms. ★

Ocean Ridge

Town seeks to incentivize single-story homes

By Anne Geggis

The proliferation of newer homes looming over the area's more traditional style — a trend emerging throughout South County coastal communities — has the Ocean Ridge Town Commission looking for ways to encourage new, one-story homes.

Like other municipalities, Ocean Ridge is on the hunt for how to encourage new investment in the town while preserving its small-town charm. The issue was front and center at the commission's May 13 workshop.

Commissioners hit on the idea of loosening some aspects of the town's building code to encourage the low-rise look.

"If you want more one-story houses, you have to throw those people a bone ... so how do you want to do that?" Mayor Geoff Pugh said. "Why not let the rear (of the house) encroach further into the setback and then put a deed restriction on (it) so they can't, in five years, add a second story?"

It would mean loosening the town's minimum requirements for green space and impervious surfaces, Pugh explained. Side and front setbacks would stay the same, he proposed.

Vice Mayor Steven Coz agreed: "I like the concept. I wonder how it would actually work?"

Commissioner David Hutchins raised the question

of how it might engender complaints if a lot slated for a new home abuts the rear of a neighbor's home, but also said, "I think I like the solution."

A consensus emerged to direct the Planning and Zoning Commission to propose loosening restrictions on a planned home's footprint in return for a one-story promise.

Similar conversations are happening throughout South Palm Beach County. It's because property owners paying sky-high prices for barrier island property are looking to maximize the amount of square footage under air conditioning they can stack on one lot.

The resulting new look — big, boxy behemoths — has led to a chorus of complaints in Delray Beach, Gulf Stream and other municipalities.

Delray Beach earlier this year passed new regulations looking to curb sheer walls that extend to the second floor. Gulf Stream is conducting a "massing" study about what can be done.

Coz said the workshop was one of the most productive in the four years the commission has held them to hash out its long-term growth and development issues.

"If people are going to plunk down millions of dollars for land, they want to maximize their investment," Coz said. "Our job is to figure out how to be fair to the homeowner and retain the quaintness of the town." ★

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Highland Beach



Dozens of Highland Beach residents and elected officials board buses headed to the County Commission chambers in West Palm Beach on May 7 in hopes of stopping or altering the building of Milani Park at the south end of Highland Beach. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

County Commission rebuffs pleas to tone down Milani Park

By Rich Pollack

Palm Beach County commissioners have slammed the door on efforts by Highland Beach residents to stop the controversial Milani Park from being built, saying they will stick largely to development plans the town agreed to in 2010.

The decision came after dozens of residents, who arrived at a May 7 County Commission meeting on buses provided by the town, reiterated one by one their fears the beachfront park would create dangerous traffic and swimming conditions, as well as be detrimental to nesting sea turtles.

County Commissioner Marci Woodward, whose district includes the 5.6-acre park site straddling State Road A1A, said she had initially sought a compromise that would reduce the number of parking spaces by more than half and at least initially eliminate bathrooms and a lifeguard station.

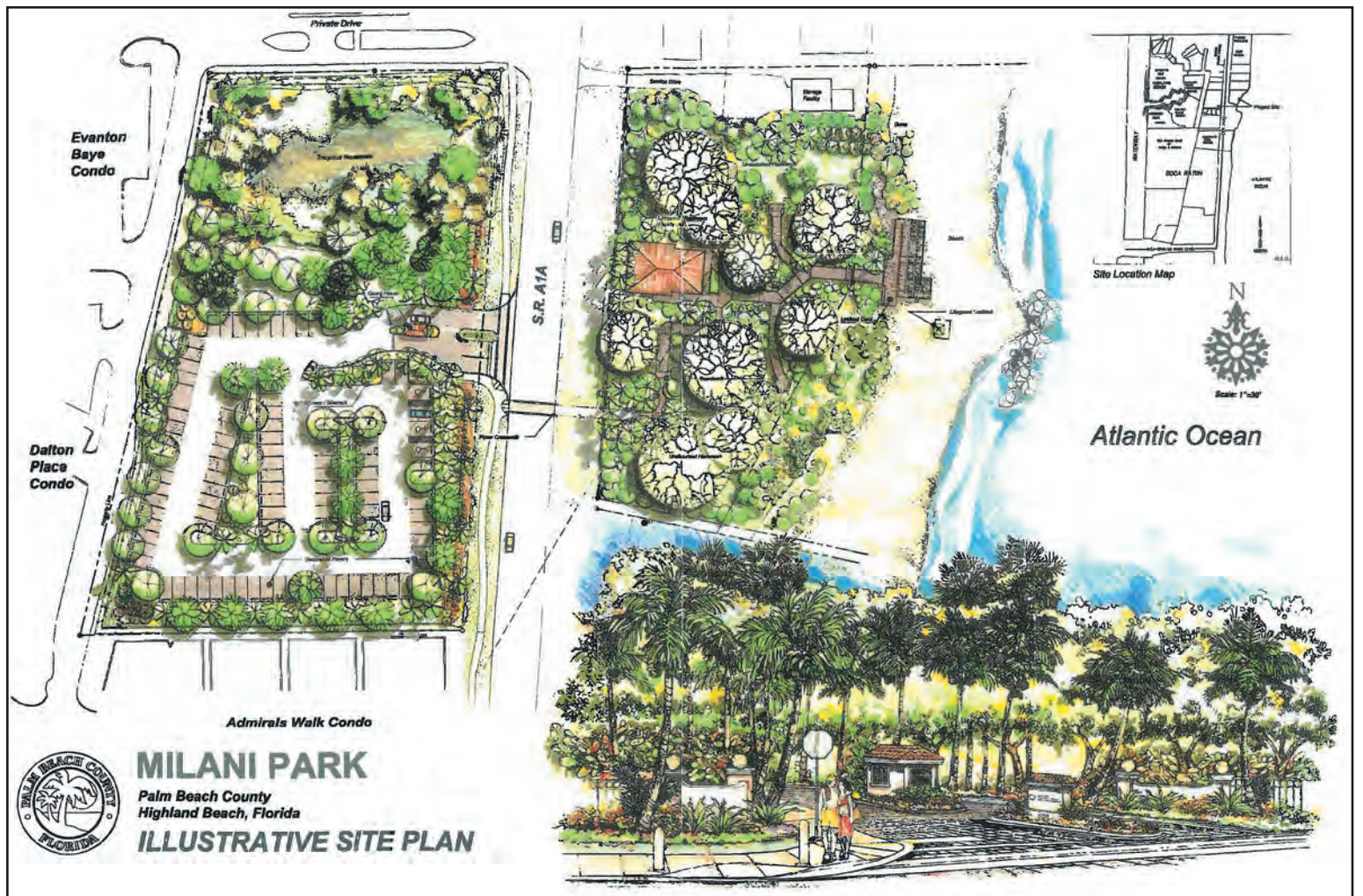
She said she withdrew her willingness to compromise after Highland Beach town commissioners passed a resolution saying they wanted the county to sell the park property to developers and then refused to rescind that resolution.

Fellow Commissioner Sara Baxter, who said the resolution was seen as “a line in the sand,” asked if Woodward would be willing to come back to the table if the town rescinded the resolution. Woodward balked.

“If we open this up, we’ll be met with a wall of resistance,” she said.

Residents, many of whom suggested that the property be turned into a walking park, left knowing their plans to stop the park’s development were dashed. But Woodward said she is still willing to work with residents as plans are rolled out.

The west side of the park will



County plans for Milani Park include 100 parking spaces and lush landscaping on the west side of A1A, and on the east side public access to the beach and Yamato Rock, a snorkeling destination. **Rendering provided**

still have 100 parking spaces, she said, but the property will be fully landscaped and the parking lot could be mulch, for example, instead of asphalt.

Woodward said she would create a committee of residents to help with the “look and feel” of Milani Park.

“There’s a lot of creative license outside of the approved site plan,” she said. “The community can be part of the layout.”

As the county moves forward with development of the park, it will be required to meet 43 conditions of the settlement agreement that followed a court battle. Those include having an archeologist involved in planning and development of the park, which is believed to be a Native American burial

ground, and a requirement that the county develop a plan for protecting sea turtle nests from recreational beach users.

Whether those 43 conditions, which were established 24 years ago, are negotiable is unlikely, although Woodward in a May 24 interview with *The Coastal Star* left a little room for a possible discussion.

“If the town is interested in negotiating with us they should put together a proposal in writing listing the conditions they want to negotiate,” she said, adding that there are no promises and that the number of parking spots remains non-negotiable.

Highland Beach Mayor Natasha Moore said she had not heard from the county but is open to having a conversation.

“I hope all of our actions would show that we want to work with them,” she said.

During the May 7 meeting with county commissioners, several residents voiced concerns about the safety of those who use the beach, which includes the Yamato Rock outcropping.

Fred Rosen, who lives in Boca Highland Beach Club and Marina adjacent to the park property, pointed out that the beach is small, especially at high tide, and that the area could be dangerous to beachgoers.

“We could lose a life,” he said.

Town Manager Marshall Labadie said he too is concerned that the beach is too small to accommodate the number of people who could use it if there are 100 parking spots on the

west side of the road.

“Just from a resource standpoint, there’s no room on the beach,” he said. “The design is too intense.”

Labadie and Moore said the town is still looking at what its next steps, if any, will be as the park planning continues.

Following comments May 7 by more than two dozen residents opposing the park, as well as by Sierra Club members who supported development, Cam Milani said it was time the 36-year-old fight between the county and residents came to an end. The Milani family sold the property to the county for \$4 million in 1987.

“At some point you have to do something,” he said. ★

PARKING

Continued from page 1

by windshield notices or conventional mail, that drivers say left them outraged.

The Florida Attorney General's Office signed an "assurance of voluntary compliance" last year with at least one parking company operating in southern Palm Beach County, among other places, requiring a payment of \$30,000 from the company, records show.

In Delray Beach, city officials have discussed ways to call the public's attention to differences between city lots and private lots, which may have signs of different colors. Complicating matters is that the same phone app may be used at some public and private lots.

"You know, we have to be mindful that unfortunately, we don't have the ability to control predatory practices," City Attorney Lynn Gelin said at the May 3 meeting. "We get the calls all the time because people do think that they are city lots."

Professional Parking Management

The attorney general's office agreement was with Professional Parking Management Corp., which has offices in Fort Lauderdale. Without admitting wrongdoing, the company agreed to pay \$30,000 to the state for restitution to eligible consumers, documents show.

The agreement, signed Sept. 1, calls for the parking company not to engage in unfair or deceptive business practices and to disclose certain information on signs at the lot about what financial obligations drivers can face. The company also agreed not to call its fees a "ticket" or "citation" such as a governmental body might enforce.

Parking companies sometimes use license plate readers. These can generate photographic snaps that are incorporated into letters telling



Lots of signs, with lots of words, but not the cost to park. What's a driver to do? A new state law that takes effect in July will require additional information be provided at privately owned parking lots, but it won't make the signs that much easier to understand. **Staff photos/The Coastal Star**

drivers they owe money, not unlike mail that consumers can get from agencies that run Florida's Turnpike or other toll roads.

Scores of complaints in the public record against Professional Parking Management in the last 18 months include several from drivers living or parking in southern Palm Beach County.

'An attempt to intimidate'

James Cioffi of Lake Worth Beach said he parked at a lot in Boca Raton with no notice of a cost for parking that he could see. When he came back to his car, there was a "parking charge notice" saying he owed \$55 to park and pay online.

Then he received a letter from Professional Parking Management saying he owed \$90, he said.

"There is an attempt to intimidate stating they would tow my car and refer to collections," he wrote in a complaint to the attorney general.

Sharon Feldman of Boynton Beach said she was charged \$96.30 for parking in a lot in Delray Beach.

She drove through the lot but never parked there, she said.

"It is outrageous that this company can demand money

for a service that we never used, threaten us with a collection agency, and force us to waste a good deal of time and energy on this matter," she said.

Chase Krusbe of Jupiter said he parked in a garage in Delray Beach and thought he paid the parking charge when he left. Then he got notices saying he owed \$96.75.

"They claim the charge is for 'overstaying,'" he said. "I don't know what that means. I parked. I paid. I left."

Salvatore LaRusso of Wellington said he parked in a lot in Boca Raton, paid \$10.55, but still got billed an additional \$55. He asserted receipts showed he had not exceeded the paid time but he received warnings his car could be booted at the company's managed lots if he did not pay up.

Laura Levine of Boca Raton said she parked in a handicapped spot in Delray Beach to accompany her 92-year-old mother at a restaurant gathering. She believed she paid correctly using a phone app because a response message said she was "done."

Then came notification claiming she owed \$55.

"I shouldn't have to pay this ticket because the app didn't work and I even tried to pay by other methods," she said.

Catherine Valenzuela of Delray Beach said, "Professional Parking Management sent a notice of collection and is charging an excess amount of \$90 for less than one hour."

Company response

In a statement, PPM said it is committed to resolving such issues.

"Over the last year or so, we have significantly increased and enhanced our customer service functions and we feel that is helping parkers resolve issues they may have with the technology or process of parking and paying for parking in lots we work with," the statement said. "We also feel that the new law and its requirements, most of which our company was already using as industry best practices, will also help make parking and the process of paying for parking easier on the driving public."

The company said it provided "feedback to the legislature throughout the process" of

crafting the new law.

PPM's statement said, "The signage and grace period requirements in the law make it clear that if a parker disagrees with the posted rules and rates, they can leave without penalty."

A complicated new law

Florida HB 271 passed in this year's state legislative session and was approved by the governor April 5. It takes effect July 1.

Regarding signs at the private lot, it requires: "The signage must state that the property is not operated by a governmental entity, list the rates for parking charges for violating the rules of the property owner or operator, provide a working phone number and an e-mail address to receive inquiries and complaints, and provide notice of the grace period and appeal process provided by this section."

Such signage may be regulated by city and county governments, the law says, though another section says local governments cannot ban such parking businesses or otherwise regulate their rules and rates.

Among other features of the new law, parking companies cannot sell the personal information of customers.

Lot operators must allow a 15-minute grace period without charges for someone who drives through but does not actually park. Many private lots do not have traditional gates, booths, attendants or payment kiosks, so it can be an unfamiliar or confusing setting for a number of folks.

Under the new law, late fees are not allowed until certain notice periods and appeals processes have been followed. Reading and understanding these can get a bit more complicated than the typical shopper might expect on a day of errands.

"An invoice for parking charges issued under this section must include a method to dispute and appeal the invoice by a party who believes they have received the invoice in error," the text of HB 271 says. "Such dispute must be filed with the parking lot owner or operator within 15 days after the invoice is placed on the motor vehicle or after the postmarked

date of the mailing of the invoice."

In turn, the parking lot owner or operator will have five business days in which to render a decision on the dispute, the text says. The consumer then has 10 days to appeal the decision of the parking lot owner or operator.

The final call

"The appeal must be determined by a neutral third-party adjudicator with the authority to review and approve or deny the appeal," the law says. "If the appeal is approved, the invoice shall be dismissed. If the appeal is denied, the party shall pay the original invoice within 15 days after the decision of the adjudicator."

Republican Rep. Demi Busatta Cabrera of Coral Gables, a co-sponsor of the bill with Rep. Vicki Lopez (R-Miami-Dade County), said that, if there's a dispute over fees, the legislation calls for the parking company to hire the third-party adjudicator to make the final call.

She said she didn't see a need for the law to contain prescriptions about parking prices.

"Rep. Lopez and I worked to ensure the public is protected while also balancing private property rights, by allowing the market to dictate what the private companies charge and ensuring their practices are fair and not predatory," Busatta Cabrera said.

The question remains whether all this will clear up heartburn for drivers like Robin Rothman of Boynton Beach, who parked in a private lot in Delray Beach and saw a sign with a bar code for payment, Rothman reported in a complaint. After entering a license plate number and phone number, Rothman recounted being charged \$19.80 by credit card.

Rothman received a letter saying \$64.12 was due for nonpayment. Attempts to explain or resolve the situation led to frustration, Rothman reported.

"It is really sad when companies can take advantage of people outright and there is nothing we can do about it," Rothman said. ★

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Gulf Stream

High water table blocks progress on road, drain construction

By Steve Plunkett

The water level below the surface in Gulf Stream's Core district is higher than anyone expected and stalled the onset of road work for weeks while the contractor sought an additional permit.

Residents were quick to notice that not much progress was being made.

"I see six guys here one day and nobody the next, and I'm just wondering ... are they doing ... what you expected to be done at this point or what?" Bob Burns, a past president of the Gulf Stream

Civic Association, asked town commissioners at their May 14 meeting.

"We've had two or three residents call because they didn't see an update on the website that they said we're paying so much money for that's supposed to be updated weekly," added Town Clerk Renee Basel.

Construction was supposed to begin the week of April 22, but workers soon discovered how high the water table is.

That meant the town would need a "dewatering" permit from the South Florida Water Management District to pump water out of the way and a

change in how the pipes would be put in.

"Typically water mains are installed about 3 feet below grade in dry conditions. We're going to allow them to bring them up slightly, about a foot or so," said Jockey Prinyavivatkul of Baxter and Woodman Consulting Engineers. "And then during the backfilling process we use flowable fill, which is a concrete material which can be excavated in the future."

The schedule had already been changed to begin construction in the north end of the Core district, along Wright

Way and Old School Road, instead of on Golfview Drive in the south because the north end is the lowest part of Gulf Stream and more susceptible to fall's high king tides.

Adding to the high water table was a faulty check valve on an outflow pipe on Wright Way that was letting water come in from the Intracoastal Waterway instead of blocking it, Prinyavivatkul said.

"There's definitely some issues going on that we are working with the contractor on. And hopefully once we begin to progress, basically the procedures of how they're going

to do the construction work will start to smooth out and the pace will increase," he said.

But, he said, it usually takes the SFWMD a month or so to issue such a permit.

The town's original permit was to increase the amount of stormwater runoff it can discharge into the Intracoastal.

Basel said she relayed concerns about updates on the website, corearearoadwork.com, and was told Baxter and Woodman had been waiting on the dewatering permit. An update with a photo was posted the next day, and the engineers promised weekly additions. ★

Intracoastal eyesore comes tumbling down

By Steve Plunkett

The new owner of 2900 Avenue Au Soleil has leveled the decrepit home on the Intracoastal Waterway and its detached, multi-vehicle garage, but had not completely demolished the structures by Memorial Day.

Assistant Town Attorney Trey Nazzaro said owner David Willens asked for extra time to finish the demolition after workers encountered huge blocks of concrete to remove.

"This has been a long-standing issue that's going to result in significant improvement for Place Au Soleil," Mayor Scott Morgan had said on April 14 as town commissioners approved an agreement to vacate easements that run the length of the property.

The legal maneuvers involved new owner Willens, former owner Bhavin Shah and his 2900 AAC LLC, the town and the Gulf Stream Golf Club, which also had easements on the parcel for an irrigation line from its well near the Place Au Soleil guardhouse to the Intracoastal.

"The contract purchaser, he is probably the only person happier than I am to get this finally approved," Nazzaro said of Willens.



Demolition equipment tears apart the home at 2900 Avenue Au Soleil in mid-May. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Shah and his group bought the property for \$3.3 million in October 2021 and were the target of several code enforcement actions as the house fell into further disrepair. Willens, a lawyer who lives on the Intracoastal in Highland Beach and founded dental service company Sage Dental Management LLC, paid \$5.15 million in April for the

property, according to county property records.

The long driveway to 2900 Avenue Au Soleil opens up just behind the guardhouse at Federal Highway and weaves east behind nine homes on Orchid Lane and Avenue Au Soleil on one side, and seven homesites on Bluewater Cove on the other.

Bluewater Cove's developer originally wanted to buy the parcel and incorporate it into its new subdivision. But Cary Glickstein, president of Ironstone Development Inc., said in 2021 that he had abandoned that idea partly because of the property's "tortured" legal past.

The home's previous owners, heirs of the late Anthony Turner, the first code enforcement target there, racked up \$200,000 in fines. The Town Commission reduced the amount due in 2019 to \$20,000 in an effort to get new owners for the property.

Shah later faced \$200-a-day code enforcement fines for not keeping the principal building or the sea wall in acceptable condition. As part of the latest agreements, Willens will have the sea wall rebuilt and connect what will become the town's main drinking water line to a line running under the Intracoastal.

Bluewater Cove, which has sold one of its planned 14 homes, built two others and is starting construction on four more, already installed an alternate main under the street it built to accommodate the drinking water line. ★

Gulf Stream News

Pick up your poop bags

— Gulf Stream resident P.K. Murphy, who lives in the Core district, is concerned about poop bags being littered "all over the roads," Town Clerk Renee Basel told Gulf Stream commissioners at their May meeting.

"She says they're throwing them in yards. She said it's getting unhealthy and she just wanted to know if there was anything that could be done about it. She said it's never happened in all the years she's lived here and now all of a sudden they're everywhere," Basel said.

Vice Mayor Tom Stanley said the town would send a note to residents. "Obviously it's an extremely dog-friendly neighborhood," he said. "We may have to do a little self-policing too." — *Steve Plunkett*

Gulf Stream makes first payment toward hookup with Boynton Beach's water system

By Steve Plunkett

Gulf Stream has taken a \$52,333 step toward flipping from Delray Beach to Boynton Beach for its drinking water.

Even without a formal agreement, town commissioners authorized spending that amount to pay for the engineering costs of extending a main water line from Seacrest Boulevard east along Gulfstream Boulevard almost to the FEC railway tracks.

Boynton Beach city commissioners approved a contract with their consulting engineers for the work on May 23. A second phase will cover the pipe from the railroad tracks to a connection point at Gulf Stream's Place Au Soleil neighborhood.

Assistant Town Attorney Trey Nazzaro said Boynton Beach estimates both phases will cost Gulf Stream \$1.8 million "with a wonderful swing of \$1.3 to \$2.3 million anticipated." The town will also have to pay a \$400,000 "capacity facility fee," he said.

