

Boca Raton

January election canceled, but project's fate will be in voters' hands

Council puts downtown measure on March ballot after Save Boca's setback

By Mary Hladky

What seemed likely to be a routine action approving language that will appear on the March 10 city election ballot allowing voters to cast up or down votes on whether downtown campus redevelopment can go forward instead hit a major snag.

The problem, that surfaced at the Dec. 2 City Council meeting, ended up turning into a major negotiation among City Council members about wording.

Council member Andy Thomson objected to ballot language drafted by the city attorney, saying it was weighted in a way that seemed intended to persuade residents to vote in favor of the redevelopment.

"It is in my view strongly slanted and essentially a sales pitch in favor of the project," Thomson said.

The wording, he said, needed to be

12 candidates seek four council seats Page 15

neutral. "Our residents are smart enough to make decisions on their own," he said.

As a test, Thomson had sought the opinion of AI ChatGPT, which said that the language was 8.5 to 9 out of 10 strongly in support of the redevelopment.

"That is not how ballot questions are to be posed," he said.

Thomson is the only council member to oppose the redevelopment project,

and has repeatedly said that the city's partnership with developers Terra and Frisbie Group should be terminated.

City Attorney Joshua Koehler did not object to the wording changes. "There is more than one way to bake a cake," he said.

Mayor Scott Singer and Council member Yvette Drucker both said they wished Thomson would have proposed this at their Dec. 1 workshop meeting so that they would have more time to

See **SAVE BOCA** on page 14

Delray Beach

Landmark of faith

First Presbyterian, whose home includes South County's first barrier island church, celebrates 100 years

By Janis Fontaine

Near the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, a community church rose a century ago and it continues to welcome parishioners to this day.

The congregation's home includes the first church ever built on South County's barrier island — a 1924 building that now serves as its Fellowship Hall — and it is one of only two churches south of Palm Beach on the island today.

With its steeple visible for miles out to sea, First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach — The Community Church by the Sea — is a landmark beloved by the city, its residents and the congregation.

The church was officially organized in 1925, meeting in people's homes and being served by visiting ministers. Its first permanent pastor, the Rev. James McCormick, arrived just before Christmas 1926, and the congregation moved into its first forever-home in 1928.

Delray Beach Mayor Tom Carney acknowledged the

See **100 YEARS** on page 18



First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach's steeple is visible for miles out to sea, a longtime landmark for boaters. A smaller tower from the original 1924 building (at lower right) marks the church's Fellowship Hall. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Along the Coast

Submerged lands buyer faces choppy legal seas

Tech company turns tables on man who took it, many others to court

By John Pacenti

South Florida, one could argue, is mostly submerged land — filled in, replumbed, developed. A lot of people became rich by turning a mosquito-filled swamp into the metropolis of today. From Miami Beach to Riviera Beach and beyond, developments sit on properties that were once waterlogged.

Enter Delray Beach developer William Swaim. He has been a fixture for more than a decade in Palm Beach and Broward counties, buying up land long forgotten by its owners in the Intracoastal Waterway.

Swaim has pursued litigation against municipalities, property owners, international telecommunications companies and condominium complexes over submerged lands he owns in Boca Raton, Ocean Ridge and Broward County. He has sued property owners, saying they must pay him for the right to access the water or use their docks.

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Editor's Note

Office cat has a new home; some people aren't so lucky

She's a petite pescatarian with green eyes and perky ears. Her brown hair is highlighted with streaks of black and apricot. Something about her staggering gait is endearing. She's a cute little cat with thyroid and neurological issues and she recently moved into our house.



Pippi had been the office cat for *The Coastal Star* for 11 years. She ruled the roost since she was a tiny kitten — shredding her stuffed mice across the floor and inspecting everyone's carried-in lunch. Through the years and multiple serious health issues, she prevailed.

The plan had always been for this particular foundling to live with our office manager, Kathleen, should we ever need to move the fluffy one from the office. Heartbreakingly, Kathleen died of brain cancer complications long before that could occur.

Pippi has never really been the same. I believe she misses her breakfast companion, who regularly shared some cream cheese from her morning bagel.

Relocating our newspaper office recently left us with no choice but to move our special-needs office cat to a new home.

Although we had gracious adoption offers from staff, my husband and I decided she needed a quiet place to live out her final years. So here she is — a cat that exemplifies the nature versus nurture conundrum.

Having lived mostly alone throughout her life, she's unlike any other feline I've taken in. I don't know

how she's going to react to a Christmas tree, visiting children or large family dinners. But I suspect she'll adjust to the holidays just fine. There's no question that she's an odd little cat, but also no doubt she's a survivor.

I'm hopeful we can say the same for the humans in our area who will be struggling to find housing and feed themselves and their families this coming month. I think the least I can do is earmark the same amount I spend on pet care in a month (special food, vet bills and compounded medications aren't cheap) to an organization helping to house and feed local families in need.

Some even help with food for family pets. This feels like a simple holiday pledge I can make and keep. If you're a pet lover like I am, I hope you'll do the same.

If you have questions about where to donate, contact your local library, police or firefighters. They'll help guide you.



— Mary Kate Leming, Executive Editor Emeritus



Patty Larkin holds her cat, Tres, in the lobby of her Boca Raton condo. She volunteers at HomeSafe for abuse victims and is organizing its Jan. 24 Classic Rock & Roll Party. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Coastal Star

A rock for kids surviving tough times is rolling out group's big fundraiser

By Kathleen Kernicky

For almost a decade, Patty Larkin has been a pivotal force behind the scenes at HomeSafe, a nonprofit organization in Palm Beach County that serves victims of child abuse and domestic violence.

As a community volunteer and donor, Larkin helps plan and organize HomeSafe's signature fundraising events, including the annual Classic Rock & Roll Party, and she serves as an ambassador at its charity golf tournament. (She and her husband also play in the tournament.)

HomeSafe, founded in 1979, operates programs that serve more than 15,000 infants, children and families each year, including residential group care for abused children and an independent living program for young adults aging out of foster care.

To Larkin, 68, of Boca Raton, HomeSafe is investing in the community by improving the future of children, teens and young adults.

"They help children and families who are struggling and that benefits everybody," Larkin said. "If we can help young people in our community who are struggling, it might help with some of the problems we see nationwide, including mental health issues. These are kids who have had a tough life."

Larkin was born in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

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Her family later moved to Colorado before they settled in Augusta, Georgia. Her parents "immersed themselves in the community," instilling that value in her. After graduating from Augusta College with a psychology degree, she worked as a substitute teacher and traveled extensively during a 30-year career as a flight attendant at Delta Air Lines.

She has lived in South Florida since 1980. At Delta, she met her husband, Peter Larkin, now a retired airline captain who is a volunteer and supporter at HomeSafe. Married for 34 years, they live near a son, daughter and grandson in Boca Raton, where they're members of the Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club.

"About a decade ago, a friend of mine who was involved in HomeSafe brought me into it," Larkin said. "These events are a lot of fun to plan and organize. They raise a lot of money. The main goal is to grow the amount to continue services for those who aren't as fortunate. People like that when they support HomeSafe, it goes directly into the community. Everything stays locally."

Earlier this year, Larkin and other supporters heard from a

young woman named Kathrell, who was put in foster care at age 11. Four years later, she began treatment at HomeSafe. When she turned 18, HomeSafe provided her with affordable housing and life skills.

Now 24, Kathrell graduated in 2024 from Florida Atlantic University. She has since found a job and moved into her own apartment. "I am most proud that I didn't let my past determine my future," she said.

Larkin said: "We see the progress that they make at HomeSafe. We hear them talk about their plans and how the program helps them reach their goals. And that's rewarding."

Larkin is looking forward to HomeSafe's next Classic Rock & Roll fundraiser on Jan. 24 starting at 6 p.m.

The event will be held at the grand ballroom at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood and feature rock artist Mike DelGuidice.

"We'll get a table and hopefully get some new people who will want to support this wonderful organization," said Larkin.

The charity golf tournament is May 4 at the Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club.

Larkin believes in the adage that it's better to give than receive. "If more people thought about that, things would be a lot better for everyone," she said.

For details about the party, visit helphomesafe.org/theclassic2026. ★

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Highland Beach

Milani Park settlement dashes grandmas' hopes for kids' playground

By Rich Pollack

Laura Thurston wanted to take her 2-year-old grandson to a playground with swings and slides and all things designed for small kids who just want to have fun.

A resident of Boca Highland Beach Club and Marina at the south end of Highland Beach, Thurston loaded up a stroller and made the mile-long trek to Spanish River Park, rather than drive and deal with parking rates that are \$35 a day during the week and \$50 on weekends for non-Boca Raton residents.

"It's a lot to bring kids that far," she said, adding that she raced home to accommodate an increasingly impatient toddler.

Thurston and several other Highland Beach grandparents, who point out that the town is a public playground desert, say Milani Park would be a great place for swings, slides and maybe a seesaw.

But when the Palm Beach County park opens some time in 2028, a playground will be nowhere to be found.

"There's the missing component," says Debbie Shulman Brecher, another Highland Beach grandmother. "People have expressed a desire for something for kids."

County Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Cirillo says there will be things for kids to do — just not on playground equipment — at the 5.6-acre park straddling State Road A1A.

The roadblock, she said, is a 2010 settlement agreement between the county and the town that designates much of what can and can't be part of the park.

"Although we did have community requests for a more traditional playground in the park, this park design is following the Stipulated Settlement Agreement and

conceptual design approved by the town," she said.

But the architects and engineers who are designing the park have included some elements with children in mind, she said.

"We did have several people reach out through our public meetings stating they are excited to bring their children and grandchildren to the park with them, so we are being intentional in the design to have experiences for intergenerational memories," she said.

There will be wildlife appreciation and educational signage and elements along a boardwalk on the east side that Cirillo said will be "artistic and playful."

The design process is ongoing, she said, and the design team has been discussing having areas along the boardwalk near trees "for reflection that are for all ages

but could be considered more appealing to children."

On the west side, near the wetland area, there will be a boardwalk with signage about the environment and history of the site. The area could also have an Art in Public Places installation, Cirillo said.

"I am excited to hear of the outcome in the new year of the Art in Public Places process and particularly how grandparents, children and grandchildren together may interact with the art selected," she said.

An open green space on the west side of the park will be available for unstructured play.

Then, of course, there's the beach, where kids can play in the sand and surf under the watchful eyes of lifeguards.

All of that is good, Thurston and Shulman Brecher say, but it's not enough.

Thurston understands that the county is trying to make

the park as much fun for kids as it can, but she would like to see it more interactive.

"Kids need to be kids," she said. "Children want to run and scream — they don't want to sit and talk."

Shulman Brecher thinks she and Thurston are not alone in wanting their small town to be more accommodating to young children.

"I think a lot of people would like to have a place for kids," she said.

Thurston is hoping the county can find ways to make the park more attractive to active kids while at the same time staying within the bounds of the settlement agreement.

A playground, she said, would give her grandkids an extra reason to want to go visit grandma.

"I'm just a grandmother who wants my grandkids to have a place to have fun," Thurston said. ★

Police therapy dog doesn't miss a beat making new friends

By Rich Pollack

Sparky, Highland Beach's new police therapy dog, isn't just trained to heel, he's also trained to help heal when a wagging tail can put someone at ease.

The latest in a number of certified police therapy dogs now making their way to police departments in Ocean Ridge, Delray Beach, Boynton Beach and other area communities, Sparky is a magnet, attracting police officers and town employees who can't wait to offer a friendly hand to sniff.

Soon the unassuming 2-year-old schnauzer-terrier mix and his handler and new best friend, Brittney Jarboe, will be available to assist police officers who come across residents or visitors who could benefit from Sparky's comforting and supportive presence.

"He can be an icebreaker," said Highland Beach Police Chief Craig Hartmann. "He can put people at ease when they talk to us."

What police departments locally and across the country are finding is that police therapy dogs can reduce anxiety and stress and actually encourage communication.

In Highland Beach, with its large senior population, Sparky will be called on to follow up on welfare checks, where officers are often called to make sure a resident living alone, for example, is OK, according to Hartmann.

Sometimes those residents might just need a friendly voice — or in Sparky's case an oscillating tail — to make them feel more at ease.

Sparky will also be used to help calm victims of a crime



Highland Beach resident Debbie Muller (left) donated money to help police acquire certified therapy dog Sparky, whose handler is Brittney Jarboe (right). Sparky's main job will be to help police put people at ease. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

or an accident and to provide comfort to someone dealing with the loss of a family member.

"Therapy dogs just put people at ease when they're in a situation," Hartmann said. That includes police officers as well.

In Highland Beach, Sparky

will have an added benefit. Since town police officers accompany the fire department on many of the calls, Sparky can also be available to help calm those going through medical emergencies — as well as their worried loved ones.

Sparky will be out and

about often. He's already been in attendance at a Town Commission meeting and will be at town events.

"This is a great way to connect with our community," Hartmann said.

Sparky's arrival in Highland Beach came partially through

the generosity of resident and dog lover Debbie Muller, who helped pay for some of the program's startup costs.

"The chief told me about the program and I was all for it," said Muller, who tripled the donation that had originally been asked. ★

Ocean Ridge

Jury awards Turtle Beach resident \$135,000 in libel suit against Tropical Drive neighbor

By Jane Musgrave

For three days in November, Mark Feinstein sat in a Palm Beach County courtroom, hoping a fellow Ocean Ridge resident would be held accountable for falsely accusing him of engaging in a bizarre sexual act.

The former president of the Turtle Beach condominium association got his wish when the jury, after roughly an hour of deliberation, agreed that 38-year-old Sean Currie libeled Feinstein in September 2022 when he posted the accusation on the town’s Facebook page.

The jury ordered Currie to pay Feinstein \$135,000 to compensate the 66-year-old attorney for the damage the inflammatory, obscene and unfounded allegation did to his reputation.

“They gave me back my name,” a jubilant Feinstein said a day after the jury reached its verdict. “It’s not about the money. It’s never been about the money. It’s about giving me back my name.”

Attorney Matthew Haynes, who represented Feinstein, agreed. “He held Mark’s name and legacy hostage and the jury set it free,” he said.

Neither Currie nor his attorney returned emails for comment about whether they would appeal. During the trial, they argued that Currie had a First Amendment right to express his views about Feinstein. Currie signed the post and, in sworn statements, readily admitted he wrote it.

Currie testified that he chose the term carefully, knowing it was both obscure and disgusting, which meant it would get a lot of attention. He laughed at his word choice, but insisted that he wasn’t trying to hurt Feinstein.

“I made my statements to hopefully bring awareness to the issues that were going on in my town,” Currie testified.

The issue was beach access. At the time, Currie was living with his parents on Tropical

“I think most of the time I use the worst possible language when referring to him.”

— Court testimony of Sean Currie regarding Mark Feinstein

Drive, which borders the yellow 26-unit oceanfront condominium a half-mile south of Woolbright Road.

Inflamed after Turtle Beach in 2021 erected “No Trespassing” signs on its stretch of the beach, Currie and his neighbors began their campaign against the condominium association.

Currie ripped down a sign, leading to his arrest on a charge of criminal mischief. While the charge was dropped after he agreed to reimburse the association \$300 for the sign, the feud escalated.

Tropical Drive resident Bryan Joffe paid \$40,000 for two strips of land — one leading to the beach and another that borders the condominium’s back entrance and has long been used by Turtle Beach for garbage pickup.

Joffe turned the land over to Sunrise Beach LLC, a company formed by fellow Tropical Drive residents, including Currie and his mother.

In 2023, the corporation sued Turtle Beach, demanding that the condo association get off its land. The association countersued, claiming it had used the property for years for garbage pickup and essentially had “squatters rights.”

The suit was settled last summer for undisclosed terms. The only concrete evidence of the settlement came in May when a wooden gate was erected to give Tropical Drive residents exclusive access to the path that leads to the beach.

Feinstein said he bore the brunt of the battle because he was president of the condominium association’s board.

When the feud was raging, Currie regularly assailed Feinstein, hurling anti-semitic epithets at him, often

punctuated with an obscenity, Feinstein said. Currie didn’t deny Feinstein’s claims, insisting his actions were justified.

“Because he is a horrible person and he’s Jewish, so, therefore, it’s an apt derogatory slur,” Currie said during a deposition in the libel case. “I wouldn’t call him the slur for an Italian or a Black person, because he’s not Italian or Black.”

Currie took a similar stance during the trial. “I think most of the time I use the worst possible language when referring to him,” said Currie, who now lives in California.

While he said he regularly uses racial and ethnic slurs if someone’s behavior justifies it, he insisted he’s not a bigot.

“If they’re a woman, I call them (words) appropriate to a woman. If they’re a man who is a particular way, I use that word,” Currie testified. “I use the appropriate words based on the context which they are in. That is not bigotry.”

Feinstein said he took no joy in suing Currie. Had Currie asked the town to hide the obscene post, or written another one explaining that his allegation was untrue, Feinstein said he would have dropped the lawsuit.

But, he said, Currie refused. “He wouldn’t give me an apology, but the jury did,” Feinstein said. “They gave me the apology.”

Haynes said he hopes the jury verdict teaches a valuable lesson to Currie and others who use social media to launch baseless attacks on political foes.

“The verdict reaffirms that this behavior is not acceptable in Ocean Ridge — a beautiful community — or anywhere in Palm Beach County,” Haynes said. ★

Cassidy, Hutchins retain seats

Ocean Ridge Commissioners Carolyn Cassidy and David Hutchins retained their seats when they filed for reelection and no one filed to oppose them. The qualifying deadline was Nov. 14.

It will be Cassidy’s second term. She was first elected in March 2023 in a bitter race, becoming the top vote getter among three candidates.

Cassidy has made the most of her first term, spearheading the effort for the town to hire a lobbyist to seek state appropriations for its many projects. She received the Gold Certificate of Excellence from the Florida League of Cities.

The commission chose Hutchins, a retired airline pilot, in November 2023 to join the commission after two commissioners announced they would resign because of changes in the state’s financial disclosure requirements. He took office in January 2024.

Hutchins then finished third out of four candidates for three open seats in the town’s March 2024 election. That showing won him a two-year unexpired term on the commission instead of a full three-year term.

Hutchins previously sat on the town’s Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mayor Geoff Pugh at the Nov.

3 commission meeting — before the filing deadline — said he hoped that the current makeup of the panel could remain intact.

“This is one of the best commissions we’ve had in a very, very long time. ... It’s been a pleasure,” Pugh said.

— John Pacenti

The next edition of The Coastal Star will be delivered the weekend of January 3



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Manalapan

Town hires legal expert to challenge sand transfer permit extension

By John Pacenti

Manalapan commissioners will take legal action to ensure their concerns about beach erosion and Palm Beach County's sand transfer plant at the Boynton Inlet are addressed, voting to hire a seasoned environmental attorney to represent it before state regulators.

At the Nov. 4 commission meeting, elected leaders voiced frustration over the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's decision to extend the county's permit for operating the sand transfer plant — an operation town leaders say has profound impacts on the community's coastline.

The sand transfer plant takes sand from Manalapan that accumulates on the north side of the inlet and pumps it southward to Ocean Ridge and points beyond. The town

learned of the state's intent to grant the extension in late October and was given only a brief window to formally oppose the decision.

Efforts to collaborate with the county have largely been unsuccessful, leaving the town without meaningful policies affecting its fragile beaches, which have basically disappeared in front of some homes.

The commission agreed to retain John Fumero, former general counsel for the South Florida Water Management District, to lead the town's challenge.

"He is truly the local go-to person in terms of these kinds of administrative permits, water issues, the beach erosion issues that we're grappling with," said Town Attorney Keith Davis.

"The goal here is to get our foot in the door, get that seat at the table, get everyone's

attention, finally, and be able to have those conversations," he said. Past legal challenges by the town have been unsuccessful.

Discussions during the meeting highlighted concerns with the sand transfer plant's contract, including what officials described as a lack of scientific justification for operational figures from the county and an absence of transparency about the sand transfer plant's impacts on local beaches.

"How much sand is being taken? There has to be a real calculation, and really, they don't do enough. It's really a laissez-faire situation," said

Town Manager Eric Marmer. "When you dig deeper, it's like, 'Where do you get these numbers from?'"

Marmer said it's baffling that the FDEP permit declares the plant — built in 1937 — has no impact on the beach.

An engineer and beach erosion expert hired by the town to look at its erosion issue said in July that the transfer plant — which pumps sand south across the inlet because the inlet blocks the natural southward flow of the sand — plays only a small part in erosion and that sea walls in town are the main culprit.

Marmer said he has been skeptical about the sand transfer plant's greatly affecting Manalapan's coastline until recently.

"I went down there and I could literally see the avulsion created by the sand transfer plant on our beach," he said.

He said the plant has been a thorn in the town's side since nearly the town's founding in 1931.

"Manalapan residents in the '30s and the '40s were concerned about this, and it's well documented," he said. ★

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Lantana



LEFT: Kamila Diaz joins Lantana Ocean Rescue chief Marc Fichtner as he receives an award from the Town Council for helping to rescue her after a shark had severed the leash to her surfboard. BELOW: Fichtner helped Diaz return to shore at the Lantana Municipal Beach after she met him halfway. Photos provided

Shark's presence deepens danger of surfer's rescue at Lantana Beach

By Patrick Sherry

A Lantana lifeguard walked away with an award instead of a shark bite after helping rescue a surfer.

The Lantana Town Council, at its Nov. 10 meeting, presented Marc Fichtner with the award for his actions that helped save a surfer while a shark was in the water.

Kamila Diaz was surfing at the Lantana Municipal Beach on Oct. 8 when a 5- to 6-foot shark severed the leash to her surfboard. Luckily, Fichtner, who is chief of the Lantana Ocean Rescue Division, was out doing rough water training and noticed Diaz in distress. He jumped into action and returned her to land safely.

"Not many people go into the water where there are sharks knowingly," said Eddie Crockett, the town's director of public services. "This is what he did without even thinking about it."

Diaz has been surfing in Lantana for almost three years in all conditions. She said



that what happened was very unexpected.

"I'm glad that I knew how to handle the situation at first and managed to somewhat swim back, and then Marc helped me and the rest of the lifeguards with everything else," Diaz said. "I'm just really grateful that the worst was avoided, and I'm still alive."

Fichtner thanked the council for the award and praised Diaz for her bravery, which led to her meeting him halfway in the water. He mentioned how his team trains for these situations often, but they are very rare.

"I'm really honored," said

Fichtner. "We always, as lifeguards, talk about two things: there's a plane crash in front of the tower or a shark attack. Maybe you see one in your career of 20, 30 years. I'm glad that my training kicked in, my partner's training kicked in, and we're able to do what we do."

Fichtner also said his team has received the U.S. Lifesaving Association Advanced Agency Certification. The certification recognizes and encourages high training standards for lifeguard agencies. ★

Highland Beach

No one challenges either commission incumbent up for reelection

By Rich Pollack

Two members of the Highland Beach Town Commission will be returning to their seats next spring after neither drew opposition before the filing deadline in November.

Mayor Natasha Moore, who as vice mayor filled the seat following the death of Mayor Doug Hillman in 2023 and who was elected without opposition to complete the term in 2024, will lead the commission for three more years.

Also returning is Commissioner Donald Peters, who will serve a second three-year term beginning in March.

Moore said she decided to run again to help the town continue its positive momentum and to ensure that projects Highland Beach has started are completed with the long-term interest of residents a priority.

She said that during the time she’s been on the commission the town has made progress in strengthening public safety, protecting the coastal environment, investing in infrastructure, and ensuring Highland Beach remains financially strong.

“My commitment is to keep Highland Beach safe, well-managed, and prepared for the future,” she said. “I’m grateful for the trust our community has placed in me, and I remain dedicated to serving with



Moore



Peters

transparency, accountability, and a clear vision for what comes next.”

Peters said that he, too, wants to continue the progress the town has made in recent years.

“I love the town and I hope to help keep our theme of ‘three miles of paradise,’” he said.

The automatic election of both Moore and Peters to serve on the commission marks the third year in a row that Highland Beach commissioners have been chosen without opposition.

In March, Commissioner Jason Chudnofsky, who had run without opposition, began his first term on the commission, filling the seat vacated by term-limited Evalyn David.

The previous year Moore, Vice Mayor David Stern and Commissioner Judith Goldberg were all returned to their seats without opposition.

Commissioners and those who follow town government believe the lack of opposition to current commissioners is an indication that residents are pleased with the direction the town is moving. ★

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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South Palm Beach

Critic of new Town Hall challenges mayor in March election

By Brian Biggane

The first South Palm Beach mayoral race in recent memory is shaping up after citizen activist and Town Hall project critic Rafael Pineiro filed his papers on the first day of eligibility in early November for the March 10 election.

In addition, two other residents — Fran Attardi and Adrian Burcet — whom Pineiro said he encouraged to run filed to compete against three Town Council incumbents whose seats are also up for election. That raises the possibility of a new majority on the five-member council, one that would likely alter the direction of the Town Hall project, which has dominated local politics for several years.

Incumbent Mayor Bonnie Fischer, who was elected to the Town Council in 2011 and has held the mayoral seat since defeating the former incumbent in 2015, has run unopposed in her last three elections.

“People know me,” Fischer said. “My record stands for what I’ve done. I’m proud of how I’ve handled myself and always looked toward what’s best for the town.”



Fischer



Pineiro

Vice Mayor Monte Berendes and Council members Elvadianne Culbertson and Sandra Beckett, the latter two having been appointed to their current council seats, also qualified to run in March.

The top two vote getters of the five council candidates will win regular four-year terms and the third-place finisher a two-year unexpired term.

‘Whole premise is wrong’

Pineiro has been a constant opponent this year of the Town Hall project. He collected signatures for a petition earlier this year aimed at convincing the council to retrofit the current structure rather than move forward with plans to tear it down and build a new, larger \$6.5 million one.

“I had given up, sent a letter to Bonnie congratulating her on achieving what she wanted, but then I found that whole premise is wrong,” Pineiro said.

Even though renovating the building might be more than half the cost of the Town Hall’s current value, Pineiro says the existing structure is good enough and going the renovation route will save the town several million dollars.

But Fischer and Berendes said studies done years ago stipulated the cost of a retrofit is far more than 50% of the value and a new building is a must.

The assessed value of the building this year was \$3.3 million, meaning a retrofit is a must if the renovation is to cost more than \$1.65 million. That means the whole building would have to be updated to meet current Florida Building Code standards, including the costly task of raising the building’s ground level. Even Pineiro’s most conservative renovation figure for his plan is \$1.7 million.

“It’s nice that Rafael is taking an interest,” Berendes said, “but he doesn’t know what he’s talking about.”

Pineiro said his plan would raise the building by three feet, then use a process called dry flood-proofing — by which a structure can be made watertight below the expected flood level — to assure the

building could last for many years to come. However, he said the dry flood-proofing would add another \$1 million to his estimated cost.

Sidewalk an issue as well

He said a greater area of concern for residents is fixing the sidewalk that runs along the west side of State Road A1A, which he said has deteriorated to the point where one or more residents are falling every month. The council has discussed the issue multiple times in recent months, but consistently points to the fact the sidewalk is the responsibility of the Florida Department of Transportation.

“I’m sure that if you asked our residents which is more important, the Town Hall or the sidewalk, most would say the sidewalk,” said Pineiro, who claimed other municipalities have used their own money to fix a bad sidewalk and then been compensated by the state.

Council race

Among the council incumbents up for election, Berendes is the longest-serving — it will be four years in March — having won his seat in 2022. He was elevated to



Attardi



Burcet

vice mayor in June 2024.

Culbertson, who previously served on the council from 2016 to 2021, was appointed to her seat by the council in April 2024, while Beckett was appointed in December 2024.

Culbertson replaced the retired Robert Gottlieb, chosen by the council from among three applicants. Beckett later was the only applicant for the seat she received.

First-time candidate Attardi is a native of New Jersey and has been a South Palm Beach resident for three years. She runs a pet concierge business known as Francy Paws. She spent many years in New Jersey as the owner of *Jersey Sporting News*, a publication covering high school sports across the state.

Burcet is currently employed as a FedEx driver and has been a South Palm Beach resident for eight years. ★

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South Palm Beach News

Town Hall plans stay the same — After architects gave one last go at coming up with ideas to shrink the size of South Palm Beach’s new Town Hall, council members voted unanimously to keep with the earlier plan.

The Town Council, seemingly alarmed that the planned construction is coming in at about 11,000 square feet compared to 7,000 square feet for the current building, sent CPZ Architects representative Joe Barry back to the drawing board at its October meeting to see if he could come up with a design somewhat smaller.

Barry returned in November with a proposal that would trim approximately 900 square feet off the design and save about \$430,000, but would make the entry lobby smaller, eliminate one of the community rooms on the second floor and either make the proposed cafe smaller or eliminate it.