Boynton Beach and Gulf Stream traded draft agreements about two months ago for a 25-year pact on drinking water. Boynton

Beach already was the town's backup supplier in case Delray Beach's water system had a problem.

Delray has been the main supplier since at least 1976.

Boynton Beach officials drew up the details for the extra engineering work and then obtained a quote from consulting engineers Calvin, Giordano and Associates Inc.

"So, based on all those efforts, it's pretty clear that they want to bring us on as a customer and generate some additional revenue," Nazzaro said. "And then of course there will be cost savings to the town over time with some immediate benefits," including higher water pressure at the tap.

Boynton is offering a rate of \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons of water, slightly less than the \$3.81 per 1,000 that Delray Beach is currently charging. But Delray plans to raise its rates to \$4.49 in October and \$5.20 the following year.

Delray, which is designing a new water plant, told Gulf Stream in April that it will stop providing the town with drinking

water in June 2025.

Calvin, Giordano said the first phase of the work to connect Boynton Beach and Gulf Stream would be complete in July or August 2025, with the second phase being finished by the end of 2025.

"Countless hours have gone into these discussions with both Delray Beach and Boynton Beach officials, and once the timing becomes more certain, I know we can work amicably on a transition plan with both cities," Nazzaro said.

The work will be done in conjunction with a road project on Gulfstream Boulevard, which separates Boynton Beach and Delray Beach. Both cities are sharing the cost of improving the road.

Town Manager Greg Dunham said he has begun discussions with Seacoast Bank on borrowing money to pay for the water main extension as well as an expected \$5 million shortfall on Gulf Stream's road and drainage improvement project.

The Florida League of Cities, which could link the town with low-interest loans, recommended he contact local banks first to see what rates are available. ★

Highland Beach

A1A project set to launch from Linton through Highland Beach

A yearlong State Road A1A resurfacing project through Highland Beach and a small portion of Delray Beach was planned to begin the last few days of May.

Initially the \$8.3 million project was to include silt fencing and tree protection barriers on both sides of A1A,

with road construction to start once that is completed, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

Crews will begin construction of the 3.3-mile project just south of Linton Boulevard and head south. Traffic disruptions are expected and advance notice of lane closures will be provided

through signs and other communications.

The widening of the road, mainly on the west side of South Ocean Boulevard, will also result in the removal of landscaping and the relocating of two dozen trees. Six trees in poor condition cannot be saved, FDOT representatives say.

The improvements will be especially noticeable at the intersection of A1A and Linton Boulevard. For years, town leaders and residents have complained about northbound cars causing lengthy backups while waiting to turn onto the Linton Boulevard bridge.

The project will more than

triple the length of the left-turn lane for cars heading over the bridge, from 75 feet to 275 feet. The lane now accommodates only about three cars. That will expand to about 11 cars once the work is complete, meaning that turning cars will block northbound traffic less often.

— Rich Pollack

'People describe it as being like Mayberry'

Post office closes after 60 years of service on small-town scale

By Rich Pollack

The visitors to the tiny post office tucked behind Highland Beach Town Hall came one by one — some with packages to be mailed, some with flowers and some with candy.

A few of those stopping by on what would be the community post office's final day were there to take care of business, but most were there to say goodbye to the people behind the counter and to the little outpost itself, which has been a convenience and a social gathering place for six decades.

"This post office has been a mainstay for us locals and it's heartbreaking to see it go," said longtime resident Virginia Bradford, who made one last visit. "It's a terrible thing."

With its roots going back to 1964, the Highland Beach community post office was first and foremost a hassle-free way for residents to buy stamps, mail packages and take care of basic postal services.

It started, initially in Town Hall, before the Spanish River Boulevard bridge opened in 1971 and the Linton Boulevard bridge opened in 1981. That meant residents had to drive to Palmetto Park Road or Atlantic Avenue to get to a downtown post office in either Boca Raton or Delray Beach.

Over the years, it evolved into a small outpost, still providing a convenience to those who bicycle, walk or drive from nearby condos or even from neighboring beachfront communities.

A series of decisions by the U.S. Postal Service, combined with the retirement of longtime clerk Valerie Jacoby, led to the mid-May demise of what some called a throwback to days when a small-town post office was about a lot more than mail.

"People describe it as being like Mayberry," Jacoby said. "We got to know a lot of people by name and we thought of them not just as customers but also as friends."

Town commissioners closed the doors after the Postal Service decided to stop allowing the community post office to use its credit card machine, followed by a requirement that a check for all transactions be sent at the end of each day.



It's farewell to the small community post office tucked in behind Highland Beach Town Hall. Scenes from the last day: **ABOVE:** Valerie Jacoby, the postal clerk for 24 years, is ready for retirement. Her plans were part of the reason the town decided to close the office. **FAR LEFT:** Jacoby gets a hug from Bonnie Hirsch, a longtime customer. **LEFT:** Business owner Dale Echeverria exits his car to drop off his last batch of mail. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

The town, which derived little if any revenue from the post office — all the money collected went to the Postal Service — estimated a savings of about \$160,000 a year by not having to operate the facility.

Regulars who had been coming to the town post office for decades say they will miss Jacoby, who had already announced her retirement and has moved to Lake Placid, as well as John Fitzpatrick, the last in a line of a handful of part-time clerks in the last 20 years who residents say served as Jacoby's trusted sidekick.

They will also miss the little touches.

Visitors to the post office were greeted with a small table

and chair outside the door where they could sit and fill out forms for registered or certified mail. As they walked in, they strolled past an ever-present boombox adorned with an aluminum foil antenna to help pick up a station playing music from years past.

On the back wall, behind the counter, hung a giant American flag.

"It was like a throwback in time," said regular visitor Bonnie Hirsch. "It was like an old neighborhood community post office."

To add to the homey atmosphere, Jacoby would make it a point to decorate for the holidays. The post office would transform into red, white and

blue for Independence Day, green with shamrocks for St. Patrick's and be adorned with red and white candy canes during the holiday season.

"These little things are not taken for granted," said Dale Echeverria, a business owner who stopped by three or four times a week to send out certified or registered mail to customers.

Jacoby, who worked in a small-town post office in Illinois before taking the Highland Beach job in 2000, often called on her experience to help customers.

"She saved me money, just giving me advice," Echeverria said.

One reason she could be

available to help customers was that most of the time, except for the holidays and tax time, there was hardly ever a line.

And even when there was, visitors spent the time talking to one another and sharing stories.

"If you had to wait, it was a pleasure," Hirsch said.

Since the town's post office closed on May 14, residents have been able to use two contract post offices across the Spanish River and Linton Boulevard bridges, at Postal Sweets CPU, 4060 N. Dixie Highway, and at Pak It Tight, 335 E. Linton Blvd.

Of course, it's not the same.

"You won't get the personal service you get here," resident Jim Mueller said. ★



Bridge work wrapping up

Palmetto Park Road and El Rio Canal, Boca Raton — May 27

Work on replacing the West Palmetto Park Road bridge over the El Rio Canal, an expected one-year project that began in 2021 and has been hit with delay after delay ever since, could be completed by midsummer, according to Palm Beach County Commissioner Marci Woodward. Crews were waiting for a Florida Department of Transportation inspection, which would allow for a traffic pattern change onto the new south section of the bridge so construction teams can move forward with final paving and striping, sidewalk and landscaping work, and other finishing touches. Woodward said she is hoping for completion of the \$4.3 million county project in July.

Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Boca Raton

Council OKs redevelopment of city's public housing complex

By Mary Hladky

More than four years of effort by the Boca Raton Housing Authority to secure money and approvals to replace the dilapidated Dixie Manor public housing complex reached a major milestone on May 14 when the City Council voted unanimously in favor of authorizing new construction.

Advocates for Dixie Manor, which will become the Residences at Martin Manor, unsuccessfully sought many changes to the plans submitted by the Housing Authority and co-developer Atlantic Pacific Communities. But last-minute negotiations potentially salvaged their efforts to ensure that the history of the existing buildings, dating to 1941, will be preserved.

What form that will take was left up in the air. Newly appointed Housing Authority board member Marie Hester, the longtime president of Developing Interracial Social Change (D.I.S.C.), wanted one of the existing buildings, or at least one apartment, kept to become a museum.

Housing Authority and Atlantic Pacific attorney Ele Zachariades said it is not yet known if a building that old could be preserved, but offered to create an interactive history exhibit in the complex's community center with the help of the Boca Raton Historical Society.

The compromise reached by the two sides was that a building would be preserved if Atlantic Pacific secures funding for restoration and maintenance. If that fails, Atlantic Pacific and the historical society must find a preservation alternative.

The complex is in Pearl City, founded in 1915, which recently was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings in Dixie Manor were constructed for the families of Black service members serving in the area during World War II.

Historic preservation was a key demand of Hester and other Dixie Manor supporters, and many of its residents also voiced support. But seven residents told council members that getting better housing was paramount and they urged them to approve the project.

"We want better housing conditions for us," said Dixie Manor resident Erica White. "We want to see the redevelopment. The focus is on us as residents living better."

Council members rebuffed pleas for an elevator and trash chute in each building because the city code does not require that. Residents and supporters also wanted traffic calming improvements on Dixie Highway and Glades Road, but those are county or state roads and the city has no jurisdiction.

They did agree to add 23 more parking spaces, but that was less than what residents wanted to accommodate themselves and visitors. Two very old and large banyan trees will be preserved.

The council approved construction of the first phase of the project on the north side of the 10-acre property.

About half of the tenants in the complex's 95 apartments will move into units in the south side, and the rest will be relocated elsewhere with the assistance of a company hired by Atlantic Pacific. The demolished north side buildings will be replaced by three new three-story buildings with the same number of apartments that should be ready for occupancy in about three years. The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development has provided funding.

The second phase will

involve the construction of about 100 apartments on the south side, doubling the amount of subsidized housing in the complex. The Housing Authority is now applying for funding. Historic preservation would be included in the second phase.

While everyone agrees Dixie Manor's buildings must be replaced, mistrust and fear have dogged the project from the start.

Residents worry they will not be allowed to return to the rebuilt complex at a time when other low-cost housing in the city is impossible to find. The Housing Authority insists they can return as long as they continue to meet income thresholds set by HUD.

They have faulted the

Housing Authority for poor communication that has left them unsure about what is happening and what their options are. They question whether the authority and Atlantic Pacific have chosen the best method available to rebuild the property.

Residents have pleaded with the City Council to intervene. But council members say they have no authority over the independent Housing Authority and their only role is to appoint authority board members.

Over the past two years, the council has appointed several new board members, including Hester, who they hoped would improve communication and have the trust of residents.

But turmoil continues. Board member Fabiola Bernier,

appointed in 2022, resigned in February, citing "the current state or climate of this (housing authority) and its board" which, she said, does not advocate for residents.

Both Bernier and Hester have voiced concerns about the Housing Authority's new executive director, Ashley Whidby, a longtime employee whom the board elevated to the top position in January following the departure of John Scannell.

Hester said the board illegally appointed Whidby without advertising the position or interviewing candidates. Bernier said the board should have hired a person with experience in redeveloping public housing. ★

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CONTRACTS SIGNED IN LAST 7 DAYS HIGHLAND BEACH - DELRAY BEACH

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Presenting our latest Coastal Confidential update for the Palm Beaches and Barrier Islands, spotlighting contract activity from May 4 to May 10, 2024. Here's a glimpse of the week:

We've meticulously documented 66 signed contracts, with a subtle 7% decrease from the preceding week and a 4% dip from the corresponding period last year. Notably, Palm Beach has experienced a remarkable surge in signed contracts, particularly within the single-family housing segment.

Contracts below \$1 million have seen a 27% decline compared to last year, while those exceeding \$1 million have witnessed a significant 61% upswing.

Furthermore, we've observed 11 contracts spanning from Hypoluxo Island to Delray Beach. Among these, the highest-valued contract was for 3 Ocean Lane, an exquisite oceanfront single-family residence in Manalapan, listed at \$22.95 million.

Currently, there are three pending sales over \$6 million from Gulf Stream to Manalapan, including 1500 Lands End Rd at \$6.599 million, 1 Osprey Court in Ocean Ridge at \$6.9 million, and 3603 N Ocean in Gulf Stream at \$17.5 million.

Manalapan has seen several notable sales in the last 30 days, notably including 1960 S Ocean for \$27 million, which has since undergone demolition, and 1540 Paislay, recently re-traded at \$13 million.

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RESERVES

Continued from page 1

those dollars will be available in the event of a disaster, only that they should be there as long as the governments don't spend them on something else first.

Two Gulf Coast barrier island communities ravaged by Hurricane Ian in 2022 — Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel — had a mix of reserves they turned to in the hours and days after Ian struck.

Their takeaway: You can never have enough put aside, but you do need to have a kitty available.

“Following Ian, all the disaster reserves were immediately appropriated to ensure the city had the funds to pay employees (many were on call and working around the clock in the weeks following the storm) and to address immediate operational needs,” said Eric Jackson, Sanibel’s public information officer, responding in an email to questions from *The Coastal Star*.

“The reserve amount was adequate to guarantee cash flow to pay personnel and keep the city running following the storm,” Jackson said. “To fully meet the challenges of a disaster of this magnitude, no amount of attainable reserves would be sufficient for a local government.”

Most South Palm Beach County cities and towns have money they can tap, but only some have dollars specifically set aside for a disaster: \$20.4 million in Boca Raton, \$1.8 million in Highland Beach, \$100,000 in Gulf Stream and, in Lantana, \$750,000 in an insurance fund for damage not covered by other sources.

Instead, most plan to rely heavily on dollars in their budgets that aren't set aside for any specific purpose, their undesignated fund balances. This money provides a budget cushion that can also be used to pay for other projects or priorities — be it a road construction project in Gulf Stream or water pipe replacements in Ocean Ridge.

“The town does not differentiate between cash reserves and hurricane emergency reserves,” Ocean Ridge Town Manager Lynne Ladner said. “In the event of a disaster such as a hurricane, all unassigned cash reserves are available to ensure that town operations can continue to operate and recovery efforts are not hindered by a lack of resources.”

One reason for not designating specific emergency reserves is that the “unassigned status gives the town maximum flexibility to meet emergency or unforeseen conditions as [they] arise,” South Palm Beach Town Manager Jamie Titcomb said. In addition, he said, each town department has some contingency funds that could be used for disaster items that specifically affect the given department.

Fort Myers Beach had several pots of money available when Ian came ashore on Sept. 28, 2022, just days before the city’s new budget year started. At that time, it had \$2.6 million in reserves, with more than half designated for an emergency, said Nicole Berzin, the town’s public information officer.

“We do have an emergency fund, and it had a balance of \$537,114. We had \$1,060,000 of the general fund balance that had also been set aside for emergencies, and \$600,000 of the general fund balance set aside as an operating reserve,” Berzin said. The budget that began Oct. 1, 2022, also had another \$443,000 contingency in it that could be used for emergencies, she said.

“In addition to the above, the general fund did happen to have about \$3.6 million reserved to be transferred to the capital fund in FY23 to support future capital projects. Although not

Money on hand to dig out from disaster

Local governments face the risk a hurricane could strike their city or town, with devastating consequences. This chart takes a look at what money South County municipalities have available this year, and looks at how that compares with what two Gulf Coast communities had on hand when Hurricane Ian struck them in 2022.

Municipality	Population (2022)	Size (land sq. miles)	Taxable value	Source of available reserves	FY 2024 total funds available
Boca Raton	90,009	29.2	\$34.6 billion	Emergency and unassigned	\$87.9 million
Boynton Beach	80,859	16.2	\$9.1 billion	Unassigned	\$11.8 million
Briny Breezes	511	0.1	\$85.3 million	Unassigned	\$950,000
Delray Beach	67,030	15.9	\$16.3 billion	Unassigned	\$44.7 million
Gulf Stream	953	0.8	\$1.7 billion	Emergency and unassigned	\$7.4 million
Highland Beach	4,264	0.5	\$3.5 billion	Emergency and unassigned	\$3.6 million
Lantana	12,084	2.3	\$1.8 billion	Unassigned and designated	\$14.25 million
Manalapan	421	0.4	\$2.2 billion	Unassigned	\$4.2 million
Ocean Ridge	1,831	0.9	\$1.5 billion	Unassigned and capital	\$6 million
South Palm Beach	1,456	0.12	\$587 million	Unassigned	\$630,000
			Pre (Post) Ian		FY 2023 total
Fort Myers Beach	5,664	2.9	\$4.4 billion (\$2.6 billion)	Emergency, unassigned and capital transfer	\$6.2 million
Sanibel	6,482	17.2	\$6.3 billion (\$4.6 billion)	Emergency and unassigned	\$10 million

Sources: Individual municipalities; U.S. Census data; Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office



Hurricane Ian in 2022 devastated oceanfront communities like Sanibel, requiring significant spending by local government before reimbursement from federal and state agencies arrived. **Photo provided**

specifically designated for emergencies, the cash intended for capital could be available to temporarily fund emergency expenditures until assistance was received, which is exactly what happened,” Berzin said.

Meanwhile, Sanibel had set aside \$5.5 million in emergency reserves, which was put to use immediately, Jackson said. It restocked the emergency reserve level to \$5.9 million in its current budget, Jackson said.

At the time Ian struck, Sanibel also had an undesignated reserve — recommended to equal about 17% of its operating budget — available for use if needed. That was another \$4.5 million.

“While reimbursements take time, it is expected that 95% of the \$5.5 million will be replenished — 90% from the federal government and 5% from the state. The remaining 5% is the responsibility of the city of Sanibel,” Jackson said. “There is nothing definitive on how quickly the city will receive the reimbursements.”

On South County coast

In South County, current

undesignated reserves available in an emergency are around \$13.5 million in Lantana, \$7.3 million in Gulf Stream, \$6 million in Ocean Ridge, \$4.2 million in Manalapan, \$950,000 in Briny Breezes and \$630,000 in South Palm Beach, officials in those communities said.

“If we get a direct hit, obviously we would have to get into our fund balance,” Gulf Stream Town Manager Greg Dunham said. While that fund balance backs up the town’s current road and drainage construction project, Dunham said the balance is expected to be increasing, in part due to rising property values — and the Town Commission has also said it doesn’t want the balance to go below \$4 million.

Highland Beach has \$3.6 million available, with half made up of undesignated reserves and the other half specifically for a hurricane or other disaster, Town Manager Marshall Labadie said.

Larger South County municipalities also rely heavily on undesignated reserves. Besides Boca Raton’s \$20.4 million set aside for a hurricane or

other disasters, it has \$67.5 million in undesignated fund balance it could tap into if needed, city spokeswoman Anne Marie Connolly said.

“While the city does not have a specific written policy regarding fund balance designations for emergency reserves, there is an aim to reserve approximately six weeks of operating costs for hurricane/disaster emergency reserve in the general fund,” Connolly said. Depending on the specific type of hurricane damage incurred, the city has reserves in other areas that might be used, such as for stormwater, water and wastewater infrastructure and operations, she said.

Delray Beach estimates it would have at least \$44.7 million available in unassigned fund balance, while Boynton Beach has \$11.8 million in reserves. However, while Delray Beach’s reserves equal about a quarter of its general fund budget, Boynton Beach’s figure is only about 10% of its operating budget, less than the 16.7% — or two months’

Continued on the next page

EROSION

Continued from page 1

report says.

“There’s a multimillion-cubic-yard deficit of sand that’s been built up over decades,” said Mike Jenkins, a senior principal engineer with Geosyntec Consultants, a global consulting and engineering firm.

Jenkins was on the scene at Jupiter Inlet Colony when unannounced weather there made national headlines for the way it carved up the backyards of multimillion-dollar homes and left 10-foot drop-offs from the dunes to the beach, according to news reports.

Jenkins estimates about 10,000 cubic yards of dunes — or nearly enough to fill three Olympic-sized swimming pools — eroded from the banks in the mid-February storm.

Beaches are, after all, dynamic landforms that shift for natural and human-induced reasons even as the state’s tourism industry is built on them.

Keeping beaches looking buff is important enough that the state in the last three years has allocated nearly \$12 million to South County beach renourishment projects from the Lake Worth Inlet to Boca Raton. And municipalities must match most of that state share dollar for dollar.

Competing concerns

For those communities not entitled to publicly funded beach renourishment, though, the erosion draws the often-competing interests at play on the beach into sharp focus.

Among them:

Beach raking: Critics make much of how the state of Florida, by statute, does not endorse mechanical beach cleaning. Some municipalities require that beach rakers get local permits. Their practice is subject to scrutiny by the state DEP and turtle monitors who flag turtle nests to avoid.

Critics at a Manalapan workshop in May said their photos show the theory doesn’t always match the practice, particularly in areas where beach raking is left up to private landowners. And, even when beach raking is done by the book, some peer-reviewed literature suggests that it contributes to erosion.

Limiting blobs of blight:

The season of brown clusters of seaweed, noted for their rotten-egg smell, is ramping up, and so is the demand to get rid of them.

The latest report from the

worth of operating expenses — recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association.

Keeping a larger fund balance is sometimes met with opposition from those who would prefer the dollars be used to reduce property taxes.

“The primary purpose of the unassigned fund balance is to serve as a guardrail for



Jupiter Inlet Colony beachfront homeowners suffered damage this past winter during an unexpected weather event. Photo provided by WPEC

Hurricane season: June 1-Nov. 30

Here’s a look at what to expect based on this year’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecast.

How active a season? There’s an 85% chance of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. An average season has 14 named storms, seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes. A separate Colorado State University forecast says there’s a 61% probability of a named storm striking within 50 miles of Palm Beach County, with a 34% probability of a hurricane hitting and a 15% probability of a major hurricane coming ashore.

How many storms? NOAA estimates there will be 17 to 25 named storms, with eight to 13 becoming hurricanes, and four to seven being Category 3 or higher. These predictions are the highest ever for NOAA, which started issuing May forecasts and August updates in 1998.

What’s behind the prediction? NOAA expects “near-record warm ocean temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean, development of La Niña conditions in the Pacific, reduced Atlantic trade winds and less wind shear, all of which tend to favor tropical storm formation.”

What are the storm names? This year’s reserved names are Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Francine, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Milton, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sara, Tony, Valerie and William.

What happened last year? 2023 was above-normal with 20 named storms (seven hurricanes), but only one hurricane — Idalia — made landfall in the U.S., striking near Keaton Beach in Florida’s Big Bend region.

How good are the predictions? NOAA began using a new forecast model in 2023, which also helped improve predictions of storm intensity. The bad news? NOAA has actually under-predicted the number of named storms in three of the last four years.

Sources: *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Colorado State University Tropical Weather & Climate Research*

University of South Florida shows in almost every monitored region, especially in the central Atlantic, sargassum amounts are in line with more abundant years’ measures. As larger amounts wash ashore, demand that sargassum be removed increases. Ironically, observers say it helps stop erosion.

Preserving sea turtle habitat: Shorter and shorter stretches of gently sloping beaches are leaving less room above the high-tide line for

threatened and endangered sea turtles to deposit their egg clutches. What used to be 40 yards of sandy expanse along stretches of south Palm Beach County’s coast have shrunk, and turtles searching for a place to nest quickly run into 6-foot drop-offs, impossible for sea turtles to scale.

Keeping inlets dredged:

Sand has historically been removed from the coastal system by dredging. The natural drift of sand along the shore is blocked by jetties, trapped in

channels, or moved into ebb and flood shoals, according to literature from the state. Also, a sand transfer plant is in operation on the north side of the South Lake Worth Inlet, also known as the Boynton Beach Inlet. Critics are unhappy the plant is removing sand from Manalapan to benefit Ocean Ridge, the result of a settlement decades ago from a lawsuit brought by Ocean Ridge.

But officials for the county, which operates the plant, say it’s a necessary part of the system that compensates for the effect of the manmade inlet.

The visible effects

The effects of erosion stunned Michael Croteau, 62, and Natalie Gauthier, 53, visiting Ocean Ridge from Quebec for their customary two-month stint through May, they said.

“We were asking ourselves what happened,” said Gauthier, a nursing school teacher, looking at the escarpment near Boynton Beach Oceanfront Park that towered over the beach at a 90-degree angle.

Croteau said he’s been coming here for more than 30 years and he’s never seen it like this before. “I was shocked and disappointed,” Croteau said. “It’s ugly.”

Unlike Ocean Ridge, which was the beneficiary of a post-Hurricane Irma beach renourishment project in 2020, Manalapan is on the same list as Jupiter Inlet Colony without the benefit of getting state help to relieve the conditions chipping away at its coast.

A May 16 workshop brought together residents who want the town to improve its enforcement of beach raking rules, and perhaps ban the practice during turtle nesting season; representatives from the Eau Palm Beach Resort &

Spa, advocating for no new limits on when they can rake; and technical advisers including Jenkins.

“Why do a minority of people who like beach aesthetics have priority over the majority who want to protect the beaches, the sea turtles and the wildlife?” asked Dr. Peter Bonutti, Manalapan Town Commissioner Simone Bonutti’s husband.

Jamie Gavigan, a lawyer representing the Eau, said that the resort and spa has the same concern for sea turtles and the area’s other natural resources.

“We don’t need any more regulations,” he said, noting that continued beach cleaning is important for the facility to maintain its five-star rating. “Mechanical beach raking is already highly regulated by the state of Florida.”

The same issues arose in Highland Beach during 2018-2019. Some residents wanted beach raking limited to certain hours, others wanted the town to make it more uniform by taking it over, and still others thought the beach should be left in its natural state.

Ultimately, the town decided to leave regulating it to the state.

“There’s no easy answer to this,” said state Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman, who was then on the Highland Beach Town Commission.

Kim Jones, 68, of Ocean Ridge, who was a coastal engineer before retiring, said the problem lies in the way that the regulation is all done from desks and computers.

If people walked the beach, they’d see the raking vehicles’ tire tracks west of the high tide line, all the false crawls by nesting turtles who gave up and all the sand that’s blown away, she said.

“The mechanical cleaning is not being done responsibly because no one’s checking,” she said.

Jones has her own way of predicting how bad the storms are going to be this year: The sea turtles are shooting for higher ground than usual — anticipating pounding surf and high winds that would jeopardize their clutches and wash away more sand.

Jenkins held out some hope: The Palm Beach renourishment project means some of that sand will eventually drift south, to Manalapan, as sand usually does. “Sand is coming this way,” he said.

Manalapan might also take matters into its own hands and opt to build dunes as a town project, Jenkins suggested. ★

revenue instability, catastrophic events such as hurricanes and floods, and cash flow instability,” Delray Beach Chief Financial Officer Hugh Dunkley said. “The unassigned fund balance is also available for the City Commission to exercise its discretion to fund new programs and/or initiatives that were not included in the adopted budget for the fiscal

year.”

In the final analysis, no community can completely handle by itself the financial impact of a direct hit.

Sanibel’s storm recovery cost, for instance, was well over the town’s entire \$84 million FY 2023 budget, which was approved at about the same time Ian struck.

“Recognizing this challenge

for the city (and other local governments), the state took over debris operations and directly paid for those services. Other significant state and FEMA assistance was also provided,” Jackson wrote in his email.

There are also financial hits that come down the road.

“The city lost 34% in taxable property values following the

storm,” Jackson said. “The storm greatly impacted the city’s Capital Improvement Plan by eliminating improvement expenditures that were not considered essential and tied to public safety. Facility building expansions and technology improvement purchases were examples of planned projects that were shelved.” ★

10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Leah Mills

What 10 years ago was a summertime drink Leah Mills would serve friends and family is now a gin-based refreshment the Hypoluxo Island resident and her family are marketing nationwide.

The drink is called The Original Southside, which hit the market in January. It is a gluten-free concoction of gin, lemon and mint that is 10% alcohol and, according to Mills and her daughter Meredith, healthier than almost anything your local bar is serving. You can buy it in cans at www.drinksouthsides.com.

“We’re starting to pay attention to what’s in our food now, and our water, but nobody ever thinks about what you’re drinking when you order a drink at a bar,” said Mills, 59. “Our idea was to make a better-for-you drink.”

Her daughter earned both an undergraduate degree and a master’s at Southern Methodist University, then after a time in the workforce, went for another master’s at the University of Southern California, this one in consumer behavior.

“One of her projects was to study a company that makes a wine-based cooler, and she thought about how good my drink was,” Mills said. “She had access to a lot of research in the alcohol industry and it came to her attention that gin was an under-represented category.”

A family friend had worked at Brown-Forman, one of the largest alcohol producers in the world, and Meredith Mills used that resource to help with distribution and sought out Flavorman in Louisville to help with flavor development.

After more than a year of testing and refining, the Millses — Leah, her husband, Brent, and Meredith — decided to offer their drink at their annual Flamingle party on New Year’s Eve in 2022.

“Everybody loved it, so we went from there,” Leah said.

The Millses also have two sons: Parker, who is in law school at SMU, and Sutton, an analyst who works with his father in venture capital acquisitions.

— Brian Biggane



Hypoluxo Island resident Leah Mills and her daughter have come up with a ‘better-for-you drink.’ Photo provided

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

A: I was born and raised in Oklahoma City. I went to Edmond Memorial High School. From there, I attended the University of Oklahoma where I received a degree in finance and my Juris Doctorate degree.

Growing up and living in a place like Oklahoma gives you a unique perspective. Oklahomans are friendly and made up of many different cultural influences. It is full of resilient, hardworking people with strong values of family, patriotism and civic engagement. It influenced me to be the same: hardworking and resilient, but also to appreciate others no matter their differences and backgrounds.

Q: What professions have you worked in?

A: I was a practicing health benefits ERISA [Employee Retirement Income Security Act] attorney for 25-plus years, but after I retired, I became an official brand ambassador and board member for The Original Southside. Helping run a spirit beverage company is quite a departure from the practice of law and I will say it makes law look easy.

Q: What professional accomplishments are you most proud of?

A: I am most proud of helping others with my law degree. Before I retired in 2018, I spent the majority of my career representing people who were denied health insurance benefits for medically necessary procedures. The specialty area I worked in had a tremendous number of denials, particularly for women and children. It was gratifying to see my efforts help people receive the medical treatments they needed.

I am also proud that my professional accomplishments helped Meredith have the confidence and support necessary to embark on this entrepreneurial journey of creating her own business, in a largely male-dominated industry with more barriers to entry than you can imagine.

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

A: Learn as much as you can and laugh along the way. I am a big believer in education. Education exposes you to new concepts and new people. You grow as a person — you better yourself. Whether you choose the path of trade school or college and beyond, we must be

curious learners our whole lives, working to make our own and others’ lives better.

Jerry Seinfeld recently spoke at Duke’s commencement ceremony and his advice was full of meaning. He gave traditional advice to “focus on work and fall in love” but he went on to defend humor. “The slightly uncomfortable feeling of awkward humor is OK ... even at the cost of hard feelings.” I think we’ve forgotten to laugh at ourselves and others and this creates intolerance. Education combined with humor along the way helps all of us all appreciate our differences.

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

A: We began to seasonally visit Florida more than 20 years ago. My husband, an avid outdoorsman and boater, took a Florida map and drew a circle around the longitude and latitude of where the year-round weather would be best. We would choose different places to visit within the circle to see where we would most like to settle. We happened upon Hypoluxo Island after renting a charming house in Manalapan. We hired a real estate agent that weekend to take us to available homes — by boat, of course. We saw a few homes, but one stood out among the rest for its magical front courtyard. We settled on our Lantana location after finding what we think is the quintessential whimsical Florida Keys-style home.

Q: What is your favorite part about living on Hypoluxo Island?

A: We love our location and neighbors. Hypoluxo is the best of all South Florida worlds. We have friendly neighbors, convenient local amenities, and proximity within 20 minutes north or south to the finest shopping, dining and culture in the world. Miami is not far and

the boater among us enjoys the proximity to the Bahamas and the Florida Keys.

Q: What book are you reading now?

A: For work, I am busy reading and learning about the consumer goods and alcohol industry: *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* by Daniel Okrent; *How Brands Grow*, by Byron Sharp, and *Mission in a Bottle*, by Seth Goldman and Barry Nalebuff. For pleasure, I am reading *No Ordinary Time*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin. It is a surprisingly prescient book to be reading today.

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

A: To relax, I listen to smooth jazz and ’80s, ’90s and 2000s soft rock. If I want to be inspired, I try and keep up with the younger generation by listening to the top 20 hits of the day.

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

A: I didn’t have one specific mentor, rather in the late ’80s and early ’90s every female lawyer in practice was a mentor. There were not as many female partners then as there are today, so it was a real marker of success to be a female partner at a law firm. It was a time where other female lawyers exemplified the ideal of having it all — a successful career, relationships and family. I am inspired by women who break barriers and traditional molds encouraging other young women to do the same.

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

A: Sandra Bullock. She has the down-to-earth, girl-next-door quality combined with wit, determination and intellect.

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Obituaries

Gerti God Mease

GULF STREAM — Born Feb. 4, 1961, in Hamburg, Germany, Gerti God grew to be a very independent woman who knew what she wanted. Though life did not come easy, she was never afraid of hard work.



Indeed, she worked with her husband, Daniel S. Mease, until her early end from cancer on April 27 at Delray Medical Center. Mrs. Mease was 63.

The Meases were married for 26 years, and lived in Gulf Stream.

Known among her many beloved friends as “Bo,” Mrs. Mease also loved sailing and her animals.

She is survived by her husband, Daniel Mease, who carries her in loving memory.

— Obituary submitted by family

Patricia Bancker Duane

DELRAY BEACH — Patricia Bancker Duane died May 10 after a long illness. She was 93.

Born May 30, 1930, in Mineola, New York, to Jean (nee Monahan) and Adrian Bancker, Patsy Ann was a descendant of the earliest Dutch settlers of Staten Island and grew up in an old farmhouse on Manhasset Bay in Plandome, New York.

A tomboy, young Miss Bancker enjoyed outdoor sports, especially sailing her first dinghy, named *Pollywog*. She graduated from Manhasset Bay High School in 1948 and Mount Holyoke College in 1952.

Pat Bancker and John “Jack” Marshall Duane Jr. met on a blind date during their college years and married at Fort Shafter Chapel in Honolulu in 1952, when Jack was stationed in Hawaii. They moved back to Jack’s hometown of Boston and, after one winter, decided to make Fort Lauderdale their home.

The Duanes moved to Delray Beach in 1954, and there raised their children, Jean Pavlov and John Marshall Duane III.

Pat and Jack quickly became involved in the community and made lifelong friends.

Mr. Duane became a notable in banking while Mrs. Duane was an active community volunteer in Delray Beach over the years.

She was on the committee that founded the Aqua Crest Pool, and worked as a substitute science teacher at Seacrest High School for months during a teachers’ strike in the 1960s.

The couple founded the Delray Beach Yacht Club. Mrs. Duane was a member of the Seacrest Association of University Women, a member and longtime treasurer of the Beach Property Owners Association, and a dedicated deacon at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach.

Mrs. Duane was a wonderful wife and mother to her young family, and a world-class sailing competitor. Always competing as a skipper and helmsman against the men, she was a two-time world champion (International Moth Class and International Flying Dutchman), two-time North American champion, four-time Midwinters Champion/FD, winner of the 1960 Adams Cup Championship (top U.S. women’s sailors), and winner of numerous ocean racing regattas.

With Jack crewing, the couple placed second in the 1960 U.S. Olympic trials and later represented the United States in the 1963 Pan American Games in Brazil.

Mrs. Duane was highlighted in *Sports Illustrated* “Faces in the Crowd” in 1962, and featured in the April 22, 1963, issue as “The Flying Lady of the Flying Dutchman.”

The couple were featured on ABC’s *Wide World of Sports* with Jim McKay in 1963, and Mrs. Duane was the “central character” of CBS’s *To Tell the Truth* (she fooled the panel). The City Commission of Delray Beach declared a “Pat Duane Day” in 1963 in honor of her achievements.

Mrs. Duane was a focused and tenacious competitor, yet always humble in victory, developing close friendships with her fellow sailors.

In addition to sailboat racing, Mrs. Duane played tennis and golf and enjoyed reading. She was a member of the Delray Beach Yacht Club, the Country Club of Florida, Delray Dunes Golf Club, and a tennis member of the Gulf Stream Bath and Tennis Club.

In addition to her children, Jean (Jan) Pavlov and John Marshall (Susan) Duane III, Mrs. Duane is survived by six grandchildren: Elizabeth (Nathan) Talbot, Marshall (Logan) Duane, Caroline (Oliver) Kuntz, Jonathan (Selena) Pollow, Meghan (Bryan) Stern, and Jessica Pollow (Reuven) Bromberg; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, Jack, who died in 1995, her sister Audrey and grandson Matthew Pollow, as well as many beloved dogs, who were an important part of her life.

The family is most grateful to Mrs. Duane’s longtime housekeeper, Eather Mae Collins, aides Farah Francois and Rose Delaplane, the caring staff of Sonata in Boynton Beach and Dr. Madeleine DuPree of Vitas Hospice Care.

A private family memorial is planned. Any memorial donations may be directed to the Deacons Fund at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach.

— Obituary submitted by family

Memorial Day

Boca Raton Cemetery, Boca Raton — May 27



Hundreds of people took part in the annual Memorial Day commemorative ceremony.

TOP: The Coastmen Chorus sings the national anthem. ABOVE: Boca Raton High School Naval Junior ROTC Officer Cadet Velasquez presents arms during the ceremony. RIGHT: A cadet holds the Stars and Stripes, concluding the flag-folding portion of the ceremony.

Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star



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Along the Coast

Brightline's fare increase, seat limits put squeeze on commuters

By Mary Hladky

People who use Brightline to get around South Florida were shocked to learn that the rail line was eliminating a monthly trip pass with greatly reduced fares and is de-prioritizing riders who use the train as a commuter service in favor of those making long-haul trips to and from Orlando.

Riders most upset about the changes have contacted Boca Raton City Council members in hopes they can use their influence to persuade Brightline to reverse course.

"This new action by Brightline is a declaration of war against commuters and puts into question the very existence of a Boca Raton station ...," Boca Raton resident Christian Vandendriessche wrote in an email to council members on May 7.

He asked council members to talk to other government leaders and Brightline officials to find a "satisfactory and reasonable" solution.

"This sentiment is widely shared by every single person I have spoken to about this situation and the disruptive impact it will have for all of us next month."

Resident Lowell Plotkin told city officials in a May 5 note that he moved to Boca Raton right after the station opened in December 2022, a decision that was possible because he could commute four days a week to Miami.

"For all of us who relocated, changed jobs and made other life decisions under the assumption that we would have an affordable option to make the daily journey ... this feels like a bait-and-switch," he wrote.

"I understand that Brightline is a private company and can do whatever its owners ... want, but their actions have infuriated their daily commuters," he said.

Mayor Scott Singer, a Brightline booster who lobbied

Brightline by the numbers

Commuter fares:
40 short rides a month for \$399* prior to June 10 short rides for \$350* as of June 1

Per-passenger revenue:
\$68 in April 2024
\$33 a year earlier

Short-distance trips:
124,379 in March 2024
179,576 a year earlier

Total ticket revenue:
\$15 million in March 2024
\$4.7 million a year earlier

* Not including cost to park in station's garage

for a station and has repeatedly described it as a "game-changer" for the city, told *The Coastal Star* in an email that he has contacted Brightline officials.

"I have repeatedly expressed my concerns to Brightline and shared those of other residents," he wrote. "I've encouraged residents to keep contacting them directly at hello@gobrightline.com. I will continue to work for more service in Boca Raton and continue to talk to their top executive team."

Brightline was eliminating three types of train passes as of June 1, including one aimed at commuters that offered 40 trips per month for \$399, or \$10 for a one-way trip and \$20 for a round-trip.

Starting June 1, passengers can get a new 10-ride pass to and from any station from West Palm Beach to Miami for \$350 for the regular Smart fare or \$550 for the Premium fare. So the cost of a one-way regular trip goes up to \$35 or to \$55 for premium. That doesn't include the cost to park in Brightline's garages.

Discontinuing monthly and other passes "will make it much more difficult for your average resident who is commuting," said Council member Andy Thomson. "It is frankly pretty disappointing to

me. That was never the intent when Brightline said they wanted to be in Boca and we wanted them."

It's unclear how widespread the outrage is. Two council members told *The Coastal Star* they had received about five to 10 complaints each as of mid-May.

Several residents who are not commuters but use Brightline to get to occasional functions or meetings in other cities said they hadn't heard much about it from the people they speak with.

"It is either death on I-95 or Brightline," said Katie Barr MacDougall, president of the Riviera Civic Association, which advocates for Beachside neighborhoods. Given that, "Brightline basically is a bargain."

The city potentially has more on the line with the Brightline decisions. Ever since the Boca Raton station was built, council members have talked about creating a Transit Oriented Development zone to encourage development near the station.

As of now, the City Council isn't dissuaded from going ahead with a TOD just because fewer commuters might be coming to Boca Raton, but that might have the potential to cool developer interest.

"This does somewhat take the steam out of it," Thomson said. "The degree to which it does is unclear to me."

Real estate consultant Glenn Gromann doesn't think Brightline's actions will impact the city.

"The downtown is booming in Boca," he said. "The downtown is not going to stop booming. There are all sorts of high-end projects planned. ..."

A person buying an expensive condo "is not worried about a commuter line to Miami," he said.

The city leased 1.8 acres of city-owned land east of the Downtown Library to Brightline for \$1 per year for 29 years, but with renewals to

total 89 years. It also agreed to bear the cost of a 455-space parking garage, although a \$16.3 million federal grant reduced the amount Brightline and the city paid for the station and garage.

Brightline also agreed to pay up to \$300,000 to move the Junior League of Boca Raton's Community Garden, which was displaced by the station, to Meadows Park.

Brightline has insisted since its inception that it is not a commuter line. The goal was to offer service to and from South Florida and Orlando. That became reality in September when the Orlando station opened and provided much more profitable long-haul service.

And yet, when Brightline expanded service beyond Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach to build stations in Boca Raton and Aventura and recently announced a Stuart station, it became a de facto commuter line for many riders.

But with the changes, commuters will find it not only more costly but also more difficult to use.

In its most recent revenue and ridership reports to bondholders, Brightline said that demand for service to and from Orlando is strong.

"The addition of long-distance service has fundamentally transformed our business, with average fares, ancillary revenue per passenger and ridership all increasing significantly," the reports said.

Because of that, "in certain instances we restrict available capacity for short-distance trips," the company said in March. The restrictions reduced the number of short trips from 179,576 in March 2023 to 124,379 this March.

The higher-cost fares to and from Orlando increased March ticket revenue to \$15 million, up from \$4.7 million the previous March. Total revenue per passenger in April was

nearly \$68, up from nearly \$33 the previous April.

Even so, Brightline still is not profitable. It lost \$192 million in the nine months that ended on Sept. 30.

To meet the additional rider demand, Brightline is getting 30 additional passenger cars that will come online later this year and in 2025, expanding seat capacity by more than 75%, the company said in its April report. The company did not say whether that will allow it to transport more commuters.

For those who find the limited seating capacity and higher fares too much, the alternative is Tri-Rail, a subsidized commuter service with substantially lower fares that runs on the CSX tracks west of city centers.

Tri-Rail spokesman Victor Garcia said that as of mid-May the rail service had not seen an increase in ridership due to looming higher Brightline fares. Yet ridership has completely recovered from the losses caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and averaged 15,000 weekday passengers in February.

Tri-Rail also reached a long-awaited milestone in January when it expanded service to the downtown MiamiCentral Station with a connector train in Hialeah.