Council members mostly shook their heads while Barry went through the changes and Vice Mayor Monte Berendes was the first to give them a thumbs down.

“I was one of the proponents of making it smaller and I’m not sure it’s worth it,” Berendes said.

Town manager spending limit increases — A request from Town Manager Jamie Titcomb to increase his discretionary spending limit upward from \$5,000 was approved at the council’s Nov. 10 meeting, with the council giving him a new \$25,000 limit.

Titcomb assured the council he would not be going on a “spending spree,” but that the move would simply “limit the expenditures I have to bring to you before they get approved, which often translates into a delay in getting repairs and critical work done.”

Dune restoration underway — Sara Gutekunst, the coastal coordinator for the town of Palm Beach, informed the council that the beach restoration project involving the two municipalities was underway. Sand was being trucked from Phipps Ocean Park in Palm Beach and the project was expected to take about six weeks, or almost until Christmas.

Town clerk on maternity leave — The council on Nov. 10 approved three months of paid maternity leave for Town Clerk Yude Davenport, who gave birth on Nov. 17. The leave for Davenport, who has served in her position for nearly 20 years, is until the end of February.

— Brian Biggane

Briny Breezes

Salon operator loses lease after 34 years, says anger has turned to serenity

By Steve Plunkett

Another roadside landmark along State Road A1A is slated to soon disappear.

The Briny Hair Salon, the Briny Breezes Town Hall’s next-door neighbor, has lost its lease and must vacate by April 30.

Linda Loch, who has operated the beauty salon for 34 years, said she wasn’t told why, “just that they want to put somebody else in here where they can get four times the amount of rent.”

“There is no reason they have to kick me out,” she said.

Briny Breezes Inc., the co-op that manages the mobile home community, originally sent Loch a “Notice of Non-Renewal of Lease” on Oct. 31, demanding that she leave the premises by Dec. 31 with an option to request a 30-day extension.

Loch instead asked to stay until the end of April, and the co-op agreed.

Michael Gallacher, general manager of the co-op, noted that Briny Breezes Inc. is a for-profit corporation, and said Loch’s rent has been “very low” for “many years” and most of her customers live in neighboring Gulf Stream.

In September, Gallacher said, “Ms. Loch advised that she was meeting with a gentleman who wished to operate a separate business out of half the shop. We made clear that this was not acceptable.

“After reviewing the situation, we made a business decision to seek proposals from tenants who can provide meaningful benefits to Briny shareholders while paying market rent that contributes appropriately to sustaining the park’s expenses,” he said.

At first Loch’s customers were “really upset,” she said.

Customer and friend Diana Grainger, who owns the South Ocean Beach Shop in Delray Beach at A1A and Atlantic Avenue, had choice words: “deplorable” and “absolutely,



Linda Loch didn’t find another space for her salon and plans to retire at the end of April. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

positively unjust.”

Loch, too, was not happy.

“I think it’s terrible to do that to me. I actually think it could be age discrimination,” she said. “I am 78, but I’m capable still of working, And I want to work ’cause I think it’s healthy for me.”

Before the termination notice arrived, Loch spent \$8,000 on new carpet and paint to make everything look fresh and new, she said. For the first half of November she scoured vacant commercial space for a place to relocate her business but wasn’t impressed by what she found.

“I wouldn’t take any of my customers there,” she said.

Rising rents have forced shops and restaurants for years to leave Delray Beach’s popular Atlantic Avenue. And the imminent departure of Loch’s salon brings to mind the 2023 closing on A1A of the Seaside Deli and Market at 4635 N. Ocean in a landlord-tenant

dispute. It has since reopened under new ownership.

Loch’s rent this year was \$1,612.98 a month for the salon at 4800 N. Ocean Blvd. By comparison, the town pays the co-op \$1,792 per month for its side of the building, more than twice the space, at 4802 N. Ocean.

The Town Council signed a five-year extension of its lease starting in October 2024, allowing for rent increases each year of \$50 per month.

When first grappling with the lease notice, Loch fretted about what her next steps would be.

“This has been my life,” she said. “For 34 years I’ve been here. And I have a wonderful clientele in the season.”

But after winning the April 30 lease extension, she said she has come to accept her circumstances and is ready to retire. “It’s OK,” Loch said. “I’m at peace with it now.” ★

Gulf Stream

Road project now has April completion date

Gulf Stream’s Core District construction project will likely continue into April.

Originally scheduled to end before Christmas and later modified to finish up Feb. 28, the work will now extend to April 17, according to a proposal by contractor Roadway Associates LLC.

Town commissioners on Nov. 14 approved paying Baxter and Woodman Consulting Engineers up to \$215,272 for the extra time they will be coordinating and supervising

the project. The amount included having two inspectors in town full-time in November and December to monitor the construction.

The engineers are also looking into ways to make the curve from Sea Road to Gulfstream Road more drivable. Residents were finding it hard to negotiate the roadway with new raised curbs on both sides of the street.

Commissioners also approved spending up to \$80,000 to get a third-party contractor to install

a water bypass line mostly along Oleander Way, which has had numerous boil-water orders for weeks as Roadway Associates tried to install a new water line. The commission expects to charge that amount back to Roadway.

“This project has just been horrendous,” Commissioner Joan Orthwein said. “These were the original water lines, so they had to be replaced.”

— Steve Plunkett

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SAVE BOCA

Continued from page 1

evaluate it.

"I hope this is not a political move that is being made on the dais," Drucker said. Thomson and Deputy Mayor Fran Nachlas both are running to succeed Singer as mayor in a race that also will be decided on March 10.

And then the wordsmithing began, dragging on until 12:33 a.m. The vote in favor of the new language was 4-1, with Thomson dissenting because he believed the language still was not neutral.

The negotiation came a week after Save Boca's efforts to thwart the city's plans to redevelop its 31-acre downtown campus ran into a wall on Jan. 25 when a Palm Beach County Circuit Court judge ordered that the group's two ballot measures be thrown off a Jan. 13 special election ballot.

Judge G. Joseph Curley, in a ruling from the bench and in a Dec. 1 written order, said the group's proposed City Charter amendment did not meet state constitutional standards and its proposed ordinance required a vote before Jan. 13 based on the city charter. The special election is now canceled.

Both the charter amendment and ordinance would not have allowed the council to lease or sell any city-owned land greater than one-half acre — "or any part thereof" — without a vote. They were aimed against the city's plans to lease the campus land for 99 years to developers Terra and Frisbie Group for the redevelopment.

Save Boca immediately cried foul about legal maneuvering that had left the group unable to defend its measures in court. But its leaders said the case is not yet closed and vowed Save Boca will succeed in the end.

"The will of the great citizens of our city will prevail," the group said on its Facebook page and in an email.

"There were obstacles for us to get here, and there will be obstacles in the future, however we will accomplish our shared mission to restore protection to all of our parks, beachfront properties and the public land across our city."

They followed that up with a Nov. 28 two-minute "commercial" on YouTube intended to stir resident outrage.

It blasted city officials, claiming they intended to bulldoze existing recreation facilities on the campus and had fast-tracked a public land transfer to developers "without your knowing about it."

"They were going to get away

A scaled-down version of the downtown plan mainly separates park and recreation from developed areas. **Rendering provided**



with it but without anybody knowing until Save Boca stopped it," the video said.

While Save Boca has lost this skirmish, at least for now, residents will have the ability to cast an up or down vote on whether the redevelopment can go forward.

They will do so at the March 10 city election when voters also will elect a mayor and three council members.

City Council members promised that vote in September, and on Dec. 2 they approved the ballot language.

'Constitutionally invalid'

The lawsuit that led to the court ruling was filed by Ned Kimmelman, a retired attorney and Boca Raton resident.

It contended the ordinance and charter amendment contain falsehoods, are misleading and confusing, and violate Florida law.

If approved, the lawsuit said, the measures would have made it cumbersome and costly for the city to lease its land to cultural and civic organizations such as the Boca Raton Museum of Art and Boca Raton Historical Society, since every time it wanted to do so, it would have to hold an election.

Named defendants were Save Boca and its founder Jon Pearlman, the city and the Palm Beach County supervisor of elections.

But Kimmelman dismissed Save Boca and Pearlman as defendants on Nov. 12. As a result, they could not defend the measures at the Nov. 25 hearing.

Court records do show that Ron Rice, Pearlman's attorney, was allowed to make a statement at the beginning of the hearing.

The city filed only one pleading in the case. It was limited to comments made by City Council members during meetings or to the media detailing how the wording of the ballot measures are imprecise and confusing and how difficult and expensive they would be to implement.

"The City respects both the will of our residents and the rule of law and will fully comply with the Court's order," the city said in a statement.

Kimmelman declared victory immediately after Curley's spoken ruling.

"I defeated his handiwork," he said of Pearlman's ballot measures. Both, he said, are "legally dead."

"Their ordinances in fact were constitutionally invalid from the very moment of their creation," he said.

Pearlman, he said, "almost got away with it. He just ran out of time and got caught by the court."

Financial impacts

The special election cancellation will save the city a significant cost.

The Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office had estimated that the election would cost about \$390,000 — well above what an election typically costs. Boca Raton paid only \$67,000 for the March 2024 election.

That's because Boca Raton was the only city in Palm Beach County holding a special election on that date.

It could do so because Gov. Ron DeSantis issued an executive order calling for a special Jan. 13 election to fill the House District 87 seat that had been held by Mike Caruso until DeSantis appointed him as Palm Beach County clerk and comptroller.

Under pressure from Save Boca to hold an election as soon as possible, the city took the opportunity to do so.

Usually, cities share the cost of an election. But with Boca Raton standing alone, it would have had to bear the full cost of poll worker pay, printing ballots, equipment delivery and more.

Plans move forward

Despite Save Boca's forceful opposition, the city is surging ahead with preparations for campus redevelopment, sticking with an aggressive timeline.

Even though voters ultimately will approve or reject the redevelopment plan on March 10, the City Council and staff are rushing to complete everything needed to finalize that plan and an agreement with Terra and Frisbie Group.

Council meeting agendas

Ballot question

The Boca Raton City Council agreed to place the following question on the city's March 10 election ballot:

Approving Lease of Downtown City Land, Agreements for Public Improvements, And Preserving / Enhancing Memorial Park

Shall the City approve agreements with Boca Raton City Center, LLC leasing 7.8 acres of City property east of Northwest Second Avenue near Brightline Station, for 99 years, creating a walkable neighborhood with residential, retail, office and hotel uses, generating rent and revenues to City for general uses and enhancements to City property, including:

- Preserving Memorial Park area, honoring veterans,
- Expanding public recreational and green spaces,
- New community center, City Hall, and police substation?

in December and January are now expected to be dominated by key matters relating to the project. The lion's share of work could be wrapped up in January.

The City Council saw drafts of a master partnership agreement with Terra/Frisbie, ground lease agreement and other key documents as well as land appraisals on Dec. 2. Final votes on them were still expected Jan. 20.

A revenue windfall for city?

City leaders are trying to convince residents that the redevelopment project will be a financial boon that will generate revenue for decades to come.

Final figures are still being refined, but city consultant CBRE so far has determined that the project will yield the city \$4.1 billion over the 99 years that Terra/Frisbie leases 7.8 acres within the 31-acre downtown campus. That is double the amount of Terra/Frisbie's most recent estimate.

"In my opinion, this is an excellent transaction for the city," CBRE Executive Vice President Michael McShea told City Council members on Nov. 18. Nearly \$2 billion would come from lease payments made on the land. Taxes paid to the city on the 7.8 acres located east of Northwest Second Avenue, which is now untaxed, would bring in about \$1.3 billion.

Nearly \$576 million would come from the city's 10% share of the project's profits.

If Terra/Frisbie sells any of the apartments, offices or other buildings constructed on the 7.8 acres, the city would get a 1% fee of the gross sales price. For example, if a building sold for \$50 million, the city would get \$500,000.

But there's also a price to be paid by the city. The cost of the project to the city would be about \$200 million.

About \$96 million would pay for a new 30,000-square foot City Hall, 30,000-square-foot Community Center and a

10,000-square-foot police/fire substation west of Northwest Second Avenue.

Recreation facilities, a children's playground, green space and site work would cost about \$52 million. Most of the rest would go to infrastructure improvements.

City officials maintain that residents will not bear any of that cost. But so far, city officials have not decided how they will pay for these improvements.

"City staff will continue to evaluate various financing options available to fund the public improvements to ensure the lowest cost to the city," Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer Jim Zervis said in an email.

Among the options are a type of bond financing that would not increase property tax rates and would not require voter approval.

The city would be able to support a \$114 million bond issue that would be repaid using new revenue generated from the project.

The city also has about \$50 million in available cash that could cover some of the cost.

An evolving plan

In response to strident complaints by Save Boca, Terra/Frisbie has made significant changes to its plans.

Residential, office and hotel construction will be limited to 7.8 acres, rather than being located across all 31 acres of the downtown campus. Recreation and green space on the land west of Northwest Second Avenue are now preserved, with only the new city buildings located there. Overall density is greatly reduced.

But that has not satisfied Save Boca, whose supporters continue to condemn the project at every City Council meeting.

Pearlman wants the entire project scrapped. The city, he says, can rebuild the old and crumbling city buildings on its own. ★

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Boca Raton

Anti-development anger spills over into March election

By Mary Hladky

12 candidates compete for four seats

Resident furor over Boca Raton’s plans to redevelop the 31-acre downtown campus now has engulfed the March 10 city election as redevelopment opponents attempt to win control of the City Council.

Five candidates who are part of the opposition group Save Boca or support many of that group’s positions have announced they are running for mayor or the three other council seats that will be on the ballot.

In all, a large field of 12 candidates, including three current council members, qualified in November to run.

Save Boca has a slate of three candidates — Save Boca founder Jon Pearlman, Michelle Grau and Stacy Sipple.

Running for mayor

The mayor’s race includes the high-wattage matchup between Deputy Mayor Fran Nachlas and Council member Andy Thomson, who are vying to replace term-limited Scott Singer.

Nachlas supports the redevelopment, while Thomson repeatedly has called for the project to be terminated.

Thomson maintains that even though developers Terra and Frisbie Group have made significant concessions to win over opponents, the project remains too dense and has been pushed forward too rapidly.

Joining them in that contest is Mike Liebelson, whose résumé includes more than 40 years of experience with energy companies, including executive management positions in two publicly traded companies. He now is a senior adviser to several sustainable energy companies.

When he learned the City Council planned to lease land to private developers, he began attending council meetings.

“I just could not believe the level of tone deafness this council had for the interests of the people,” he said.

When Liebelson did not see any mayoral candidate he could support, he decided to run for office himself. He opposes handing over city land to private developers and pledges to take no campaign contributions from developers. While not part of Save Boca, he gives the group credit. “I have to thank Save Boca for really educating the community,” he said.

Council Seat B

Pearlman and Save Boca supporter Meredith Madsen are challenging incumbent Council member Marc Wigder for Seat B.

“I saw where the leadership of Boca was taking the city. They were taking it to a very dismal place,” Pearlman said. “I am running to revert the course of the city ... and to protect our public land, our parks and to do what is right for the residents and represent their best

interests.”

Pearlman, co-founder of the Mission Lean fitness app who also has an office that manages investment portfolios, said that the Save Boca slate “will not take one cent of developer contributions. Therefore, we can act without being compromised. We can make every decision in the best interest of the citizens of Boca, not the developers.”

Madsen, the founder and CEO of Sunshine & Glitter, which sells sunscreen products, frequently speaks out at City Council meetings against city plans to redevelop the campus

in partnership with Terra and Frisbie Group.

Council Seat A

Three candidates are vying to replace Nachlas in Seat A: Save Boca candidate Grau; Christen Ritchey, a former Planning and Zoning Board member, who resigned from that position to stand election; and Bernard Korn, who initially filed to run for mayor as well, but withdrew from that race.

Grau is a certified public accountant with Grau & Associates in Boca Raton that specializes in governmental

Mayor



Liebelson



Nachlas



Thomson

Council Seat A



Grau



Korn



Ritchey

Council Seat B



Madsen



Pearlman

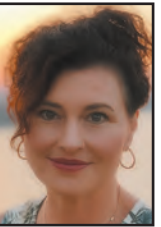


Wigder

Council Seat D



Cellon



Sipple



Weinroth

auditing. When she learned about the redevelopment plan, she saw that “residents were concerned about not being part of the process” and what she said was the lack of information provided by city officials.

When she expressed an interest in running, she was told, “We need you, Michelle. We need someone with a financial background,” she said. “I know government budgets. I know how to spot waste.”

Ritchey, a family law attorney, briefly was a council candidate in 2023 but withdrew to focus on her children and her law firm. While she is not part of Save Boca, “I love that they have come together to let the residents have a voice,” she said.

Ritchey has not yet taken a firm position on the redevelopment, but said, “I think first and foremost, collaboration and communication is key.”

Korn, a real estate broker, is a perennial candidate who has never won an election. He had his best showing in 2024 when he captured 23% of the vote when running against incumbent Yvette Drucker.

Council Seat D

Three candidates are running for Thomson’s Seat D.

Former Council member Robert Weinroth is making a bid to serve again.

He won a special election to the council in 2014 and then ran without opposition in 2015 and term-limited out in three years. He was elected to the Palm Beach County Commission in 2018 and became county mayor.

After Weinroth lost reelection in 2022, he filed to run for the Palm Beach County School Board, but withdrew from that race, and ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2024 in the Republican primary. He did not return calls from *The Coastal Star* about his current candidacy.

Entering politics for the first time is Larry Cellon, who is well known in the city for serving nearly 10 years on the Planning and Zoning Board and, before that, 27 years on the Community Appearance Board.

He resigned from the planning board to run.

Cellon is a founding member of Workshop 344+, formed by a group of influential residents who have plans to improve a five-block section of East Palmetto Park Road.

Frustrated because that effort hasn’t gained traction with city officials, Cellon decided on a council run.

Cellon is not affiliated with Save Boca, but he opposes the redevelopment plan. “I see no reason for us to give away our public lands to a private developer,” he said.

Instead, Cellon said, the city should upgrade city buildings and recreational facilities on its own.

“I think we can do it ourselves,” he said. “We can do it better.”

Sipple, a clinical pharmacist, is Save Boca’s candidate for Seat D. She said council members are not listening to residents. And residents “want to feel they have a City Council that listens to them and responds to them.”

Sipple opposes the redevelopment project.

Too many development projects have been approved in the city and are changing its character in a way that residents don’t want by turning it into an overbuilt and congested Miami or Fort Lauderdale, she said.

Sipple opposes the redevelopment project, saying it would bring an unneeded hotel and residential units. She believes that the city can improve the downtown campus on its own, at a far lower cost.

“I hope our residents show up in force and vote” in the March 10 election, she said. ★

SWAIM

Continued from page 1

A battle in Boca

Now, Swaim is facing an order by a Palm Beach County judge to turn over his computer and cell phone to determine who has financially backed him. The name of William Boose III, a ghost from Palm Beach County’s “corruption county” days, has resurfaced in a response to Swaim’s lawsuit against a Brazilian telecommunication company.

A criminal contempt case was filed against Swaim on Sept. 30, ordering him to show cause why he didn’t turn over his phone, computer and access to his email in the case involving Globenet Cabos Submarinos America.

Swaim has pleaded not guilty and told the judge he couldn’t afford an attorney. One was appointed for a status check scheduled for Dec. 5.

Swaim has extracted settlements from many of the targets of his lawsuits — including telecommunications companies. But he appears to have met his match with Globenet Cabos Submarinos America. The company has an international footprint with cable landing stations across the Americas, including Brazil, Colombia and Bermuda; its headquarters location is generally cited as Fort Lauderdale.

Swaim filed suit against Globenet in 2018 for running its telecommunications under a sliver of submerged land in the

middle of the Intracoastal in Boca Raton south of Palmetto Park Road, across from Silver Palm Park.

Undersea cables connect Boca to the world
Page 25

The complaint starts, “This is a story of unbridled corporate greed, gross negligence, malfeasance, and arrogance.”

Just to the north is another 4-acre parcel off Northeast Eighth Avenue that Swaim put on the market for \$43 million. That is the same parcel for which Boca Raton City Council members in June rejected a recommendation from a special magistrate and refused to allow Swaim to develop it.

Swaim sought from Globenet \$250 million and named 100 “John Does” — who were later identified as big tech companies such as Amazon, Facebook, Netflix and Microsoft — that he said paid Globenet to use its fiber optic cables.

Globenet — unlike some targets of Swaim lawsuits — didn’t settle. It is represented by powerhouse Florida law firm Greenberg Traurig and its bulldog attorney, Robert R. “Bobby” Kane III.

Kane sought sanctions against Swaim. On May 1, Palm Beach County Circuit Judge John J. Parnofiello agreed, citing discovery violations for failing to turn over his phone and computer as ordered, setting the stage for the misdemeanor charge of indirect criminal contempt.

Years of litigation

Kane, through extensive discovery, was determined to identify Swaim’s financial backers. Boose is named in court documents as a third-party defendant.

Boose was convicted in 2007 and sentenced to two years in prison in a pay-for-play scandal that led to the downfall of multiple elected officials in Palm Beach County. He was also the town attorney for Ocean Ridge in the mid-1970s.

Globenet says it has definitive proof that Boose was the financial backer of Swaim’s business venture into submerged lands — providing stake money to buy the property, investing millions of dollars. Kane said that two single-purpose LLCs were used to mask ownership — a fact he said he learned



William Swaim at the Ocean Ridge Town Commission meeting in May 2025. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

through extensive discovery. “On the part of Greenberg and Globenet, they are doing everything they can to deliberately drain me of all financial resources,” Swaim told *The Coastal Star*.

“There is no endgame except the personal vengeance of Bobby Kane against me personally.”

After six years of protracted litigation, Parnofiello granted summary judgment in January for Globenet against Swaim’s South Spanish Trail LLC, which its attorneys say will set a precedent for future cases involving sovereign submerged lands in Florida.

Another Palm Beach County circuit judge, James Nutt, determined that Swaim’s sovereign submerged lands were actually held in trust for the people of Florida. “The properties are not subject to the plaintiff’s private claims of ownership,” Nutt said.

Kane said he and his team have handled multiple cases involving Swaim.

In an August 2024 pleading in an associated case involving another telecommunications defendant, Kane described Swaim as a serial plaintiff who “purports to purchase tracts of land that are entirely submerged underwater and then makes unreasonable demands to the individuals and entities.”

He goes on to say in the pleading that defendants (namely, dock owners and telecommunications companies) have long been utilizing those submerged lands via valid government permits or easements. Swaim then threatens to sue them “unless they pay his ransom.”

Attorney Jack Goldberger, whose past clients include disgraced financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, has been assigned to prosecute the contempt case along with Kane.

Globenet is just one of a long list of litigants that have been sued by Swaim.

Ocean Ridge dispute

Jeffrey and Amanda Eder own a home directly north of the Ocean Ridge Town Hall along the neighborhood known as McCormick Mile, named after a renowned publisher of the *Chicago Tribune* who owned land there at one time. The Intracoastal creates a little bay or lagoon for single-family homes and condominiums along the stretch.

In 2015, Swaim’s Waterfront ICW Properties bought the nearly 3.4 acres of submerged land that runs from the 50-unit Wellington Arms condominium complex to a mangrove island for \$25,000, records show. He then started filing lawsuits — against property owners like the Eders, as well as the town of Ocean Ridge and the condominium.

Swaim’s company wanted to build a bridge out to the submerged land and construct a sea wall, which Ocean Ridge

refused to allow. Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Donald Hafele eventually ruled in 2022 that he didn’t believe the developer really had any firm intention of filling in the land and building.

“He’s never actually built anything on any of these properties, but he’s got litigation on all of them, and he’s just essentially trying to extort money out of people,” Jeffrey Eder said.

Eder said Swaim’s LLC tried to get access through the environmentally sensitive mangroves behind his home. “He claimed he was planning to build a home for himself initially, and that morphed into any number of things,” Eder said. “We prevented him from plowing down an acre and a half of mangroves to build the driveway to a submerged piece of property.”

Eder said that settling with Swaim was out of the question. “We didn’t want to be the people who turned over the keys to the bulldozers that knocked down the rain forest,” he said.

Still, the litigation took its toll. “We went through three different judges before we finally got a judge that would actually hear our case,” he said. “It festered in the courts for years.”

Waterfront ICW Properties sued the Eders and two other property owners again, this time claiming they were trespassing when they boated over the submerged parcel. If successful, Swaim would have prevented the Eders from accessing the Intracoastal from their home.

But the courts in September ruled against Swaim and his “heavy-handed demands.”

“Swaim’s methods of acquiring submerged lands and leveraging neighbors to purchase an easement have drawn the strong condemnation from several other Florida judges, one of whom found that Swaim’s conduct ‘shocked the conscience of the court’ and was ‘just plain and simply wrong,’” Palm Beach Senior Circuit Judge Richard Oftedal ruled on Sept. 4.

Ocean Ridge and Palm Beach County own the land behind Town Hall. Recently, the town received a \$1 million grant to buy a private parcel with plans to possibly put a kayak trail around the mangroves. “There’s a lot of wildlife back there,” Commissioner Carolyn Cassidy said back in January.

Villain or victim?

Boca Raton real estate broker Larry Mastropieri wondered earlier this year on his YouTube channel @DiscoverSouthFlorida if Swaim could be “the Lex Luthor of real estate,” referring to the Superman nemesis.

He said clients buying on the water are wary of the developer.

“I’ve had questions, like ‘Hey, is Swaim messing around with the water rights right in front of this property? Do you know anything about it?’” Mastropieri recalled. “So is he like, you know, a super villain? Maybe. I’d say people probably perceive him that way.”

Swaim says he is no villain — a victim, maybe.

He never planned the litigation against Globenet, saying he learned about the telecommunications company boring underneath the Intracoastal after he purchased the property. Swaim said his LLCs have been buying deeds since 2015 and have amassed about 40.

Swaim’s strategy typically involves properties owned by out-of-state family members. “People, basically, they’ve inherited it, and they don’t know what to do with it. Sometimes they don’t even know they own it,” he said.

Eder said Swaim’s basic MO is to get the last surviving member of some 50-year-old defunct Florida corporation

to sign a quitclaim deed to submerged property and then create an LLC around that piece of property.

“That’s his business model,” Eder said.

In Ocean Ridge, Swaim said it was discovered after he purchased the property that the state of Florida had leased it to the homeowners’ association at Wellington Arms to build docks. He sued the state and won a victory when a court ruled in 2019 that the Spanish Creek lagoon that runs along McCormick Mile was man-made and could be developed — but he later lost the war with Hafele’s decision on intent.

Private or public?

Open water is considered “sovereign land” belonging to the state of Florida, according to the state statutes. Property owners have “riparian rights” to use the water in a “reasonable” manner for swimming, boating, drinking, and allowing cattle to quench their thirst. Such water must have been navigable at the time of Florida’s statehood in 1845 or developed that way naturally.

Artificial bodies of water, however, may be privately owned and landowners do not have riparian rights.

Swaim appeared at the Ocean Ridge Town Commission meeting in May to speak during public comments with “some concerns” regarding the town’s proposed sea wall ordinance.

“The Intracoastal is a privately owned piece of property with an easement for the Army Corps of Engineers to operate a canal line for navigational purposes,” he said.

Swaim comes across as an Encyclopedia Britannica on the Intracoastal. He said the Florida East Coast Canal Company operated as a tollway until Henry Flagler’s railroad put it out of business. The Army Corps really only has an easement to operate in a 125-foot navigational center channel, he said.

“That’s it. So the underlying owners can do whatever they want to do with their property,” he said. “Sell easements, sell density rights, sell dockage rights, whatever, as long as they don’t obstruct the navigation of the Intracoastal,” Swaim explained.

Competing accusations

Regarding the 4-acre Boca Raton parcel, a special magistrate for the city in May found Boca Raton had acted inappropriately in stopping Swaim from developing the property at 3000 NE Eighth Ave. But the City Council rejected the recommendation.

Kane, Globenet’s attorney, said Swaim targets neighboring property owners and companies illegitimately.

“These are not bona fide property disputes; they constitute a deliberate scheme to devalue the assets of the affected parties and extract exorbitant payments through the threat of prolonged litigation,” he said.

Swaim says his current legal predicament, with him facing a misdemeanor criminal contempt, is the result of a personal vendetta by Kane to put him behind bars.