Tri-Rail and Brightline also have been talking about adding a round-trip express Tri-Rail train that would run from West Palm Beach into downtown Miami without a connector train in the morning, and a return to West Palm Beach in the evening. Limited stops would be at Boca Raton, the Fort Lauderdale airport and Hialeah.

The ride time would be less than 90 minutes, using mostly Tri-Rail tracks and a short stretch on tracks used by Brightline. The Tri-Rail board was scheduled to vote on the new service on May 31. ★



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Delray Beach

Divisions resurface over Old School Square operations

By Anne Geggis

Six proposals for filling the Crest Theatre building with art programs — including one from the storied Boca Raton Museum of Art — appeared to fall flat in front of the Delray Beach City Commission, at least as a long-term proposition.

The Crest Theatre went dark five years ago. And now a new majority on the City Commission is looking to revitalize the city's artistic life that has revolved around Old School Square, the former site of Delray Beach's high and elementary schools. It is now home to the theater, the Cornell Art Museum, the Fieldhouse (the former gymnasium) and an outdoor performance stage called the Pavilion.

Following a discussion earlier in the month about who should run activities at the other parts of Old School Square, six proposals auditioned at a May 21 commission meeting to use classroom space at the Crest Theatre building, where substantial renovations were recently completed.

After hearing the pitches about all sorts of art forms that would be presented and taught there, Mayor Tom Carney said he wanted to limit the term of use currently under discussion for a management agreement to months, not years, because of other issues at play.

The stumbling block is that the theater part of the facility is not ready for prime time and still needs more repairs. So, the mayor agreed with the city attorney's suggestion that the city offer a permit to an interested party who wants to use the classrooms this summer, instead of issuing a long-term lease.

"A permit gives you a lot more flexibility than a lease would," said Lynn Gelin, city attorney.

Flexibility is what the city needs until the theater portion of the facility is renovated, Carney said. The scope of what the city will cover of the needed renovations has not been determined and budget discussions for the coming fiscal year are just beginning, he said.

"I really think we need to sit back and decide how we want this place to operate and not just turn it over to one group," Carney said.

The two candidates with local track records said later that using the classrooms just for the summer wouldn't work for them.

Boca Raton Museum of Art's summer session already has 700 youngsters signed up to take classes. Annually, the art school usually draws 5,000 registrants, museum officials said.

"We can't just pick up and go," abruptly switching classes that are ready to start to the

Crest Theatre, only to be there for the summer months, said Irv Lippman, the museum's executive director.

Moving the museum's art school for at least a few years to the Crest Theatre building's classrooms, some of them refurbished with Dade County pine, seemed like a meant-to-be kind of thing, Lippman said. Currently, Boca Raton's museum art school is housed in a 60-year-old building that needs to be rebuilt, if it's going to continue to be used.

"We thought that, with the Delray facility ready to go, that made it very desirable," Lippman said. "But I guess it's not so ready to go."

Deborah Dowd, vice chairwoman of Old School Square Center for the Arts board that previously operated Old School Square, said of a short-term permit: "I can't possibly imagine how that would work. How could we possibly get teachers? Teachers want something much more secure and long term."

Commissioners Rob Long and Angela Burns both voiced support for the Old School Square Center for the Arts bid, admiring the timeline presented for its relaunch. But Vice Mayor Juli Casale had a lot to say about the art nonprofit's last stint at the helm of the city's public arts effort.

"I will just go backwards to a couple of things," Casale said.

"We had an auditor produce a document that showed approximately 22 violations. They weren't small. ..."

The nonprofit group has been credited with turning the campus into cultural arts venues that proved a draw to the heart of the city's downtown during its 30 years in charge. But that run in the city-owned public facilities halted in 2021 with the City Commission ending the group's lease amid allegations of financial mismanagement. The organization then sued the city, some commissioners personally and even some of its former board members — a suit that went away after a commission less hostile to the organization took office last year.

Casale's assertions produced commotion from the Commission Chambers audience, and Long began challenging the Old School Square nonprofit's ouster that Casale had voted for during her last stint on the commission dais. Their exchanges had the mayor threatening to end the meeting more than once.

More discussions of who will occupy these classrooms are likely at the June 4 City Commission meeting, city officials said.

Earlier, at a May 14 workshop, a request from the Downtown Development Authority for the city to increase its funding for the

other facilities in Old School Square by nearly \$500,000 from its current level of slightly more than \$1 million took center stage. And that requested increase in funding didn't go over well with the newly seated mayor, either. The DDA staff took over running most of Old School Square in 2023.

"My view is you're almost like caretakers here, and you're helping us get back on our feet with the tax dollars which you're using, but that we should try to migrate towards ... some kind of external group trying to run it," Carney said, noting that a nonprofit would likely be better than a city entity at raising money. "As talented as your staff is, and they are talented, they ... did not have the reach that I think they could have had in order to fully develop the campus."

The deadline for either party to terminate the current agreement passed on April 24, leading to the first, five-year renewal of the agreement to run through Sept. 24, 2029, according to city records.

Casale, who campaigned with Carney for her return to the commission, said she's confident that the DDA is moving Old School Square in the right direction.

DDA staff members "could not go out" for donations "until now, but now they are able to, so I think there's going to be a turnaround," she said. ★

Boynton Beach

Compromise allows Ocean One downtown development to proceed

By Tao Woolfe

Under the terms of a compromise deal between Hyperion Group LLC and the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, construction on Ocean One, a 371-unit mixed use downtown project, could begin next year.

The deal was reached at a special May 7 meeting of the City Commission sitting as the CRA board.

Essentially, Hyperion agreed to lower the amount of CRA subsidy it is requesting from \$11.5 million to \$9 million. The money would be provided using tax incentive funding revenues (also called tax increment revenue funding) over 12 years.

The 3.5-acre site is on the east side of Federal Highway north of Ocean Avenue. It is the second development with the Ocean One name proposed for the site. The earlier version proposed several years ago had 358 apartments, 12,075 square feet of retail and a 120-unit hotel.

That proposal was revised last year to offer 371 rental units, 25,000 square feet of retail space, 21,000 square feet of green space, and another



The proposed Ocean One with apartments and retail outlets would fill the northeast corner of Federal Highway and Ocean Avenue in Boynton Beach. **Rendering provided**

36,000 square feet of sidewalks and paved areas that will include public plazas with outdoor seating.

In return for the loan, the developer agreed to provide 90 public parking spaces inside a planned garage, as well as 20 on-street public parking spaces, with 20% of the parking revenue to be shared with the CRA.

Judging by their comments and questions, the commissioners seemed wary of entering into another downtown development deal without building safeguards into the contract.

Another major downtown project has been tied up in court

for a year over a dispute with a neighboring property. The property for The Pierce — a \$73 million complex of apartments, restaurants, retail stores and green space planned for 115 N. Federal Highway — sits across the street from the Ocean One site.

Commissioner Woodrow Hay asked CRA Attorney Tara Duhy whether safeguards could be added to the Ocean One deal.

"This is a big project. We want to make sure, as much as possible, that we get it right the first time," Hay said. "Is there some way we could word it so we can assure ourselves that this is not going to be another

one of those deals where, at a certain point, the developer splits?"

Duhy replied that some assurances are built into the contract: The tax increment funding (TIF) is capped; if the developer fails, and must assign the project to another developer, the CRA must be consulted; no TIF money will be available until the developer has met the terms of the contract; and any changes to the site plan must come back to the CRA for approval.

Hyperion CEO Robert Vecsler sounded reluctant to lower the TIF amount, but seemed more interested in getting the project started.

"We intend, if the market cooperates, to commence development now," Vecsler told the board members. "We're here because we believe in Boynton Beach. We have plans and we're ready to build."

The commissioners seemed pleased that Vecsler agreed that the 110 public parking spaces should remain public in perpetuity. The City Commission hears complaints about too much downtown traffic and too little public parking at almost every meeting.

Vecsler said he hopes to begin construction in the fall of 2025 and to have the project completed by 2029.

TIF payments amount to a portion of the increased taxes accruing from a project's increasing property values — taxes that under state law are then paid to the CRA. The funding is used by CRAs to pay for additional projects in a designated redevelopment area.

Hyperion's request is to use a portion of those revenues generated by its project to subsidize the project's costs, making the dollars unavailable for other CRA projects or land purchases. ★

Business Spotlight

Highland Beach estate sells for record \$50 million

O maha businessman Steve Buchanan and his wife, Samantha, sold their eight-bedroom, 23,625-square-foot estate at 2455 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, for \$50 million in May in an off-market deal.

When they purchased the property in April 2022 for \$40 million, it had set the previous record for the highest sales price for a home in Highland Beach. Buchanan founded Buchanan Energy and Bucky's Convenience Stores, which he sold in 2021 to the convenience store chain Casey's General Stores for \$580 million.

A Delaware-registered limited liability company named after the property's address bought the estate.

Whiskey Tango 1120, a limited liability company linked to WeatherTech founder and CEO David F. MacNeil, bought a 2-acre estate at **1120 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan**, for \$38.5 million. The renovated estate, with approximately 195 feet on the ocean and Intracoastal Waterway, features six bedrooms in a Bermuda-style design.

The seller, a Florida limited liability company named after the property's address, purchased it for \$30.7 million in 2021. Listed by Douglas Elliman agents **Gary Pohrer** and **Nick Malinosky**, the property entered the market in February at \$39.5 million. Compass Florida agent **Tim Elmes** represented the buyer.

Demetrios T. and Kathleen B. Patrinos sold their 8,359-total-square-foot estate, with 100 feet of oceanfront at **3435 N. Ocean Blvd. in Gulf Stream**, for \$21 million. Demetrios Patrinos is the owner of a Pittsburgh painting and drywall company.

BON Property LLC, a Delaware-registered company, is the buyer. Corcoran Group agent **Candace Friis** brokered the deal. Built on the 0.93-acre site in 1991, the property last sold for \$7 million in 2013.

With construction wrapping up, El-Ad National Properties announced that phase two of **Alina Residences Boca Raton** is almost 80% sold. Alina achieved \$65 million in sales in the first quarter 2024, and recently sold a penthouse for \$10 million. Residences in Alina 210 are expected to be delivered this summer, with Alina 220 to be delivered late 2024. A variety of floor plans and residences are still available. Alina's sales and model gallery is at 200 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton.

Directors recently appointed to the **Boynton Beach Online Chamber** include **Ben Capua III**, director of operations and digital infrastructure; **Christine Roberts-Kelly**,



This eight-bedroom Highland Beach estate at 2455 S. Ocean Blvd., completed in 2014 by Mark Timothy Inc., a luxury home builder based in Boca Raton, sold for \$50 million in May. **Photo provided**

director/CFO; **Ian Minnerly**, director of creativity and drone pilot; **Tiffany Harrington**, assistant to the executive chairman and operations coordinator; **Drew Kapneck**, director/legal counsel; **Kevin Greenberg**, director of city affairs; and **Ben Eachus**, director.

"We have created a team curated to push one common mission: to increase the sense of community and prosperity in Boynton Beach," said **Rick Maharajh**, the chamber's executive chairman and founder.

For more information, visit www.BBOCFlorida.com.

Homeless Coalition CEO **Tomara Mays** received Palm Beach Atlantic University and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County's 2024 Tikkun Olam Award in recognition of her two-decade commitment

to reducing homelessness and creating access to services for unhoused people.

She spearheaded programs addressing needs for education, workforce development, inclusion and independence for individuals with disabilities, rehabilitation for offenders, and housing for homeless families. She volunteers her knowledge through consulting services, and shares skills with organizations such as Zeta Phi Beta sorority, National Forum for Black Public Administrators and the Women of Color Empowerment Institute.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Palm Beach County ReStore in Boca Raton has new hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; and closed on Sunday. The store is at 272 S. Dixie Highway.

ReStores are home-

improvement thrift stores and donation centers with five locations in the county. Sales of donated items help Habitat for Humanity partner with local families to build and repair safe and affordable homes in their communities.

The **Delray Beach Housing Authority** and the **Delray Housing Group Inc.** were chosen as finalists for the 2024 Housing Heroes Awards by the Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County.

They were recognized in May at the Kravis Center for their contributions in bringing attainable housing to the county's workforce.

West Palm Beach Mayor **Keith A. James** was a Housing Heroes Award winner, and **Jonathan Wolf**, founder and CEO of Wendover Housing Partners LLC, was the keynote speaker.

Lang Realty has opened a new sales office at 6653 Jog Road, Boca Raton. Lang Realty has a roster of more than 300 agents and a presence across Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, Jupiter and Port St. Lucie.

For more information, visit www.langrealty.com or call the Jog Road office at 561-989-2100.

The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County will host a Hot Topic Luncheon, "DEIA: Election Year Issue and Impact," with guest speaker **Barbara Cheives**, president and CEO of Converge & Associates Consulting, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 19.

DEIA stands for diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.

The lunch will be held at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport, 150 Australian Ave., West Palm Beach. The price to attend is \$35. Registration must be made before June 12 online at <https://lwvpsc.org/event/june-hot-topic-2024>.

Cheives' clients include the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County and Maltz Jupiter Theatre.

Her consulting expertise includes law enforcement and public safety, not-for-profit organizations, media, education and corporations. She served as the first executive director of Toward a More Perfect Union in Palm Beach County, a nonprofit initiative addressing the impact of race and ethnicity in a diverse community.

Send business news to

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Listed at \$499,000 | Beachfront community is the ideal spot for a seaside pied-a-terre or full-time residence. Private beach access to one of the most beautiful beaches in South Florida for this desirable one-bedroom second-floor unit with ocean views. **Web# RX-10986794**



New Listing | 111 Dolphin Bend | Ocean Ridge
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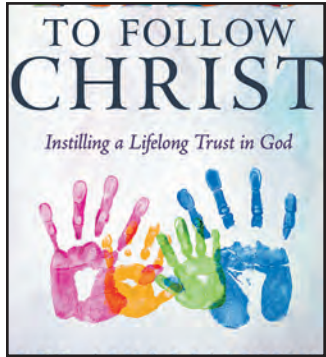
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June 2024

The **Coastal Star**

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The pet Heimlich can save lives. Page AT17

Lantana



Green and clean again



TOP: Evergreen is one of the oldest cemeteries in South Florida. ABOVE: Landy Mizell, pastor at Maranatha Bible Church, photographs the Lyman family headstone in April at the cemetery. Photos by Tim Stepien/Coastal Star

Lantana cemetery gets makeover thanks to the historical society and a scout on a mission

By Ron Hayes

If cemeteries have a birthday, Lantana's was probably April 7, 1892, when *The Tropical Sun*, South Florida's first newspaper, reported the birth.

"An association to be called the 'Evergreen Cemetery Co.' has been formed in this neighborhood. Land purchased of M.B. Lyman on Spruce Ridge one half mile from Lake on township line 44-45 will be immediately improved."

The first to arrive was Mary Smith, who died of heart disease later that year. She was 17.

"Coming among us a stranger, she was fast making friends in our community, by her gentle and quiet ways," the newspaper eulogized.

The last was Daniel McCarley, the town's first police chief, who died on April 15, 1950. He was 78.

In the 58 years between Mary Smith and Dan McCarley, township line 44-45 became the southeast corner of Lantana Road and North Arnold Avenue, and dozens more men, women and children came to rest there, in the shade of a mammoth ficus tree.

Some had been the town's pioneers. Some were there only because

shipwrecks and hurricanes had ended their lives nearby, and some were buried apart, back in the southwest corner.

Another 56 years passed, and by 2006 the cemetery that had been "immediately improved" in 1892 had not been regularly cared for. The grass was overgrown, the gravestones dirty. Sincere but sporadic efforts to rehabilitate Evergreen Cemetery had faltered.

The Lantana Historical Society committed to a beautification project. The cemetery was added to the state's list of historical sites and the society dreamed of fencing along the east, west and south sides, with ornamental pillars at the four corners.

And then a Boy Scout on a deadline arrived.

See EVERGREEN on page AT9

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Celebrations

Fundraiser

St. Andrews Club, Delray Beach — April 1

Creative Waves Foundation co-founders Ali and Candy Tamposi served as hosts of an event to benefit the building of an enrichment center in Belle Glade. Cassadee Pope and Bianca Rosario



— both foundation board members — performed, and area students displayed their nature photography. More than 150 attended to support the project and participate in a live auction. **ABOVE:** Val Coz and Trisha Saffer. **RIGHT:** Candy and Ali Tamposi. **Photos provided**



Monopoly & Casino Night

Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, Boca Raton — April 13

Supporters of Boca Helping Hands passed go at the sold-out event where guests enjoyed games, music, dancing, auctions, an interactive art installation, cocktails, dinner and, of course, the crowning of the 2024 Monopoly champion, Keith Nassetta. 'The event was a resounding success and will help make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of those we serve,' Co-Chairwoman Reagan Heidelberg said. Proceeds will assist 35,000 clients in the South Florida community through hunger relief, job training, health care, emergency financial assistance and child care. The agency kicked off its major fundraiser with a VIP cocktail party at The Addison that included a round of the board game. The top five Monopoly scorers received tickets to the gala. **RIGHT:** Bill Keith and Dianne Fine with Monopoly man Leonard Wierzbowski. **Photo provided**



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

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Celebrations

Impact 100 Grand Awards

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton — April 30



Impact 100 Palm Beach County named the recipients of its annual grants totaling \$984,600 to nonprofit organizations dedicated to serving South County. The winners were unveiled at the 13th annual event attended by 450 members and guests. Those receiving \$100,000 awards were Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County, Mandel Jewish Community Center, Semper-Fi Service Dogs, Fuller Center, Family Promise of South Palm Beach County, Eat Better Live Better, Families First of Palm Beach County, PHIT America, and Feeding Palm Beach County. 'Investing in these organizations not only supports our community but also underscores the power of women uniting to create meaningful change,' Co-President Jeannine Morris said. **ABOVE:** Morris (left) and Co-President Kimberly Boldt (right) with recipients (l-r) Jim Baugh, Allyson Vaulx, Melissa Wijngaarde, Michael Fraley, Debra Tendrich, Owen Prager, Ryan Onda, Johnathan Kabot and Brianna Beaver. **Photo provided**

Installation dinner

Arturo's, Boca Raton — March 5



UNICO, the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States, celebrated the induction of four new members to the Highland Beach Chapter. The evening underscored the commitment of the national organization founded nearly 100 years ago to community service and the preservation of Italian heritage. The addition of the new members reflects the nonprofit's growth and influence. **ABOVE:** (l-r) President Trish Savides, new members Macha Acquaviva and Steven Saban, Vice President Mike Federico and board member JoAnne Moeller. **Photo provided**

Boca International Jewish Film Festival

Private home, Boca Raton — April 16

The annual cinematic event reeled in more than \$40,000 for the American Friends of Magen David Adom. Proceeds specifically will be used for the Marcus National Blood Services Center in Israel. 'Through the Boca International Jewish Film Festival, we are not only celebrating Jewish culture but also demonstrating our commitment to supporting vital charities such as Magen David Adom,' said Lesley Rich, co-founder of Israel's official representative to the International Red Cross. 'We proudly stand with Jewish-focused causes, advocating for their missions and ensuring their continued impact.' **RIGHT:** Billi and Bernie Marcus (sitting) with (l-r) Arleen Roberts, Lesley Rich and Wendy Honig. **Photo provided**



Love of Literacy Luncheon

Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — April 11



The Literacy Council of Palm Beach County's 33rd annual benefit was a major success, bringing in \$300,000 to fund adult, child and family reading programs. A sold-out crowd of 600-plus listened to featured speaker Geraldine Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize-winning best-selling author. Brooks, known for her impeccably researched historical works, shared her journey from journalist to novelist, which includes a novel about a racehorse. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Kristin Calder, Debra Ghostine, Nancy Vera, Bernadette O'Grady, Lindsay Reinhart, Telsula Morgan, Grace Halabi, Stephanie Kahlert, Maggie Dickenson and Ken Spillias.



Also attending the luncheon were (l-r) Caron Dockerty, Becky Walsh, Brenda Medore and Leanne Adair. **Photos provided by Tracey Benson Photography**

Caron Treatment Centers launches a Neurocognitive Assessment Program at its Keele Medical Center in Delray Beach, Florida

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Philanthropy Notes

Water safety the focus of two grants to YMCA

YMCA of South Palm Beach County's "Safety Around the Water" program has received funding from the USA Swimming Foundation.

The \$7,000 grant will support efforts to offer free and reduced-cost lessons.

"I am thrilled we have the opportunity to serve 82 youth with lifesaving swim lessons in Palm Beach County," said Libby Moon, the Y's associate director of water safety. "Thank you to USA Swimming for helping make swim lessons a possibility to those with the greatest need in our community."

In other news, the Y also received funding to teach 300 children and adults how to swim. The local agency was awarded \$21,000 from YMCA of the USA.

"As temperatures rise, individuals of all ages are looking to cool off, whether that is in home pools, ponds, lakes, rivers, streams or oceans, and that means the risk of drowning is as prevalent as ever," Moon said.

For more information, call Moon at 561-237-0950 or visit ymcaspb.org

community participate in our shared effort to support local kids," said Pamela Weinroth, the foundation's executive director.

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

Donation aims to teach about Jewish heritage

Naomi Kramer has donated \$1 million to the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County.



Kramer

Kramer, an 89-year-old resident of Harbour's Edge in Delray Beach, said it is her way of

being part of the change she wants to see.

"Children and young adults are losing an appreciation of what it means to be Jewish," she said. "I want to change that."

Her gift on behalf of the William K. and Naomi Kramer Charitable Foundation will help ensure future generations know their Jewish heritage to perpetuate a sense of pride.

"I'm very proud of our heritage and what a small percentage of the population has contributed to the world at large," Kramer said. "I don't want us to disappear."

For more information, call 561-852-3342 or visit jewishboca.org/departments/annual/major-donors



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

Golf tournament raises \$645,000 for children

More than 30 children's charities throughout Palm Beach County are the beneficiaries of grants from the Boca West Children's Foundation 12th annual golf event.

The daylong challenge at Boca West Country Club raised \$645,000. It included brunch, a cocktail reception and dinner.

"The golf challenge is our signature annual fundraiser, and so many people from the

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Curtis Brown, 561-254-1509

Taking the month off



Our dining columnist will return in July. Jan Norris is a food writer who can be reached at nativefla@gmail.com

Heading north for the summer?

Use the subscriber form on page AT19



The Arts Paper

www.palmbeachartspaper.com

Art



Catch the BUZZ

'Pollinators' get busy in Cultural Council flora and fauna exhibit

Last Call, by Daniel Newcomb, is one of the artworks on display as part of the 'Beyond Blossoms' exhibition at the Cultural Council gallery in downtown Lake Worth Beach. **Photos provided**

By Sandra Schulman
ArtsPaper Art Writer

In a bee-utiful show that would make flower master Georgia O'Keeffe proud, *Beyond Blossoms: The Power of Pollinators* is open through June 22, and features the work of 43 Palm Beach County-based artists at the Cultural Council of Palm Beach in Lake Worth Beach.

Pollinators are, simply put, the birds — but mostly bees — that flock to the sexy sweet-smelling flowers for their fuzzy yellow pollen that self-fertilizes plants. Bees get a bad rap for their sting and inconveniently located hives, but they play a vital role as sex workers in reproduction and the ecosystem, not to mention their byproduct of honey.

Curated by artists and educators Wendy DesChene and Jeff Schmuiki of the art collaborative PlantBot Genetics, the works reflect the beauty of this interaction, including two-dimensional



Galactic-Pollinator by Christine Ellinghausen.

and three-dimensional work, printmaking, photography, textiles, sculptures, and installations.

Photographer Daniel Newcomb, who has exhibited his images of vintage signs and rock clubs nationally and works as the architectural photographer for the Hard Rock Hotels, exhibits a slyly named

photo, *Last Call*, that shows bees in a golden light on a honey-colored flower.

"Being invited to the 'Pollinators' exhibit was a perfect match for part of my photographic work," Newcomb says. "I keep four apiaries in my backyard to support our honeybee population. I can sit for hours watching the ladies work flying in and out. Creating macrophotography of the bees has been a portion of my art to raise awareness of these misunderstood creatures."

Christine Ellinghausen's *Galactic-Pollinator* is a portrait of a cyber bee made of mechanical and electrical parts, alluding to the machine-like work of the busy bees. Eli Cecil's three-part sculpture *Give Yourself Time*, made of hot glass and metal, shows the time-based growth of both flowers and butterflies that morph from caterpillars. After lots of leaf-eating, the caterpillar hangs upside down from a

See POLLINATORS on AT8

Art

Flamingo Clay Studio hopes to rise again

By Jan Engoren
Contributing Writer

It's not good-bye, but *au revoir*, for the Flamingo Clay Studio, 15 S. J St., in Lake Worth Beach, which has called that city home for the past two decades.

Despite a heroic fight to save the studio and gallery space, the studio received an eviction notice effective June 7.

The nonprofit artists cooperative, founded by artist and activist Joyce Brown, 80, also runs the Clay Glass Metal Stone Gallery and offers free art lessons, services and classes to children, teens and anyone else interested in learning art and ceramics.

Due to a confluence of economic issues in the city — where many of the mom-and-pop businesses, including restaurants, antique shops, art galleries and consignment shops have been forced out due to rising rents and real estate trends — the gallery is collateral damage.

The space was founded in 2005 by 25 professional 3-D artists, formerly of the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach, with a mission to provide affordable 3-D workspace and gallery space for 3-D artists, many of them low-income.

"We believe culture creates community," Brown says. "That's why we've been focused on providing access to 3-D arts, art events and arts education for the most economically disenfranchised within our community."

Before the pandemic hit, Brown had the current building, the gallery and a 4,000-square-foot studio of 80 working artists where she offered workshops and studio space and

See FLAMINGO on AT6

Music

Even 53 years later, blues-rockers Foghat still on their slow ride

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

Even though he plays while seated, 78-year-old drummer Roger Earl is literally the last man standing in Foghat (foghat.com).

And if he has his way, his 53-year-old British act will be the last band standing. Foghat comes to the Sunshine State not to retire, you see, but to work. Which includes performing at Wells Hall at the Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale on June 15 in support of the band's 17th studio release, the 2023 #1 Billboard Blues Album *Sonic*

Mojo.

"Two of the four Foghat members live in Florida," Earl says by phone from his home in Long Island, N.Y., "and we've had a studio down there in DeLand for close to 20 years. That's where we rehearse and record now."

Earl, vocalist/guitarist "Lonesome Dave" Peverett and bassist/vocalist Tony Stevens all initially came out of the well-established British blues-rock band Savoy Brown in 1971 to form Foghat with bottleneck slide guitar master and vocalist Rod Price. Stevens would leave Foghat before its mid-1970s heyday, succeeded by several

other bassists as the quartet climbed the charts to become one of the preeminent twin-guitar blues-rock bands of the decade.

"To quote Lonesome Dave, 'I'm gonna roll 'til I'm old; I'm gonna rock 'til I drop,'" says Earl, whose disposition (not to mention his drumming) gives the impression of a man decidedly younger. "He was our mentor, having all this knowledge of rock 'n' roll and all American music, really. It all started with the blues at the turn of the previous century. Then jazz, bebop, bluegrass, country

See FOGHAT on AT7



Current members of Foghat, from left, are Scott Holt, Rodney O'Quinn, Roger Earl and Bryan Bassett. They play the Parker on June 15. **Photo provided**

Appreciation

Palm Beach County native Dickey Betts was a true legend

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

It's safe to say that no one from West Palm Beach ever achieved more musical sales, awards, touring miles and accolades than singer, songwriter and guitarist Forrest Richard "Dickey" Betts. Especially someone from the city's Westgate section.

Betts lived most of his life in Florida, including growing up in Bradenton. He died on April 18 at his home in Osprey, near Sarasota, of cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at age 80. Surrounded by his wife and children, he'd previously suffered a mild stroke and a head injury from a fall, both in 2018, that canceled area concert dates and required surgery to relieve swelling on his brain.

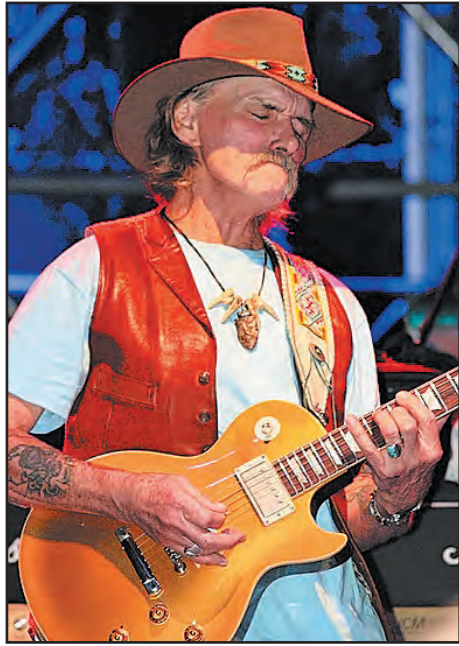
Name-dropped in his teenaged band The Jokers (by singing guitarist Rick Derringer in his 1973 hit "Rock and Roll, Hoochie Koo") and by his own name (by the Charlie Daniels Band in its 1974 hit "The South's Gonna Do It Again"), Betts would also work with the groups Second Coming, Great Southern, and his own self-titled act.

Yet there's one band moniker with which Betts' name will remain practically synonymous. He was a founding member of the Allman Brothers Band, the Macon, Ga.-spawned act that featured his vocals, guitar and compositions — notably jazz-tinged instrumentals — for the bulk of the band's iconic 1969-2014 run.

"I never studied jazz," Betts told me in a 2018 interview. "I've certainly listened to it, but I don't write songs with any conscious decision of including it as an influence. It just happens to get in there somehow."

The Allmans were also supplied with musicians from Betts' other bands. Founding bassist Berry Oakley (1948-1972) had worked with him in Second Coming; guitarist Dan Toler (1948-2013) and bassist David "Rook" Goldflies entered from Great Southern in 1979, and singing guitarist Warren Haynes joined out of Betts' self-titled group in 1989.

Southern guitar hero Duane Allman



Dickey Betts in 2008. The talented guitarist and songwriter was a founding member of the Allman Brothers. Photo by Simone Berna

(1946-1971), singing keyboardist and brother Gregg Allman (1947-2017), and double-drummers Butch Trucks (1947-2017) and Jai Johanny "Jaimoe" Johanson rounded out the Allmans' original lineup with Betts and Oakley.

"It's unbelievable that myself and Jaimoe are the only two left," Betts said during the same interview, which preceded his stroke, head injury, and concert cancellations.

The Allman Brothers Band (1969) was recorded at Atlantic Studios in New York City, and featured mostly bluesy compositions by the soulful-singing Gregg Allman, including the classics "It's Not My Cross To Bear," "Dreams," and "Whipping Post." But the group's 1970 sophomore album, *Idlewild South*, started a long association with producer Tom Dowd (1925-2002), often at Criteria Studios in Miami, and launched Betts as a viable songwriting alternative to the band's namesake vocalist. That album featured Betts' gospel-tinged chant "Revival" and the instrumental "In Memory of Elizabeth Reed."

The Allman Brothers Band at Fillmore

East, the group's 1971 double-live album, catapulted it to stardom that summer. Then a series of tragedies struck that would've felled lesser bands. The first was in October 1971, when Duane Allman died from internal injuries sustained in a traffic accident while riding his motorcycle in Macon.

Shattered, the group vowed to carry on as a five-piece. Recording tracks with Dowd at Criteria resulted in healing and the eventual, triumphant 1972 studio-and-live double-album *Eat a Peach*. Live tracks with the late Allman included the blues standard "One Way Out," and his previously recorded studio contributions aided the Betts-penned "Blue Sky," with the composer's lead vocal — his first ever with the band — creating a Southern rock classic. A Betts instrumental was also a highlight. "Les Brers In A Minor" mixed his jazz leanings with classical elements befitting its title.

Oakley never fully recovered psychologically from the loss of his friend Allman, the band's ingenious slide guitarist. In November 1972, Oakley crashed his own motorcycle into the side of a bus only three blocks away from Allman's accident the year before, and eventually died of cerebral swelling.

The remaining members, now down one-third of their original lineup, carried on, adding bassist Lamar Williams (1949-1983) to replace Oakley and keyboardist Chuck Leavell instead of a second guitarist.

The resulting 1973 comeback *Brothers and Sisters* found Betts guiding the band; contributing the album classic "Southbound," singing his country-influenced hit "Ramblin' Man," and adding another instrumental highlight in "Jessica" (a live version of which would win him a Best Rock Performance Grammy Award in 1996). The album climbed the charts, helping to make the Allman Brothers Band a top concert draw globally.

By 1974, the Allmans were renting the customized Boeing "Starship" aircraft to tour Europe that had been used by Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones.

"When we got that goddamn plane,"

Allman would later say, "it was the beginning of the end."

Between 1975 and 1981, a series of sub-par albums with revamped lineups threatened the Allmans' legacy. As did a hiatus that lasted through 1989.

But that's the year Epic Records released the group's retrospective boxed set *Dreams*, helping to lure Johanson back into a lineup fortified by the additions of Haynes and bassist Allen Woody (1955-2000) for revitalized live shows and recordings. Subsequent albums *Seven Turns* (1990), *Shades of Two Worlds* (1991) and *Where It All Begins* (1994), along with an annual residency at the Beacon Theatre in New York City, culminated in the Allman Brothers Band's long-overdue induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995 by Willie Nelson.

The Beacon residency would last through 2014. Betts, however, would not. Growing tensions between him and Allman during the guitarist's ascendancy boiled over by 2000, when Betts was served walking papers.

The Allmans would release only one more studio album, *Hittin' the Note*, in 2003. It would prove to be the only one ever without Betts. The group retired in 2014.

Butch Trucks would commit suicide in early 2017, and Allman would die months later from complications with liver cancer, leaving behind only original band members Johanson and a nostalgic Betts.

"I wasn't able to talk to Butch because his death was so sudden," he said. "But I'd been in touch with Gregg after I found out he was sick. We had some healing conversations, and even some laughs, talking about old times together. And I'm so glad we were able to."

One could do worse than claiming the Allman Brothers Band was the greatest American group in the history of popular music. Duane Allman was its fiery impetus; Gregg Allman its prime voice, but its ultimate composer — the one who gave the lineup its jazz, country, and instrumental jam band elements — was the brother from Westgate.

FLAMINGO

Continued from page 5

opened the gallery space for events.

One of the signature events was the Peeps Show each Easter, where artists used marshmallow Peeps candy to create original artworks. When the studio building was sold, Brown consolidated the studio into the gallery space, limiting the numbers of artists who could effectively use the space.

She continued to focus on the teens in the community and offer them free art lessons throughout the pandemic and beyond. When the landlord, Rachel Gwinn, died suddenly in 2017, the building's ownership was in jeopardy because the studio was not in her will.

Gwinn had been charging Brown only the cost of her insurance and taxes, making the space accessible for a consistent group of about 40 artists to work in the studio and exhibit their work in the gallery. Artists included Lake Worth Beach residents Sarita Rajpathak, a

graphic designer, Liz Capozzi, and multimedia muralist, design artist and ceramicist JoAnn Nava, among others.

"Unfortunately, the estate was in a charitable trust and when she died, it became the property of her attorneys," Brown says.

Last summer, Brown and her supporters partnered with the Community Foundation to raise funds in the hopes of buying the building from the trust and received a \$100,000 challenge grant, which they met. Unfortunately, Brown says, the offer was withdrawn, leaving the studio with no further options and many code violations to deal with from the city.

What she will miss the most, Brown says, is working with a diverse group of kids.

She still hopes to organize a group of teens over the summer and film some "get out the vote" PSAs in Creole and Spanish to mobilize voters for the election. For the presidential election in 2020, her teens helped register 5,000 first-time voters, she says.

In the meantime, Brown is busy packing and making



Joyce Brown at her Flamingo Clay Studio, which has been evicted from its space in downtown Lake Worth Beach. Photo provided

arrangements to put items in storage, selling other art supplies, equipment and furniture and donating some of her kilns to the Miami-Dade County public schools to be used for parts.

Brown plans to hold a street fair before the eviction date and sell some of the items, so the artists can recoup some money.

She laments the changes taking place in downtown Lake Worth Beach and notes that many storefronts are empty and the streets lack pedestrian traffic.

Artists who use the space are particularly sad.

"Losing the studio and gallery is a real shame," says musician and woodcarver Thomas Two Thumbs, 60. "Joyce

has cultivated a real family here. Everybody helps each other out and I know we will all keep in touch and figure something out."

His wood carvings of Florida life are colorful, happy and whimsical, depicting beach scenes, flip-flops in the sand, iguanas and portraits of dogs.

Brown says there are still many items for sale, including ceramic pots, sculptures, jewelry and paintings.

For herself, Brown plans a week off, but she is not yet ready to give up on her life's work.

As a child, her father gave her a wooden box filled with oil paints, and she copied the works of Covarrubias, Picasso, Renoir and Degas. She later earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in art from Temple University.

"I will take a week off to clean my house," she says. "Then, back to work to find an affordable, safe place to bring teens to. I want to give them the option of art in their lives and the option to ask for what they need to make their lives better through the arts."

FOGHAT

Continued from page 5

and Western, gospel, folk music, R&B, funk, Motown, and hip-hop. America gave music to the world, as far as I'm concerned. When I was a kid growing up in southwest London, American music was what I listened to."

A slow but steady Foghat climb started with a radio-friendly cover of Willie Dixon's "I Just Want to Make Love to You," from its self-titled 1972 debut, before the pinnacle years began with the 1975 album *Fool For the City*. That album featured the Peverett-penned, eight-minute funk-rock classic "Slow Ride" — a precursor to '80s and '90s hits by bands from the Red Hot Chili Peppers to Faith No More — plus an equally explosive title track and a cover of Robert Johnson's "Terraplane Blues." Earl is pictured on the album cover sitting on a soapbox while fishing down into a manhole on a New York City street.

"We were recording that record at Suntreader Studios in Sharon, Vermont," Earl says. "A beautiful spot on top of a mountain. I'd finish my drum tracks whenever we got something we really liked, and then I'd go fishing, because Vermont is great for fishing. Our bassist and producer, Nick Jameson, came up with that cover photo. So we pull into Greenwich Village on a Sunday morning, pull up the manhole cover, and a couple of New York's finest appear in their cruiser. They roll down their window and ask, 'Hey, do you have a fishing license?' Once we explained what we were doing, they were great about it."

The Foghat roll would continue with the group's 1976 release *Night Shift*, which featured a roaring leadoff track in "Drivin' Wheel" and a souped-up cover of the Al Green hit "Take Me to the River" that preceded the Talking Heads' famed half-speed rendition by two years.

The relative honesty of live albums, which could make and extend careers in that era, propelled the subsequent *Foghat Live* (1977) onto the charts. Like the Allman Brothers Band's preceding *At Fillmore East*, its interplay between Peverett's picking and songwriting (à la Dickey Betts) and Price's stratospheric slide playing (like Duane Allman) seemed to unearth Foghat as the guitaristic jam band they'd always been.

Stone Blue (1978) then featured glass-shattering slides by Price on its title track and a blistering cover of Johnson's blues chestnut "Sweet Home Chicago."

"Rod was an amazing player who just eventually didn't enjoy being on the road," says Earl. "He was OK with it the first several years, but uncomfortable with the touring afterward. But what a brilliant guitarist. I loved the way he played. Rod was a big fan of Duane Allman's, which you can hear. But who wasn't?"

Foghat Live (with bassist Craig MacGregor) is up for forthcoming re-release, and a new vinyl-only recording called *Permission to Jam — Live in New Orleans 1973* features the original quartet playing rare blues numbers.

"I saw Foghat in concert around 35 years ago," says Clint Casey, a 65-year-old, West Palm Beach-based independent vocalist and guitarist. "Rod Price was a slide virtuoso. And Roger Earl still playing at age 78? It makes me think of how young he was when I saw them, not to mention how much younger I was."

As with much of rock music in general, Foghat had trouble transitioning through the late-'70s disco infiltration era and into the video-dominant 1980s. A comparatively no-nonsense rock, blues and jam band, the lineup of Peverett, Price, Earl and rotating bassists Stevens,

If You Go

Foghat performs at Lillian S. Wells Hall at The Parker, 707 NE 8th St., Fort Lauderdale.

When: 8 p.m. June 15

Tickets: \$49-\$200

Info: 954-468-3285, www.parkerplayhouse.com

Jameson, MacGregor, Kenny Aaronson or Rob Alter intermittently carried on through a series of lesser-received recordings before taking much of the next 10 years off to focus on other projects and non-musical pursuits.

After an eventual nine-year hiatus from 1984-1993, Foghat's guitar heroes met with untimely endings. Peverett, whose songwriting, soaring vocals and incendiary playing had helped to define Foghat, died from complications of kidney cancer in 2000 at age 56. And after retiring from touring, Price — whose wondrous high-note slides often seemed barely audible to the human ear — died after a fall resulting from a heart attack in 2005 at age 57.

An aptly titled 1994 comeback album, *Return of the Boogie Men*, had previously reunited the original quartet and provided Foghat with momentum. But the departure of Price, and especially the death of Peverett, caused Earl to question whether the band should continue into the 21st century. The drummer still being

in the driver's seat at the rear of the stage nearly 25 years later provides the obvious answer.

"Our studio in DeLand became a necessity after Lonesome Dave died," Earl says. "We decided that, if we were going to carry on, we needed a place where we could rehearse, jam, and record new music. And we've released five studio albums and a few live albums since then."

The current Foghat lineup consists of members with wildly varying pedigrees. Slide guitarist and vocalist Bryan Bassett, on board since replacing Price in 1999, was previously with funk act Wild Cherry (of "Play That Funky Music" hit fame). Bassist/vocalist Rodney O'Quinn, formerly with the rocking Pat Travers Band, replaced longtime member MacGregor (1949-2018) in 2015. And lead singer/guitarist Scott Holt, who'd worked with blues legend Buddy Guy, joined in 2022. That triad of blues, rock and funk experience suited Earl and Foghat to a T.

It's a relatively young lineup within the group's lengthy history, yet the current quartet went way back to Foghat's roots and even earlier when recording *Sonic Mojo*. Released last November, it features three tracks ("She's a Little Bit of Everything," "Drivin' On" and "Time Slips Away") co-written with Kim Simmonds (1947-2022), the founding guitarist, vocalist and harmonica player that Earl, Peverett and Stevens had played with in Savoy Brown. And like Foghat's

self-titled debut, there's one cover each by blues icon Dixon ("Let Me Love You Baby") and rock pioneer Chuck Berry ("Promised Land").

"I love playing with this lineup," Earl says. "I've known Scott since 2014, and he's brought a whole new range of singing, guitar playing and life to the band. Craig MacGregor, my brother from another mother, had lung cancer when we saw Rodney play years ago with Pat Travers, and basically helped me steal him. He said, 'Roger, he's a mini-me. You need this guy.' And Bryan has been on board since replacing Rod. He's a great engineer and producer and one of the best people I've ever had the pleasure to work with and know. Lonesome Dave recommended him, another reason for which I'm forever indebted."

Peverett was even the one who came up with the band's nonsensical name through playing a board game, resulting in interesting band merchandise like baseball caps with the capital letters "FOG" emblazoned across them.

As the last man sitting on Foghat's drum throne, its gentlemanly British leader keeps calm and carries on while extending his veteran band's legacy.