“I would look up civil conspiracy to arrest and intimidate, and it’s exactly what Greenberg and Bobby Kane and the rest of the attorneys for Globenet are doing,” he said

Kane, though, said his motivation is simple:

“The court’s rulings have squarely rejected Swaim’s attempts to take sovereign lands that belong to our children and future generations of Floridians,” he said. “Our work strengthens the constitutional framework of Florida’s Public Trust Doctrine, ensuring the protection of the state’s waterways for decades to come.” ★



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100 YEARS

Continued from page 1

100th anniversary on Oct. 14 with a formal proclamation, calling the church “a cornerstone institution” and “a beacon of compassion, generosity, and service.” The proclamation commended the church “for its enduring legacy of service, faith, and leadership in our community.”

The people are the church

First Presbyterian currently has 864 members. Some are new, but others, like the church, have a history.

Elder Jen Buce’s great-grandparents attended First Presbyterian when they wintered here, and her grandmother Margaret “Peg” Bowen was a deacon, an elder and a member for more than 50 years. Buce’s mother was a deacon, too.

“I am very proud at the fact that I have followed in my grandmother’s footsteps. Being an elder has given me a bigger outlook of what it is to be a Presbyterian,” Buce said. “I think it’s to be a part of a community that still has good in their heart. Our intention as a congregation is to help the community, whether that is here just in Delray Beach, whether it is in Jamaica, whether it’s in Virginia, wherever we can be of help. That is what is important to me.”

The church’s role in supporting local charities is a source of great pride. A variety of organizations that got their start in the church are now independent nonprofits serving the community. “My grandmother and grandfather were part of the founding members of the Achievement Center for Children & Families that started with like six kids in a classroom and is now over 700 children,” Buce said.

The church continues to support the poor through Adopt-A-Family, the hungry through CROS Ministries and the Caring Kitchen, and the sick through the Caridad Center.

“The church has definitely given me a purpose in life. Each year my faith has grown,” Buce said. “Walking into the church every Sunday, it’s the people that you’re surrounded by. They’re truly genuine.”

A church by the sea

The church sits on land that was previously part of a sour orange grove, south of what was once the Orange Grove Haulover — a location where boats were carried from one navigable place to another.

In the early 1900s, Atlantic Avenue became the main street in what was originally the town of Linton. The land to the west of the Intracoastal Waterway incorporated as the town of Delray in 1911, and the barrier island to the east incorporated as the town of Delray Beach in 1923. The two towns then united to become the city of Delray Beach in 1927.

It was in 1924 that a tract of land on Bronson Street just south of Atlantic became the site of a Baptist church — First Presbyterian’s future home. It would be the only church built on the barrier island south of Palm Beach until the construction of St. Lucy Catholic Church in Highland Beach in 1972.

The idea man behind the first church was F.J. Schrader, an architect, builder and financier. Inspired by a church in Florence, Italy, he built one in the Spanish Mission style — with twin campaniles, smooth stucco walls, arches, wide welcoming doors and dark woods.

It was named Gibson Memorial Baptist Church after its founding minister, the Rev. Samuel Gibson. By 1928, the Baptist congregation had grown to 135 members.

But the 1928 hurricane and the resulting real estate crash were crippling. The congregation couldn’t finish paying for the

RIGHT: Members of the congregation pose for a photo in the late 1920s in front of what was the main entrance to the church.

Photo provided

BELOW: On Sunday Nov. 16, 2025, hundreds of members of the congregation posed at what now is considered the back entrance to the church compound.

Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star



More on First Presbyterian

Pastors over the century: **Page 20**
Co-pastor steps down: **Page AT24**

church and gave it back to Schrader. Five weeks after the hurricane struck, the local Presbyterians rented the church for \$30 a month, later purchasing it for \$19,000.

The church went through minor changes over the years, but the real transformation to modern-day First Presbyterian came a half-century into its existence, when a new sanctuary was built on the west side of the original church. On Easter Sunday 1977, the first services were held in the new building on Gleason Street.

Built in the Mediterranean Revival style, the sanctuary’s design complemented the existing Spanish Mission style. The new church faced west with new steps leading up to a red-roofed portico entry, with twin doors set into a wall of colored glass. The old church sanctuary to the east was converted to Fellowship Hall, complete with kitchen facilities.

Repairs and renovations

Being a historic building so close to the ocean, Fellowship Hall took a beating from the hostile climate. By the late 1990s, it needed a heavy dose of TLC.

The congregation decided collectively to restore rather than tear down and rebuild. A \$2.5 million renovation drive in 1997 represented a monumental commitment to the original church.

The building had no foundation and was unstable, but the architects found a way to build the new framework needed to stabilize the structure inside the original walls. At the same time, the kitchen was updated, and improvements were made campus-wide, including to the adjoining Memorial Garden.

Fellowship Hall and the courtyard area were listed on the Register of Historic Places in Delray Beach in 1999 and the property as a State of Florida Historical Point of Interest in 2009.

In 2016, a new \$3.5 million capital campaign was launched to expand the sanctuary and renovate the Christian Education Building. The renamed Center for Christian Studies was dedicated in January 2017. Construction and maintenance projects continued, from repainting the entire campus to fixing drainage issues. Another campaign would add the circular drive porte cochere entrance, making the church more accessible.

This past January, the church launched its Renew & Rejoice capital campaign with a goal of \$4 million for repairs and

improvements. As of Nov. 10, more than \$3.5 million had been raised.

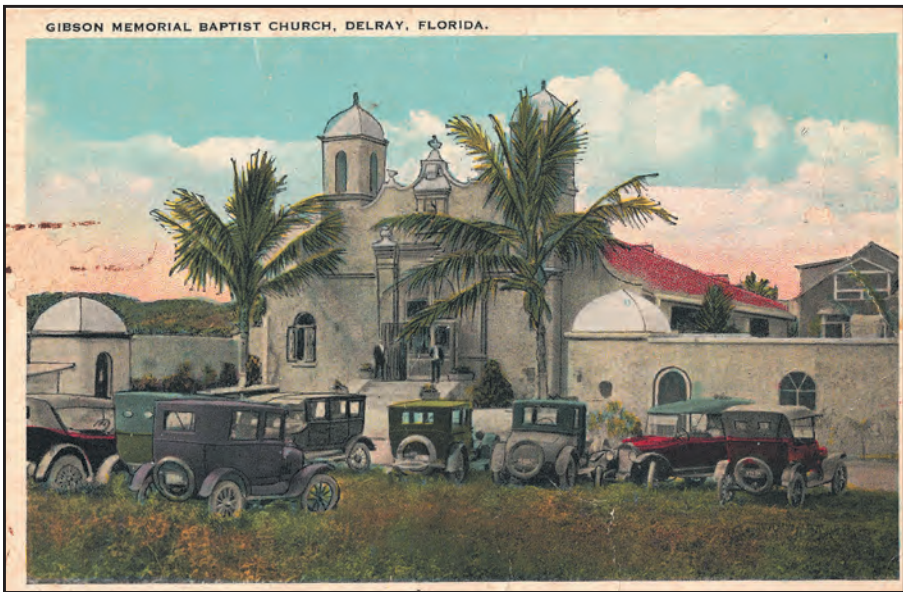
Beacons inside and out

In the sanctuary, a two-story colored glass cross made of tens of thousands of pieces of glass showers the altar with light. Each panel tells a Bible story depicting the theme “The Life of Jesus and the Journey of Faith.”

Buce says she feels close to her grandmother when she sees the light coming in. “Shortly after her death, I was sitting in the church and the way the sun hit the stained glass, there was a huge beam of light coming through. The first time I saw it, I had to get up and leave because it overwhelmed me, because I saw that as a sign of my grandmother. Now I look for her every Sunday,” she said.

Outdoors, it is the steeple that is the church’s most recognizable architectural element. Added in 1977 at 135 feet tall — topped by a 15-foot cross — it was visible for miles out to sea.

Weather took its toll on that steeple. After two hurricanes in 2004, and the continuing saltwater corrosion of its brackets, the steeple was replaced in 2005 — only to have city inspectors say it was 4 feet taller and not acceptable, according to Nancy Fine, the church’s business administrator.



ABOVE: A postcard from the era depicts the original 1924 church, Gibson Memorial Baptist Church, facing east. The Presbyterian church began renting the building in 1928 and later bought it. The building now serves as Fellowship Hall for First Presbyterian. Postcard provided by the Delray Beach Historical Society



Fine recounted that Reece Galyon, a part-time maintenance worker at the church, “went in front of the City Commission, and he argued that the cross needed to be 4 feet higher because it is a guide for the Coast Guard and for people — who may be having trouble on the ocean — as a landmark to help guide rescuers to their position.”

Galyon told the commission that the higher the cross, the farther away it could be seen, Fine said. “And based on that argument, they approved us,” she said.

Elder Bill Bathurst says he’s seen the steeple while on the ocean and has taken comfort in it.

“We were a little bit in trouble,” he said, “and I saw the church steeple, our church steeple. And I thought, well, if anything really bad happens, I know where I am.”

Local fishermen tell him they use the steeple to triangulate their favorite fishing spots, he says.

In a complement to the steeple, the church’s carillon system rings out to the larger community every day at noon and 6 p.m. And every Sunday, it rings 10 minutes before each service, calling congregants to church.

For many years, the church couldn’t afford a bell and the belfry was empty. But in 1948 bells were hung, and they rang until being taken down in 1988. In

2000 the remaining bell, which had been engraved with the names of the church leaders, was installed in the courtyard. It has been rung ever since on Sundays in remembrance of deceased congregants.

An active congregation

As a preservationist who grew up in Delray Beach and is a former city commissioner, Bathurst has an appreciation for First Presbyterian Church that began long before he was a member.

But, as a member, he praises the music and says “most people come for the worship and the fellowship. I’ve been very involved in some churches that have very modern services, and I think they’re great.” Still, he appreciates First Presbyterian’s more traditional style.

The secret sauce to any church is that “you have to get involved,” Bathurst added, and the church has many ministries. He’s part of the Renew & Rejoice committee working on the latest renovations, but he praises all the ministries, especially the Holly House ladies.

Holly House paid to fix the church steeple, the organ and sound system, the carillon electronic bell system, and it built its own building.

“I think Holly House is one of the most amazing things on the planet,” he said. “These ladies who make crafts and then sell

them and that supports the church and it’s amazing the amount of money they raise.”

The success of Holly House and the other ministries is due to the commitment of parishioners to the church, Buce says. “Families continue to bring their children. I think that’s one reason why we have been as strong as we’ve been for 100 years.”

James Blood, 72, a nonactive elder, was one of those kids. He attended church in his mother’s belly, and he’s been a member since he was 12. His father, Norman Blood, in 1949 founded Blood’s Hammock Grove, a city landmark and popular citrus shop for more than a half century at Linton Boulevard and Old Germantown Road. Norman Blood was the superintendent of Sunday school at the church and his name is one of those on the bell in the courtyard.

James Blood remembers the original church before air conditioning. “It would get a little warm in there, but we had those little cardboard fans. And the church was designed so you could open the front doors and side doors and get a breeze.”

Social change

Blood also remembers the social change that took place as Delray Beach faced racial strife. He was just a toddler when, in 1956, a cross was burned on the beach as a message. Blacks were banned from the beach and from the public pool. A federal

court ruled that blacks couldn’t be banned from the beach, which led black and white leaders to sit down together and work out a plan.

It would be 1970 before Delray Beach schools were integrated, and many divisions played out — not just in the city, but at First Presbyterian as well.

“When integration was going on, the church split and that was sort of a disruptive time, but the people that stayed, they wanted to open it up to everybody and that’s what they did. Some people didn’t agree with that,” Blood said.

His parents supported integration. “They thought anybody that wanted to come should come. It was pretty cut-and-dried for them. But some people felt strongly the other way, so they decided to take other options. I think that was probably a sort of a turning point for the church.”

Blood credits the influx of wealth and wisdom from winter residents with helping the church financially and with its modern thinking.

“As a child, I remember we had a lot of people come down from up north during the winter and they were a big part of the church. The locals were not as well off, and I think the winter residents were a big part of the financial success of the church.” ★

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Meet the pastors

Only nine pastors, all men, have served First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach in its 100-year history. The Rev. Theodore Bush served the longest, more than 26 years.

The nine are:

- **Rev. James H. McCormick:** Dec. 19, 1926, to Oct. 2, 1927; there were 66 charter members when he arrived.
- **Dr. Frank N. Nelson:** Nov. 15, 1928, to Dec. 1, 1930
- **Rev. S. Willis McFadden:** Feb. 15, 1933, to Aug. 24, 1941; he began his pastorate with 91 members.
- **Dr. James G. Robinson:** Oct. 18, 1942, to Jan. 21, 1957
- **Rev. Robert G. Morey:** Nov. 17, 1957, to Nov. 30, 1967
- **Dr. Seth Morrow:** Oct. 16, 1969, to June 30, 1983; he oversaw the building of the new sanctuary and of the original sanctuary's becoming Fellowship Hall.
- **Dr. Theodore A. Bush:** March 25, 1984, to Jan. 1, 2011
- **Dr. W. Douglas Hood:** June 15, 2012, to present; church has 864 current members
- **Dr. Greg Rapier:** Co-pastor Sept. 8, 2024, to Oct. 19, 2025

McCormick

Nelson

McFadden

Robinson

Morey

Morrow

Bush

Hood

Rapier

Source: First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach

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Gulf Stream

Six candidates to compete for five commission seats

By Steve Plunkett

Gulf Stream voters will choose next March among the five incumbents on the Town Commission and a political but not unknown newcomer.

Michael Glennon, who has taken an active role as a resident in commission discussions the past three years and now sits on the appointed Architectural Review and Planning Board, filed his qualifying papers to campaign, as did office holders Scott Morgan, Tom Stanley, Robert Canfield, Michael Greene and Joan Orthwein.

The top five vote-getters March 10 will take seats on the dais after the election. It is the first contested commission race in Gulf Stream since 2017.

Glennon, as the parent of a Gulf Stream School student and a resident in the Core District, spoke at the Town Commission's January 2023 meeting supporting the school's request to raise the limit on the number of children who could attend. In January 2024 he again backed the school in its purchase of a pre-K campus in Delray Beach.

He was appointed to the town's ad hoc committee exploring ways to avoid massing in new home design in March 2024, became an alternate member of the ARPB in April 2025 and was elevated to full board member the next month. This will be the first

appearance on a ballot for Canfield and Greene. Canfield, who has lived in Place Au Soleil for 10 years, was appointed to the Town Commission in January 2024 after time on the ARPB. Greene similarly was appointed to the commission

in February 2024 and served on the architectural board. He lives on the west side of North Ocean Boulevard. Morgan, currently the mayor, first took a seat on the dais following the 2014 election after being the ARPB chairman. Stanley, the vice mayor, was

appointed to the commission in 2012 after an ARPB stint. Orthwein celebrated her 30th year as a commissioner this year. She too spent time on the ARPB. After the election, the new commission will name the mayor and vice mayor. ★



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Boca Raton

Some ethics complaints against former mayor are dropped

Criminal charges against former Boca Raton Mayor Susan Haynie were resolved by a plea deal nearly five years ago, but related ethics charges have remained open.

Now, the state Commission on Ethics has dismissed three of the most serious of those charges, but did not do so based on their merit.

Rather, commissioners had to dismiss them because of a new state law that took effect this year. It says that complaints filed against an official must be based on personal knowledge rather than hearsay.

Parts of the complaint against Haynie by Al Zucaro, publisher of the now-defunct BocaWatch blog, were based on news reports and not on his personal knowledge.

As a result, three of eight charges had to be dropped, according to ethics officials. Ethics commissioners unanimously did so at their Nov. 14 meeting without commenting.

Eliminated are charges that Haynie violated state law by concealing a business relationship with commercial property owners James and Marta Batmasian, and by voting on matters that financially benefited herself or the Batmasians.

The remaining charges accuse Haynie of filing inaccurate financial disclosure statements in 2012 through 2016. Those statements also concealed the relationship and her votes.

Haynie faces a reprimand and fines of up to \$20,000 per violation, although she and the commission could reach an agreement on the penalty.

The ethics commission still must act on these charges, but has not set a date for doing so.



In the criminal case, Haynie pleaded guilty on April 1, 2021, to two misdemeanor counts of misuse of public office and failure to disclose voting conflicts. She was placed on probation for 12 months.

By happenstance, one of the ethics commissioners who voted at the November meeting is former Boca Raton Deputy Mayor Jeremy Rodgers, who resigned from the council in 2020 and now is a field chief technology officer for Armis, a cybersecurity company headquartered in San Francisco.

Rodgers, who was appointed to the commission in June by Gov. Ron DeSantis, told commissioners that the agency's general counsel had determined that he had no conflict of interest and could vote.

— Mary Hladky

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Lantana

Residents put forth ideas for makeover of town branding

By Patrick Sherry

Lantana’s traditional seagull and sailboat logo, which can be seen throughout the town, might be changing.

The town is considering an entire rebrand with the help of a local marketing agency, which would create a new identity for Lantana through redesigning longtime logos and visual images.

Representatives from 2TON, a creative and marketing agency in West Palm Beach, presented their plans to create that identity to the community at a Town Hall meeting on Nov. 3.

Back in April, the Town Council supported plans to rebrand the town. Subsequently, a rebranding committee was formed. The committee selected 2TON, which is getting \$18,000 to head the project.

At the Town Hall meeting, Ryan Boylston, founder of 2TON and a former Delray Beach city commissioner, emphasized that his company’s



Lantana has a variety of images in use as logos, including (l-r) the municipal seal, the centennial municipal seal, the library logo and the Police Department patch. **Images provided**

mission is to establish uniformity and cohesiveness. He explained how Lantana’s current branding is not consistent, which could hurt the view people have of the town.

“It’s not just a logo, your brand is your identity,” Boylston said. “We’ve seen cities over the years that haven’t done a really good job of communicating what their brand is, and then the world decides to brand their city for them.”

Lantana currently uses its municipal seal as its main logo, which has a seagull and a sailboat in the water. Some departments and town buildings use variations of the seal with different colors and fonts, or

incorporate other visual elements.

During the presentation, Boylston showed examples of those inconsistencies and how they show up in other areas, such as town signage.

To fix this, 2TON would create a logo family and brand guidelines that would direct town officials on what colors, fonts and logos they should use to maintain consistency across the board.

The company would also create a unique town tagline — a short, memorable phrase or motto to help reinforce the town’s new brand identity.

To ensure 2TON had the community’s interests in mind,

residents had the opportunity to give their feedback on what they think the redesigns should include. Attendees participated in a brainstorming session to decide what best represents the town.

They came up with words and elements that are central to Lantana’s identity — “coastal,” “peaceful,” and “laid back” were some of the most common.

Not only that, those at the meeting also voted on options for potential taglines that 2TON created. The top choices included “Old Florida, Today” and “Relax, you’re in Lantana.”

Other feedback was given about what 2TON should look into as potential logo design elements. Some residents supported incorporating Lantana flowers and maintaining some aspects of the town seal.

Boylston explained that his team will use this feedback to create an identity that aligns with the town’s vision, so that it’s also one that can always be

used in the future.

“I want to make sure that my team has all the input necessary to put together the best brand possible” for the town and the residents of Lantana, Boylston said.

To gain more comments from residents, officials posted a community survey on the town’s website, www.lantana.org.

The survey asks similar questions, such as words that best describe Lantana, what visual elements best represent the town, and what should be reflected in the logo. Residents can also upload their own ideas or sketches for a logo concept.

The survey closes on Dec. 11.

After the project is completed, the final rebrand will need to be approved by the Town Council.

From there, 2TON expects there would be a 12- to 24-month rollout period to implement the changes. ★

Hypoluxo Island home gets variance to erect security wall

By Patrick Sherry

Owners of a nearly \$8 million Hypoluxo Island property next to the Ocean Avenue bridge will be building a security wall taller than typically allowed, one that they say will protect their family.

The Lantana Town Council approved a variance for the wall — at 101 N. Atlantic Drive — that will reach 11 feet high as the property slopes down to the Intracoastal Waterway. The town’s Planning Commission recommended approval of the

application last month after hearing the owners’ concerns about people trespassing on their property by going under or through the side of the bridge.

Ana Davie, owner of the property since 2017, told the council that she and her husband consider the house their forever home, but they want more security.

“In those seven years, we’ve had to call the Police Department a couple of times, we’ve had items stolen off our dock, and I’ve had people walking on the dock,” she said.

A neighbor came to the Nov.

10 council meeting to support the application.

“I feel this is a great way for the Davie family to be able to protect and have greater security for their family there,” Michelle Donahue said.

However, there was opposition, with another neighbor telling the council she opposes the wall because she doesn’t want the owners to raise the ground level, which would increase the wall height.

“An impression will be created that we live in a walled-in compound and, at worst, attract the attention of

burglars,” said neighbor Ilona Balfour. “We know that houses being built now need to abide by new rules, elevation, and so forth. That doesn’t mean that the whole lot should become a mountain.”

Town ordinances allow a maximum height of six feet for walls. While this application requested a variance of 11 feet, in reality, that portion will be level with the 6-foot-high portion of the wall. It only becomes longer as the ground level falls to its lowest point, near the sea wall.

Elmar Benavente, principal

designer for Be Design and the architect working on the project, added that workers won’t raise any part of the property’s ground level and will add landscaping.

The wall “will not go higher, but maintain those six feet all the way to the property line,” said Benavente. “They have agreed to landscape — they have agreed to maintain the trees and to keep it beautiful, so it doesn’t [detract] from anyone’s view.”

Staff recommended approval, citing safety concerns. The council subsequently passed a motion to approve it 5-0. ★

Incumbents keep jobs without a vote

Lantana Town Council incumbents Mark Zeitler and Chris Castle secured new three-year terms on Nov. 21 after being the only candidates to qualify for what was to be next year’s municipal election.

Zeitler and Castle both successfully filed to retain their respective seats, which will last until March 2029. With no contested seat, the town won’t hold an election previously scheduled for March 10.

Jacqueline “Jackie” Morel originally filed to run for Zeitler’s seat, but town ordinances require candidates to submit nominating petitions to be placed on the ballot, equal to

1% of the total voter registration in the town. Morel didn’t get enough petitions to qualify.

Voters first elected Zeitler in 2020. Zeitler, who has been a Lantana resident for more than 60 years and is a former air conditioner contractor, will now serve his third consecutive term on the Town Council.

Castle has been on the council since 2023 and is currently the town’s vice mayor pro tem. He is also a member of the Greater Lantana Chamber of Commerce and a technician for the city of Boynton Beach.

— Patrick Sherry

Town manager’s contract renewed, with pay boost

Lantana’s town manager will be sitting on the council dais for another five years.

The Town Council approved renewing Brian Raducci’s contract 5-0 at its Nov. 10 meeting.

Raducci, who has 25 years of local government managerial experience, has been serving as the town’s manager since 2021.

The council also approved giving Raducci a 5% salary increase that will be applied retroactively to his fourth year anniversary, which was in October.

This now brings his total salary from \$239,272.80 to \$251,236.96 annually. The renewed contract will begin next year and run until 2031.

Council members praised Raducci for his service to Lantana and for thinking outside of the box. They mentioned his efforts to improve the council’s operations through hiring both a lobbyist

and a grant writer, finding ways to save money, and figuring out how to allow the town clerk — who lives in a different state — to work remotely.

“Dealing with Brian has been pretty smooth sailing,” said Council member Jesse Rivero. “He’s very transparent; he’s a straight shooter, like I am.... He’s very responsible, and I had a good time with him.”

Raducci thanked the council members and said he is excited about continuing to work with them.

“You’ve allowed me to take some of these opportunities — some of these challenges — and try some non-conventional things,” Raducci said. “We have a lot more to do. ... I think we’ve made great strides, and I’m looking forward to working with each and every one of you and continuing that effort.”

— Patrick Sherry



Raducci



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Highland Beach

Town asks state for money to raise flood-prone sidewalk

By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach is hoping the Florida Legislature will send \$750,000 its way, with a lot of the money going to fix a problem it says the state created during its State Road A1A construction project.

In November, the town submitted a request for the funds to the legislature, hoping to use \$300,000 to install embedded lights in the eight crosswalks on A1A — with the rest of the money going to resurface and raise the town’s 3-mile sidewalk.

The A1A project started almost a year and a half ago and is months behind schedule. But with the completion near, Town Manager Marshall Labadie says water sometimes floods the sidewalk because the surface of the highway has been raised too high, creating a safety problem.

Pedestrians are forced to walk on the shoulder to the traffic lane or the edge of the roadway, an area that is used by bicyclists and motorists.

“It’s a confluence of different kinds of users on a roadway that isn’t built for that,” he said.

In addition, Labadie said there are sections of the sidewalk that Florida Department of Transportation contractors improved but other sections that were not touched. “The town may replace the



ALSO IN THE WORKS: Highland Beach is seeking state funds to install embedded lights on its A1A crosswalks, like this one in Deerfield Beach. The lights activate when a pedestrian pushes a button before crossing. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

whole sidewalk and move it up to standards,” he said.

The town manager said raising the sidewalk would keep water coming off the road in the swales.

“The goal is to reduce flooding on the walking path during smaller and more frequent rain events,” he said.

At least one town commissioner said raising the sidewalk may not be enough.

Commissioner Jason Chudnofsky said he supports the town’s request for the

allocation but is not sure swales will be able to handle water from heavy rains coming off the raised road and the raised sidewalk at the same time.

“I would like to have an engineer come and tell me how this is going to solve the problem,” he said.

Chudnofsky believes if the swales are full, residents will be forced to walk in the shared portion of the road or in the water if bicyclists are using the 5-foot-wide bike lane.

“There’s something wrong

with that,” he said.

Labadie said the town will be matching the \$450,000 to address the sidewalk issue if state funding comes through.

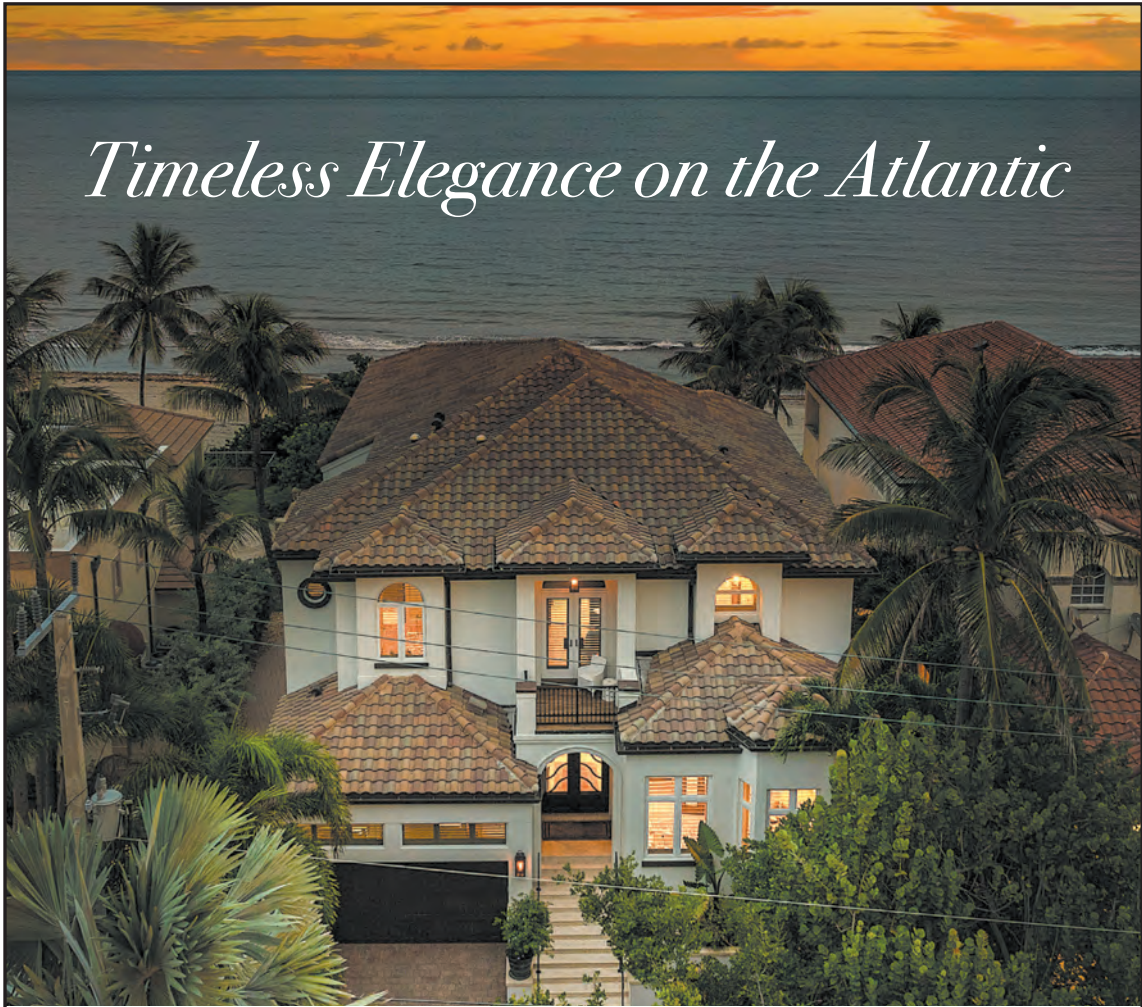
The town manager said he hopes the town will be able to add embedded lighting to the town’s eight pedestrian crosswalks if the appropriation is approved. If the state doesn’t approve the funding, the town could consider funding the project on its own.

The town has already installed pedestrian-activated flashing signs at the crosswalks with lights that shine on the

crosswalks. The embedded lights, also pedestrian activated, would add one more alert to motorists that a pedestrian is using the crosswalk.

Labadie said the town would wait until the A1A construction project is finished before installing the lights.

FDOT officials say the project is scheduled to be completed sometime in December, a number of months later than the original target completion date of this past summer. ★



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State inspectors again find no flaws in town police

By Rich Pollack

The Highland Beach Police Department recently reached a major milestone, having achieved a “flawless inspection report” from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation for the second consecutive time.

Highland Beach Police Chief Craig Hartmann said that three inspectors from the commission, which provides accreditation status to police departments throughout the state, found that the department scored perfectly on a detailed set of standards and regulations during the recent inspection.

The chief says accreditation is a coveted recognition of a department’s overall excellence, competence and professionalism.

“The residents and employees of Highland Beach can take pride in knowing that their agency represents the best in law enforcement,” he said.

Hartmann said the inspectors spent three days in town reviewing the department’s policies and procedures and checking to make sure they are followed. The team also reviewed the department’s

training process and spent time interviewing members of the department as well as some residents.

“This is our barometer to show how we’re doing,” the chief said.

The commission, which recertifies departments every three years once they become accredited, found the Highland Beach agency to have a flawless inspection in 2022 as well as this year.

The department first became accredited in 2016 and was also recertified, but not as flawless, in 2019.

The Highland Beach police’s success in achieving flawless inspections, the chief said, is due in large part to the efforts of training and accreditation manager Eric Aronowitz, who oversees the process.

Hartmann said he was especially pleased to hear the inspectors share his staff’s views about the culture in the department.

“They made it a point to comment on how impressed they were with the culture they felt exists in the department and the level of commitment they saw,” he said. ★



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Boca Raton

Bowl game makes the bean's list at FAU

By Larry Barszewski

It looks like South County's contribution to this year's college bowl season — Bush's Boca Raton Bowl of Beans — is going to be a gas.

And that's not a crock. It's a bowl. A bowl of beans. The game, to be broadcast on ESPN, takes place at 2 p.m. Dec. 23. Tickets go on sale Dec. 7. The Boca Raton Bowl's name legacy started with first

sponsor Marmot (outdoor clothing and sporting goods), got a jolt with Cheribundi (tart cherry beverages), then landed on the "who could think of a better" promotion — South Florida's susceptibility to hurricane disasters — with the RoofClaim.com Boca Raton Bowl.

Now it's Bush's Beans to the rescue, announced Nov. 20 as the bowl's latest sponsor.

The company is "on a mission to turn the stadium into the biggest bowl of beans the world has seen," said Stephen Palacios, Bush's senior vice president of marketing.

Because, it seems, when life is a bowl of beans, there's no fear of winding up in the pits.

Holding the Bowl of Beans game at Florida Atlantic University's Flagler Credit Union Stadium could prove providential — as the bowl can put the credit union's bean counters to good use.

However, despite Bush's Beans' best efforts to brand the event to its taste, it'll probably end up being just the Bean Bowl to most viewers.

Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer, like so many who tune into the NFL Super Bowl each year, seems to be more interested in the commercials that will air during Bush's Boca



The Boca Raton Bowl spilled the beans about its new sponsor in November. It's Bush's Beans. Photo provided

Raton Bowl of Beans than in the game itself.

The city's partnership with the bowl "highlights our attractiveness to businesses and job creators through targeted ads airing during the game," wrote Singer in an email to *The Coastal Star*. Even before the Bean Bowl got its name, the mayor was out touting Boca Raton as a great escape to New York City businesses concerned about that city's election of a democratic socialist, Zohran Mamdani, as mayor.

The benefits of the city's partnership with the bowl game continue to increase even as sponsors have changed, Singer wrote, and Bush's "provides new creative marketing opportunities for additional exposure."

Boca Raton: The city that's full of beans.

That just leaves the bowl teams, which are expected to be announced Dec. 7.

The expectations have varied greatly. CBS Sports was recently projecting a matchup between Florida International and Louisiana-Lafayette, while Coastal Carolina, South Florida and Southern Mississippi were among other names bandied about as potential contenders.

Maybe bowl-eligible Duke University would be a better choice, supported by Bush's Beans' own longtime mascot, Duke (a dog and a good boy). Duke's Blue Devils could then fight it out with the University of Alabama, another bowl-eligible team, with Bush's Best Red Beans pureed to create a Crimson Tide chip dip.

All in all, the Bush's Beans sponsorship has the ingredients to be long running. With all the bean-eating bravado that will be taking place, it's easy to see that one bowl will surely lead to another. ★

For more information, go to BocaRatonBowl.com.



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Boca Raton

Mizner Park mural unveiled as centennial celebrations wind down

As part of the city’s centennial celebrations, a new mural created by artist Brian Butler is now displayed on the Mizner Park Amphitheater stage doors.

Officials unveiled the “Ode to Boca” mural on Nov. 25 during a ceremony hosted by the city’s Public Art Boca program in collaboration with the O, Miami poetry organization.

The mural showcases key city features, including Addison Mizner architecture, the Intracoastal Waterway, a sunbather on a beach, a sea turtle and a ship.

Attendees met Butler, who is based in Miami, and saw poetry created by city residents in honor of the centennial.

Residents were encouraged to write five-line poetic tributes

to the city, with the number of words in each line based on residents’ ZIP code numbers.

Words and phrases from the poems will be projected onto the stage doors after sunset.

The event was one of the last that will celebrate this year’s centennial. On Dec. 6, the city will debut new public art at Wildflower Park and bring back the Mi Casa, Your Casa swings that drew many residents to the Intracoastal park downtown earlier this year.

The new amphitheater mural replaces one that was first displayed on the 30-by-60-foot stage doors in 2021. That mural, titled “On Stage,” featured a musician and a dancer and was created by West Palm Beach artist Eduardo Mendieta.

— Mary Hladky



Visitors admire the new mural by artist Brian Butler and read the words and phrases that can be projected onto the Count de Hoernle Amphitheater at Mizner Park. Photo provided

Revised second phase of Camino Square gets OK

The Boca Raton City Council unanimously approved Camino Square’s second phase after the project’s builders agreed to include more retail and less residential.

The Nov. 17 vote of the council, sitting as Community Redevelopment Agency commissioners, came one month after they put the project on ice until landowner Kimco Corp. and FCI Residential Corp. revised plans.

The changes they made were small but enough to secure the council’s blessing on grounds that they would bring more people to the site and enliven it.

The number of residential units dropped from 394 to 374 and the amount of retail increased from 8,632 square feet to 23,368 square feet.

The project also would include a bigger interior courtyard and pocket park fronting Camino Real.

Project attorney Ele Zachariades said she hopes the builders will be able to lease some of the space to a restaurant that would have outdoor dining.

The previous month she told council members that, despite years of trying, the builders were unable to attract retail because a gas station blocks the view of the property from the street so people won’t know retail is there.

The vote came six years after the

council approved the first phase of the project at 171 W. Camino Real. It included two eight-story apartment buildings with 350 units that are now almost fully leased.

At the time, the second phase, located on the western side of the 9.1-acre tract, was to focus on retail. Since then, the plan was changed to add two more eight-story apartment buildings and a parking garage.

— Mary Hladky



TIME FOR THREE

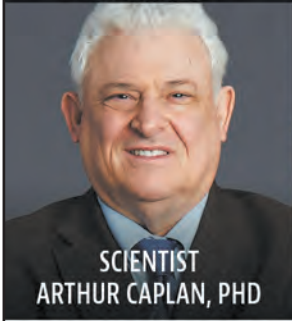
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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Patrick Lamb

While Patrick Lamb loves living in South Palm Beach, he's often somewhere else. He is a musician and vocalist, with two recent releases: *Mint Condition* and a remake of a Gino Vannelli hit, *I Just Wanna Stop*, which recently made No. 6 in the UK Soul Charts. He has a record label, Patrick Lamb Productions, and he owns Palm Beach Sound Co.

"Ever since I was 19, I've toured all year long," he said, estimating that he's on the road about 100 days a year. "I've toured with Diane Schuur, Bobby Caldwell as part of his band, and as part of Gino Vannelli's band the last 18 years.

"Recently I've moved on from that, and I'm focused on my solo career" and namesake band.

Lamb has produced 250 concerts over the years. Entertainers he's booked include Schuur, Sheila E., and Arturo Sandoval. "I've produced events for the Oxford Hotel, Bend, Oregon, for 14 years and I just did sound for John Lloyd Young, head of the Jersey Boys," he added.

He's a busy guy. On the day *The Coastal Star* interviewed him, he had just returned from Los Angeles, working with *American Idol*'s Randy Jackson on several songs.

Music has held an important place in his life from early on, Lamb said. "I moved 12 times by the time I was 14, and at one of the schools, they had a recorder, and I just took a liking to it."

Eventually, upon joining a school band, he was introduced to the saxophone.

Then his grandmother Marie Maxwell got into the act, so to speak, when she gave him a saxophone she found at a garage sale. "It was rusty, brassy and looked like it had washed up on the beach. It was in a really old case with a belt around it," Lamb said.

"It would only play three notes. I played that for the first 14 years of my touring. It never played quite in tune, and I thought it was me, until I got endorsed by Cannonball Instruments. It took me a long time to get really nice instruments."

Lamb moved from Portland, Oregon, to Florida with his wife, Joan, five years ago. Since then, he's been making local connections.

As part of that integration into the local community, he's bringing to Delray Beach his longtime Christmas show, "Patrick Lamb's A Charlie Brown Christmas Tour," inspired by Vince Guaraldi's score for *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, the 1965 animated television special that has become a Christmas staple.

"About 10 to 12 years ago, I was looking for a concept for a Christmas tour (with music that) everybody loves and that musicians love. I love Vince's music and that became the program I chose.



Patrick Lamb plays the saxophone on the beach near his home in South Palm Beach. He'll perform his longtime Christmas concert, which has a Charlie Brown theme, on Dec. 17 at Old School Square in Delray Beach. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

"Anybody who has seen that program remembers the little dances in *Charlie Brown*, and we invite people to come down and dance and we have sing-alongs."

Lamb likes it when people come together around music, and for this show, he said, "Kids are singing and their parents get into the spirit of the whole event. I am in the happiness business, and everybody is smiling and having fun. That's why I do this. I also do this for the awareness of the importance of arts and music in the schools.

"I am following part of my mission in my life and my legacy."

"Patrick Lamb's Charlie Brown Christmas Tour" will come to the Amphitheater at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., in view of Delray Beach's 100-foot Christmas tree, from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 17.

Lamb will be joined by his namesake band and the Young Singers of the Palm Beaches. A student band from the School of Rock will play a happy Christmas rock and roll set, and a student dance group from the Achievement Centers for Children & Families will perform.

For tickets, priced from \$27.37 general admission, go to events.delrayoldschoolsquare.com/event-details/charlie-brown-christmas.

— Christine Davis

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

A: I'm from the Mississippi Delta. My childhood was a bit of an odyssey — my parents were teachers, and by the time I was 14, we had moved 12 times through Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Texas. I went to first and second grade at Boyle Elementary in Boyle,

Mississippi, and later studied under Andy Hardwick before earning scholarships to several colleges.

Constantly moving made me shy and uncertain at first, but in hindsight, it taught me independence and resilience. I eventually found my grounding in music — performing with the International All-Star Band, winning soloist awards at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, and studying under Dave Barduhn at Mount Hood College, who arranged for Stan Kenton.

A call from Diane Schuur changed everything and launched my touring career. Since then, I've had the privilege of performing with artists like Bobby Caldwell, Smokey Robinson and Gino Vannelli — what I like to call "a saxophonist to the stars" kind of journey.

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

A: I've worked since my teens — everything from picking strawberries and cleaning roofs to parking cars and making pizzas. Every job taught me something about work ethic and humility.

Music has been my main profession since I was 16, but I've also always had an entrepreneurial streak. I founded a ticketing company that grew to over \$50 million in sales, and later launched Palm Beach Sound, which I brought down from Portland, Oregon, when I moved here.

Now we live by the ocean near Eau Palm Beach, and I can honestly say I'm doing what I love — performing, producing and building meaningful projects that bring people

together through music.

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

A: If you love music, get into a good music school and find mentors who challenge and inspire you. Always stay curious, humble, and hungry to improve.

A professional music career is not a halfway commitment. It's like the Olympics: the top 2% makes it, and that takes 200% dedication. If you must ask, "Should I do this professionally?" — the answer is probably no. Passion has to drive you, not convenience.

Q: How did you choose to make your home in South Palm Beach?

A: My wife, Joan, is from Florida and absolutely loves it here. When we first visited, we stayed at The Breakers and The Four Seasons to get a feel for the area — and we were hooked.

It took time to transition our businesses, but the community welcomed us with open arms. The teams at the Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority and Old School Square — especially Victoria DeSilvio and Laura Simon — have been incredible partners in connecting new community members and supporting the arts.

Q: What's your favorite part about living in South Palm Beach?

A: Waking up, having coffee and watching the surfers. It never gets old.

Q: What book are you reading now?

A: *The 50th Law: Overcoming Adversity Through Fearlessness*. It's a powerful reminder that fear is the only real

obstacle between us and our potential. (The book is by rapper 50 Cent with co-writer Robert Greene.)

Q: What music do you listen to for inspiration and relaxation?

A: For inspiration, I listen to Emmet Cohen, Christian McBride and other incredible new artists pushing jazz forward. For relaxation, I go back to the classics — albums like *Miles Smiles* that never lose authenticity.

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

A: "Argue for your limitations, and they're yours." I hear people talk about what they can't do, and I think, "Then you've already lost."

Another guiding truth for me is, "The only thing that matters is what's true." I'm not interested in red or blue — I just want what's real.

And one more: "God makes a way where there is no way." When I look at my life now, I could never have imagined where God was taking me. Honestly. He's been there for me the entire time — even when I didn't know it.

I was scheduled to climb Mount Hood in 1986 with my climbing team, but I twisted my ankle playing indoor soccer and couldn't go. That climb tragically took the lives of seven students and two faculty — all friends of mine.

I've also survived two dump truck accidents (yes, there's probably a joke in there somewhere), a broken back in three places, and the challenges of a broken family, alcoholism, disillusionment and depression.

It is only through the grace of God that I'm here today.

Q: Have you had mentors or individuals who have inspired your life decisions?

A: A few stand out — Andy Hardwick and Michael Barranco in Jackson, Mississippi. My grandmothers, Marie Maxwell and Laura Ethredge, gave me unconditional love and stability during all the moving around. My grandfather, Otto Maxwell, was a Marine-turned-plumber who earned respect through quiet strength and integrity.

And most of all, my wife, Joan. She's been the greatest influence — steady, grounded and full of light. Moving from Portland to Florida was one of the best decisions I ever made, personally and professionally.

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

A: Probably Joaquin Phoenix — he's unpredictable, complex and intense enough to capture my journey.

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ABOVE: Boca Raton City Council member Yvette Drucker and Mayor Scott Singer flip the switch to get the holiday season started. **RIGHT:** Santa Claus takes a short break from checking his list to sit down for a spell with the Murray family from Boca Raton. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**



Boca Raton

City wins appeal on home proposed for east of A1A

By Steve Plunkett

Federal appeals judges in Atlanta have handed Boca Raton an early holiday gift: The city will not have to pay more than \$1 million in legal fees to the owner of a vacant beachfront parcel who has spent years trying to secure a building permit.

At the same time, they have taken away the “right” to build on 2500 N. Ocean Blvd. that property owner Natural Lands LLC had won from U.S. District Judge Rodney Smith.

Smith had ruled in March 2024 that Natural Lands “has the right to build a single-family, detached dwelling” on the site “subject to satisfying the city’s CCCL variance criteria.”

But, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decided last month, “under our precedent, Natural Lands does not have a viable (federal) claim because it did not use the available and adequate State remedy to address its alleged injury.”

“Accordingly, the district court erred in granting relief on Natural Lands’s procedural due process claim. We reverse and remand to the district court with instructions to dismiss the claim,” the appeals court said Nov. 17.

Because the due process claim was not properly before the district court, that court “abused its discretion in awarding Natural Lands attorney’s fees and costs related to that claim. Thus, we reverse the district court’s fee award as well,” the ruling concluded.

The case began in 2011 when the landowner first applied for a building permit.

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

Natural Lands planned to build a 48-foot-tall, 8,666-square-foot single-family

home at the site and obtained a Notice to Proceed from the state Department of Environmental Protection in October 2016.

But the council on July 23, 2019, denied a variance to its Coastal Construction Control Line, which limits building east of State Road A1A.

Natural Lands filed its federal lawsuit in October 2019 alleging bias among City Council decision-makers, suggesting a potential procedural due process claim.

At the trial, Smith found that Mayor Scott Singer’s “bias was clear” and he would have to recuse himself from any future decisions on whether to give Natural Lands a CCCL variance.

Also ordered to recuse themselves were Council members Andrea O’Rourke and Monica Mayotte, who were similarly found to be unfairly biased. But both have been term-limited out of office, as Singer will be next March.

On appeal, the city argued that Smith erred in granting

judicial relief based on the procedural due process claim because an adequate state remedy, certiorari review of the council decision by the Palm Beach County Circuit Court, was available.

“We agree,” the federal appeals court said.

Its decision has not made its way to Smith’s calendar yet.

Lawyers for Natural Lands had filed documents with Smith seeking \$1,034,253.50 plus interest for attorney’s fees and \$28,841 in costs. The court denied the requests while the appeal was pending.

Natural Lands and the city met for a “planning advisory review” of its site plans on July 22. But the landowner has not applied for a building permit.

Meanwhile, in the wake of Smith’s ruling, the city

and Azure Development LLC paused two contentious lawsuits in August 2024 and the City Council two months later granted a CCCL variance for a home on the beachfront at nearby 2600 N. Ocean Blvd. Azure had already won rulings in state court saying council members’ previous decisions were biased.

Azure applied for a permit last April to build a four-story, single-family home approximately 38 feet tall with 6,931 square feet of enclosed space, down from the originally proposed nearly 49-foot height and 14,270 square feet. The city is reviewing the application.

As part of the deal, Azure agreed to pay its own attorney’s fees, estimated to be in the \$1 million range. ★

Commissioners sink proposals for surf park, golf facility

Boca Raton’s surfer dudes and dudettes will have to keep on looking for spots with good waves.

The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District voted 3-2 on Nov. 3 to reject a private firm’s proposal to build a surf park in North Park, which surrounds the Boca Teeca condominium complex north of Yamato Road.

“It’s a beautiful project. I just don’t think it’s the right location,” said Commissioner Bob Rollins, who surprised his colleagues by asking for the vote, because the item had

only been on the agenda for the board to receive an update.

Two weeks later, commissioners decided 5-0 to scrap other proposals — for a recreation and entertainment complex and for a golf-related facility — all on the west side of Northwest Second Avenue, and conduct a “new, statistically valid” community needs assessment in coordination with the city before reissuing a request for bids.

They left alone a proposal the Boys & Girls Club is working on to build a state-of-the-art facility there.

For the surf park, commissioners said Boca Teeca residents bombarded them with emails opposing Boca Surf Park LLC’s project and the noise and traffic it would bring.

The company said it would spend \$50 million building the surf park without district help if the project had been accepted. It would have paid the district at least \$600,000 a year in payments in return for a 49-year concession agreement with two 25-year renewals.

— Steve Plunkett

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Business Spotlight

Real estate duo has hand in Gulf Stream’s recent priciest sales

When it comes to knowing the Gulf Stream real estate market, Candace and Phil Friis are second to none.

The mother-son duo, agents with the Corcoran Group, have been involved in the top five residential transactions in the town over the past two years.

That includes the all-time top price for a home in Gulf Stream — the \$39 million, June 2024 sale of the oceanfront home at 3223 N. Ocean Blvd., where they represented both the buyer and seller.

“We’re a great team,” Candace Friis said, grateful that the youngest of her three children had the same interest in the real estate market.

“It’s the best ever,” she said of their working relationship. “He’s got my back all the time. And I’ve got his back.”

The two in October were part of the \$15.914 million sale of 8 Driftwood Landing, which was the fifth-highest sale in town during 2024 and 2025. Once again, they represented the buyer and the seller.

The other three top sales in the past two years:

- The second-highest purchase price was \$22 million for 3435 N. Ocean Blvd. in September, with the Friises representing the seller, Bon Property LLC. The home actually makes the recent top-priced list twice — in fourth place as well — with the team also having brokered its April 2024 sale for \$21 million.
- The \$21.625 million sale of 1443 N. Ocean Blvd., better known as the Lila Vanderbilt Webb estate, in September ranks third. The Friises represented the buyer, Commodore Gulfstream LLC, which purchased the house from the family of the late Robert Ganger.

What’s it like holding the town’s priciest sale?



Candace Friis and her son, Phil Friis, have been part of the five highest-priced home sales in Gulf Stream in 2024 and 2025, including a town-record \$39 million deal. Photo provided

“It is an honor to have represented the highest sale ever for Gulf Stream, surpassing our previous record representations and continuing to solidify this exclusive enclave as one of South Florida’s most coveted locations,” Candace Friis said.

The home itself did have something to do with it.

Phil Friis credited “the exceptional location, substantial size and breathtaking views of the property” for helping it bring top dollar.

Developer and former Manalapan Mayor Stewart Satter has rethought how to market his ocean-to-lake property in town at 1960 S. Ocean Blvd.

Last January, he listed it for \$285 million, as a proposed

new-construction mansion that buyers could customize.

Those plans were for a 54,570-total-square-foot estate with an eight-bedroom main house and guest house on the lakeside parcel, with a beach house on the ocean side. A tunnel under State Road A1A would connect the two parcels.

Satter is now also listing the property at \$75 million as a land offering to go with the plans he had drawn up last year.

Douglas Elliman listing agent Nick Malinosky confirmed: “Based on the feedback from last season from interested buyers about acquiring the land as well as the from the brokerage community, we are offering it both ways.”

Mark Pulte of homebuilder

Mark Timothy Inc. sold his newly built, 14,000-square-foot mansion at 701 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach, for \$59 million in October. The buyer was the 701 South Ocean Trust with BNY Mellon as trustee.

This beats the city record-setting sale this past July, a 12-bedroom, 19,055-square-foot residence at 2325 S. Ocean Blvd., which sold for \$51.12 million.

On more than an acre with 120 feet on the ocean, the six-bedroom estate at 701 S. Ocean was crafted by Mark Timothy Luxury Homes with interiors by Jeffrey Strasser. Pulte acquired the site in 2020 for \$11.05 million and completed the home in 2023.

It was listed by Pascal J. Liguori and Carmen N. D’Angelo of Premier Estate Properties. Pascal J. Liguori and Antonio G. Liguori of Premier Estate Properties represented the buyer.

Saily Perkins sold her Delray Beach oceanfront seven-bedroom, 9,761-square-foot mansion at 1171 S. Ocean Blvd., for \$29.625 million. Perkins is the widow of AshBritt Environmental founder Randy Perkins.

The new owner is Sunset Pine Trust, with attorney Elana Bronson as trustee. The home last traded for \$18 million in 2021.

Built on the 0.9-acre site in 1994, the home was recently renovated by builder Mouw Associates with interiors designed by Marc Michaels Interiors. Agents Nick Malinosky and Michael O’Connor of Douglas Elliman represented the seller in the deal, while the Matt Moser and Nick Gonzalez team at Serhant worked with the buyer.

Florida Atlantic University’s Arthur and Emalie Gutterman

Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education recently hosted its annual Educator Awards Dinner at the Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center. The dinner celebrated the work of K-12 teachers supported by the Gutterman center and honored the 2024 Gutterman Family Outstanding Holocaust Educators.

One of the honorees was from the Palm Beach County School District, Lisa Brown of Lake Worth High School.

American Heritage Schools announced “Niche” rankings for the Delray Beach campus, which rated No. 1 in four Palm Beach County categories: Best Private K-12, Best College Prep Private High Schools, Best High Schools for STEM, and Best Boarding High Schools.

Niche’s ranking factors include SAT/ACT scores, the quality of colleges students consider, and student-to-teacher ratio, among other criteria.

Florida Atlantic University’s College of Engineering and Computer Science received a \$1.5 million donation from the Aaron Family Foundation and technology company Ubicquia to create the Ubicquia Innovation Center for Intelligent Infrastructure.

The center will help design and utilize technologies, like industrial sensors and artificial intelligence, that aim to improve how utilities, cities and businesses manage their infrastructure through digital tools.

Rick Maharajh, CEO and founder of the Boynton Beach Chamber of Industry & Commerce, announced an effort to support the relief in Jamaica following Hurricane Melissa.

“The BBCIC has a proud member, Playa Paraiso Jamaica Bed and Breakfast, located in Hanover, Jamaica. I have personally been in touch with the owners and will continue to do so and to reassure them that they have our support,” Maharajh said.

“We have partnered with Car Accident Referral Services, a BBCIC member, along with Dutch Pot Jamaican Restaurant, to provide this joint relief effort. Please join us in supporting all our friends in Jamaica.”

They are looking for tarps, work gloves, generators, flashlights (including solar-powered flashlights), large trash bags, tents, canned/nonperishable foods, industrial sponges, water, first-aid kits, batteries, sleeping bags, new clothing and toiletries.

Boynton Beach resident Samantha Ramnarine, owner of Car Accident Referral Services, is heading up the collection efforts. To donate, call her at 954-249-5858 to make arrangements.



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The nonprofit **Institute for Regional Conservation** has launched a new initiative, “Reviving Urban Nature.” As part of this effort, the institute partnered with Boca Raton’s Office of Sustainability to restore scrub habitat at Gopher Tortoise Preserve in Boca Raton.

At two recent events, volunteers planted scrub species that included gopher apple, narrow-leaf silkgrass and large-flower false rosemary. These plants provide habitat for endangered gopher tortoises and other species that depend on Florida’s scrub ecosystem.

The preserve is not open to the public yet, so look for future announcements from the city of Boca Raton to see these planting areas.

Boynton Beach Vice Mayor **Woodrow Hay** was recently awarded an honorary lifetime membership to the Boynton Beach Chamber of Industry & Commerce. Hay was first elected to the City Commission representing District 2 in November 2007. He also served as mayor in 2012-2013 after being appointed to fill a vacancy in that office, and he has served on



the planning and development board for the last eight years.

Hay has been involved with community organizations that include the **Committed Citizens Concerned About Our Children**, the **Boynton Beach Housing Authority**, the **United Way Palm Beach County** and the **Jean Cobbs Sickle Cell Center** in Delray Beach.

Among **Michelin Key** distinctions, two area hotels won “keys” in 2025. **The Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach** won two keys and the **Tower at The Boca Raton** won one key.

The Michelin Key awards, introduced in 2024, recognize “the most outstanding hotels in our selection,” similar to how Michelin stars denote restaurants. The selection process involves anonymous inspections by Michelin Guide experts, who choose from a list of more than 5,000 properties. One key signifies a “very special stay with high comfort and great personality.” Two keys denote “an exceptional stay with premier service and design.”

Christine Davis writes business news and can be reached at cdavis9797@gmail.com.