"I practice and try to stay fit," says Earl. "I walk, ride my bike, and exercise by trying to keep up with Scott, Rodney and Bryan! We'll be playing 'Sonic Mojo' tracks, plus all the radio tracks like 'Slow Ride,' 'I Just Want to Make Love to You,' 'Fool For the City,' and 'Stone Blue.'"



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POLLINATORS

Continued from page 5

leaf and spins itself a silky cocoon to radically transform its body into a butterfly or moth.

The exhibition also includes a site-specific installation of a colorful, large-scale wheat paste mural of mandalas based on photos of the area's pollinators (such as moths and salamanders) and magnified images of local pollen created with nontoxic, environmentally friendly, and temporary materials.

"There are traditional pieces, but other works that will surprise you, and make you think, 'Wow, I hadn't thought of pollination in that way before,'" curator Schmuki said.

"Some are more abstract, like music. You'll feel it when you see it, and you'll instinctively know that *this* is important."

DesChene, who is Indigenous, said the installation strives to epitomize "dialogical art," an Indigenous art form that refers to the idea of allowing conversations and connections that influence the progress and outcome of a piece.

"The question I always like to ask is, 'How do we get people excited to talk to each other?'" she said. "Instead of telling people what to think, we want to invite people to have a conversation while they create and learn. Art provides a great way to begin discussions about topics that are important to us."

Since 2009, DesChene and



Give Yourself Time by Eli Cecil. Photo provided

If You Go

Beyond Blossoms: The Power of Pollinators runs through June 22 at the Robert M. Montgomery Jr. Building, 601 Lake Ave. in Lake Worth Beach.

Hours: noon-5 p.m. T-Sat.

Admission: free

Info: palmbeachculture.com

Schmuki, working as PlantBot Genetics, have employed community collaboration and a solar-powered mobile art space to promote critical thinking

and political action around environmental issues. Their work explores the corporate influence in food production and distribution. The next-generation robot-plant hybrids they create showcase the journey of food from farm to plate.

"Art has the ability to change the way we see the world by awakening our curiosity," Schmuki said. "My hope is that people who view this exhibition and participate in the process will become curious about our world and feel inspired to take action to improve it."

Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through June 29 were current as of May 23. Check with the presenting agency for any changes.

ART

Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens: Through June: *Savage Garden*. \$15, \$10 seniors 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. 10 am-4 pm W-Sun. 561-832-5328. Info@ansg.org.

Armory Art Center: Summer art camps run from June 3 to Aug. 2. 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: Opens June 12: *Myths, Secrets, Lies and Truths: Photography from the Doug McCraw Collection*. Through Oct. 13. Through June 2: *Félix de la Concha*. \$16; \$12 seniors. 501 Plaza Real (Mizner Park), Boca Raton. 11 am-6 pm W, F, Sat, Sun. 11 am-8 pm Th. 561-392-2500, bocamuseum.org.

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County: Through June 22: *Beyond Blossoms: The Power of Pollinators*. TFree. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-F and second Sat. of month. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions.

Flagler Museum: \$26; \$13 ages 6-12. 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm M-Sat, noon-5 pm Sun. 561-655-2833, www.flaglermuseum.us

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Through Aug. 2: *Artistry Through the Ages: 60 Years of Inspiration*. \$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 Oct. 6: *Musha-Ningyo: Avatars of the Samurai Spirit*. T\$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 7: *Nora Maité Nieves: Clouds in the Expanded Field Ellen Graham: Unscripted*. Through Sept. 1: *Rose B. Simpson: Journeys of Clay*. \$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: \$10. 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm daily. 561-655-7226, fourarts.org.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Saturday, June 1-Sunday, June 2
Miami Chamber Fest 2024: Violinist Maria Ioudenitch, violist Nathan Schram, cellist Gabriel Martins, and pianist Marina Radiushina play pieces by Mozart, Richard Strauss and Brahms in the final two concerts of what has been known as the Mainly Mozart Festival. 4 pm Saturday, Sanctuary of the Arts; 2 pm Sunday, New World Center, Miami Beach. www.facebook.com/MiamiChamberMusicSociety.

Friday, June 21
South Florida Symphony: The orchestra's chamber music series continues with

DANCE

Sunday, June 2
Paris Ballet: The Jupiter-based dance school presents a program featuring its graduating students and three alumni professionals. Featuring Skylar Brandt of American Ballet Theatre and Joffrey Ballet's Breeanna Palmer. 7 pm Sunday at the Kravis Center, West Palm Beach. \$14 and up. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org.

JAZZ

Saturday, June 8
Gianni Bianchini and the Type 1 Trio: The jazz pianist offers a tribute to the work of singer Tony Bennett and his 70-year career. 8 pm, Arts Garage, 94 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach. \$40-\$45. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org.

Friday, June 28-Saturday, June 29
Larry Carlton: The legendary jazz guitarist plays four solo shows in Boca Raton. 6 pm and 9 pm both nights, Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. \$60-\$90. funkybiscuit.com or 561-395-2929.

POPULAR MUSIC

Friday, June 14
Santana and Counting Crows: The celebrated guitarist tours with the California alt-pop band in the Oneness Tour. 7 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$146 and up. Visit ticketmaster.com.

Tuesday, June 18
Red Hot Chili Peppers: The six-time Grammy-winning alt-rock quartet from Los Angeles continues its Love Unlimited Tour. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$140-\$694. livenation.com.

Thursday, June 20
Alanis Morissette: The Canadian singer-songwriter whose 1995 album Jagged Little Pill was repurposed as a Broadway musical. She's joined by Ingrid Andress and Joan Jett and the Blackhearts. 7 pm, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach. \$33-\$386. livenation.com.

THEATER

Through Sunday, June 9
Trying: Joanna McClelland Glass's 2004 play about a young woman who works as a secretary for the elderly Francis Biddle, who was the U.S. attorney general during World War II. With Kelly McCready and Dennis Creaghan. At Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 S. Clematis St., West Palm Beach. \$69 and up. 561-514-4042 or palmbeachdramaworks.org.

Tuesday, June 25-Sunday, June 30
Mamma Mia! The popular jukebox musical featuring the music of the Swedish pop group ABBA. Eight performances at the Kravis Center, West Palm Beach. \$40. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org.



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EVERGREEN

from page AT1

Young man with a plan

Michael Marrin, who grew up not far from the cemetery, joined Boy Scout Troop 109 when he was 12. On March 23, 2022, he would turn 18 and “age out” of the Boy Scouts. And he still hadn’t earned his Eagle Scout badge.

Just before then the family was stationed at the Osan Air Base in South Korea, where Michael’s Eagle Scout project was reviving the garden in front of the base’s day care center.

In December 2021, the family returned home to Lantana. The day care’s garden was back in Korea, and Marrin, with only three months until his 18th birthday, was without an Eagle Scout project.

He was granted an extension to complete a project. Now he just needed a project.

Marrin met with longtime Town Council member Lynn “Doc” Moorhouse, who suggested he do something about the cemetery, and Marrin was inspired.

“How do we help someone know what they’re looking at?” he thought.

In November 2022, Marrin set to work, meeting with Rosemary Mouring, president of the historical society, visiting the graves, noting their locations and reading old newspaper reports to create a map, a key to the graves of those known and unknown men, women and children buried there so long ago.

Here’s Morris B. Lyman (1860-1924), deemed the town’s founder and first postmaster, who lived and ran a trading post in what’s now the Old Key Lime House restaurant. Here’s his wife, Mary A. (1863-1928). And here’s their daughter, Bertha Rachel Lyman, who was born March 2, 1893, and died the following December.

Here in the southeast corner



Michael Marrin spent months mapping and supervising the cleaning of grave sites at Evergreen Cemetery as he completed an Eagle Scout project. **Tim Stepien/Coastal Star**

are the crew members of the *Inchulva*, a steamer carrying lumber and cottonseed oil that broke into three pieces off Boynton Beach in the hurricane of 1903. Nine drowned, including two black crew members.

Here in the southwest corner are the unmarked graves of several of the town’s first African American families.

And here, beneath the giant ficus, is the mass grave where victims of the 1928 hurricane lie.

“It took two months,” Marrin recalled. “I supervised about 10 or 15 fellow scouts and we cleaned every column and picked up the trash. The stones were moldy and dirty, a little unkept, and there were bags of trash in the tree, from maybe some homeless sleeping under it.”

A rebirth of memory

On the morning of April 10, about 40 men and women gathered by the west gate to rededicate the 132-year-old cemetery.

New fencing enclosed the entire 2 acres, and new columns graced the four corners. The grass had been cut. There was no trash.

“No, no tax money was used to pay for this,” Mouring, the historical society’s president, was quick to note. “It was all paid for by private donations.”

How much did the beautification cost?

“I know,” she said, “but I’m not saying. That’s why the plaque is up there.”

On the pillar to the right of the gate: “In Memory of Dwight M. Bradshaw for his generous contribution of the fencing project. Evergreen Cemetery, Lantana, Florida.”

Bradshaw, who died on Feb. 19, 2021, was a longtime member of the historical society who left a donation to pay for the improvements.

To the left of the gate is a wooden kiosk with a map behind glass. It is a key to the

cemetery’s residents, and it is an Eagle Scout project.

Mouring welcomed the crowd, thanked a few notables, and gave a brief history of the place.

Mayor Karen Lythgoe told them she sees the fence as a tribute to Morris B. Lyman, the man who named the town Lantana Point, after the wild plant that grew so abundantly in the area.

After the brief remarks, the cemetery was open for wandering, looking at the graves, pondering the past.

Lythgoe, who grew up in nearby Lantana Heights, remembered cutting through the cemetery as a little girl on her way to Gray’s Market with 25 cents for penny candy.

“I was always touched

passing by the children’s graves,” she remembered. And then she smiled.

“For a quarter you could get 25 pieces of penny candy,” she said. “Mrs. Gray always looked at us like we were going to steal something.”

Over by the kiosk, Marrin and Moorhouse were admiring the map.

“I gave Michael an opportunity,” Moorhouse said, “but he’s the one who picked up on it and made it happen.”

When Glenn Ellis, the town’s public services superintendent, joined them, they noted that the fence had not yet been installed when the kiosk was planted in the ground. Now there was less than 3 feet to view it between the new fence and the map.

“Maybe it could be moved back 3 feet or so?” Marrin asked.

“We can make that happen,” Ellis promised.

In December 2022, Marrin met with the board of review — about seven members of the Boys Scouts Gulf Stream Council.

“It was like a job interview,” he explained. “To see if you’d met the requirements to become an Eagle Scout.”

He had, and in June 2023, at a Court of Honor ceremony, he received his Eagle Scout badge and kerchief. ★

Michael Marrin, 20, will be a junior at Florida Atlantic University, where he is studying mechanical engineering.

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Finding Faith

Boca Raton mom fills void with Christian-themed children's books

Several times in her life, author Lee Ann Mancini of Boca Raton has looked for a particular type of book and, unable to find it, decided to write it.

It started with "Sea Kids," Mancini's award-winning series of Christian children's books.

When her children, Guy and Lena, now in their early 30s, were small, the only Christian books Mancini could find were books of Bible stories. Those



Mancini

were fine, as far as they went. Unable to borrow or buy what she wanted, Mancini wrote two books based on real-

life problems and read them to her kids at night. She says she mostly wanted them to know that they can pray to Jesus, and he will help them.

Fast forward to 2005.

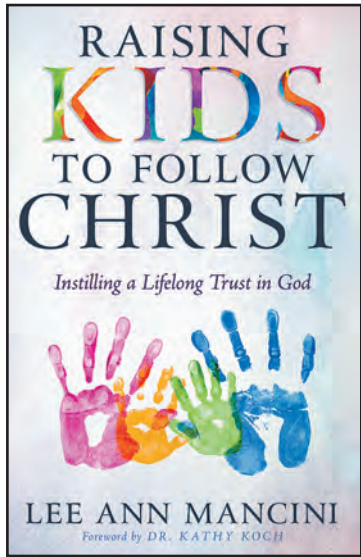
Her children now teenagers, Mancini goes back to school to study theology and over the years earns three master's degrees, in Christian studies, Christian and classical studies and Biblical and theological studies.

In her reading, she stumbles across a fact that stops her in her tracks: 40% of teenagers have walked away from their faith. The voracious researcher learned the truth: We were raising our kids with what Bible scholar Ken Ham called "a Sunday school faith" and it didn't last.

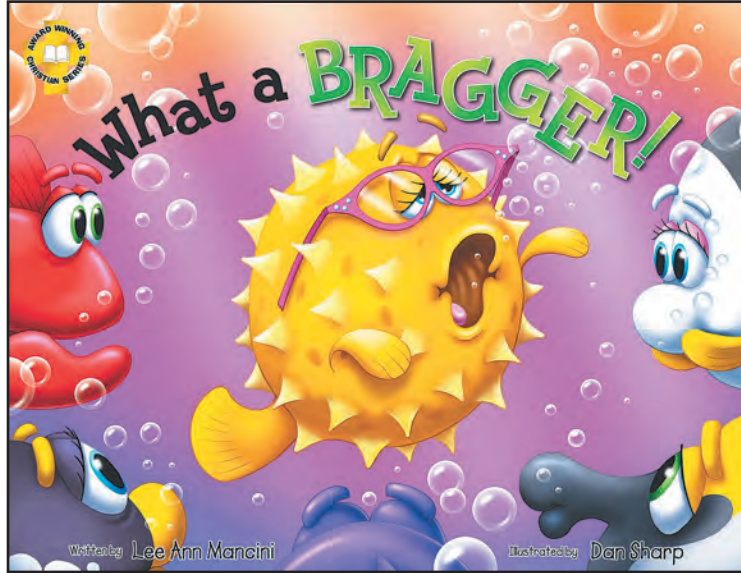
"You cannot just send your child to Sunday school and expect that to be enough," said Mancini, 65.

If you want your children to have a real relationship with God, you've got to start early and be consistent.

Realizing how few books existed like the ones she had written for her kids, in 2014 she



A couple of the titles by Lee Ann Mancini. Photos provided



founded GLM Publishing, short for God Loves Me. Mancini found an illustrator who brought her lively characters drawn from sea life to full, brightly colored fruition.

Her stories and the drawings resonated with children and, as she'd hoped, the books filled a void: accessible Christian children's books that taught biblical lessons. Her delightful creatures had distinct personalities and modern problems that they used biblical principles to solve.

The series grew to six books (available on Amazon) and then, by God's hand, they grew into an animated Christian children's series called *SeaKids*.

There are now 26 episodes, each about 11 minutes long. Titles include "The Respect Effect," "Love Is the Best Policy," and "A Thankful Heart." Each has a Bible verse and a lesson based on it. Episodes are available on Answers.TV, Pure Flix, Right Now Media and SeaKidsTV (seekidstv.com).

In 2020, Mancini began hosting the award-winning podcast *Raising Christian Kids* (available on all major platforms and streaming on KHCB Radio's Uplift station).

She shares biblically based

wisdom and insightful tools for parenting that bring kids closer to Jesus. The podcast has grown to more than 300 episodes featuring a full plate of experts and guests. In 2023, Mancini founded the nonprofit Raising Christian Kids and then in February she published her new book, *Raising Kids to Follow Christ: Instilling a Lifelong Trust in God*.

After reading more than 215 parenting books and hundreds of articles, she combined that information with lessons from her podcast to deliver a 192-page roadmap for raising kids from the womb on. (Yes, you should read the Bible to your baby in utero!)

Mancini begins at the beginning by providing a simplified, child-friendly version of the Ten Commandments. The rules, which are found in the fifth chapter of Deuteronomy written in language that is a challenge for educated adults, are converted into words a child can understand.

Mancini found her purpose and inspiration in what some call the Lord's "Greatest Commandment," Deuteronomy 6:4-7, which says: "4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God

with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (King James version)

So important is this scripture, this same passage hangs in Hebrew, along with Deuteronomy 11:13-21, written on tiny scroll lovingly protected in a mezuzah, a decorative box, outside many Jewish homes.

"Children have to be our top priority," Mancini said. "We have to be the Rosie the Riveters of our time. Our parents went out and joined the fight, and we have our own fight, but ours is counterculture warfare."

Mancini believes that Christians need to reaffirm and refocus on Jesus to succeed in this complicated world. A child's world view — his way of looking at the world, his standpoint on how things work — is established by about age 16, Mancini said.

Only by teaching the biblical principles early will we raise kids with a biblical, God-centered world view, Mancini

says. And 45 minutes on Sunday morning just won't cut it.

"The prevailing world view among 99% of young teens is syncretism, a combination of different beliefs," Mancini said.

Kids are exposed to far more world views than ever before through social media. But these are "man-made" views, Mancini argues, not founded in faith.

How do we keep kids' focus — and our focus as parents — on Godly principles like the Ten Commandments? How do we incorporate Jesus' teachings into our daily lives?

"Muslims pray five times a day," Mancini said. "How many times do Christians pray?"

In Mancini's home, a lot. Her day begins and ends with prayer, with time set aside to read her Bible and to pray alone and with others throughout the day. Because her faith is a priority, Mancini does not let "life happened" moments interfere with her commitment to God.

Churches, synagogues and mosques, houses of worship of all kinds, agree that attracting families to their pews and prayer mats will determine their success or demise.

"We have to help the church attract parents," Mancini said.

But to do that, the church needs to invest financially in and give priority to programs that support families and make religion more accessible so when parents need help, they know where to turn.

"Help is out there for parents," Mancini said. "All you have to do is pray."

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events.



Contact her at fontaine423@outlook.com

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Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 1

Saturday - 6/1 - C-Kids Shabbat Program at Boca Beach Chabad, 120 NE 1st Ave. Every Sat 10:45-11:45 am. 561-394-9770; bocabeachchabad.org

JUNE 2-8

Sunday - 6/2 - Zoom Bible Study at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Every Sun 7 pm. Free. Zoom link: communications#accboca.net; 561-997-5486; ascensionboca.org

Monday - 6/3 - Women's Bible Study via Zoom at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every M 10 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

Tuesday - 6/4 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 6/5 - Men's Spirituality Hour via Zoom at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every W 8 am. Free. For link: 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

6/5 - Wednesday Evening Meditation Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church Sanctuary, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Rev. Laurie Durgan. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Thursday - 6/6 - Thursday Morning Telephone Prosperity Coffee presented by Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Led by Charlene Wilkinson. Phone meeting (605-475-6006, passcode 3031030). Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

6/6 - Men's Fellowship at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach Courtyard, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 8:30 am. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

6/6 - Women's Bible Study at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Youth Room, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton.

Every Th 1 pm. Free. 561-395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

6/6 - Islamic Center of Boca Raton Open House at 3480 NW 5th Ave, Boca Raton. All welcome. Refreshments, tour of the mosque, Q&A. 1st Th 7-9 pm. Free. 561-395-7221; icbr.org

Friday - 6/7 - Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mark Chapel, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. 1st F 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-734-9330; stmarkboynton.com

6/7 - Bible Study w/Dave Kirk at Advent Boca Raton Fellowship Hall, 300 E Yamato Rd. Every F 10-11:30 am. 561-395-3632; adventboca.org

6/7 - Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com

6/7 - Virtual Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach County, 2475 W Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 7:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6161; templesinaipbc.org

Religion Notes



Joanne Stanley, the vergers, leads the processional at the beginning of the dedication service at St. Gregory's, a traditional role that dates back centuries. Photo provided

St. Gregory's dedicates renovated sanctuary after yearlong project

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church celebrated the dedication of its newly renovated sanctuary on April 21 with a special Choral Evensong concert. Construction on the \$3.6 million renovation, which began in the summer of 2023, was completed by the end of the year, but this was the official Service of Rededication and Open House Celebration commemorating the church's 70th anniversary as the cultural and sacred hub of arts and service in downtown Boca Raton.

The Right Rev. Peter Eaton, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida, and Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer kicked off the dedication. Then, led by Timothy Brumfield, the director of music ministry, organist and choirmaster, the performances in the acoustically exquisite space began. The choir and musicians, supported by the clergy, performed hymns, the Psalter, The Magnificat, The Lord's Prayer, anthems, solos, Collects and prayers.

The festive evening wrapped with a party in the courtyard and Parish Hall and on the East Terrace, where Father Andrew Sherman led a prayer of thanksgiving topped with a champagne toast.

You can view St. Gregory's Evensong Service of Rededication online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fzGyhYH8u8

14 seminarians being ordained as priests

Fourteen seminarians are being ordained to the priesthood after completing studies at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach.

The men served as transitional deacons for the last year. Each of the candidates has completed at least seven years of study in the areas of human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation, diving deeply into philosophy, Roman Catholic theology and pastoral practice.

Those being ordained in May and June are John Buonocore, Milton Martinez and David Zallocco for the Archdiocese of Miami; Serge Dubé and Joshua Martin for the Diocese of Palm Beach; Diego Vasquez and Cristian Vergara for the Diocese of St. Augustine; Michael Batista and Phillip Mills for the Diocese of Orlando; Arturo Merriman for the Archdiocese of Atlanta; Peter R. O'Steen for the Diocese of Charleston; Ross Williams for the Diocese of Raleigh; Francisco Gamboa-Felix for the Diocese of Savannah; and for the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, Ronan Sarmiento.

The two from the Palm Beach diocese were ordained by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito May 4 at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens. During the Mass, the men lay prostrate before the altar. They received the Laying of Hands as the prayer of consecration is

prayed over them, were anointed with chrism oil, and received their vestments.

Music at St. Paul's is a wrap

Music at St. Paul's season wrapped up on May 5 with a performance by the Delray String Quartet, but this was not the end of the series as first expected. May 5 was to be the final concert because of increasing costs and decreasing attendance for a series that brought the best classical and chamber music to St. Paul's for 35 seasons. But the church reached an agreement with the Delray String Quartet to continue as artists in residence.

The quartet plans a series of concerts in late 2024 and early 2025 with three shows featuring St. Paul's Chancel Choir. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is at 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Watch for updates at <https://stpaulsdelray.org>.