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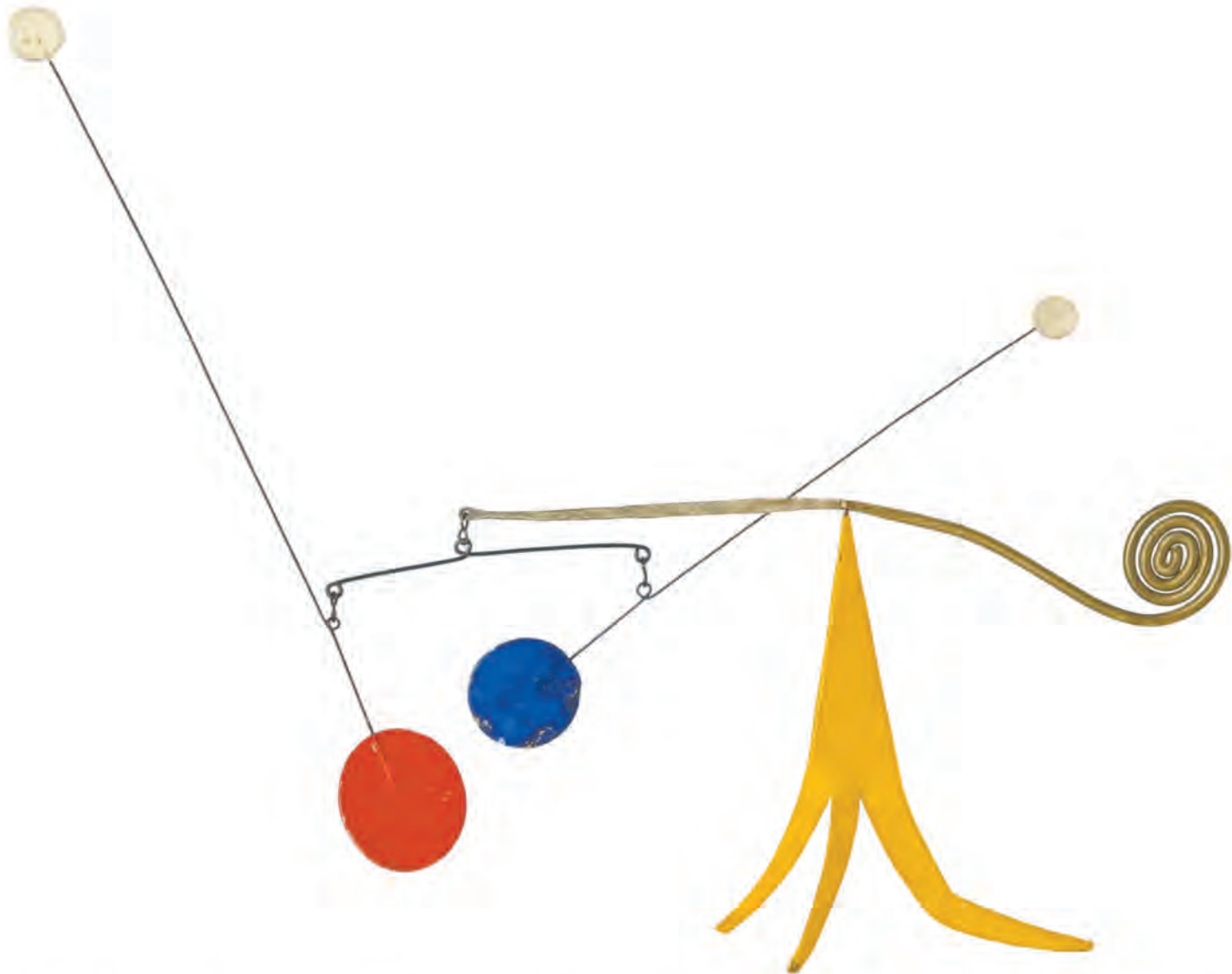
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December 2025

The Coastal  Star

Inside



Dining

It's not too late to book venues for parties. **Page AT6**



Paws Up for Pets

Why Chihuahuas are big with dog owners. **Page AT16**



On the Water

Tackle holiday shopping with gifts for anglers. **Page AT23**



Finding Faith

Music helps Boca Catholic church fill pews. **Page AT25**

Hometown Success



Crew Bold, celebrating after a parallel bars routine, was a Big Ten champion at the University of Michigan, giving him aspirations to compete in the 2028 Olympics. **Photos provided**



Crew Bold, 24, is strong on parallel bars and owns good results on the high bar and floor exercise as well.

Bold moves

Gymnast from Delray lands on U.S. team in journey that began at Twisters in Boca

By Rich Biebrich

A decade ago, then 14-year-old Crew Bold had already started his journey to becoming a world-class gymnast, a path that has taken him from Twisters Gymnastics in Boca Raton to the University of Minnesota, the University of Michigan, Germany's Bundesliga for gymnasts, and finally, back in the United States, to his earning a coveted spot on the national team in August.

On the horizon, if things go according to plan, the Twisters gym rat who grew up in Delray Beach will be in Los Angeles in 2028, competing as a member of the U.S. Olympic team.

Recently, he's had to slow down following surgery he had on his left ankle to clear out bone spurs that had been bothering him. For a time, he was hopping around on crutches with a pink plaster cast that covered his mending ankle. He said the pink was for Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, but admitted it also went surprisingly well with the deep blue Michigan T-shirt he was wearing.

"It's actually my third surgery on

See **BOLD** on page **AT22**



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Philanthropy Notes

Longtime director to retire from Boca Historical Society

As Boca Raton concludes its 100th anniversary year — a time of reflection, celebration and renewed civic pride — the Boca Raton Historical Society/The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum marked a milestone of its own.

Longtime Executive Director Mary Csar is retiring following more than a quarter-century of service, passing the torch to Olivia Hollaus, who will assume the role in early 2026.

“As the city reflects on its 100-year journey, this feels like the right moment for renewal both for Boca Raton and for the historical society,” Csar said. “It’s been my privilege to help preserve and share this community’s extraordinary history, and I’m deeply confident in Olivia’s ability to carry that mission forward with creativity and heart.”

Added Hollaus, “Mary has built an incredible foundation rooted in authenticity, connection and pride. As Boca looks ahead to its next century, I’m excited to continue that legacy, ensuring our museum not only preserves the past but inspires the future.”

In other news, the Boca Raton Historical Society/The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum released its list of the 2025 Walk of Recognition honorees. They are:

- Paul and Kathy Adkins
- Angelo Bianco
- Barbara Cambia
- Mary Csar
- Robin Deyo
- Summer Faerman
- Jerry Fedele
- Susan Gillis
- Dan Guin
- Michael Horswell
- Zoe Lanham
- Mark Larkin
- Troy McLellan
- Gary Peters
- George Petrocelli
- Jon Robertson
- Morris and Charlotte Robinson
- Carrie Rubin
- Michelle Rubin
- The Rev. Andrew Sherman
- Tim Snow
- Marie Speed
- Jane Tyree

In celebration of the city’s 100th anniversary, the 2025 class will be recognized on a centennial plaque. The plaque will join the Walk of Recognition installations in Mizner Plaza, home to the granite stars sponsored by Jim and Marta Batmasian.

For more information, call 561-395-6766 or visit bocahistory.org.

Arts Garage donations to be matched in December

Arts Garage in Delray Beach has launched its annual campaign with the goal of raising \$40,000 in support of its mission to make the arts accessible for all.



Olivia Hollaus (right) is replacing the retiring Mary Csar (left) as executive director of the Boca Raton Historical Society/The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum. Photo provided

Supporters Helen Rothlein and James White, along with philanthropist Anita Perlman, have combined to provide a total of \$20,000 in matching funds. Every contribution made prior to Dec. 31 will be matched dollar for dollar.

“At Arts Garage, we believe the arts are for everyone,” said President and CEO Marjorie Waldo, noting that the initiative — anchored by the theme “The Arts Matter!” — arrives at a pivotal time for arts and cultural organizations nationwide, many of which are facing shrinking private and public dollars. “Our community’s ongoing generosity allows us to continue presenting world-class performances, offering scholarships, supporting local artists and providing accessible arts education to all.”

For more information, call 561-450-6357 or visit artsgarage.org/2025-annual-campaign.

Achievement Centers hails \$365,000 grant

Achievement Centers for Children & Families has received a \$365,000 grant from the Carl Angus DeSantis Foundation in support of its nationally accredited Early Learning Program.

The investment represents a commitment to early childhood education and the well-being of underserved families in South County, and it will directly help sustain and strengthen the program’s 100-plus children ages 1 to 5.

“The Carl Angus DeSantis Foundation’s support lifts a tremendous burden from our organization, allowing Achievement Centers to continue delivering full-day, year-round care while expanding services that meet the evolving needs of our children and families,” CEO Stephanie Seibel said. “More

than just funding, this gift enables our staff to focus on program innovation and long-term sustainability with ripple effects across our after-school programs, teen initiatives and family support services. The DeSantis Foundation’s gift is more than financial: It is a vote of confidence in our mission and in the future of our community’s youngest learners.”

In other news, the Achievement Centers for Children & Families was the primary beneficiary of Havana Nights, an event created by KAST Construction, The Kolter Group and other sponsors.

It raised \$2.3 million for the Delray Beach nonprofit as well as 25 other area charities, all of which support children and families in need.

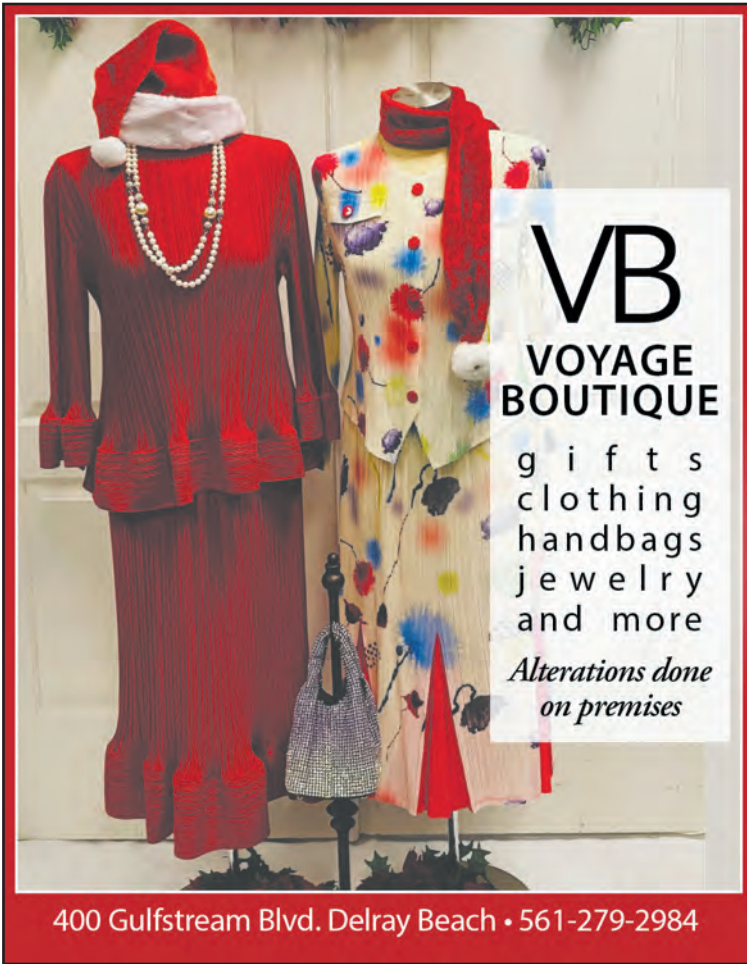
“Giving back to the communities where we live and build is one of the most meaningful parts of our work,” said Michael Neal, CEO of KAST Construction. “This year’s record-setting \$2.3 million raised will profoundly impact children and families across South Florida and highlights the deep generosity of our real-estate development and construction community.”

Added Seibel, “This event is the perfect example of what corporate philanthropy looks like. It shows the incredible impact that companies like The Kolter Group and KAST Construction can have when they bring their resources, leadership and vision to the community.”

For more information, call 561-266-0003 or visit achievementcentersfl.org.



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



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Philanthropy Calendar

Pay It Forward

Note: Events are current as of 11/30. Please check with organizers for any changes.

DECEMBER

Tuesday - 12/9 - Boys & Girls Club of Delray Beach's Cocktails for the Club at The St. Andrews Club, 4475 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Get ready for a wild night of giving back at the "Safari Soiree" featuring themed-signature libations, gourmet action stations, live entertainment and a silent auction. 6-9 pm. \$250. 561-676-5472 or bgcpbc.org.

Thursday - 12/11 - Lake Worth Beach Rotary Club's Glitter & Glow Gala at Benvenuto, 1730 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. Kick off the holiday season with an open bar (cash bar after the first hour) along with dinner and dancing as well as a silent auction to support the club's charitable activities. 6:30-10:30 pm. \$135. 561-316-3565 or lakeworthrotary.org.

JANUARY

Saturday - 1/10 - Rotary Club of Boca Raton's OPAL Awards at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. Celebrate Outstanding People And Leaders, support scholarship programs and recognize recipients Steven and Abby Bernstein, Michelle Hagerty, Van Williams, Brad and Haley Winstead and Myron Yudkin. 6 pm. \$400. 561-477-7180 or rotaryclubbocaraton.com.

Wednesday - 1/14 - Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County's Lion of Judah Luncheon at a location to be


provided upon registration. Join keynote speakers Mijal Bitton, a sociologist and spiritual leader, Alana Newhouse, editor-in-chief of *Tablet* magazine, and Michelle Rojas-Tal, director of strategy at Sixpoint Media, for "Strength in Sisterhood: The Timeless Power of Women's Leadership." 10:45 am registration, 11:30 am program and lunch. \$136 covert, plus a minimum gift of \$5,000 to the Annual Campaign. 561-852-5031 or jewishboca.org.

Monday - 1/19 - Spady Cultural Heritage Museum's Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch at Indian Spring Country Club, 11501 El Clair Ranch Road, Boynton Beach. Begin the new year by honoring the life and legacy of the historical figure and ringing in the 25th anniversary of the museum and the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Spady house. 10 am-noon. \$55. 561-279-8883 or spadmuseum.com.

Friday - 1/30 - Delray Beach Public Library's Laugh with the Library at Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Laugh out loud at this year's installment of an evening of comedy, featuring actor / comedian T.J. Miller. 7:30-11 pm. \$500. 561-266-0798 or delraylibrary.org.

Saturday - 1/31 - Boca Raton Regional Hospital's 63rd Annual Ball at The Boca Raton, 501 E. Camino Real. Do not miss out on one of the most-anticipated social events of the year with special entertainment by Sheryl Crow. 6-11 pm. Sponsorships start at \$5,000. 561-955-6634 or donate.brrh.com.

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Celebrations

Fall Kickoff Celebration

The Addison, Boca Raton — Oct. 14



Impact 100 Palm Beach County welcomed a record crowd to its 15th anniversary event that brought together members, community leaders and guests to celebrate women’s collective giving. Everyone enjoyed cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and an inspiring program highlighting the powerful work made possible by the nonprofit’s transformational \$100,000 grants. ‘This year’s kickoff was not just a celebration of our 15th anniversary — it was a celebration of what happens when women come together to make lasting change,’ President Janean Mileusnic said. ‘The energy in the room was a true reflection of the generosity and commitment that define our members.’ **ABOVE:** (l-r) Jeannine Morris, Molly Reiss, Lisa Sunshine and Lisa Mulhall. **Photo provided**

Charity bicycle ride

Delray Beach — Oct. 25



The Witches of Delray’s 14th annual event raised nearly \$60,000 for the Achievement Centers for Children & Families, a record. Three hundred women donned their best witch-wear and extravagantly decorated their bicycles as they cackled their way down Atlantic Avenue guided by police. Following the ride, prizes were awarded for best costume, best group theme and more. ‘This year’s witches ride was pure magic,’ said Stephanie Seibel, CEO of the Achievement Centers for Children & Families. ‘Even after 14 years, this event never ceases to amaze me.’ **ABOVE:** (l-r) Kelli Freeman, Catherine DuBois, Jeanne Ilvento, Bobbi Armstrong, Pat Schoaf and Leanna Marinello. **Photo provided by Achievement Centers for Children & Families**

Gift-gathering party

Palm Beach Design Masters, Palm Beach — Oct. 23

The Palm Beach Symphony collected a slew of items for the silent auction highlighting its upcoming Holly Jolly Symphony Fête. More than 50 guests brought donations that included musical instruments, fine jewelry, home décor, dining experiences, wine and spirits, luxury eyewear, paintings and other artwork, designer handbags and more. All the items will be elegantly displayed at the Dec. 8 event at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. **ABOVE:** Mary Lynn Rogers and Alexandra Cook. **Photo provided by CAPEHART**



Ballet premiere

The Boca Raton — Oct. 10



Ballet Palm Beach premiered ‘from SILENCE,’ a new contemporary piece that resonates not only as a performance but as a call to guests to remember the Hamas attacks on Israel. Choreographed by Gina Patterson, the show drew more than 200 guests and benefited MorseLife Health System’s Holocaust Learning Experience, a program that reaches 830,000 students. **TOP:** (l-r) Natalia Mayorga, Linda Melcer, Sharon Smolar, Charlotte Mandelblatt and Beverly Feurring. **ABOVE LEFT:** Barbara Promer and Carole Bakst. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Dorene Sedrish and Elaine Glottstein. **Photos provided by CAPEHART**

Woman Volunteer of the Year Reception

The Addison, Boca Raton — Oct. 16



The Junior League of Boca Raton’s Woman Volunteer of the Year Luncheon’s honorary chairwoman, Carrie Rubin, welcomed nominees to an evening of appetizers, cocktails and a buffet. It was a precursor to the Nov. 21 luncheon at The Boca Raton, where Jeannine Morris was crowned the winner. ‘We are so grateful to Carrie for hosting this elegant and fun evening,’ Junior League President Victoria Matthews said. ‘I know the nominees felt truly honored and very special.’ **TOP:** (l-r) Racheal Petullo, Kelly Fleming, Morris, Patty Jones, Noreen Payne and Namrata Israni. **MIDDLE:** (l-r) Helen Ballerano, Arlene Herson, Dawn Zook, Kimberley Trombly and Kirsten Stephenson. **BOTTOM:** (l-r) Zoe Lanham, Amy Kazma, Rubin, JoAnn Procacci and Matthews. **Photos provided by Coastal Click Photography**

Pay It Forward

Safari Soiree to benefit Boys & Girls Club of Delray Beach

By Amy Woods

Guests at the “Safari Soiree”-themed Cocktails for the Club event should get ready for a wild night of giving back to the Boys & Girls Club of Delray Beach.

The Dec. 9 fundraiser at the St. Andrews Club will feature signature animalistic libations, gourmet action stations, live music and entertainment, and an over-the-top silent auction.

“A lot of love is going to go into the drinks and the food,” Chairwoman Laura Compton said, noting that jungle juice — both alcoholic and nonalcoholic — will be served along with made-to-order rice bowls with seasonings from around the world. “As a result, you’re going to see an elevated level of fun and festivity.”

One of the first big social gatherings of the season in Delray Beach, Cocktails for the Club has expanded this year by 50 tickets, for a total of 300 guests.

“It has always been indoors,” Compton said. “This year we’re taking a gamble. The event’s going to be indoors and outdoors.”

Proceeds benefit life-changing programs that empower local youths to



Cocktails for the Club, one of the season’s first big social gatherings, has expanded this year by 50 tickets, for a total of 300 guests. **ABOVE:** The organizers include (l-r) Lauren McCauley, Katherine Malinosky, Tierney Wilkins, Kristin Douglass, Ashley LaPorte, Laura Compton, Jenny Streit, Megan Dempsey, Courtney Redfearn and Betsy Greene. **Photo provided**

achieve academic success, build character and leadership skills and live healthy lifestyles — the club’s core focus areas.

“We now know that supporting young people — especially through

empowerment and mentorship during critical developmental stages — can profoundly shape their long-term outcomes,” Compton said. “The opportunity to influence children and adolescents at these

pivotal moments is both meaningful and impactful. Youth development is one of my greatest passions, and I’ve witnessed firsthand the transformative effect that strong community engagement can have.” ★

If You Go
What: Cocktails for the Club
When: 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 9
Where: St. Andrews Club, Delray Beach
Cost: \$250
Information: 561-676-5472 or bgcpbc.org

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Dining

It's not too late to book holiday party venues, but think small

It's the start of the season for parties, events and life celebrations. But where are you going to host, say, 132 of your closest friends?

There's still time for *small* December parties if you book as soon as possible, though a few area caterers said you might not find space on the weekends.

Robert Stanfield, of Potions in Motion in Boca Raton, said a lot of people book a year in advance for holiday parties, especially for large groups.

"We can book the week-of for certain parties; we have good relationships with certain venues," he said. "But typically it's two to three weeks out during the month of December."

You can try for a Friday or Saturday party, but chances are the answer will be no.

"Ninety-five percent of parties are on Friday or Saturday nights," Stanfield said. "We try to encourage corporate clients to book on a weeknight. Thursday nights are a good night for parties and we can sometimes give clients a price break."

He could handle parties for up to 100 quickly, using The Brick, the old T-Rex facility in Boca Raton.

"It has, I think, nine different atriums and their redecorated ballroom, a courtyard. It's a hot place for parties right now."

Ashley Bacon of Lady Ashley Party Planning in Boca Raton focuses on small parties, and says a December party is still possible for even 25 people, but call as soon as possible.

"It's hard during season, but we have great contacts and can get people to work with us if we need," she said.

But, Bacon said, planning more in advance gets you what — and when — you want. "Big events, plan a month or more longer. Really big events, huge bar mitzvahs, weddings — of course six months at least. Some people plan a year or more out."

At VIP Caterers in Boca Raton, Neil Wasserman says he's booked for parties up to three years from now. But, he said, "For small events, I'd need a week to 10 days to do an event."

Other tips:

Get at least a rough head count. Many spaces charge per person for food and will charge astronomically for walk-ins.

See if you can reserve a room — or a whole place — for meals that are outside the normal hours. Ask if the restaurant will do a lunch or brunch menu, perfect for a shower or reception.

If you can be flexible with dates, ask to go on a waiting list.

Ask for options for covered outside spaces: patios, decks or pavilions — but have an out if the weather turns. If it's a big event, and especially outdoors, ask about insurance and cancellation policies (that goes for the outside vendors, too).

Get it all in writing. Clarify all the details about how many



Le Colonial offers its intimate parrot room with seating for 12. Photo provided by Neil Burger

are allowed, what is furnished, and what can be brought from outside.

Party venue options

Here are some restaurant and hotel venues to consider:

Wine and Spirits Kitchen, 411 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, 561-243-9463. Two private dining rooms are available, accommodating up to 14 in one, or up to 30 in the other. Think elegant wine dinners, or more casual office party tastings.

Elisabetta's Ristorante, 32 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, 561-560-6699; elisabettas.com. Private room upstairs can accommodate 40 at this Italian spot overlooking the Avenue.

Drift, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach, 561-274-3289; opalcollection.com. The restaurant inside the Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort is the one you call to handle your table-of-eight anniversary party, or a 1,000-person guest list for a corporate affair, or any party size in between.

Sixty Vines, 5050 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton, 561-961-3131; sixtyvines.com. A 10-person lounge with a tasting table is good for a friend's birthday. Book the Greenhouse for up to 30 for a sit-down dinner, the Paso room for up to 38, or the Terrace patio for 44 in a wine-country setting.

Farmer's Table, 1901 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton, 561-417-5836; dinefarmerstable.com. The farm-to-table restaurant inside the Wyndham hotel has several areas available, including the Oak Room, seating 100; the Grand Ballroom, for 140; or The Arbor, a poolside patio area that accommodates 75 for cocktails or 40 for dinner.

Le Colonial, 601 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, 561-566-1800; lecolonial.com. An elegant, intimate room with

tropical parrots wallpaper seats 12 at this upscale French Vietnamese restaurant.

Rose's Daughter, 169 NE Second Ave., Delray Beach, 561-271-9423; rosesdaughterdelray.com. Rent the patio with its own bar for up to 50 people, and order from the restaurant. Good for office get-togethers and cocktail affairs under the stars.

Latitudes, 2809 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, 561-278-2008; opalcollection.com/delray-sands/restaurants/latitudes. The modern, Blue Ocean ballroom handles up to 75 with an oceanfront view. The White Sands room can hold 60 diners, and the Ocean Terrace, with ocean view, has space for 60 in a cocktail party setting.

Waterstone Resort, 999 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton, 561-368-9500; waterstoneboca.com. A ballroom here can handle a party of up to 225. The Point outdoor terrace holds up to 50 for cocktail parties with a waterfront view.

Benvenuto, 1730 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach, 561-364-0600; benvenutorestaurant.com. Party in a historical site — a Mizner-inspired building that began as a botanical garden. Operating as a restaurant since 1975, it is now an event venue as well. Its dining rooms can accommodate from 18 to 350.

Abe and Louie's, 2200 Glades Road, Boca Raton, 561-447-0024; abeandlouies.com. The upscale steakhouse (known for its dress code) can take on 16 to 50 guests, with three private rooms.

Eddie V's Prime Seafood, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, 561-237-0067; eddiev.com. Private rooms accommodate anywhere from eight, at an intimate dinner in the Vault, to 80 on a terrace for a cocktail affair.

The Addison, 2 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton, 561-372-0568; theaddisonofbocaraton.

com. Numerous rooms and a romantic courtyard are available at this well-known Mizner-designed venue. Its kitchen can handle all dietary requests for parties, including glatt kosher.

Think beyond restaurants

Lady Atlantic, yacht charter, 801 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, 561-243-0686; delraybeachcruises.com. Book the modern yacht for a cruise along the Intracoastal Waterway for up to 150 people as a cocktail venue, or 120 seated for dinner. Casual or formal as you choose.

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach, 561-495-0233; morikami.org. Options are available for cocktail and dinner parties on the terrace, or larger events in the gardens.

Boca Raton Innovation Campus, 5000 T-Rex Ave., Boca Raton, 561-807-6932; workatbric.com. Several spaces for rentals such as an updated ballroom, atriums, and a courtyard are available at the old T-Rex campus. Large parking and valet facilities. Bring your own caterer.

New Oceanwalk by Benny's

A new chef and redesigned space are in place at **Oceanwalk by Benny's on the Beach**. The modern space at the end of the Lake Worth Beach casino building, closed since Sept. 2, is reopened and redecorated as an oceanside beach house with teak tables, striped umbrellas and green and ivory quartz accents.

Angelo Romano, chef and culinary director of both Benny's on the Beach on the pier and Oceanwalk, returns to his hometown from New York City where he worked 20 years as a chef. He's earned critical acclaim, including a Bib Gourmand from Michelin.

The menu continues to



Chef Angelo Romano has joined Benny's on the Beach. Photo provided

emphasize food from coastal waters and area farms, and Romano says sourcing products is getting better all the time.

"Better grocery stores are open, and we have more forward-thinking vendors. I've never seen so many green markets."

"We have better butchers now, things like that. Everything starts to build from that."

"It's a really exciting time for South Florida, but Palm Beach County especially."

Any menu changes won't come right away, because Benny's concept has "stood the test of time," he said. "... It's a matter of paying attention to nuances, as well as product mix and sales."

The appeal of the all-day menu is there because of the restaurant's hours, he said.

"We're not open very late. Most of our clientele is coming in most of the day and for early dinner. We're not drawing a late crowd. The menu is framed around that. It's a menu of all the hits."

"I'm very patient and methodical. Change is meant to be a thoughtful, layered decision."

Oceanwalk by Benny's on the Beach is at 10 S. Ocean Blvd., Lake Worth Beach, 561-247-7676; oceanwalkbybennys.com. Open daily at noon, and until 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

In brief

The Butcher and Bar in Boynton Beach has closed after five years. The butcher shop and restaurant featured premium meats and cocktails as its focus.

Citing skyrocketing business costs, including a 54% food cost increase and insurance rates that doubled over the five years, owner Eric Anderson said the business is not viable in these circumstances. "The truth is, we failed," he wrote to his online audience.



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

The ArtsPaper

www.palmbeachartspaper.com



TOP: *Self-Portrait with Magic Scene* by Pieter van Laer is one of The Leiden Collection artworks exhibited. Also: **BOTTOM LEFT:** *Minerva in Her Study* by Rembrandt van Rijn. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** *Young Woman Seated at a Virginal* by Johannes Vermeer. **Photos provided**



GOING DUTCH

In Norton exhibition,
Rembrandt and friends
depict 17th-century life

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Art Writer

The largest show of privately held Dutch 17th-century paintings in the United States, *Art and Life in Rembrandt's Time: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection*, an exhibit of more than 70 works by Rembrandt and 26 other artists, is on display at the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach through March 29.

The exhibition coincides with the 400th anniversary of the Dutch founding of New Amsterdam, now New York City. It draws from the Leiden Collection, a privately held trove of more than 220 paintings and drawings assembled by French-American collector Thomas S. Kaplan and his wife, Daphne Recanati Kaplan.

Named for Rembrandt's birthplace, the collection was conceived as a "lending library of Old Masters," and is considered one of the most significant holdings of 17th-century Dutch art in private hands.

With a mission to build bridges through art, The Leiden Collection, founded in 2003, has traveled the world to the Louvre in both Paris and Abu Dhabi, the Pushkin and Hermitage museums in Russia, and the National Museum of China before arriving at the Norton in October.

"We are thrilled to be the first to share Rembrandt and Vermeer with my home state of Florida," Kaplan, who spent part of his childhood in Fort Lauderdale, said in a prepared statement.

"Displaying our collection is deeply meaningful to my wife, Daphne, and me. These works are all part of the cultural heritage

See **DUTCH** on AT10

Music

Boynton performer featured in Harry Chapin documentary

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

Art imitates life, as the accurate saying goes, and vice versa.

A new documentary by Jason Chapin, S.A. Baron and Rick Korn, *Harry Chapin — Cat's in the Cradle: The Song That Changed Our Lives* (Greenwich Entertainment), is a case in point. And not just regarding the late American singer/songwriter and humanitarian who recorded its title tune.

Chapin (1942-1981) was a New York City native who got his start in music in his late 20s, and whose life and career were cut short by a fatal collision as he was driving on the Long Island Expressway.

Five years prior to his death,

Chapin met a young fan named Jason Colannino, who got his autograph during an appearance at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, N.J.

Duly influenced by Chapin, the young New Jersey native and very early concertgoer eventually turned into the vocalist, guitarist, ukulele player and songwriter who has become one of South Florida's busiest solo performers since moving to the area in 1992.

The Boynton Beach-based Colannino appears in Chapin's new documentary, directed by Korn and released to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the No. 1 single "Cat's in the Cradle," co-written by his wife, Sandra Chapin.

The South Florida resident is in

heady and varied company. Billy Joel, Judy Collins, Pat Benatar, and members of acts from Chicago to Twisted Sister, and Run-D.M.C. to Ugly Kid Joe also discuss its memorable folk-tinged melody, plus timeless lyrics that center on a son whose father doesn't make time for him during his youth, only to return the non-favor as his father advances in age.

"I heard from Rick Korn, who'd also directed the 2020 documentary *Harry Chapin: When In Doubt, Do Something*," Colannino says. "That film was about half on Harry's music; half his world hunger activism. Harry's son Jason Chapin had contacted me previously

See **COLANNINO** on AT12



Jason Colannino is a singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who is much in demand on the local concert circuit. **Photo provided**

Art

New curator takes helm at Boca Raton Museum of Art

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Art Writer

Cecelia “Keffie” Feldman lives up to her nickname.

Its roots trace back to Israel, where her parents were living at the time of her birth. They felt “Cecelia Ann Feldman,” a tribute to her great-grandmother, was too weighty for a newborn. Her mother toyed with an anagram of her initials — CAF — until Israeli friends suggested “Kef,” or “Keffie,” Hebrew slang for fun or cool, and the name stuck.

Fast forward to last year, when Feldman’s visit to South Florida led to a career-defining moment.



On a birthday weekend trip to Boca Raton, Feldman and her husband, Tom Paret — an IT director at the University of Massachusetts Amherst — were attending a Ripe concert at the Mizner Park Amphitheater.

Paret noticed the adjacent museum and thought it would be a great place for Feldman to work.

“As things turned out,” she says, “I saw they were looking for a curator and I jumped at the chance.”

A year and a day later, Feldman is returning to that very spot — not as a visitor, but as the newly appointed chief curator of the Boca Raton Museum of Art.

She began work Nov. 17.

“I am thrilled to be joining the Boca



The Boca Raton Museum of Art opened in Mizner Park in 2001. New Chief Curator Keffie Feldman plans to continue its tradition of excellence with a focus on education, community and accessibility. **Photo provided**

Raton Museum of Art at this exciting moment in its institutional history,” she says. “With a strong collection and engaged leadership, the museum is well-positioned to be the cultural center of the city.”

Feldman came to her work as a curator after earning a Ph.D. from Brown University in archaeology and the ancient world, with a specialty in Greek and Roman art. She taught at UMass Amherst for five years before realizing she wanted to explore other career options.

After a friend introduced her to a fellowship opportunity at the Mead Art Museum in Amherst, Feldman says,

“I had found my escape hatch from academia.”

At the Mead, Feldman discovered a silver object in the collection that had been forgotten for 50 years.

She then went on to the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum in South Hadley, Mass., and most recently was the chief curator at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, Conn. There, she mounted 15 unique shows each calendar year and oversaw the museum’s collection of more than 12,000 objects.

She was also instrumental in repatriating a Native American ceremonial rattle in the museum’s archives to the Seneca-Cayuga Nation of

Oklahoma in 2022.

“With my background in Greek and Roman art and archaeology, I like to look for interesting stories and how they are relevant to the world we live in now,” Feldman says. “How can I communicate these elements in an interesting, accessible and engaging way?”

In 2024, an exhibit she conceived and curated titled *Stitching the Revolution: Quilts as Agents of Change*, showcased both historic and contemporary quilts over a span of 200 years, as a medium of expression and progressive ideas.

“The exhibit complicates our assumptions,” Feldman says. “It’s a cross-section of artists of varying genders, ages and sexual orientations.”

The exhibit won the New England Museum Association’s Specific Excellence Award and was recognized by the Connecticut League of Museums with a 2024 Award of Merit. The exhibit will travel nationwide from 2026 to 2028.

Additionally, she has curated more than 20 original exhibitions, including *Modern Women: Georgia O’Keeffe and Kay Sage* (2025).

Coming to Boca Raton is a dream realized for the Boston native.

She was impressed by the location (“fantastic”); its architecture (“beautiful”) and the abundance of gallery space (“lovely”). Her focus will be on expanding the collection and developing exhibitions that resonate with both local and national audiences.

At the Boca Raton Museum of Art,

Continued on next page



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Reviews

Here are excerpts from recent reviews in the ArtsPaper. For the complete reviews, see palmbeachartspaper.com.

The Symphonia (St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, Boca Raton, Nov. 23)

A compelling reading of an important 20th-century organ concerto was a highlight of the opening concert of the 2025-26 season by The Symphonia, an event that made the most of its strings-only makeup with interesting repertoire choices.

The concert was led by the chamber orchestra's now-official music director, the Anglo-American conductor Alastair Willis. The organ soloist for the concert was the church's music director, Timothy Brumfield.

Brumfield and The Symphonia teamed up for the Organ Concerto (in G minor, FS 93), by 20th-century French composer Francis Poulenc. Completed in 1938, the concerto — scored for organ, strings and

timpani — offers performers and listeners the mature Poulenc: A sensual fund of melody, references to the ancient music of the Catholic Church and a feeling of insouciance and bravado signaled by surprising shifts of mood and unexpected dissonance.

Brumfield has a hugely powerful organ at his beck and call in St. Gregory's loft, and he played this exciting and quirky work with sovereign command.

For its part, The Symphonia played with expert ensemble, carefully matching their music to the soloist, who was high above the floor in the back of the church while the orchestra performed from the space just before the altar.

The audience could hear all the elements of Poulenc's style at their fullest, which is really the only way to understand this concerto.

The Poulenc was the final work on Sunday's program, which opened with a fresh selection: American composer Aaron Jay Kernis's Musica

Celestis, which he arranged in 1991 from the second movement of his String Quartet No. 1.

The Symphonia played Kernis's piece with precision, giving it the weight it deserved.

It was followed by a canonic staple, the Serenade No. 13, K. 525 (1787), of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, better-known as Eine kleine Nachtmusik.

The Mozart was perhaps most adversely affected by the acoustic, which often made the music sound muffled. Nevertheless, it was a good reading of this very familiar work, with all of Mozart's melodic charm and compositional wizardry engagingly on sonic display.

The well-attended concert closed with an encore: the Air from J.S. Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 3 (in D, BWV 1068), known since a famous violin arrangement in the 1870s as Air on the G-String. The arrangement here was for strings and organ, and it sounded sweet and lovely, as it always does. — Greg Stepanich

The City in the City in the City (FAU Theatre Lab, Boca Raton, Nov. 23)

In the world premiere of Matthew Capodicasa's play *The City in the City in the City*, the "city" of the title is as much a character as the two women who navigate it.

Performed by Niki Fridh and Vaishnavi Sharma, this provocative two-hander touched on multiple problems of human existence while also showcasing the impressive acting chops of its actors, who carry the idiosyncrasies, guilt, suffering, and histories of the main characters and an entire city in a seamless, playful manner.

For this production, the cozy yet multi-tiered stage at FAU's Theatre Lab was covered with vibrant textiles from various cultures, with cages and Turkish lamps hanging from the ceiling.

The lights dimmed. "My mother died last week," begins Tess, played by Sharma.

It develops that Tess's father has left a package for Tess and her mother in the mysterious

fictional city of Mastavia. In searching for a traveling companion, Tess meets Laura Maynard (Fridh), a divorced woman who shares her name with Tess's late mother.

The city itself has a tumultuous history and ridiculous rules for navigating it, such as passing through a checkpoint from only one side. Each new character, whether it is an old woman in a jazz bar or a lawyer — all played by Fridh and Sharma — adopts multiple languages and ambiguous accents to fit the city.

As the two main characters engage with the city in different ways, the mystery of Tess's father and of the city itself unfolds, posing unanswered question after unanswered question. The ending of the play follows two essential story-writing rules: Questions get answered, and the characters are changed in the process. The final moments of this play are satisfying, and the changes occur in a way that feels appropriate. — Erik Kvarnberg

Continued from previous page

Feldman will work closely with Ena Heller, the museum's CEO, to oversee all aspects of the curatorial responsibilities with a focus on highlighting the museum as a destination for modern and contemporary art.

One of her first priorities will be to rethink the exhibition schedule and to reinstall the museum's permanent installation galleries, refocusing them on the community's interest.

Her vision aligns with the museum's leadership, including that of Heller, who praised Feldman's appointment.

"Keffie distinguished herself among a very competitive pool of candidates by her comprehensive art historical knowledge, collaborative curatorial practice, and inclusive approach to education in museums," Heller said in a prepared statement. "She is a passionate communicator with a warm presence who will be a wonderful ambassador for our institution throughout South Florida and nationally."

For Feldman, she believes taking on this new role is an opportunity to build on the museum's reputation of excellence and focus on education, community and accessibility under Heller's new leadership.

Feldman says the time is right to trade Massachusetts winters for South Florida's sun and creative energy.

Once situated, she plans to explore the region's art offerings, visit other museums, snorkel, practice yoga, and, of course, immerse herself in Boca Raton's live music scene.

"I look forward to getting to know the Boca Raton and South Florida community," she says. "The museum is about more than art — it's a place to connect, reflect and imagine. I'm excited to help shape that future."

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Prayer Before the Meal by Jan Steen is part of the “Faith and Devotion” section of the exhibit. Photo provided

DUTCH

Continued from page 7

of mankind, and it brings us tremendous joy to be in the privileged position of making them so widely available.”

Coming back to South Florida is a “full-circle” moment for him, he said, and “a wonderful opportunity to express my gratitude to the broader South Florida community which has played an important role in my life.”

He calls his art collection “the humbling practice of privately collecting for the public good.”

Echoing Kaplan’s commitment to public engagement, the Norton’s director is equally excited to bring this rare collection to South Florida audiences.

“An exhibition like *Art and Life in Rembrandt’s Time* has never been seen before in our region,” says Ghislain d’Humières, CEO of the Norton Museum of Art. “We’re thrilled to host this exhibit — the first

If You Go

Art and Life in Rembrandt’s Time: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection runs through March 29 at the Norton Museum of Art, 1450 S. Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach

Cost: Free for members and children 12 and under; general admission \$18; seniors \$15; students \$5
Info: Norton.org

of its kind in North America — and viewers will be enthralled not only by the artistry of Rembrandt but also the depth of talent of other 17th-century Dutch artists.”

Organized by themes such as “Faith and Devotion,” “From Market to Kitchen” and “Leisure Pursuits,” the exhibit highlights the quotidian life of Dutch citizens of that era.

On display is humanity in all

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

facets, from character studies and formal portraits, known as “tronies,” to genre and allegorical scenes to historical subjects.

With 17 original Rembrandt van Rijn paintings in three galleries, the exhibit spotlights the artist’s ability to capture human expression and emotion and shows the evolution in Rembrandt’s style from precision to looser, more free-flowing and expressive brushstrokes in later works.

Complementing Rembrandt’s works are paintings from his contemporaries in Leiden and Amsterdam, including his teacher, Pieter Lastman, students Jan Lievens, Govert Flinck, Ferdinand Bol, Arent de Gelder and Gerrit Dou, Rembrandt’s first student.

Paintings such as Lastman’s history painting, *David gives Uriah a Letter for Joab*, circa 1619, de Gelder’s *Old Testament Figure* (1685) or Frans van Mieris’s *Elderly Couple in an Interior* (1650), showcase the day-to-day activities of Dutch life in the 17th century, their customs, ideas, mores and spirituality.

“In that era there was an explosion of innovation,” says Elizabeth Nogrady, curator of The Leiden Collection.

She says even though Rembrandt and his peers were depicting the everyday life of

four centuries ago, viewers today can still feel a connection to the ordinary people of the 17th century and their lives.

Nogrady points to one of the highlights of the show, Rembrandt’s 1635 *Minerva in Her Study*, one of the most important of Rembrandt’s history paintings in the collection.

During Rembrandt’s time, history paintings were considered as the most noble and prestigious art form. A goddess in Roman mythology, Minerva is depicted as an ordinary woman of her time with facial features resembling those of Rembrandt’s wife, Saskia.

Another masterpiece, *Young Girl in a Gold-Trimmed Cloak* (1632) illustrates the dress of the day and Rembrandt’s subtle rendering of skin tones and his mastery of light and dark.

What is the expression Rembrandt captures on her face? Is it anger, curiosity, resignation, amusement or acceptance?

That’s up to the viewer to decide.

On view in the “Faith and Devotion” section is Carel Fabritius’s *Hagar and the Angel* (1645) the only one of his 13 known paintings to remain in private hands.

Fabritius was Rembrandt’s greatest pupil and the inspiration for novelist Donna Tartt’s 2013 Pulitzer-prize winning novel, *The Goldfinch*.

Another highlight is Johannes Vermeer’s *Young Woman Seated at a Virginal* (c. 1670–1675), the sole example of the artist’s work in private hands.

Noting that there are only 34 known Vermeers in the world, curator Nogrady says, “It’s extremely rare, and we are so excited to have it here at the Norton so people can come and see it.”

Additional highlights include Lievens’ *Boy in a Cape and Turban*, c. 1631; Gabriel Metsu’s *Woman Selling Game from a Stall*, (c. 1653–54); van Mieris’ *Traveler at Rest*, c. 1657; and works by Jan Steen including his *Self-Portrait with a Lute* (1664) and *Prayer Before the*

Meal (1660), of a pious family breaking bread.

Despite the passage of more than 400 years, “one of the most remarkable facts about Rembrandt and his circle is that their artworks continue to connect with audiences, hundreds of years after they were painted,” says Nogrady.

The artists, she says, possess an “uncanny ability” to tap into the continuity of human experience and make their work resonate with contemporary audiences.

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Manuela Gonzalez, *Hasta Mañana*, 2024, Acrylic on mixed fabrics, 48 x 40 inches

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COLANNINO

Continued from page 7

regarding the new documentary about the cultural impact of ‘Cat’s in the Cradle.’ I’d first heard the song at age 6, and saw Harry perform it, ‘Taxi,’ ‘Circle’ and several other memorable songs in concert that year. Then

I got to meet him a year later before his concert at the college where my mother worked.”

Colannino performs parts of “Cat’s in the Cradle” in the new documentary, and recalls hearing the song for the first time, both in general and in a live setting. The photo of him as a 7-year-old with Chapin before

his 1976 concert in New Jersey also appears in the film. “Jason knows more songs by heart than anyone I’ve ever worked with,” says bassist Bruce Freeland, who plays monthly duo shows with Colannino at Aruba Beach Cafe in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, the next of which is Dec. 22.

“He has an amazing memory. When Davy Jones of the Monkees died in 2012, we had a gig shortly thereafter and Jason sang several of his tunes. His brain is like a library.”

The title of Colannino’s latest album, *A Hawaiian Music Tribute* (2015), shows the influence of repeated trips to the island state with his wife, Kim Colannino. His vocals and ukulele skills are also now featured with the group Sounds of Aloha, which appears on the Great Lawn in downtown West Palm Beach for an afternoon holiday concert on Dec. 21.

Previous Colannino album releases are *Since 1969* (1997), *Piece of the Sun* (2004) and *Lost in Vacation* (2014). He’s currently premiering original songs from his forthcoming fifth release at live shows.

Colannino is an expert mimic. The list of cover tunes on his website is nearly as long as Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*, ranging far and wide and including The Beatles,



Harry Chapin and a 7-year-old Jason Colannino in 1976. Photo provided

Joni Mitchell, Pink Floyd, The Grateful Dead, Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan as well as Chapin. Since his emergence in South Florida, Colannino has seen the regional music scene undergo a slow march away from stressing original material toward its current tribute act mania.

“I’ve actually been accused of being a main cause of that,” says Colannino. “I’ve done tribute shows to Harry, as well as Crosby, Stills & Nash, Neil Young, James Taylor, Paul Simon and others.”

It’s a fair point and admission. But most cover song artists aren’t as adept

If You Go

See Jason Colannino at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at Belle’s at Safe Harbor Marina, 116 Lakeshore Drive, North Palm Beach (561-626-2280); noon Dec. 7 and 28 at Beachcomber Resort, 1200 S. Ocean Blvd., Pompano Beach (954-941-7830); 6 p.m. Dec. 11 and 18 at The Cooper, 4610 PGA Blvd., Suite 100, Palm Beach Gardens (561-622-0032); 6 p.m. Dec. 19 at Leftovers Cafe, 451 University Blvd., Jupiter (561-627-6030); 4 p.m. Dec. 21 in the Aloha Islanders Tropical Holiday Spectacular on the Grand Lawn, 100 N. Clematis St., West Palm Beach (561-822-1515); 4 p.m. Dec. 22 with bassist Bruce Freeland at Aruba Beach Café, 1 Commercial Blvd., Lauderdale-By-The-Sea (954-776-0001), and 7 p.m. Dec. 26 at Thirsty Turtle Seagrill, 13981 U.S. 1, Juno Beach (561-627-8991). Info: jasoncolannino.com

at the vocal phrasing and intonation, as well as the subtle instrumental arrangements, as Colannino. And very few tribute act performers have released a handful of albums of all-original material.

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FOR INFORMATION

Books

Jupiter photographer explores punk-ethic vision in new book

By Sandra Schulman
ArtsPaper Art Writer

A world-class photographer with a punk rock heart, Daniel Newcomb has been taking pictures of what moves him — vintage neon signs, street scenes, rock singers — for decades. He mostly shoots in black and white, and often hand-embellishes the images with color highlights.

The Jupiter resident shows the images at markets, galleries, and now in a retrospective book from Megastar Publishing called *Sideburners*. He adds several quotes from Beat writer Jack Kerouac, his anti-hero hero, whose home in St. Petersburg he recently photographed.

“For me, photography is not solely about the context of an actual frame,” he said in a prepared statement. “It is about my relationship with the moment behind the lens. Each of my images holds personal memories that are significant only to me. The photographs become vessels of remembrance, encapsulating specific moments in time and providing insights into my understanding of the world around me.”

“The interplay of light and shadow in my images marks the genesis of my nostalgia, where the nuanced grays between brilliance and obscurity invite open interpretation and reflection,” he wrote.

Pamela Ross, who edited the book, wrote that *Sideburners* is a collection of Newcomb’s photos and prose over a 31-year period, from 1994 to 2025. “The title alludes to a collective unconsciousness of our times,” in which screen- and selfie-obsessed people choose to look away from painful realities.

“There is a distinctive immediacy to Newcomb’s photographic artistry which transforms the onlooker of his work into a participant,” Ross wrote.

While Newcomb has put out other books, he admits to wrestling with putting the styles together.

“I’ve always had a hard time mixing my varied styles of photography into one book. Pamela’s the one that came up with the title ‘Sideburners,’ because she said, ‘You’ve always been like a chef in a restaurant. You’ve always got something on the side burner while you’re cooking.’ She started playing with laying out and shaping it into a book, and that was really surprising how well she intermingled different types of my photography.”

“I love the street photography and I’m definitely a Kerouac fan. It’s probably what got me started looking for the old signage on the roads, the underbelly of the city, not the glam and the prettiness of a city.”



Photographer Daniel Newcomb captures many of his images in black and white. Photo by Sofia Flash

It’s the stuff people tend to pass by and ignore. The Beat poets and writers romanticized that alleyway drinking, and hoboos, and traveling the world by train, hitchhiking — all that fun stuff that was embellished in that time period.”

Newcomb recently photographed Kerouac’s house in St. Petersburg, which is now a museum. The author of *On the Road* died in that city in 1969 of cirrhosis.

“It’s been refurbished so I photographed it for their advertisements,” Newcomb says. “It was a lot of fun because lots of stuff — his chair and books — are still in there. It was a time capsule.”

Newcomb’s images include punk musicians and the defunct exterior of CBGB club in New York City and the infamous Chelsea Hotel. There are abstract shots of Las Vegas hotels and Anywhere-USA street corners. The people on the street grin through the grime and the streetlight glare.

“One thing I’ve been getting back into is my rock photography, doing a lot of live shows and shooting some of the bigger bands that come through town. It’s just been a lot of fun,” he said.

Newcomb’s day job is photographing architectural interiors for Hard Rock International’s hotels and casinos, as well as work for interior designers. He just got back from Virginia shooting the newest Hard Rock location and has a home studio for portraiture.

For such a tattooed punk-ethic shooter, he lives a surprisingly suburban life with his wife, son, and reptile pets. He has images in a new show of vintage burlesque photography at the World Erotic Art Museum in Miami Beach. He also has work on view at the Latitude Gallery in Lake Worth Beach.

The limited-edition book is available online, at various museums in South Florida, and soon will be available through Barnes & Noble.

For more information, visit danielnewcombphoto.com.

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All performances at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts

Arts Calendar

Editor’s note: Events listed through Dec. 28 were current as of Nov. 15. Check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.

ART

Armory Art Center: Through Dec. 29: *Past the Eyes*, an exhibit by Kandy G. Lopez; *Full Circle*, a collection of works by Florida-based artists. Free. 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach. 9 am-5 pm M-F, 9 am-noon Sat. 561-832-1776 or armoryart.org

Arts Warehouse: Through Dec. 6: *Overflow*. Free. 313 NE 3rd St., Delray Beach., 10 am-8 pm W, Th; 10 am-7 pm F; 10 am-5 pm Sat. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

Boca Raton Museum of Art: Through March 1: *Timeless Mucha: The Magic of Line*. Through March 29: *Too Late to Rewind: From the Collection of Elayne Mordes*. Through May 3: *Eduardo Chacon: Postcards from Nowhere; Side by Side: The Artist Couple Bernstein and Meyerowitz*. \$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

Cornell Art Museum: On view: *From Primitive to Surreal*, works by Chilean artist Gustavo Novoa. Free. 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Noon-5 pm W, Sun, noon-7 pm Th, F; 10 am-5 pm Sat. 561-243-7922 or oldschoolsquare.org

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County: Through Jan. 3: *Fiber Optics*. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-F. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions

Flagler Museum: Through Jan. 18: *May I Help You, Madame?: The Making of the Modern Department Store*. \$28; \$14 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: Opens Dec. 4: *Annual Faculty and Community Exhibition*, part of the fundraiser 12x12: *Take a Chance*. Through Dec. 13. \$5 non-members. 9 am-5 pm M-Th; 9 am-4 pm F; 10 am-4 pm Sat. 561-746-3101, lighthousearts.org

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens: Through April 5: *Light as Air: The Buoyant Sculptures of Mariko Kusumoto*. \$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 March 29: *Art and Life in Rembrandt’s Time: Masterpieces from the Leiden Collection*. Through March 1: *Anastasia Samoylova: Atlantic Coast*, images of America on U.S. 1 from Key West to Maine, by the Russian-born American photographer. Through Feb. 8: *La Florida: Flowers in Chinese Paintings*. Through Jan. 4: *The Virtue of Vice: The Art of Social Commentary*. 18 adults; \$15 seniors; \$5 students; free for ages 12 and under, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. 10 am-5 pm, M, T, Th, Sat; 10 am-10 pm F; 11 am-5 pm Sun. 561-832-5196, www.norton.org

Society of the Four Arts: Through Feb. 1: *Edgar Degas, the Private Impressionist*. 100 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 10 am-3 pm M-F. 561-655-7226, fourarts.org

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Saturday, Dec. 6

The Symphonia Boca Raton: The Boca-based chamber orchestra is featured in Boca Raton’s second annual Holiday Pops Concert, conducted

by Jacomo Bairos and joined by FAU’s Chamber Singers and the Schola Cantorum of Florida with chorus master Patricia Fleitas. 7 pm, Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. \$15 and up. 561-414-5226 or thesymphonia.org

Sunday, Dec. 7

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: Giving a preview of its annual Christmas offering in New York, the chamber music group presents all six *Brandenburg* Concertos by J.S. Bach. \$40. 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Seraphic Fire: The Miami concert choir presents its annual program of holiday music, conducted by James Bass. 7 pm, St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. \$65 general admission, \$85-95 reserved seating. 305-285-9060 or seraphicfire.org

Young Concert Artists of America: The New York-based arts management company presents a tour by four members of the YCA, joined by violinist Toby Appel, a YCA alumnus. The program offers music by Elizondo, Dohnányi and Schubert. \$40. 7 pm, Rinker Playhouse, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Thursday, Dec. 11

Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach: Grammy-winning guitarist Jason Vieaux will join the society’s artistic director and violinist Arnaud Sussman, along with violinist Tessa Lark, violist Milena Pajaro-Van de Stadt and cellist Edward Arron, in works by Paganini, Leclair, Piazzolla, and Boccherini. 7 pm, Norton Museum, 1450 S Dixie Hwy, West Palm Beach. \$75. 561-379-6773 or cmspb.org

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Palm Beach Symphony: Veteran pianist Misha Dichter solos with Gerard Schwarz and the orchestra in Rachmaninoff’s *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. Also on the program is Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Snow Maiden* Suite, Gabriela Lena Frank’s *Elegía Andina*, and Falla’s suite from *The Three-Cornered Hat*. \$28 and up. 7:30 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Sunday, Dec. 21

Itzhak Perlman: The Israeli-American performs with pianist Rohan De Silva and also narrates a multimedia show featuring stories from his life and career. 2 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

DANCE

Friday, Dec. 5-Sunday, Dec. 7

Ballet Palm Beach: The Palm Beach Gardens company presents its annual mounting of Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* at the Kravis Center. \$46 and up. Show times vary. 701 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Saturday, Dec. 13-Sunday, Dec. 14

Ballet East: The West Palm Beach dance studio presents two performances of *The Nutcracker* at Lynn University’s Wold Performing Arts Center, 3601 N Military Trail, Boca Raton. \$50-\$60. Saturday: 2:30 pm; Sunday: 1 pm. 561-683-0096 or balleteastfl.com

Dance Theater of Florida: The Palm Beach Gardens-based dance company offers *The Bell*, a ballet adaptation of *The Polar Express*, the popular 2004 Robert Zemeckis film based on Chris van Allsburg’s 1985 children’s story. \$40 general admission, \$25 students and seniors. Saturday: 7 pm; Sunday: 2 p.m. Eissey Campus

Theatre, Palm Beach State College, 11051 Campus Drive, Palm Beach Gardens. 561-627-9708 or dancetheaterofflorida.com

JAZZ AND BLUES

Sunday, Dec. 7

Blood Brothers: Nine-time Blues Music Awards winner, guitarist Mike Zito, and five-time BMA winner, guitarist Albert Castiglia, came together in 2023 to form this blues and roots group. 3 pm, The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd #59, Boca Raton. Standing room \$55. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13

CeCe Teneal: The Orlando-based artist has opened for Buddy Guy and B.B. King, but she has also made a name for herself in the R&B/ soul genre. Teneal’s is putting on two shows titled “Holiday Heartstrings.” 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55-\$60. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Friday, Dec. 19-Dec. 20

Nestor Torres: The jazz flutist returns for two performances at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. Both shows 8 pm. \$60-\$65. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Saturday, Dec. 20

The Motowners: The Motown tribute band offers a special holiday show at Boca Raton’s Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd #59. 6 pm. \$50-\$55. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

POPULAR MUSIC

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Stevie Nicks: The distinctive vocalist of Fleetwood Mac and a celebrated songwriter, Nicks plays at the Hard Rock Live, which had to be rescheduled from September after a shoulder injury. 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. 8 pm. \$205 and up. ticketmaster.com

Saturday, Dec. 13

The Elovaters: The reggae-rock band from Boston formed in 2014, and will be performing in northern Palm Beach County this winter, joined by Orlando-based rock band Kash’d Out and reggae group Coyote Island. \$47 and up. Abacoa Town Center Amphitheatre, 1260 University Blvd., Jupiter. eventbrite.com

Saturday, Dec. 20

iHeart Radio’s Y100.7 Jingle Ball: Enjoy performances from BigXthePlug, Fied, Kehlani, mgk, Monsta X, Nelly, Sean Paul, Zara Larsson. Plus, there will be a special guest sing-along for the popular Netflix show *KPop Demon Hunters*. Tickets start at \$47. Kaseya Center. 601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami. 7:30 pm. ticketmaster.com

Saturday, Dec. 27-Sunday, Dec. 28

Shakira: With hits like “Whenever, Wherever” and “Hips Don’t Lie,” the Colombian pop star is closing out her “Up Close & Personal” series and the 2025 leg of her “Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran” World Tour. 8 pm, Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$178 and up. ticketmaster.com

THEATER

Through Sunday, Dec. 7

The Pajama Game: The classic 1954 musical by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross about a union representative and a factory manager who fall in love while they argue about workers’ rights. Songs include “Hey There,” “Steam Heat,” and “Hernando’s Hideaway.” \$55 and up. Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St., Delray Beach. 561-272-1281 or delraybeachplayhouse.com. Opens Dec. 10

The Seafarer: This chaotic, aloof and offbeat play is set on Christmas Eve, and follows Sharky Harkin to Dublin to care for his alcoholic brother, Richard. Through a night of poker with his friends, he confronts his past, finding strength in second chances. Through Dec. 28 at Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. 561-514-4042 or palmbeachdramaworks.org

Through Dec. 14

Million Dollar Quartet: In the 1950s, fate brought together legendary rock ‘n roll artists Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash for a Sun Records Studio jam session. In December, you can see this jam session brought to life in a Tony Award-nominated jukebox musical. At Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. \$50-\$130. 561-575-2223 or jupitertheatre.org

Opens Dec. 22

The Choir of Man: Part of the Kravis Center’s Broadway touring season, this jukebox musical takes place in a British pub, featuring everything from rock anthems by Queen and Guns ‘N Roses to pop hits by Katy Perry and Adele. The show received an Olivier Award nomination in 2022 for Best Entertainment or Comedy Play. Nine performances starting at \$46 through Sunday, Dec. 28, at the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

Through Dec. 24

A Christmas Carol: Alan Menken and Lynn Ahrens’s musical adaptation of Charles Dickens’s immortal 1843 tale of the miser Ebenezer Scrooge and his redemption. At the Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. thewick.org

FLAGLER MUSEUM

Christmas at the Flagler Museum

DECEMBER 7
12:00 - 5:00 PM

The holiday season begins at Whitehall with a gathering on the first Sunday of December to light the Grand Hall Christmas Tree. The day will be filled with holiday cheer. Festive music will be played on the Odell organ and Steinway grand piano, there will be a special choir performance, refreshments will be served, the Flagler Museum Shop will be open for holiday shopping, and Santa Claus will make an appearance.