Saint Mark Greek Orthodox: Hi to Alexa

An adorable post on Saint Mark Greek Orthodox's Facebook page announced a new way to stay in touch with the church in Boca Raton.

If you have the Amazon Alexa app on your smartphone or an Amazon Alexa at home, you can listen to services at Saint Mark with Alexa's help.

To teach Alexa this new skill, say "Alexa, ENABLE Saint Mark." Then anytime you want to hear Saint Mark, say "Alexa, PLAY Saint Mark." When the service is live, you'll hear the current service. When there is no service going on in the church, you can listen to one of more than 1,400 recorded services.

Thanks, Alexa!



More Vacation Bible Schools registering

St. Vincent Ferrer Vacation Bible School meets from 9 a.m. to noon June 10-14 in the Family Life Center for kids who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade. The fee is \$60. Scholarships are available. Teens interested in volunteering for service hours are welcomed. Call Amy Sexton at 561-654-8649 or email amy@sextons.net.

First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach hosts Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to noon June 10-14. The theme of the event is "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid." The church is at 33 Gleason St. VBS is free. Get more info and register online at <https://firstdelray.com/upcoming-events>.

— Janis Fontaine

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Health & Harmony

Parkinson's patients find fun, better balance in dance class

Every week, dedicated people come to the Boca Ballet studios in Boca Raton for a movement class known as BBT4PD, short for Boca Ballet Theatre for Parkinson's disease. It's a dance class for people with Parkinson's, a degenerative brain condition that affects muscle control and movement.

Now in its 10th season, the class is taught by instructor Ines Lopez and program director Cindy Surman.

"Many physicians stress the importance of physical activity, social interaction and mental stimulation for patients living with Parkinson's disease," says Surman. "BBT4PD gives them all three.

"The joyful, lighthearted atmosphere we strive to maintain is welcoming [and] fun and encourages our participants to regularly attend and keep moving," she says.

Surman is the only instructor in Florida certified by the founding organization, Dance for PD, based in Brooklyn, New York, and she thinks she is one of only 17 around the world.

Symptoms of Parkinson's disease include slowness of movement (bradykinesia), stiffness (rigidity) and tremors.

According to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, approximately 1



Volunteers and instructors mingle with students of the class put on by the Boca Ballet Theatre. Photo provided

million people in the United States and more than 6 million people worldwide are affected by the disease.

To mitigate symptoms, experts suggest eating a healthy diet, exercising, finding a movement disorder specialist to determine the right treatment plan, building a support system, staying socially active and getting involved in the Parkinson's community.

For Marylyn Ross, 80, of Boynton Beach, a retired business owner, getting involved with what class members lovingly refer to as the "shake, rattle and rollers" is just the ticket.

"The class keeps me going and gives me a mental and

social boost," she says.

After her symptoms were misdiagnosed as a stroke, Ross received the Parkinson's diagnosis two years ago. Her symptoms include tremors, balance and gait issues, as well as fatigue.

She's been coming to the BBT4PD for a year and a half and enjoys the camaraderie.

"It's very uplifting, supportive and caring," Ross says. "We laugh a lot."

The benefits of the program include improved mobility, balance and posture, better mood, decreased symptoms and a reduced sense of isolation.

Classes are open for free to everyone with Parkinson's, no matter their age, ability or the advancement of their condition.

Music is provided by professional ballet accompanist Aly Tejas on piano.

The class consists of both

If You Go

What: BBT4PD, A Certified Dance for Parkinson's Disease program

Where: Boca Ballet Theatre, 7630 NW Sixth Avenue, Boca Raton

When: 3-4 p.m. June 4, 11, 18 and July 2, 9, 16; normal schedule resumes Aug. 13, from 1-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

Zoom: Meeting ID for summer is 851 5563 8397 with password zoom.

More info: Cindy Surman at 561-995-0709 (ext. 226) or email csurman@bocaballet.org. Accompanying family members and caregivers are welcome.

sitting and standing exercises, and Surman offers it on Zoom as well.

To *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, *Fiddler on the Roof* songs and the Drifters' *Save the Last Dance for Me*, participants begin to rotate their arms, flap like eagles and extend their limbs in repetitive, coordinated cha-cha-cha movements.

Several exercises require partners. One person poses while a partner pretends to sketch him. Or the partners shake hands and exchange greetings.

West Boca Raton resident Ed Kallen, 78, a retired attorney who has been coming to class for eight months, says the instructors and volunteers "all have great attitudes,

are generous, supportive and positive." Kallen was diagnosed two years ago.

Lopez and Surman work alongside assistant instructors Karen Wexler and Amanda Sewell and volunteers Judi Steinhardt, Judie Stewart, Romina Navaza and Bernie Krutchik.

The irreverent class members like to joke about their condition and even had T-shirts made up with slogans such as "I'm not drunk, I have Parkinson's disease," and "I have Parkinson's disease. What's your excuse?"

The main jokester is Mike Homer, 72, a former maintenance director from Boca Raton. In a recent class his T-shirt read:

"It's okay I'm on 10,000 mg's of carbidopa-levodopa."

Carbidopa and levodopa is a combination medicine used to treat symptoms such as stiffness and tremors.

The music and mood in the class are lively and upbeat, with laughter, joking and camaraderie among the participants. Occasionally, a loud "yee-haw" erupts, as Surman leads the group in a communal expression of joy and excitement, courtesy of her Texas roots.

Jan Engoren writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.



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Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 1

Saturday - 6/1 - Morning Beach Yoga at The Seagate Beach Club, 401 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Every Sat 8-9 am. \$20/person. Tickets: 561-330-3775; eventbrite.com/e/sunrise-beach-yoga-tickets-336433921917

6/1 - Saturdays @ Sanborn: Yoga Class at Sanborn Square, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 8:45 am registration; 9 am class. Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

6/1 - Zumba Class at South Beach Park Pavilion, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

6/1 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

6/1 - 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 and 1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

6/1 - 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

6/1 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St.

Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

JUNE 2-8

Sunday - 6/2 - Coco Connections Market at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Monthly wellness market: 30 local vendors, health/wellness professionals w/ various healing modalities; live music; 2 free yoga, meditation or fitness classes per event. 9 am-3 pm. Free. 561-870-4090; thecocoyogi.com/market

6/2 - 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-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

6/2 - 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 - 6/3 - Zumba Cardio at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every M/W 5:30-6:30 pm. \$10. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/3 - Adult Zumba Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Every M through 5/20 7-8 pm. \$6/1 class. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

Tuesday - 6/4 - Explore the Healthy Benefits of Tai Chi w/ Kalindi Yuan at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 7/2 12-1 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$100/member; \$130/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at

door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

6/4 - Tai Chi Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Beginner through advanced. Age 16+. Every T 6-8 pm. \$8-\$10/class. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

6/4 - 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 - 6/5 - Tai Chi Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W 9 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

6/5 - Stretch & Strengthening Mindfulness Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W/F 10:30 am. \$5/class. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

6/5 - Wellness Wednesday: Yoga at Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Every W 11 am-noon. \$5/class. Registration required: 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

6/5-6 - Yoga Class at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Every W/Th 11 am. Per class: \$10/residents; \$15/non-resident. 561-585-9477; manalapan.org

Thursday - 6/6 - Alateen Meeting at St. Mark's Catholic Church, 843 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Th 7:30 pm. Free. 561-278-3481; southpalmbeachafg.org

JUNE 23-29

Sunday - 6/23 - Yoga at the Museum at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 9:30-11 am. \$15/member; \$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

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Health Notes



Dr. Roy C. Blake III points out X-ray results alongside a Palm Beach State College dental health student. Photo provided

Biomedical engineering program launched at FAU

Florida Atlantic University's College of Engineering and Computer Science has created the department of biomedical engineering, with a focus on biomaterials and tissue engineering, smart health systems and bio-robotics.

Biomedical engineering integrates concepts in electrical and mechanical engineering, biology, computer science and medicine into a cross-disciplinary field.

"The impetus to create our department was spurred by the significant projected growth of job opportunities related to this field nationally, statewide and, in particular, in southeast Florida," said Stella Batalama, the college dean.

"We have invested in a brand-new clean room that will help our students learn micro- and nano-manufacturing techniques for medical devices and sensors as well as a new biomedical laboratory with state-of-the-art instrumentation."

The university expects to enroll about 25 students by the end of the year and about 200 students by year four. The department is on the Boca Raton campus with courses and laboratory work also available on the John D. MacArthur Campus in Jupiter.

For more information or to apply, call Javad Hashemi at 561-297-3438 or email jhashemi@fau.edu.

Delray Medical Center offers new pacemaker

Delray Medical Center now offers the AVEIR DR dual chamber leadless pacemaker to treat patients with slow or irregular heart rhythms.

The first surgery was performed at the hospital by Dr. Mark Freher on April 18. Approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in June 2023, the AVEIR DR system, manufactured by Abbott, offers a minimally invasive option to treat people who require pacing in two chambers of the heart.

Daniel Listi, Delray Medical Center's CEO, says the new

treatment "will help improve the lives of our patients by reducing their exposure to the kinds of lead- and pocket-related complications associated with traditional pacemakers."

More than 40 dental patients treated for free

By 6:50 a.m. April 17, all slots were taken at Palm Beach State College's sixth annual Free Dentistry Day, its first since the pandemic. By 6 p.m., 10 volunteer dentists, aided by the college's dental health students, did fillings and extractions on 41 adults who otherwise could not afford dental treatment.

Dentists installed 26 composite fillings and did 25 extractions, aided by 19 students who obtained each patient's medical history, did X-rays and assisted the procedures.

Dr. Roy C. Blake III has volunteered at PBSC's Free Dentistry Day since its first year in 2015.

"The local dentists come because they feel like they can give back," Blake said.

All the dentists were affiliated with the Atlantic Coast Dental Research Clinic, which provides continuing education for dentists and reduced-fee dental services for the community.

Local nurses honored during national week

The Palm Beach Health Network honored nurses during National Nurses Week, May 6-12, recognizing the role they perform for their communities.

"Every day, we are thankful to all of our nurses and humbled by the way they care for our patients," said Maggie Gill, group president for Tenet Healthcare's East Coast region.

Palm Beach Health Network includes Delray and West Boca medical centers.

The network also celebrated National Hospital and Healthcare Week, May 13-18, a time set aside to celebrate hospitals and show thanks and appreciation to people who work in them.

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Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 1

Saturday - 6/1 - Saturday Morning ART (smART) at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Based on artwork at the Museum, links art making w/learning about art. Age 5+. 10-11 am. \$15/member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
6/1 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Held again Sat 6/15-7/1. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
6/1 - Play & Learn Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 0-5 yrs. Every Sat 10:30-11 am. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
6/1 - Summer Reading Program Kickoff Event: Mini Renaissance Festival at Lantana Library, 205 W Ocean Ave. The library encourages reading by providing prizes and activities to keep kids & teen engaged. This year's theme is "Adventure Through Time" and runs through 8/2. 1-4 pm. 561-540-5740; lantanalibrary.org
6/1 - Sandoway Discovery Center Feedings at 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Daily shark & stingray feedings 1 pm; daily aquarium feedings 2 pm; animal encounters 3 pm. T-Sat. Free w/\$10/admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/3 - Hurricane Chasers: Prep Squad at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
6/3 - ComicCrafters: A STREAM Adventure by Visual Adjectives at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 8-12. Must register for all 4 classes. Every M through 6/24. 4-5:30 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/3 - Teen Yoga at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stretching, relaxation, rejuvenation. Bring yoga mat or use one provided. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
6/3-7 - Set The Stage Summer Camp: Session I at Arts Garage, 94th NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Classes in Acting, Playwriting, Technical Theatre (including basic video production), and Voice and Movement. Bring lunch & snack. Age 7-10, M-F 6/3-6/28. \$750/session. After care available for a fee. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
6/3-7 - Art-Sea Living Summer Camp at Art-Sea Living, 412 E Ocean Ave #1, Boynton Beach. Runs through 8/9. Age 6-12 M-F 10 am-2 pm \$350/week. Extended care 2-3 pm \$25/day. 561-737-2600; artsealiving.com
Tuesday - 6/4 - Junior Lifeguard Academy at John Denson Pool, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Age 11-14. Every T-F through 8/9. 8:30 am-5:30 pm. \$545/resident; \$675/non-resident. 561-742-6646; boynton-beach.org
6/4 - Pop-Up Pages at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 0-5. Held again 6/11, 17, 24, & 7/1 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration required: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
6/4 - Play & Learn for Pop-Up Pages at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 3-5. Held again 6/11, 17, 24, & 7/1 10:30-11 am. Free. Registration required: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
6/4 - Family Lego Challenge at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. Every T 4-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
6/4 - Teen Tuesday: DIY Paracord Bracelets at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393;

boyntonlibrary.org
Friday - 6/7 - Summer Reading Kickoff at Centennial Park, 120 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. 4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
Saturday - 6/8 - Soccer Shots at Barrier Free Park, 3111 S Congress Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Sat through 8/3. Minis: age 2-3, 9:30-10 am; Classic: age 3-5, 10-10:30 am. \$160/resident; \$200/non-resident. 561-742-6650; boynton-beach.org
6/8 - STREAM into Summer Reading Adventures Featuring Mad Science Fire & Ice Show at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Weekly reading for kids 0-17. Registration opens every F after 6/8 through 7/12. 10 am-1:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/8 - World Ocean Day: Big Blue Sea Jamboree at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Outdoors, limited to 15 children. All ages. 10 am-2 pm. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

JUNE 9-15

Monday - 6/10 - STREAM on the Go! at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Meet at the library dressed as your favorite book character for a short parade to the Delray Beach Children's Garden. Don't forget sunscreen & hydration, Age 3-10. Held again 6/24. 9:30-11 am. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/10 - Mario Kart 8 Deluxe Tournament at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
6/10 - Discovery in Motion: Movie Nights - Hidden Figures (PG) at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/10-14 - Environmental Camp at Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Grades 5-6. Campers learn the importance of conservation through outdoor activities, hands-on lessons. 8:30 am-2 pm: M-F \$200-\$250/week. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/2194/Camps
Tuesday - 6/11 - Dronescape: Navigating the Future - An Introduction to Drones at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Must register for all 7 weeks. Every T through 7/23. 12:30-2:30 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

6/11 - Sci-Fi Teen Subscription Book Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 6/25. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/11 - Teen Tuesday: Pizza Murder Mystery at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
6/11 - Karate Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 6-17. Every T/Th through 7/18. Beginner: 5:30-6:25 pm; Intermediate/Advanced: 6:30-7:25 pm. \$90/resident; \$113/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
Wednesday - 6/12 - Bilingual Outdoor Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library under the Banyan tree, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. May be cancelled in inclement weather. Held again 6/26. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
6/12 - Suzy Hammer Storytime at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Held again 6/26. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
6/12 - STREAM Sprouts at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3 mo. to 2.5 yrs. Held again 6/26 & 7/3. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/12 - Science Roundtables at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Every W through 7/24. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/12 - Family STREAM Night at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-9. Held again 6/26. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Thursday - 6/13 - STREAM Adventures - Cox Science: Nitromania at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Drop-in program for ages 5-17. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Friday - 6/14 - Stuffed Animal Overnight Camping Adventure Drop Off at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Drop off your stuffed animal for a fun overnight camping adventure. Reunite and pick up your friend the next day at noon. Age 2-8. 9 am-5 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Saturday - 6/15 - Discovery Series at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Outdoors, limit 5 families per

class. Held again 6/29. Age 3-5. 10 am. Child \$12/non-member, \$2/member. RSVP required: 561-274-7263; sandoway.org
6/15 - Drone Discovery Saturdays at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Drop-in program for ages 7-12. Held again 6/22 & 7/6. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/15 - Bones to Books at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Register independent readers for a live streamed read aloud session with pooch pals from Bonafide Therapy Dogs, Inc. Age 7-12. 2:30-3:30 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/15-16 - Creation Station at Boca Raton Museum of Art Grand Hall, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. Noon-4 pm. Free w/admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

JUNE 16-22

Monday - 6/17 - STREAM on the Go! at Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Age 3-5. 9:30-10:30 am. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/17 - Quantum Readers Book Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
6/17 - Peaceful Story Time at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment through books w/related activities. Child attends independently. Age 4-6. Every M 3:30-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-544-8584; bocalibrary.org
6/17 - Anime STREAM Fusion Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 7/1. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0197; delraylibrary.org
6/17-21 - Environmental Camp at Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Grades 3-4. Campers learn the importance of conservation through outdoor activities, hands-on lessons. 8:30 am-2 pm: M-F \$200-\$250/week. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/2194/Camps
6/17-21 - Leadership & Ethics Achievement Program Summer Camp for High School Students at FAU, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Lunch & snacks provided. M-F 9 am-3 pm. \$450. Info: rlarson2@fau.edu; fau.edu/artsandletters/

Continued on the next page



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Tots & Teens

Valedictorian pilot aims for higher achievements at Ohio State

By Faran Fagen

A lot of high schoolers take off with their friends on their 17th birthday, but Samuel Reiter chose to spend eight hours at the airport taking the hardest test of his life.

"I knew going in that I needed to prepare for the test as much as possible in order to get my pilot's license," Reiter said. "I needed to do well not only to pass the test, but for it to be a good birthday."

Not long after earning his pilot's license last year on his 17th birthday — the age at which one is eligible to take the aviation exam — Reiter was named valedictorian of his class at Boynton Beach Community High School.

"It was definitely a risky decision to take the pilot's exam on my 17th birthday," said the Ocean Ridge resident.

Reiter, now 18, graduated in May from the Boynton Aerospace Science Academy (also known as BASA), a Choice Program in Palm Beach County. At Boynton Beach High, he co-founded and served as president of the BASA Student Council, an organization that was formed to build a stronger



Samuel Reiter of Ocean Ridge plans to study aviation and business at The Ohio State University. Photo provided

sense of community and create opportunities for students to support their Choice program.

"My friends in the BASA program are really what pushed me to reach this level," Reiter

said. "We were all working together and studying together, and we all held each other accountable."

Reiter worked with his fellow BASA seniors, board of trustees and Parents Council to launch an SAT and college prep program last year at BASA/BBCHS. The aim was to provide students with support and guidance in college planning as BBCHS had no college advisers, something Reiter and his peers hope will change soon.

"Sam's enthusiasm and efforts to give back not only build up the BASA community, but also the Boynton Beach High School community as well," said Moody Fuller, BBCHS principal. "He's very effective at bringing people together for the greater good."

This fall, Reiter will attend The Ohio State University, where he received a Morrill Distinction Scholarship, the highest merit-based scholarship offered at OSU.

The scholarship is awarded on a competitive basis to academically talented high school seniors who the university hopes will contribute to campus diversity and academic excellence.

The award is the value of

the cost to attend Ohio State, including out-of-state tuition and room/board.

Reiter also considered Purdue, Stanford and Embry-Riddle universities, but chose OSU, where he plans to pursue a degree in aviation in the College of Engineering and minor in a business field.

Reiter said he did not pursue valedictorian status, but that he achieved it because he followed his passion for aviation, which forced him to focus on his studies. He flies out of Lantana Airport every chance he gets, renting from a flight school that provides an instructor.

In addition to being a private pilot, Reiter earned his drone license certification by passing the challenging FAA Part 107 test.

He began flying at home on a simulator that he assembled when he was 14 years old, after a successful summer of saving his earnings from babysitting his twin cousins.

The simulator is a dual-monitor gaming computer with several flying instrument attachments like a yoke, throttle and pedal.

When he is actually in the air, one of his favorite destinations is the Island Gypsy

Cafe at Marco Island where he, his instructor and possibly a lucky passenger can enjoy grouper sandwiches.

Reiter got his start in aviation at age 8 when his parents, Russell and Susan, moved the family to Ocean Ridge from New York. Sam has three siblings. The family loved skiing, so they took frequent plane rides for ski trips.

"I've always been really big on transportation," Reiter said. "When I lived in New York, we used to take the train a lot and I developed a love for the human ability to operate such powerful machines so delicately."

He was amazed by how many buttons planes had and how each served a different function.

"There were so many screens, and someone had to learn how to read all that," Reiter said.

In his spare time, he enjoys 3D printing and building models of SpaceX's Falcon 9 and Falcon Heavy rockets, and watches almost every SpaceX launch either from Ocean Ridge or Cape Canaveral, or online if it's in Texas or California.