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Paws Up for Pets

Big personality makes Chihuahua Florida's top dog breed

Among all the species on the planet, dogs definitely put the capital D in diversity. The American Kennel Club recognizes 202 breeds that range from the fluffy Pomeranian, who weigh about 6 pounds, to the gigantic English mastiff, who can tip the scales beyond 230 pounds.

A recent report conducted by Adopt a Pet and Zoetis identified the most desired dog breed for each of the 50 states. Are you ready for the results, Florida?

It turns out that the most popular breed in the Sunshine State is the small but mighty Chihuahua. Officially, this breed is identified as the world's smallest dog, averaging between 2 and 8 pounds.

Small in size, Chihuahuas are definitely big in personality. Just ask Alex Serrano, director of operations for the Peggy Adams Rescue League based in West Palm Beach.

"On average, we have about 120 animals available for adoption here each month and between a total of 300 to 400 animals under our custody at any one time," says Serrano. "Some are in foster care until they get old enough or big enough or healthy enough to be adopted. We always have a lot of Chihuahuas and Chihuahua mixes up for



Chihuahuas 'are small in size but big in personality,' says Alex Serrano of Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League. Some look like the classic shorthair shown above. Others can be fluff balls, like Serrano's Tuna Tar at right. Serrano is sitting with Tuna and Kiwi, her pit bull. **Photos provided**

adoption. They get adopted fast because they are so tiny and cute and so full of personality."

Serrano knows this firsthand. Sharing her West Palm Beach home are a sweet pit bull named Kiwi and a deaf French bulldog named Cake Pop. But the undisputed leader of the pack is her confident Chihuahua named Tuna (full name: Tuna Tar Tar who is nicknamed Tuna Melt).



"Five years ago, I was looking for a dog with a big personality and in comes this 6-month-old Chihuahua who looked like a furry bat," laughs Serrano. "He is very chatty, loves going to places with me like dog bars and the beach. He has a lot of confidence. He instantly bonded with my pit bull, Kiwi, and welcomed our third dog, Cake Pop."

Chihuahuas can also be protective of their favorite

people.

"On walks, my pit bull, Kiwi, will be contentedly walking and smelling flowers and the grass, but my Chihuahua, Tuna, is my real guard dog," says Serrano. "He may bark at people when meeting them, but if you sit down he will happily jump in your lap. When I come home, he spins because he is so excited to see me. Chihuahuas definitely show their emotions 100% of the time."

In her position at Peggy Adams, Serrano oversees many areas, including adoptions. She knows personality traits among various dog breeds.

She was also not surprised to learn that the Chihuahua is the top breed among Floridians.

"Chihuahuas are small in size but big in personality," she says. "More housing places allow for small dogs more so than large dogs. Also, Chihuahuas are easy to care for, a healthy breed and they do not cost a lot to feed."

If you are considering a Chihuahua or other small breed to adopt, Serrano offers these tips:

- Do not leave small dogs out unsupervised even in fenced backyards. "I am always outside with Tuna because I worry about birds of prey who can swoop down and grab a tiny dog."
- Measure meal portions. "Chihuahuas can be prone to

About the Adopt a Pet breed study

Adopt a Pet teamed up with Zoetis to collect dog adoption data between July 2024 and June 2025 for each state. The report also listed the top personality traits for each breed. The most-sought personality trait across the board — affectionate. The Chihuahua was tops nationally and in many states. Ranking from second to fifth as the most-sought breeds in the country were the Labrador retriever, dachshund, German shepherd and American pit bull terrier. Learn more by visiting adoptapet.com/adoptapetrics/dog/2025.

obesity because they are cute and can use their charms to get table scraps from people, but it is important to keep them at healthy weights," says Serrano.

- Watch your steps in the house. "Chihuahuas are little and they move quickly," she says. "Watch for them when walking around in your house because you can accidentally step on them."

- Do look down in the mouth. "Chihuahuas, like a lot of small breeds, are more prone to dental issues than big breeds," she says. "Regularly look inside the mouth for any issues like swollen gums, tartar or bad breath. Report any issues to your veterinarian promptly."

- Clip the leash to a harness on your Chihuahua instead of a collar. "You don't want to put too much strain on the neck of a small dog like a Chihuahua," she says.

Serrano loves her canine trio. She says each made her a better person.

Specifically, how has Tuna Tar Tar accomplished this?

"Tuna has taught me to not take life so seriously," she says. "He is silly. He loves having fun. He brings me such joy."



Arden Moore writes about pets and can be reached at fourleggedlife@gmail.com.

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Meet Dr. Taylor Bernardo, DVM

What inspired her to become a veterinarian:

Dr. Bernardo grew up with strong family values of stewardship and service. From a young age, she believed it was her responsibility to advocate for animals who don't have voices of their own. After losing her beloved dog, Sushi, to complications of hip dysplasia, she was inspired to take a more active role in ensuring a better quality of life for pets.

Favorite part of being a veterinarian:

She enjoys building long-term relationships with owners and their pets and being part of their lives through every stage of care.

Hobbies:

Weightlifting, yoga, going to the beach, reading, napping with her cats, and fishing with her husband.

Memberships:

Member of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

- Vaccinations
- Surgeries
- Boarding
- Laser Therapy
- Swim Therapy
- Dental Cleanings
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- Grooming
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Health & Harmony

How prostate cancer patient became a success story

When former President Joe Biden was diagnosed last May with Stage 4 prostate cancer, the disease and its detection made national headlines.

The news that Biden was getting treatment for an aggressive form of cancer that had spread to his bones sparked renewed attention for a disease that often goes undetected until it's in advanced stages. Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed malignancy worldwide and the sixth-leading cause of cancer-related death in men, according to the National Institutes of Health.

By the numbers

The American Cancer Society lists prostate cancer as the second-most common cancer for U.S. men, after skin cancer. Its forecasts that there will be 313,780 new cases and 35,770 deaths from the disease in 2025 in this country, reflecting about a 3% increase in the incidence rate each year in the past decade.

Because most men diagnosed are older, many ultimately die of unrelated causes, especially since about two-thirds of prostate cancer cases are slow-growing.

According to the American Cancer Society, the five-year survival rate for localized stages of the disease is greater than 99% and the five-year survival rate for all stages of the disease is greater than 97%.

Testing and detection

Behind the numbers are stories like that of Robert and Sandra Crowley, both 62.

The diagnosis of prostate cancer for Robert, a retired house painter and musician, came as a surprise after a routine prostate-specific antigen test.

"Once you're in a high-risk age, starting at age 50," says



Robert Crowley, 62, and his wife, Sandra, credit early detection via a PSA test for his successful recovery from prostate cancer and surgery. He had no apparent symptoms. **Photo provided**

Crowley, who lives in Boca Raton, "make sure you request a PSA test and check your PSA score."

With no apparent symptoms and no family history of the disease, Crowley never would have thought to check, but thanks to his doctor's diligence, the cancer was detected early. He is recuperating from surgery in June but calls it a successful recovery.

The Crowleys' experience underscores a key message about early detection.

"Be your own advocate," says Sandra Crowley. "Cancer can be aggressive. If your doctor doesn't mention the screening test, ask him or her. If you catch it early, you can have a very good outcome."

Signs and symptoms

For men at normal risk, the American Cancer Society recommends the PSA test annually beginning at age 50.

Those at higher risk, including African Americans

and men who have close family members who have been diagnosed with the disease, should talk with their primary care doctors about getting screened earlier.

Additional risk factors include lifestyle issues such as lack of exercise and poor diet.

Prostate cancer begins in the small gland below the bladder that helps produce semen — a vital part of the male reproductive system.

Early stage prostate cancer signs and symptoms can include blood in the urine or semen.

Additionally, it can include the need to urinate more often, trouble getting started when trying to urinate and waking up to urinate more often at night.

Later stage symptoms may include accidental leaking of urine, back or bone pain, erectile dysfunction, feeling tired, losing weight and weakness in the arms or legs.

Because of Biden's late-stage diagnosis, the medical community is examining the

need to improve current testing guidelines by considering not just age, but also overall health, symptoms, PSA trends and patient preferences.

Treatment and recovery

For Crowley, the path from screening to treatment moved quickly.

After Crowley received an elevated PSA test result, his primary care physician referred him to Mourad Abouelleil, a urologic surgeon and member of the Palm Beach Health Network Physicians Group. It has headquarters in Boca Raton and offices throughout Palm Beach County.

An MRI and a PET scan revealed a mass, and Crowley's Gleason score, which assesses aggression, was high and meant the mass was still growing.

A biopsy revealed the mass to be cancerous, and the need for surgery marked the beginning of a challenging but ultimately successful recovery.

Robert Crowley says meeting and being treated by Abouelleil was "a wonderful experience."

He says he is happy with the results, despite having to learn how to urinate again and needing pelvic floor therapy to learn to control his bladder. He was continent after three months, whereas Abouelleil says many patients may take up to a year to relearn this function.

"Robert's physical therapist was very impressed by his progress," says Sandra Crowley. "Robert healed very well and very quickly and we both consider the surgery to be a complete success."

Intimacy, too, returned — something they hadn't expected and were pleased to discover.

Both Crowleys say having confidence in your physician is everything.

"We were fortunate to have Dr. Abouelleil," says Sandra Crowley. "Having such a skilled doctor is a blessing."

Advice and prevention

Their outcome highlights how medical advances — and a skilled, multidisciplinary team — can dramatically improve patient recovery.

Abouelleil performed a robotic radical prostatectomy, the standard of care, whereby the prostate gland, seminal vesicles and tissue are removed using a robotic system through small incisions in the abdomen.

"Be proactive, see your doctor and don't wait until you have symptoms," Abouelleil says. Prevention, the physician emphasizes, begins long before symptoms appear.

He compares being proactive with one's health to not waiting until one's roof is leaking to have it inspected.

He credits advances in science and diagnostic tools to better outcomes, as cancers can be caught in their earlier stages and successfully treated.

To lower one's risk for prostate or other cancers, Abouelleil recommends eating a low-fat diet, eating less red meat and more fruits and vegetables, and including antioxidants, such as berries. He follows a Mediterranean diet and exercises with weights to increase his testosterone levels naturally.

"My best advice to men to stay healthy includes getting screening beginning at age 50, or even at 45 if you're at high risk for prostate cancer, taking an antioxidant, getting your testosterone levels checked every year, and weight lifting to raise your testosterone levels naturally," Abouelleil says.

What the future holds

As science evolves, new technologies offer hope for options even less invasive than Crowley's. For early stage prostate cancers, these include ablation using laser energy to destroy the cancer cells, a NanoKnife that destroys cancer with electrical pulses, and the Tulsa procedure, which uses ultrasound delivered through the urethra to destroy prostate tissue.

For the Crowleys, married 14 years, this is the start of a new chapter together.

"We never imagined this journey, but we're grateful every day — for early detection, expert care and the chance to live life fully again," says Sandra.

Jan Engoren writes about health



and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.

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Health Notes

Biotech company moving offices to Boca Raton

BioStem Technologies, a biotechnology company developing placental-derived tissue grafts for advanced wound care, is moving its headquarters from Pompano Beach to the Research Park in Boca Raton after the city agreed to award \$300,000 in incentives.

BioStem purchased a 4-acre property within the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University for its administrative offices, manufacturing and distribution facilities.

As part of the incentive agreement, over the next five years BioStem will create 100 jobs that pay an average salary of \$81,000. Each job must be retained for at least three years. The business also agreed to spend \$49.5 million on capital improvements for the headquarters.

Dermatologist receives award from colleagues

Dr. James J. DeVoursney was named 2025 Surgeon of the Year by his colleagues in the Florida Society of Dermatologic Surgeons. DeVoursney is double board-certified in dermatology and Mohs micrographic dermatologic surgery by the American Board of Dermatology.

In addition to his clinical practice, DeVoursney teaches residents during their



DeVoursney

dermatology rotations through Baptist Health South Florida. His office, Boynton Beach Skin, is at 7740 Boynton Beach Blvd., Boynton

Beach.

Over the course of his career, DeVoursney has received the Chancellor's Award for Academic Achievement from St. George's University School of Medicine, the Chief Resident Award from the University of Miami Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Surgery, and the George Ioannides Award for Excellence in Resident Dermatology Teaching, among other honors.

Delray Medical Center uses new spinal surgery system

Delray Medical Center

recently utilized its new Medivis augmented reality spine navigation system in a procedure that was completed by neurosurgeon and chief of neurosurgery Dr. Lloyd Zucker.

"This system gives us an unprecedented level of visibility and precision during spine procedures," Zucker said. "Being able to visualize patient-specific 3D anatomy in real time enhances surgical accuracy, efficiency and, ultimately, patient outcomes. This is a transformative step forward in spine surgery."

In other Delray Medical Center news, Healthgrades recognized it as One of America's Top 50 Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery with 17 clinical achievements in November. These distinctions included the Cardiac Surgery Excellence Award, Pulmonary Care Excellence Award and Critical Care Excellence Award. The

hospital also ranked among the top 10% in the nation for both pulmonary and critical care services.

Also, Delray Medical Center recently earned bronze accreditation from the American College of Emergency Physicians as part of the Geriatric Emergency

Department accreditation program. The accreditation process evaluates staffing, education, policies, protocols and quality improvement initiatives that enhance patient outcomes and safety for seniors.

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

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- Dr. K.D.



Rose Glamoclija, R.N. Owner and Administrator



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Elegant 5BR, 4BA + 2 half baths & office in The Oaks at Boca Raton. Features open layout, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, screened patio, pool & garden views, and a luxe primary suite with spa bath. Listed By: Erica Kiyota Ayrosa | 561.317.3637

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Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 11/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

DECEMBER 6

Saturday - 12/6 - 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

12/6 - Pilates in the Park at Wildflower Park, 551 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 9-10 am. Free. myboca.us/wildflower

12/6 - 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

12/6 - Zumba Class at South Beach Park Pavilion, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-393-7703; downtownboca.org

12/6 - Yoga Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

12/6 - 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 1st & 3rd Sat 10-11 am. \$10-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

DECEMBER 7-13

12/6 - Judo Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Warm-up exercises, instruction, practice, tournament training. W 6:30-8:30 pm mixed ages/ranks; Sat 10 am-noon all groups. Per month \$21.50/resident; \$27/ non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

12/6 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Sunday - 12/7 - Yoga Class at Wildflower Park, 551 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. Held again 12/28 9-10 am. Free. myboca.us/wildflower

12/7 - Coco Market at Old School Square Amphitheater, 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

12/7 - 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 W/Sun 6:30 pm. \$10-\$12.50/class; 60-day membership \$65/resident, \$81.25/non-resident. 561-393-7807; myboca.us

12/7 - 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 - 12/8 - LGBTQ ACOA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Prayer Room, 101 NW 22nd St. Every M 6:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Tuesday - 12/9 - Yoga with Sophia at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Held again 12/16 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

12/9 - Al-Anon Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Fellowship Hall, 101 NW 22nd St. Every T 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 12/10 - Yoga at the Library at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Every W at 10 am. \$400/members; \$550/ non-members. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

12/10 - Stretch & Strengthening Mindfulness Class at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W/F 10:30 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

12/10 - Bootcamp at Wildflower Park, 551 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. Every W 5:30 pm. Free. myboca.us/wildflower

12/10 - Yoga in the Museum at Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Every W/F 11 am-noon. \$8/class. Registration: 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

Thursday - 12/11 - Diabetology w/ Frank Lavernia - The First Diabetes Visit: Preparations & Expectations at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

12/11 - LGBTQ+ AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach Prayer Room, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Th 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

12/11 - Alateen Meeting at St. Mark's Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Th 7:30 pm. Free. 561-278-3481; southpalmbeachafg.org

Friday - 12/12 - Fitness by Jilbear - Chair Fitness Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 55+. Held again 12/19. 4-5 pm. Per class: \$10/resident; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

DECEMBER 14-20

Sunday - 12/14 - Yoga at the Museum at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 8:30-10 am. \$15/member; \$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

Tuesday - 12/16 - Chair Yoga at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Every 1st & 3rd T 10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

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BOLD

Continued from page AT1

my left ankle and they took about a handful of bone chips out that shouldn't be there," said Bold, now 24, who added he didn't think to keep any of the chips for souvenirs. "I was too loopy to ask them to keep them by the time they were done."

A guy who spends a lot of time spinning, jumping, flipping and flying through the air with what seems the greatest of ease can be forgiven for being a little loopy from anesthetic, especially as it is apparent that Bold is one of the clearest-minded people you could possibly meet.

It's also clear he has a strong competitive streak, and you get the impression that — as he makes his way on crutches to a table in the back of a Starbucks on a visit home to Delray Beach — if another gent on crutches challenged him to a 50-yard dash, Bold would ask, "Where and when?"

His father, Bill Bold, said Crew has always been that way.

"He was always very muscular for a kid his age, and still is," Bill Bold said. "We had him in youth soccer and he was scoring, like, 20 goals a game. Then, all of a sudden, he started doing front flips and back flips after he would score a goal, and we turned to each other and said, 'Where did that come from?' So, that's when we thought we should get him involved in gymnastics."

Living a routine

Ten years ago, in a previous profile in *The Coastal Star*, Bold said all he thought about was gymnastics. Not much has changed since then.

There is a plan for every day. Each starts at 6 a.m. and by 6:45 he's already working out. Three days a week, that begins with lifting weights — working on specific muscle groups — to build strength and endurance. After that are recovery time and typically "a medium to heavy" breakfast of eggs, a bagel, turkey bacon and tomatoes.

Afternoon practice runs from 2 to 6:30 p.m. and starts with a little snack of carbs and protein to fuel up. Dinner is pretty simple.

"It's chicken and rice every night, with broccoli or asparagus," he said. "Any variation comes from my sauces. And my vegetables."

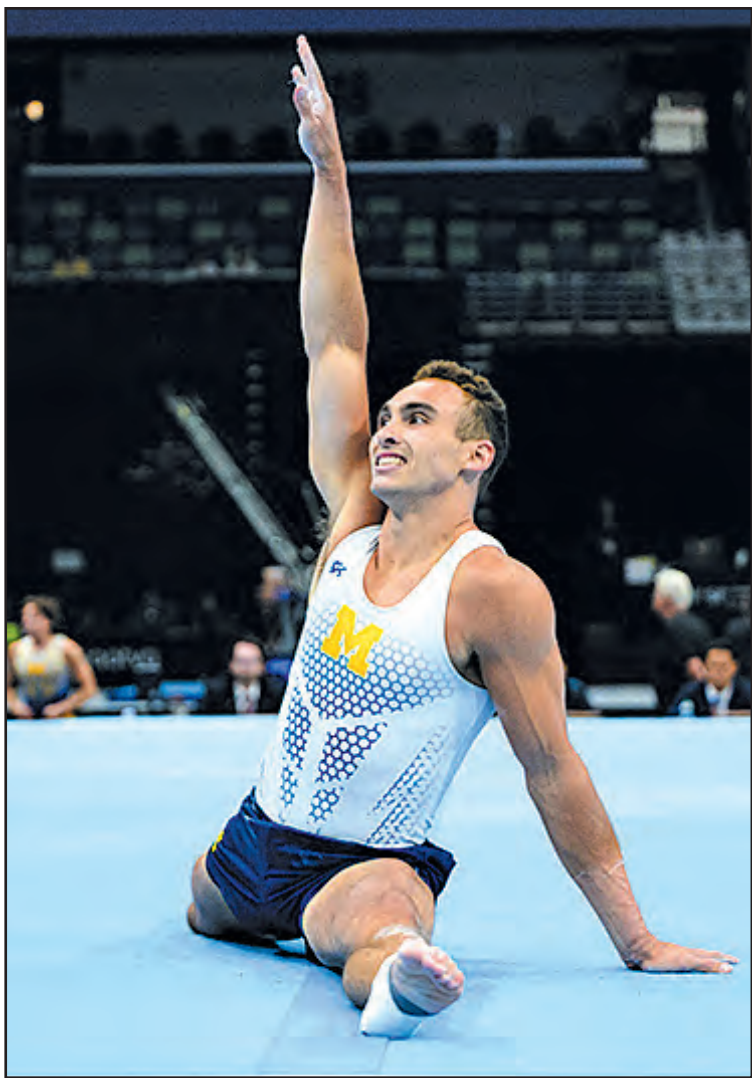
He's in bed by 10 or 10:30 p.m.

"I find time to hang out with my friends, play a little golf here and there," Bold said. "But the majority of my day is taken up by gymnastics."



LEFT: What is Crew Bold thinking when he's in flight? 'How do I land this in the safest possible way without getting injured.' Bold placed second on high bar at the 2025 U.S. nationals.

BELOW: The floor exercise highlights Bold's strength and flexibility. **Photos provided**



His drive was noted 10 years ago by one of his instructors at Twisters.

"He wants to be great and he knows what it takes," Shane Cummings said. "And he knows he has to work hard."

Said his dad: "He is probably the most tenacious, persistent yet lovable noodle you would meet in your life," recalling that "we even got a pig as a pet because he wouldn't stop bothering us. We would just give in."

How he made U.S. team

Anyone less determined than

Bold may have packed it all in when, after he spent two years at the University of Minnesota, COVID-19 struck and the school shut down its gymnastics program.

"That was devastating," Bold said. "But it turned out to be more of a blessing in disguise as I was able to transfer to Michigan."

While there, he became a multiple-time All-America selection and four-time Big Ten champion.

"It's been a dream come true," said Bold, who excels on the high bar and the parallel bars.

When college was over — he graduated in June 2024 — Bold decided he wasn't done. He still had Olympic aspirations.

"I ended up living and competing in Germany for 2½ months" at the end of 2024, he said. "It was amazing. And when I came back I decided to stick with gymnastics a little longer."

He won the high bar competition at the 2025 Winter Cup in February (also placing sixth on the floor exercise), and he was runner-up on the high bar at the U.S. Championships in August (and sixth on the parallel bars) — earning his spot on the senior national team.

Defying gravity

It all comes down to "dedication to his sport," said Chris Heffernan, a friend to the Bold family who has watched Crew grow into adulthood. "I don't think people understand the level of commitment it takes to be the level of athlete that Crew is."

Bold explains gymnastics in very simple terms.

"It's always you against gravity," he pointed out. "Football, soccer, it's person against person. In gymnastics it's you against the event. And when there is contact, it's me hitting the floor, usually."

That's why he has to be precise.

"I know exactly how many steps I need on the floor down to every second. I know exactly how long it takes to do my routine. It's all down to a science and it's all second nature at this point."

And no, he doesn't think about what he looks like as he is flying through the air over the high bar or during a floor routine.

"It's more so just thinking about how you're going to land," Bold said. "I don't have time to focus on the feeling of being in the air. I'm definitely thinking how do I land this in the safest possible way without getting injured."

"There's no time to think about if this looks cool."

"Once the competition starts you don't think about anything and just let all the training work for itself. If you start getting into your head you can become more nervous and suddenly it just doesn't go the way it is supposed to go."

The future beyond sport

There is one thing that Bold is having more trouble visualizing, where reality enters the picture and disturbs the landing.

"I don't know if my body is going to last three more years, honestly," until the next Olympics, he admitted. But then he immediately returns to his step-by-step thought process.

"Right now, taking it month by month is the best kind of plan of action for me. I would love to compete internationally for the U.S. at a World Cup."

And he even has his exit strategy from gymnastics figured out, too.

"I would love to get into medical device sales. That's what my dad did in New York City," Bold said.

"My girlfriend just moved to New York, and I've visited her multiple times and I love the area. So, I'll see where that goes. I want to get into foot-and-ankle [devices]."

He smiled and took a look at the pink cast.

"I know a little bit about that." ★

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On the Water

Holiday gifts that are sure to lure in the anglers in your life

The fishing industry is constantly innovating, which is great news when shopping for the anglers on your holiday gift list.

Miami-based Hook & Tackle has been a pioneer in fishing clothing since the company began in 1989, from UPF 50 sun protection in shirts, shorts, hats and pants for men, women and children, to lightweight, perspiration-wicking materials.

Island shorts

The company’s popular men’s Beer Can Island shorts are now available in eye-catching blue and gray dot camo and geo camo patterns.

The stretchy, comfortable, quick-drying shorts have deep front pockets, a zipper-secured rear pocket, a side pocket that can hold a cell phone or fishing pliers and the signature beer can pocket that can also hold fishing accessories. The shorts, which also make a bold fashion statement on land, retail for \$65 at hookandtackle.com.

The shorts can be matched with one of the company’s many long-sleeve performance fishing shirts and hoodies, which feature radial sleeves for a full range of movement, whether you’re casting to a fish or reeling in one.

“They’re UPF 50, quick dry, water repellent, odor resistant and soft as you can imagine,” chief marketing officer Stan Rudman said of the moisture-wicking shirts.

Sunglasses

The new Hull Float sunglasses from Hobie Eyewear feature frames made from the plastic trimmings of Hobie kayaks. Like the kayaks, the lightweight polarized sunglasses float in the water.

Hobie Eyewear also makes the revolutionary Duo Series. The company offers three frame shapes for prescription eyeglasses, with your choice of six magnetic clip-on polarized sunglass lens colors, including



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Hook & Tackle’s Beer Can Island shorts offer comfort and utility in a variety of camo and geo camo patterns. Next, Hull Float sunglasses from Hobie Eyewear feature frames made from the plastic trimmings of Hobie kayaks, so they float in the water. Hobie Eyewear also offers your choice of six magnetic clip-on polarized sunglasses that fit over your prescription lenses and come in a variety of lens colors. The Rux 30L waterproof tote bag keeps your gear dry, clean and ready, whether you’re on the water, the beach or a muddy trail. Finally, Miami-based Hook & Tackle offers moisture-wicking shirts made of comfortable fabrics, while Whitewater Fishing’s Spindrift Merino Fishing Hoodie is made of a blend of merino wool, nylon and lycra. Photos provided

gray, copper and cobalt blue.

“What’s great about them is they are your everyday glasses that you wear with your prescription in them,” spokesman Dylan Coates said. “If you’re someone who likes spending time outdoors and you don’t want to pay for an expensive polarized sunglass prescription, simply take our magnetic clips and put them on and you can’t even tell that they’re clip-ons. They look like a regular pair of sunglasses.”