Reiter also rock climbs, hikes, skis and travels with his family. He works at Josie's Ristorante in Boynton Beach.★

First-time champs

García High, Lake Worth Beach — May 22

The girls track and field team from Don Estridge High Tech Middle School in Boca Raton runs a victory lap to celebrate its 2024 county middle school championship. Coached by second-year head coach Keri Stevens, third from left, the Dragons went undefeated this season and captured the school's first county championship in girls track and field. The trophy is carried by Trae'Anah Boyd, a sprinter and high jumper who propelled the team to victory by scoring 20.5 of the Dragons' 61.5 points. Howell L. Watkins Middle School came in second with 59 points. A total of 24 teams from all areas of the county competed. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star



eyes at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 6/27 - STREAM Adventures Matinee - Wall-E (G) at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Drop-in program for ages 5-17. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Saturday - 6/29 - Shrek Jr. at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Presented by summer show campers. 2 pm. \$9. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

JUNE 30-JULY 6

Monday - 7/1 - ComicCrafters: A STREAM Adventure by Visual Adjectives at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 8-12. Must register for all 4 classes. Every M through 7/22. 4-5:30 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/1 - Mindful Monday: NAMI Sharing Hope - Session 1 at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. NAMI Sharing Hope offers a free safe space, dedicated to facilitating open dialogues on mental health and wellness exclusively for Black individuals age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

7/1-5 - Environmental Camp at Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Grades 7-9. Campers learn the importance of conservation through outdoor activities, hands-on lessons. 8:30 am-3 pm: M-W & F \$200-\$250/week. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/2194/Camps

Tuesday - 7/2 - Teen Tuesday: Shadows in the Forest at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Wednesday - 7/3 - X-STREAM Art at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-9. Every W through 7/24. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/3 - Crochet for Teens - Lesson 1 at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Each session builds on the last, so be sure to attend the first class to ensure a solid foundation. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 7/6 - Drone Discovery Saturdays at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Drop-in program for ages 7-12. Held again 7/13. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

7/6 - ColorSpace: Teen Art Studio at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Continued from page 14

public-administration/summer-camp/
6/17-21 - Nature & History Adventure Summer Camp at Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Age 7-13. M-F 9:30 am-3:30 pm. \$145/camper. 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

Tuesday - 6/18 - Toddler Tales at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Age walking to 23 mos. Every T 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/18 - Teen Tuesday: I Found a Quilted Heart at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Age 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

6/18 - Explore The Art of Painting at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 9-12. Every T 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Wednesday - 6/19 - Reading & Rhythm for 2-3s at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Every W 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/19 - Exceptional Explorers at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Age 7-8. Every W 3:30-4:15 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 6/20 - Sensory Exploration Play for 2-3s at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class: stories, music, movement. Child must be accompanied by an adult. Every Th 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/20 - STREAM Adventures - Drone Races with Delray Police Department Drone Unit at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Drop-in program for ages 5-17. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

6/20 - Adventures in Reading at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment through books w/related activities. Child attends independently. Age 4-6. Every Th 3:30-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-544-8584; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 6/21 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Age 0 months to non-walking. Every F 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration required: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

Saturday - 6/22 - Little Wonders at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Hike, crafts, stories. Age 3-4 w/an adult. 10-10:45 am. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations required: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

6/22 - ART Tales Story Time at Boca Raton Museum of Art Wolgin Education Center, 501 Plaza Real. Literacy/visual arts program; Boca

Raton Library joins w/book readings. Special art project follows. Age 4-8 w/guardian. 10:30-11:30 am. \$15/member family; \$25/non-member family. Registration required: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

6/22 - Nature Detectives at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New mystery each month. Age 5-6 w/an adult. 11:30 am-12:15 pm. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations required: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

6/22 - Swim with a Cop Pool Party at John H. Denson Pool, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. 12:30-4:30 pm. Free w/ pool admission. 561-742-6645; boynton-beach.org/290/Pool

6/22 - Pool Party at Pompey Park Pool, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. 1-4 pm. Free. 561-243-7358; delraybeachfl.gov

6/22 - X-STREAM Gaming Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 13-17. Held again 7/6 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

JUNE 23-29

Sunday - 6/23 - Young Scientists - Ocean Odyssey: Testing the Waters at Sandaway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. Outdoors, limited to 15 children. Age 3-9. 1:30 pm. \$10/non-member. RSVP required: 561-274-7263; sandaway.org

6/23-28 - Criminal Justice Summer Camp at FAU, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. For students

entering 9th-12th grade in the fall. Held again 7/14-19. 8 am-5 pm. \$800. Info: rubins@fau.edu; 321-754-8112; fau.edu/sw-cj/scj/cj-summer-camp/

Monday - 6/24 - Teen S.T.R.E.A.M. Council at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

6/24-28 - Environmental Camp at Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Grades 1-2. Campers learn the importance of conservation through outdoor activities, hands-on lessons. 8:30 am-2 pm: M-F \$200-\$250/week. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/2194/Camps

6/24-28 - MAP Dance at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 5-14. Every M-F through 7/5. 9:30 am-5:30 pm. \$250/resident; \$313/non-resident. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

Tuesday - 6/25 - Booktastic Book Talk: The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Free copy of book upon registration. Child attends independently. Age 7-8. 3:30-4 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

6/25 - STREAM Titans Book Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 4-5 pm. Free. Registration required: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

6/25 - Teen Tuesday: Spray Paint Dragon

On the Water

It's an auspicious time to catch large kingfish in local waters

Late spring and early summer are when big kingfish can be caught off Palm Beach County, and boaters don't have to travel very far or use fancy, expensive tackle to land a king mackerel. In last month's Lantana Fishing Derby, the biggest fish of the tournament was a 40-pound, 8-ounce kingfish. The second- and third-biggest fish were kings of 34.25 and 31 pounds.

Capt. Chris Lemieux of Boynton Beach has had great success catching kingfish this time of year by trolling strips of bonito behind his 27-foot center-console boat.

"Generally we get the spring run right now and catch a lot of kingfish," Lemieux said. "June and July are good, then it'll kind of slow down and pick back up in August or September."

Fishing on a sunny afternoon in 90-110 feet of greenish water just south of Boynton Beach Inlet, the charter missed a couple of kings before an 8-pounder made it into the boat. That was followed by a kingfish doubleheader of a 10-pounder and a 13-pounder for Lemieux's customers.

His anglers also caught four bonitos, which are members of the tuna family that don't taste anywhere near as good as their relatives. The hard-fighting fish



LEFT: Capt. Chris Lemieux holds a 43-pound kingfish that was caught kite-fishing with live bait. **ABOVE:** Lemieux also uses bonito strips as kingfish bait. **Photos by Steve Waters/The Coastal Star**

are a challenge to land, and as one angler labored to reel in his third bonito, Lemieux joked, "Are you trying to let that fish get bigger?"

Lemieux kept those bonitos to fashion future strips, which consist of a thin layer of meat on the fish's shiny skin cut into the streamlined shape of a baitfish. Fished in combination with a flashy, feathery lure known as a Sea Witch, bonito strips are especially effective this time of year.

He fished the strips behind

planers on heavy two-speed conventional outfits spooled with 80-pound braided line that were trolled from rod-holders on each side of the stern.

"You catch them this time of year on the planer, the smaller ones," said Lemieux, a Boynton Beach firefighter who on his days off runs trips for Lemieux Fishing Charters (www.lemieuxfishingcharters.com). "I've caught kingfish on planers everywhere."

The charter anglers fish for

everything from snapper, tuna and dolphin to sailfish, sharks and swordfish.

Lemieux rigs a bonito strip on an 8/0 long-shank J hook. He slides a Sea Witch down the leader so it rests atop the strip, giving it the appearance of a flying fish or other baitfish. On this day, Lemieux used a blue-and-white Sea Witch and a pink one. Both colors were effective.

Another proven kingfish tactic is to fish live baits from a fishing kite. The kite flies behind the boat and baited lines are attached to clips on the line attached to the kite. That gets the baits away from the boat and allows them to splash on the surface to attract attention from kingfish as well as sailfish and tunas.

Lemieux put up a fishing kite with three lines baited with live goggle-eyes. He also put out three flat-line live baits on spinning outfits.

Things got interesting when the kite bait closest to the boat got whacked by what turned out to be a 43-pound kingfish. Moments later, a huge bonito took off with a flat-line bait. Fortunately, the two fish did not tangle the lines.

The big king dumped a bunch of line, but Lemieux chased it down, gaffed it and lifted it into the boat. After that kingfish and the bonito,

his exhausted anglers called it quits.

Tournament results

The Lantana Fishing Derby was held May 4, with the 45-boat fleet weighing in at the Old Key Lime House dock. Cash prizes of \$1,250, \$750 and \$500 were awarded for the first-, second- and third-heaviest kingfish, dolphin and wahoo. Fishing on the boat One N' Done, Raymond Devine caught the biggest kingfish at 40.5 pounds. Mike Minia on Chasin' Shade was second at 34.25 and Jimmy Berry of Cat-Ching was third at 31.

Mike Genovese had the biggest dolphin at 20.5 pounds. Matthew Mejeur of Dutch Babay was second with a 19-pounder and William Gerlach of No Patients was third at 15.5.

David Trigg of Loose Trigger caught the biggest wahoo at 17 pounds, 2 ounces. Robert Purdy of Slots Matter was second at 12-2. No other wahoo were weighed, so the \$500 prize went to Jimmy Berry of Cat-Ching in a random drawing.



Outdoors writer Steve Waters can be reached at steve33324@aol.com.

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Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 1

Saturday - 6/1 - 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. Bags, gloves, grabbers provided. 8-10:30 am. Free. jefflev02@gmail.com

6/1 - Family Fun Snorkel at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Snorkel shallow intracoastal waters, study animals sheltered/protected from ocean's dangers. Bring your own snorkel, mask, water shoes (no fins allowed). Age 10-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 6/16 9-10:30 am. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Registration required: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

6/1 - 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; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

JUNE 2-8

Sunday - 6/2 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. For experienced paddlers age 13-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Registration required: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Tuesday - 6/4 - Turtle Walk at Gumbo

Limbo Environmental Complex, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Held rain or shine; subject to cancellation due to lightning or severe weather. Every T-Th through 6/26. 8:45 pm-midnight. \$15/resident; \$20/non-resident. Advance reservation required: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/2133

Friday - 6/7 - After-Hours Guided Tours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour through Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility, 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 6/21. 6:30-8 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Register: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Saturday - 6/8 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat America: A Boating Safety Course at Spanish River Park HQ Building, USCG Auxiliary Classroom, 3939 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Boating terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, federal & Florida regulations, more. Course provides knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 9 am-5 pm. \$35/adult; \$5/teen. 561-391-3600; peauxboca@gmail.com

JUNE 9-15

Saturday - 6/15 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to 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 13 must be accompanied by one adult. 9-10:30 am.

\$20/resident & member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

JUNE 23-29

Sunday - 6/23 - Seining the Lagoon at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Explore grasses/flats of the Intracoastal Waterway behind Gumbo Limbo. Wear clothes that can get wet. Closed toed shoes required. Age 7-adult; child must be accompanied by an adult. 9:30-11 am. \$15/member; \$19/non-member. Reservations required: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Saturday - 6/29 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 12-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. Advance reservation required: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

6/29 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 8-9:30 am. Pre-registration required: 561-369-5501; seaangels.org

JUNE 30-JULY 6

Sunday - 6/30 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Includes short talk about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. Age 7-adult; each child under 13 must be accompanied by one adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/resident & member; \$25/non-member. Registration: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

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Paws Up for Pets

Learn prevention, first aid skills to keep pets from choking

Take a look at dates on calendars and you will discover dozens of days and months designated as pet holidays or awareness dates.

But the one I regard as the most lifesaving date arrives every June 22. It is called National Pet Choking Prevention Day (<https://nationalpetchokingpreventionday.com>) and was launched last year by Dr. Judy Morgan, an integrative veterinarian.

"I saw many choking cases involving dogs and cats during my career and some of these cases did not have good outcomes, which is very sad as this is something that is preventable," says Morgan, who practiced veterinary medicine for 36 years, including a decade in emergency medicine. She now operates Dr. Judy Morgan's Naturally Healthy Pets site (<https://drjudymorgan.com>) to empower and educate pet parents on ways to keep their pets healthy and safe.

She says that each year there are more than 200,000 cases of cats and dogs choking and needing medical care, as reported by veterinarians across the country. Sadly, some of these pets do not survive.

Learning pet first aid and regularly doing room-by-room inspections to remove potential choking items are two ways to keep our pets safe.

I've been a master certified pet first aid/CPR instructor for 12 years. In my classes, I train pet parents and pet professionals how to perform abdominal thrusts safely to dislodge objects in cats and dogs.

Recently, one of my students, Linda Brown Hall, co-founder of Cat Behavior Alliance (<https://catbehavioralliance.com>) in Defiance, Ohio, reached out to share how she saved the life of her cat, Gallway.

"Gallway's body was jerking, but he was not making any sound," says Linda. "When I placed my hand against his nose and mouth, I did not feel any air. Opening his mouth, I discovered he had Saran wrap blocking his airway. I performed the Heimlich maneuver you taught us in class and saved his life."

Step-by-step Heimlich maneuver guide

For cats and small dogs choking due to having their airways partially or completely blocked by an object, follow these veterinarian-approved steps to perform abdominal thrusts effectively:

- Stand and hold your dog with her back against your stomach.
- Hold her up with one arm around her upper abdomen.
- With your other hand, make a fist, tucking in your thumb.



Arden Moore demonstrates the canine Heimlich maneuver on her dog Kona. Photo provided

Household hazards

Common items in homes that can cause choking or even unconsciousness if swallowed by cats or dogs: avocado pits, baby bottle nipples, baby carrots, bully sticks, buttons, chew toys, corn cobs, dental floss, diapers, food wrappers, game pieces, hair ties, hot dogs, jewelry, kibble pieces, plastic bags, rawhide chews, refrigerator magnets, rubber bands, shoelaces, socks, squeakers from plush toys, sticks, string, tennis balls, tinsel, underwear, window blind cords, yarn.

- Position your closed fist at the end of her ribcage in the soft spot.

- Thrust your fist in and upward five times in a row on the pet's exhale to try to dislodge the object.

- Every five thrusts, open and inspect the mouth to see if you can dislodge any object.

- Be ready to perform rescue breaths if the pet becomes unconscious.

- Use the speaker function on your cellphone to alert the nearest veterinary clinic of your arrival as you continue the abdominal thrusts.

For medium to large dogs whose airways are partially or completely blocked by an object, follow these steps:

- Stand behind your dog if she is standing.
- With one hand, make a fist and tuck in your thumb.
- Position this closed fist at the soft spot just past the ribcage.
- Use your open-palm hand to hold this fist in place.
- Thrust your hands up

and forward (toward the dog's mouth) five times in a row on the dog's exhale to try to dislodge the object.

- Every five thrusts, open and inspect the mouth to see if you can dislodge any object.

- Be ready to perform rescue breaths if your dog becomes unconscious.

- Use the speaker function on your cellphone to alert the nearest veterinary clinic of your arrival as you continue the abdominal thrusts.

Many dogs, including Kona, my terrier mix, love fetching balls. Many cats, including mine, hone their hunting skills by stalking feather wand toys and other wiggling linear objects. To reduce the risk of your pet choking, heed these safety tips:

- Opt for using balls that are made of pet-safe materials. Select balls that are too big to fit inside your dog's mouth to reduce chances of blocking the airway.

- Get in the habit of playing with your cat with wand toys and other linear toys and then storing them in a cat-safe container to prevent accidental choking.

Parting message from Morgan, "Every pet parent should watch a video on performing the Heimlich maneuver or take a course in pet first aid. Having knowledge prior to an incident will save valuable time and potentially save the life of a dog or a cat."

Arden Moore is an author, speaker and master certified pet first aid instructor. Learn more by visiting www.ardenmoore.com.



Jayne Robinson

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Send other tips to:

news@thecoastalstar.com



The Coastal Star

SHINING A LIGHT TO CONNECT OUR COMMUNITIES

The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be delivered the weekend of July 6

Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 5/23. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JUNE 1

Saturday - 6/1 - Flat Stanley Rides A Harley for Kids & Cops 2024 - Delray Beach resident Chuck Halberg & riding partner John Looney are taking off on another trip to raise money for kids, cops, and animals in Delray Beach. All sponsorships & donations will be donated directly to the charity of your choice. This year there are 15 nonprofits participating: Arts Garage, Delray Citizens for Delray Police, The EJS Project, The Community Classroom Project, Achievement Center for Children & Families, Delray Chamber Education Fund, Dezzy's Second Chance, Delray Beach Library, The Spady Museum, Roots & Wings, The Delray Beach Historical Society, Bound for College, The Milagro Center, The Miracle League of Delray Beach and Eat Better Live Better. To be a sponsor or make a donation or pledge, go to Flat Stanley Rides a Harley for Kids and Cops on Facebook and select the link for the nonprofit you want to support. Questions: contact Chuck Halberg: 561-809-1266 or email chuckh@stuartandshelby.com

6/1 - 9th Annual Walk Against Violence and Hate at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St, Delray Beach. Route starts and ends at Pompey Park. 9 am. Free. 561-243-7250 x 7253; delraybeachfl.gov

6/1 - Summer Green Market at Old School Square in Delray Beach. More than 65 culinary and artisan vendors, plus live music. 9 am-1pm every Sat through July. 95 NE 1st Ave. 561-276-7511; delraycra.org/green-market

6/1 - Pickleball at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Combines badminton & tennis. Adults. Sat 9 am-noon; M/W 6-8 pm. \$5; \$50/30-visit pass. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

6/1 - 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

6/1 - Free Fun Saturday at The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum at 71 N Federal Hwy. 10 am-4 pm. Free. 561-395-6766; bocahistory.org

6/1 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every Sat through 7/6 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/1 - Current Events Discussion at Highland Beach Library Community Room, 3618 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 10:30 am. Free. 561-266-9702; highlandbeach.us

6/1 - Conversational Spanish at Boca Raton

Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every Sat 11:30 am-1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

6/1 - Rock the Marina at Boynton Harbor Marina, 735 Casa Loma Blvd, Boynton Beach. Live music, activities, food offerings from plaza restaurants. Noon-4 pm. Free. 561-600-9097; boyntonbeachcra.com

6/1 - Night At The Museum presented by Downtown Dance at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 2 pm & 7 pm. \$25. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

6/1 - Rose + Bubbles Tasting at Gourmetphile, 323 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 4 pm. \$60/person. 561-757-6208; gourmetphile.com

6/1 - Summer Kickoff with Mickey Smith, Jr. at Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Part of the Summer Jazz Series. 7-9 pm. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

6/1 - Sick Puppies Improv Comedy Extravaganza Show at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every Sat 7:30 pm. \$20-\$30. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com

6/1 - Bad Moon Rising - CCR Tribute at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 8 pm. \$45. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

6/1 - Tito Puente, Jr. at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$50-\$55. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

JUNE 2-8

Sunday - 6/2 - Exhibit Artists Reception: In The Mix at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 6/30. 1-3 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org

Monday - 6/3 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Summer Card Making Club at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 7/1 10 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

6/3 - 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

Tuesday - 6/4 - Music & NFTs w/ Lindsey Mills at Cultural Council for Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. Part of the Summer Jazz Series. 9-10:30 am. Free. RSVP: 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com

6/4 - 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. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/4 - Socrates Café at Boca Raton Public

Municipal Meetings

6/3 & 7/1 - Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com

6/4 - Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

6/4, 6/18 & 7/2 - Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

6/10 & 6/24 - Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

6/11 - South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

6/11 - Boca Raton Auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

6/14 - Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

6/18 - Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 10 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

6/18 & 7/2 - Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

6/27 - Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

6/4 - Crafting for Fun & Small Business: Summer Knitting Club at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 7/2 1:30-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

6/4 - The Cinema of Resistance w/ Shelly Isaacs at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every T through 6/25 2-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$30/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

6/4 - Poets on the Fringe at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Every T through 8/20 4-6 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

6/4 - Comedy Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8-10 pm. \$10-\$15. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 6/5 - Jewish Identity in the Music of Leonard Bernstein w/ Thomas Cimarusti, Ph.D. - at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30/member; \$35/non-member & one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

6/5 - Exciting Pastels Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Age 18+. Every W 1-4 pm. Per class \$35/resident; \$44/non-resident. Registration required: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/5 - Summer Movies for Grownups: Letters to Juliet (PG) at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

6/5 - Writer's Corner at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Manuscript critiquing by published authors. Adults. Held again 6/19 6-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

6/5 - Workshop: Fluid Florals in Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

Thursday - 6/6 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Sale of quilted items supports the Library. Limit 10 quilts at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

6/6 - Intro to Laser Cutting with Glowforge Class at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

6/6 - The Great American Short Story Club - 1905-1956 w/ Caren Neile at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 6/27 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$100/member; \$130/non-member; \$35/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

6/6 - Line Dancing at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic modern western square dancing. Adults. Every Th 10:30-11:30 am. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/6 - Ripped from the Headlines w/ Eliot Kleinberg at Florida Atlantic University Lifelong Learning Classroom, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 6/27 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$70/member; \$90/non-member; \$30/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

6/6 - Music, Media, and the Counterculture 1950-80 w/ James Pagliasotti at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 6/27 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$60/member; \$80/non-member; \$30/one-time guest pass at the door. 561-297-3185; olliboca.fau.edu

6/6 - Concert: Midnight Suns - Pop Tunes

of 50s & 60s at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30-6:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

6/6 - Saving Sanctuary: Documentary Screening presented by Busch Wildlife Sanctuary at Stonzek Studio Theater at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 5:45 pm. \$20. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

6/6 - Barbara Walters, TV News, and The Ethan Benson Thrillers w/ Jeffrey Diamond Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Part of the Thursday Night Speaker Series. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

6/6 - Workshop: Adult Pottery Playhouse at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. \$85. Register by 6/4. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

Friday - 6/7 - First Friday @ 5 Concert: Valerie Tyson Band at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave. Featuring food trucks, artisan market, children's activities and music. 5-9 pm. Free. 561-742-6024; boynton-beach.org

6/7 - Friday Artisan Market at The Shops of Boca Center, 5150 Town Center Circle. Every F. Unique artisan and handcrafted items from local makers, artists, crafters and live music. 5-10 pm. Free. bocacenter.com

6/7 - Exhibition Opening Reception: Oceana Phenomena Sea Stories & Sea Level Chronicles by Jane Lawton Baldrige at Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

6/7 - First Friday Art Walk at Cornell Art Museum, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

6/7 - Beginner Squares at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Adults. Every F 7:15-9 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/7 - Castoffs Square Dance at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic modern western square dancing. Adults. Every F 7:15-9 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

6/7 - Sick Puppies Stand-Up Comedy Show at Doghouse Theater, 105 NW 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Every F 8 pm. \$30-\$35. 954-667-7735; sickpuppiescomedy.com

6/7 - Irene Tu: The Art of Laughter at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$35. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Saturday - 6/8 - Open Figure Studio w/ Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 18+. Held again 6-8 pm 6/27. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

6/8 - Inventors Society of South Florida Virtual Meeting. 2nd Sat 1 pm. 1st meeting free. Registration: 561-676-5677; inventorsociety.net

6/8 - Wick Supper Club: Lance Lipinsky at

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