The clip-ons have a hook and two magnetic points that securely stay on the frames. While on the water, you can change the color of the lenses depending on the light and

water conditions. Coates said the eyeglass frame with one clip-on retails for \$120 plus the cost of your prescription.

Additional clip-ons are \$40 to \$50. Visit hobieeyewear.com/collections/duo-collection.

Fishing hoodie

Michigan-based Whitewater Fishing sells a Spindrift Merino Fishing Hoodie that is very different from typical hoodies. The garment is made of 82% lightweight merino wool, 16% nylon and 2% lycra. Soft, stretchy and with UPF 50 protection, the hoodie is right at home on the water or out for dinner in South Florida.

“It’s just a really comfortable, breathable, lovely hoodie,” said Whitewater spokesman Jay Anglin. “Merino is such a great material to work with. The temperature regulation on it is phenomenal. Everybody has this idea that wool is too hot. That is not the case with this.”

It listed last month for \$129.99 at whitewaterfish.com.

Waterproof tote bag

The Rux 30L waterproof tote bag keeps your gear dry, clean and ready, whether you’re on the water, the beach or a muddy hiking trail en route to a campsite. The fully

welded, no-zipper bag can be used as an everyday, roomy tote bag. When the weather turns, it converts to a roll-top dry bag. The bag, which is made from heavy duty coated nylon, stands open so it’s easy to pack and unpack. It comes with a removable shoulder strap and a lifetime warranty. The bags, normally \$170, are available in three colors as well as 25L sizes at rux.life.



Outdoors writer Steve Waters can be reached at steve33324@aol.com.

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 11/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

DECEMBER 6

Saturday - 12/6 - 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, 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
12/6 - Ornaments Naturally at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Create nature ornaments/

decorations w/holiday themes using shells, sea beans, pine cones, other materials (provided). Age 7 & up, child under 18 must participate w/an adult. 10-11:30 am. \$12/resident & member; \$15/non-member. Reservation: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

12/6 - 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

DECEMBER 7-13

Sunday - 12/7 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean

Bldv, Boca Raton. 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
Tuesday - 12/9 - Island Treks at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Join a short trek along the shaded boardwalk through the tropical hardwood hammock forest, pausing for some intracoastal views through the mangroves. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

DECEMBER 14-20

Wednesday - 12/17 - Fishing Derby Meeting at Lantana Pizza, 467 Greynolds Circle. 5:30-6:30 pm. 561-585-8664; lantanafishingderby.com

Thursday - 12/18 - Early Birding w/ AI at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about native & migratory birds from an experienced birder; walk the Ashley Trail/boardwalk in search of warblers, gnatcatchers, woodpeckers, other avian species. Binoculars recommended. Meet on nature center front porch. Age 10+; child must be accompanied by an adult. 8:30-10 am. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47
Saturday - 12/20 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. 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

DECEMBER 21-27

Sunday - 12/21 - 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. Reservations: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47
Tuesday - 12/23 - Beach Treasures at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about seashells, the animals that make them. Caravan to Red Reef Park, 1400 N State Rd A1A, to search for ocean treasures. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Reservations: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Religion Notes

First Presbyterian laments losing co-pastor to new job

By Janis Fontaine

The word “bittersweet” is often overused, but it was appropriate on Oct. 19 when First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach celebrated its 100th anniversary on the same day it said goodbye to one of its beloved pastors.

As the church family ate cookies and explored an elaborate display of historical artifacts in Fellowship Hall, congregants stopped to embrace Pastor Greg Rapier, who decided to accept a new position in California.

Pastor Greg came to the barrier island church in 2018 as an associate pastor. He became a co-pastor with Dr. Doug Hood in September 2024. Everyone fully expected Hood to retire and Rapier to lead the church into the next quarter century.

“Greg served our church exceptionally well for seven years, and we planned that when I retired he would become the pastor of the church,” Hood said. “But it makes me think of that very familiar quote, that we make plans and God laughs.

“So, we made plans,” but then Rapier “felt an undeniable sense of call that God wanted him to be a pastor in Sacramento and that’s where he’s gone. I honor that he felt that God called him.”

Like his congregation, Hood will miss Pastor Greg. “I want him back,” he said with a laugh. “I have my misgivings about what God is up to. Now, we’ve got to start the process all over, because I still want to retire in two years, but we don’t have a succession plan now.”

In its 100 years, First Presbyterian has had only nine pastors. Hood came to

the church in 2012, and Rapier became the ninth when he became co-pastor with Hood.

Finding a new pastor is “a lengthy process,” Hood said. “It could be nine months to a year before I have another colleague, which is half the time I’ve got left here. After 38 years of ministry, I am ready to retire.”

The pressure of ministering a large congregation on his own became clear again when Hood returned from a two-week vacation and officiated three funerals. He’d bought the tickets two years ago and couldn’t have canceled them.

The church that was organized with just 66 people in 1925 now has more than 850 members and it’s growing. As churches struggle to retain members, the welcoming atmosphere at First Presbyterian continues to attract new people.

“We were the fourth-largest church in the Presbytery when I began 12 years ago,” Hood said. The Presbytery covers 39 congregations in Southeast Florida.

“We’re now the largest church. And it’s a vibrant church. Now the season’s begun, we are having around 400 people in worship, and in January that number grows to 600 people who are attending worship with me.”

The church is a member of Presbyterian Church USA, its governing body. According to the Presbytery, it is not just church attendance that has declined in recent years, but the number of people interested in becoming pastors has fallen.

“As of this year, 75% of our active clergy are aged 65 years old and older, so now there’s only 25% of our active clergy who are under the age



Parishioners Sandra and Ben McCaul say their goodbyes to Pastor Greg Rapier after his last service at First Presbyterian Church in Delray Beach. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

of 65,” said Hood, who is 65. “So, we have a far smaller pool than we had when we found Greg and smaller than when they found me, because we don’t want to hire someone to come in and retire in two or three years.”

Finding a replacement to carry the church into its next hundred years won’t be easy, but for the right person, pastoring at First Presbyterian, with its beautiful campus near one of Florida’s most glorious beachfronts, it would be a dream job.

“There’s so much energy in the church,” Hood said. “This is a very open, inclusive congregation, a marvelous group of people of God. I believe the next hundred years are going to be great.”

La Festa di Santa Lucia

St. Lucy Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of St. Lucy, the church’s patron saint, after the 4 p.m. Mass on Dec. 13 in Parish Hall, 3510 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach. Following a procession of a statue of St. Lucy, Father Brian Horgan will speak about her life. 561-278-1280; stlucy.net.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Songs, worship at Cason

Cason United Methodist Church is lit up each night to welcome guests to its bounty of music this season.

Christmas caroling will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, and the annual Christmas Cantata — “Glory to the Newborn King!” — will take place at 3 p.m. Dec. 14. A Christmas Night of Worship is at 7 p.m. Dec. 5 in the sanctuary and the special Christmas Eve Family Nativity Service takes place at 5 p.m. Dec. 24, followed by a traditional candlelight service at 7. Cason is at 342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 561-276-5302 or casonumc.org.

Concerts at St. Gregory’s

The Master Chorale returns to St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton, at 4 p.m. Dec. 13 for its annual holiday concert.

With singers from Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, the chorale presents “Comfort and Joy,” with St. Gregory’s music director Tim Brumfield at the organ. Tickets are \$40 general admission, \$60 for preferred seating at masterchoraleofsouthflorida.org.

St. Gregory’s choir will present the annual Christmas at St. Gregory’s concert at 6 p.m. Dec. 21 in the style of a traditional Lessons and Carols service. Special readings and anthems featuring the choir, guest musicians and soloists are planned. Free. stgregorysepiscopal.org.

‘Messiah’ at St. Joan

“The Christmas Portion” of Handel’s “Messiah” will be presented at 7 p.m. Dec. 5 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 370 SW Third St., Boca Raton. It will be performed by the Florida Atlantic University Chamber Singers, alumni and Schola Cantorum of Florida under the baton of Dr. Patricia P. Fleitas. Featured soloists include Rose Mannino, soprano; Monica Berovides-Hidalgo, alto; Erick Crow, tenor; and Matthew Daniels, baritone. Tickets are \$20 at eventbrite.com/e/handels-messiah-tickets-1671383987499?aff=ebdssbdestsearch.

‘Messiah’ at St. Lucy

St. Lucy Catholic Church presents Handel’s “Messiah” at 6 p.m. Dec. 14 at the church at 3510 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach. This evening of sacred music celebrating the birth of Christ features world-class soloists Mary Anne Kruger, soprano; Marguerite Krull, mezzo-soprano; Michael Rodriguez, tenor; and Mark Sullivan, bass-baritone. They will be joined by the Treasure Coast Chamber Singers and a chamber orchestra under the direction of Dr. Douglas Jewett. Tickets are \$75 at the parish office. 561-278-1280.

HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS

Party at B’nai Torah

B’nai Torah, 6261 SW

18th St., Boca Raton, hosts a celebration from 4 to 6 p.m. Dec. 14, with bottle dancers, a DJ dance party, photos with Hanukkah characters, games and activities, plus snacks and Hanukkah hors d’oeuvres and treats. Register online at btcboca.org/events or call 561-392-8566.

South Palm Chabad events

Chabad of South Palm Beach hosts its 20th annual Hanukkah Concert & Grand Menorah Lighting on the first night of Hanukkah, at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at 224 S. Ocean Blvd. in the Plaza del Mar, Manalapan. The concert will feature virtuosic guitarist Gyorgy Lakatos and his band along with cantor Gergely Nogradi, plus hot latkes, Israeli doughnuts, Rita’s Ices, crafts for the kids and a photo booth.

Chabad of South Palm Beach hosts three other celebrations:

- Hanukkah in the Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N. Ocean Blvd., is planned for 5:30 p.m. Dec. 16, featuring live music, hot latkes, Israeli doughnuts and falafel.

- Hanukkah in the Town of Hypoluxo takes place at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Garnett Park gazebo, 7580 Federal Highway, Hypoluxo.

- Light up Lake Worth Beach, co-sponsored with Chabad of Coastal Palm Beach, takes place on the eighth night of Hanukkah at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 21 and features a menorah lighting with local dignitaries, live music, Hanukkah treats, a kid zone with face painting and crafts, and a photo booth.

For more information on any of the events, call 561-889-3499.

Old School Square festival

The annual Hanukkah Festival & Menorah Lighting takes place at the amphitheater at Old School Square from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 14 at 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Nosh on crispy latkes, sweet doughnuts and cotton candy, and enjoy family activities like a bubble show, bounce houses and crafts. The highlight is the lighting of the menorah. delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events/chanuka-festival.

Ascension Lutheran Church is preparing to
Celebrate the Season of Advent
Beginning on Sunday, November 30th.
Advent is celebrated 4 weeks prior to Christmas.

Please join us at our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24th at 7 p.m.
Musical Preludes 6:30 p.m.

This is a family service with performances by our Chancel and Hand Bell Choirs, with fabulous music and Christmas Carols played by guest musicians and Dr. Kirsten Hellman on our spectacular Schantz pipe organ which was once played on by world renowned artist, Diane Bish.

The Reverend Robert Schaefer invites you to come celebrate this beautiful evening of the birth of our Lord and Savior with all our Ascension Family and friends.

May the peace of the Christmas season be with our blessed families and friends.

For further information please call 561-732-2929
2929 S. Seacrest Boulevard., Boynton Beach
Please call Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon or visit our website
www.ascensionlutheranchurch.net

Finding Faith

Ascension Road band a key player in ‘Rebuilt’ Catholic church

The annual Christmas concert always fills Ascension Catholic Church in Boca Raton to capacity, and the church’s popular music ministry is one reason the congregation is filling the pews on Sundays, too.

The church is a part of the Rebuilt Parish movement, which is a more contemporary version of the Catholic Church designed to appeal to a modern community, and a big part of that is rethinking the music. At a recent service the music was contemporary Christian, with the lyrics displayed on large video screens above the altar. It was like a sing-along mixed with prayer, fellowship and communion.

Patrick Watkins leads the seven-piece Ascension Road band, which will perform the Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Dec. 17. A gifted tenor, he graduated from Florida Atlantic University in 2020 and landed a position teaching theater at Spanish River High School.

The married father of a 2-year-old has been producing and recording singers and rappers and his own music at his company, PJW Music, for 20 years and is tapped to direct musicals at Thinking Cap Theatre at The Vanguard in Fort Lauderdale when he has time. He also teaches privately.

“I’ve been music director for two years next Easter, but I’ve been a worship leader here as of 2019,” he said. He came to the church when Father Carl Hellwig, in search of a vocalist for the band, emailed Watkins’ professor at FAU, who recommended him. At Ascension, Watkins found both his calling and his religion. After a few years, he felt compelled to convert. Then, in March 2024, Watkins became Ascension’s music director.

He joined Marybeth Jackson, one of the band’s first members,



who has been the church’s cantor since 2009. The caretaker of the group, she handed out homemade cookies from a tin between services. She said she has happily watched the congregation evolve from older adults to one full of families.

“It wasn’t like this 15 years ago,” she said of the babbling babies and boisterous kids who fill the sanctuary with noisy joy. “The priests welcome it.”

That openness to families is part of being a Rebuilt Parish, which follows the model established by co-founders Father Michael White of the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland, and his lay associate Tom Corcoran. Inspired by Pastor Rick Warren, the author of *The Purpose Driven Life* and *The Purpose Driven Church*, they took a hard

look at their struggling parish. They eventually refocused on reaching the “un-churched” and creating paths to grow the church and revitalize the parish culture.

At Ascension, Father Gavin Badway, now rector at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in Palm Beach Gardens, was the impetus behind the church’s adoption of the Rebuilt Parish model. “He was very on board with it,” bass player Marko Ruffolo said.

Since then, Ruffolo said, a lot has changed as far as the roles that were solely for priests.

“A lot of catechism has been handed over to the laity, getting more people involved in the ministry,” he said. “The real deal has three m’s: message, music and ministry. We’re starting to see we can touch people by

The Ascension Road band plays contemporary Christian music at the Ascension Catholic Church in Boca Raton (left). **ABOVE** (l-r): Music director Patrick Watkins, Roxanne Grant, Rodrigo Valente, Tom Benstein, Yasmary Marquez, Marko Ruffolo and cantor Marybeth Jackson. **Photos provided**

the music and message and get them involved in the ministry.”

The increased involvement of the congregation in church affairs and activities goes hand in hand with the small group meetings that take place in people’s homes or via Zoom, Jackson said.

These interactions help parishioners feel like they’re a part of the larger church. They are intimate gatherings designed to strengthen commitments to God and church.

“We meet and discuss questions to help each other in faith,” Ruffolo said. “It’s not quite a Bible study, and it’s not quite a group therapy. It’s a little of both.”

“It’s a way to make the big church feel small,” said Tom Benstein, who plays lead guitar. He’s been a member of the

If You Go
The Ascension Music Ministry Christmas Concert takes place at 7 p.m. Dec. 17 at Ascension Catholic Church, 7250 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Call 561-997-5486 or visit ascensionboca.org/

church since he moved to South Florida in the ‘90s but didn’t become involved musically until Father Gavin agreed the music needed modernizing.

In the Rebuilt church, “one of the things that they reinforce is that the church belongs to the people,” Benstein said. “The one thing that we hear a lot is how welcoming we are for non-church people, for people that maybe have been away or are unfamiliar with this particular church. They don’t feel like an outsider. They can come where they don’t feel judged, where they don’t feel uncomfortable.”

Guitarist Roxanne Grant, the newest member of the band, agrees. She was baptized, confirmed and raised in the Catholic church, but “took a long hiatus” before finding her way back, thanks to the band.

This new church was very different from the one she left behind, Grant said. “When I came back here to join the band, this space was so welcoming. The band was so welcoming. They were a true reflection of what the parish is about, and I think what this religion can be.”

“It’s not your father’s Catholic Church,” Benstein said.

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations,

causes and community events. Contact her at fontaine423@outlook.com



Mitzvah Day

B’nai Torah, Boca Raton — Nov. 16

B’nai Torah Congregation welcomed 1,570 people of all ages to its annual Mitzvah Day. It was a morning full of opportunities to make a difference by participating in more than 50 acts of kindness. These included packing essential items and food for homeless people, sending candy to troops and donating blood. Service is the primary purpose of the TLC Program, led by Summer Faerman, and is B’nai Torah’s source for Mitzvah opportunities in areas of critical need. Visit btcboca.org/community/tlc-program to learn more.



INSET (l-r): Skylar Flanagan, Abby Sherman and London Schuster put together supplies for people in need. **Photo provided**



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Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 11/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

DECEMBER 7-13

Sunday - 12/7 - 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 - 12/8 - 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
12/8- Rosary for Peace at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M 5:45-6:15 pm. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com
12/8 - Yud Tes Kisley Commemorative Event at Boca Beach Chabad, 490 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$18 suggested donation. Reservations: 561-394-9770; chabadbocabeaches.com/

calendar
Tuesday - 12/9- Tuesday Morning Prayer Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org
Wednesday - 12/10 - 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
12/10 - Wednesday Evening

Meditation Service at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 6:30 pm. Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org
Thursday - 12/11 - Thursday Morning Telephone Prosperity Coffee presented by Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Phone meeting (605-475-6006, passcode 3031030). Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org
12/11 - 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
12/11 - 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
Friday - 12/12 - Legion of Mary at St. Vincent Ferrer Family Life Center, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every F 9:30-11 am. Free. 561-276-6892; stvincentferrer.com
12/12 - 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
12/12 - 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

DECEMBER 14-20

Sunday - 12/14 - Hostage Survivor Omer Shem Tov at Boca Beach Chabad, 490 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 10 am. \$36-\$100. Reservations: 561-394-9770; chabadbocabeaches.com/calendar
12/14 - A Festival of Lessons & Carols at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 3 pm. Free admission; collection taken. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org
Friday - 12/19 - Chanukah Sabbat Service & Celebration: Latkes, Lights & Billy Joel Nights at Temple Beth El Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW 4th Ave, Boca Raton. 6-9 pm. \$30-\$40/adults; \$15-\$25/children ages 4-12; free/children 3 & under. Registration: 561-391-8900; tbeboca.org

DECEMBER 21-27

Wednesday - 12/24 - Christmas Eve Services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 4, 7 & 10 pm. Free. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org
12/24 - Christmas Eve Service at Old School Square Amphitheatre, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events
12/24 - Candelight Christmas Eve Service at Ascension Lutheran Church, 2929 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. 7 pm. Free. 561-732-2929; www.ascensionlutheranchurch.net
12/24 - Christmas Eve Services at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. 5 pm, 7 pm & 9:30 pm. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com
12/24 - Christmas Eve Services at First United Methodist Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd. 8 pm. Free. 561-395-1244; fumcbocaraton.org
Thursday - 12/25 - Christmas Day Services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10 am. Free. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org

PLACES OF WORSHIP DIRECTORY

CATHOLIC

ST. LUCY CATHOLIC CHURCH 3510 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, FL 33487 • Phone: 561-278-1280 • Web: stlucy.net
• Daily Masses: Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. • Weekend Masses: Saturday, 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH 643 NE 4th Ave., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • Phone 561-734-9330 • Web: stmarkboynton.com
• Daily Masses: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 a.m. • Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:00 p.m., Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 (Spanish).
ST. VINCENT FERRER CATHOLIC CHURCH 840 George Bush Blvd. • Delray Beach, FL 33483. • Phone: 561-276-6892
• Web: stvincentferrer.com. Father Dennis Gonzales. Mass Times: Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m. Saturday Vigil (except Holy Saturday) 4:00 p.m.; Sunday 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (livestreamed), 11:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY OF DELRAY BEACH
• Phone: 617-851-7750 • Web: ChristianScienceDelrayBeach.com
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST 566 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33432 • Phone 561-391-7689 • Web: christianscientistboca.org • Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Wednesday Service: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

EPISCOPAL

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 100 NE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton, FL 33432 • Phone: 561-395-8285 • Web: stgregorysepiscopal.org • Email: office@st-gregorys.com
The Reverend Andrew Sherman, Rector. We warmly welcome all seeking God's love and grace. Join us Sundays for Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (with coffee hour after), and 6:00 p.m. evening service.
ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3300A S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33435. • Phone 561-732-3060. • Web: stjoesweb.org. • Worship Schedule: Saturdays 5:00 p.m. Reflective Healing; Sundays 9:30 a.m. Choral Rite II; 10:45 a.m. Coffee Hour; 11:45 a.m. Contemporary service, live band (livestreamed).
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444. • Phone: 561-276-4541 • Web: stpaulsdelray.org. Father Paul Kane. Services of Holy Eucharist: Saturdays 5:00 p.m.; Sundays 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.; Sundays 10:00 a.m. Family Prayers and Praise Service; Thursday 12:10 p.m. Healing Service; Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer and 8:00 p.m. Compline.

JEWISH

BETH AMI CONGREGATION - A Contemporary Conservative Congregation, 1401 NW 4th Avenue, Boca Raton, FL 33432
• Phone: (561) 347-0031 • Web: BACBOCA.com • Email: info@Bacboca.com • Rabbi Bertram Kieffer, Cantor Lewis Messulam
• Friday Service 7:00 p.m., Shabbat morning and Festivals, 9:30 a.m.

CHABAD OF EAST DELRAY 101 SE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444 • Phone: 954-283-7261 • Web: Jewisheastdelray.com
• Rabbi Shmuel Biston. • Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

TEMPLE SINAI OF PBC 2475 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33445 • Phone: 561-276-6161 • Web: templesinaipbc.org
• Rabbi Steven Moss & Cantorial Soloist Shir Rozzen
• Friday Service: 7:30 p.m.; Saturday Service: 10:30 a.m.

LUTHERAN

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH 2929 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • Phone: 561-732-2929 • Web: ascensionlutheranchurch.net. Worship Service/Holy Communion Sundays 10:30 a.m. All are welcome! Our mission is Ministry: God has called us to share His love through healing hurts, filling needs and caring for those who are less fortunate in our family, in our community and around the world.

METHODIST

CASON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 342 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444. • Phone: 561-276-5302 • Web: casonumc.org. • **Sunday Services:** Contemporary Service, 9:15 a.m.; Traditional Service, 11:00 a.m. • **Christmas Eve Services:** Family/Children's Service, 5:00 p.m.; Traditional Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - Church of the Palms, 1960 N. Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33444
• Phone: 561-276-6347 • Web: churchofthepalms.net
• Services: Sunday 10:00 a.m., Online Worship Sunday 4:00 p.m.

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The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be delivered the weekend of Jan. 3



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Tots & Teens

Exchange of culture, respect:
Delray students savor visit
from Japan high schoolers

By Faran Fagen

For Kiki Casale, trick-or-treating was the highlight of the five days she spent with Japanese exchange student Suzuha Ueoka.

For Ueoka, traveling from house to house, collecting candy and later gobbling down chocolate, was nothing like she ever experienced before.

“That was Suzuha’s first time trick-or-treating and she was mesmerized,” said Delray Beach City Commissioner Juli Casale, Kiki’s mom. “This was her first time to the United States and Delray Beach. She particularly enjoyed the beach, Sandoway Discovery Center and trick-or-treating on Halloween. Every moment was a highlight.”



From Oct. 28 through Nov. 1, seven high schoolers from Miyazu, Japan, took part in a student exchange in Delray Beach as part of the Sister Cities program. For an immersive cultural experience, they spent five days with host families.



The visitors and their hosts included (front, l-r): Junko Durante, Nancy King, Tsugumi Hori, Tugumi Yano, Suzuha Ueoka, Kayleigh Howald, Noriko Matsumoto; and (back, l-r): John Miller, Tony Durante, Rikuto Siota, Mihito Mizutani, Yosuke Takeshita, Reo Taga, Takahiro Yuri. **LEFT:** Kiki Casale with her mother, Delray Beach Commissioner Juli Casale. **Photos provided**

For Juli Casale, it was exciting to see Delray Beach through the eyes of a visitor from a foreign country.

“We are so fortunate in our city and sometimes, because it’s your day-to-day life, you forget how absolutely fabulous it is,”

she said. “Suzuha reminded me that we need to appreciate what we have here in Delray because it is very special.”

The Sister Cities program is an international organization created in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to

promote cultural understanding in hopes of decreasing the chance of world wars and conflicts.

Delray Beach established the official Sister Cities affiliation with Miyazu in 1977 to strengthen a bond of friendship with that city because it was the hometown of George Morikami. He donated more than 200 acres to Palm Beach County that became home to the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, which is named in his honor.

Since 1999, Delray Beach Sister Cities has been operating exchange programs where on alternating years high students from Delray Beach visit Miyazu, and then students from Miyazu visit Delray Beach.

Tony Durante is coordinator/teacher/mentor of the sessions each year and selected the host families. Durante, who speaks fluent Japanese, grew up in Delray Beach and spent more than two years living and teaching in Japan as a Christian missionary with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The other chaperone/mentor is Delray Beach Sister Cities board member and city retiree Nancy King. Durante and King developed the schedule for the 2025 student exchange.

Some of the activities over the five days: tour City Hall and meet with Mayor Tom Carney; tour the Morikami; tour Atlantic High School; attend International Safari Dinner at Old School Square (vintage gym); and attend Bexley Park Halloween Party.

The Miyazu students and Delray Beach host students were Tsugumi Hori with Sofia and Isabella Giddings; Rikuto Siota with Pearce and Chloe Antoine-Boylan; Reo Taga and Yosuke Takeshita with Landen Nguyen; Ueoka with Kiki Casale; Tugumi Yano with Alyssia Zeno; and Mihito Mizutani with Shayna Katz.

For Katz, a senior at Spanish River High, the five-day experience with Mizutani taught her a new level of respect.

“They were very respectful and showed appreciation for everything,” Katz said. “I wish I had time to get to know him

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page
better.”

Katz plans to study early childhood education at Florida Gulf Coast University and cherishes the lessons she learned in patience and manners from the program. Her family has hosted exchange students seven times, and Mizutani was the first boy they welcomed to Delray Beach as part of the program. He also wasn’t fluent in English, so they relied on a phone translator to communicate.

After Halloween, Mizutani played animal charades with Katz and her friends. Mizutani didn’t know the English names of the animals but still acted them out.

“He was laughing with my friends and so full of energy,” Katz said. “I really got to know his personality in the five days.”
As for the Casale family,

the connection with Japan will endure.

“My daughter has always wanted to visit Japan, so this experience was wonderful for her,” Juli Casale said. “One day we hope to visit Suzuha in her home country. We have been texting regularly since she left us.”

Kiki, a 10th grader, misses Suzuha’s energy and her smile. “We’re still in touch, and we plan to have her visit us again someday,” she said. “It was a great experience I’ll never forget.”

On another front, Katz and her mom, Heather, are gearing up for a program that hosts high school students from Spain during the summer, called STEP.

Heather is looking for host families for the upcoming summer. For more information, email heatherannekatz@gmail.com or visit STEPUSA.org. ★



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First Thanksgiving Celebration in Our New Home



This year marked a special milestone for our team as we hosted our annual Thanksgiving event—a cherished tradition that brings together our valued community partners, friends, and neighbors to celebrate gratitude, connection, and shared purpose.

For the first time, the celebration took place in our new building, and the experience was nothing short of extraordinary. The warmth in our new space set the perfect tone for a day filled with laughter, good food, and special conversation. From the moment guests arrived, there was an undeniable sense of togetherness—proof that while our surroundings may have changed, our spirit of community remains stronger than ever.

The event has long been a standing tradition for us, a way to pause and give thanks for the partnerships that make everything we do possible. This year, being able to welcome everyone into our new home made the moment even more meaningful.

As we reflect on another year of progress and partnership, we’re reminded that gratitude grows best when shared. Our Thanksgiving gathering continues to be a highlight of the year—a reminder of how far we’ve come and how much stronger we are together.

Here’s to many more celebrations, new memories, and the continued spirit of thankfulness that binds our community together.



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Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 11/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

DECEMBER 6

Saturday - 12/6 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Sat. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
12/6 - ColorSpace: Teen Art Studio at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 5-6 pm 12/15. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/6 - Sandoway Discovery Center Daily Feedings at 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Invertebrate touch tank 12:30-2:30 pm; Shark & stingray feedings 1 pm; aquarium feedings 2 pm; animal encounters 3 pm. T-Sat. Free w/\$10 admission. 561-274-7263; sandoway.org

DECEMBER 7-13

Sunday - 12/7 - Rookie Rooks: Introduction to Chess for Youth at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 8-12. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Monday - 12/8 - Knots 'n Needles - Teen Crochet Circle at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 12/22. 5-6 pm. Free.

Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/8-10 - Homework Help at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. For grades K-5. Runs through 12/19. M-W 3:30-4:15 & 4:15-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Tuesday - 12/9 - Toddler Tales at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Stories, music, movement. Ages walking to 23 mos. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
12/9 - Baby Doll Play at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18 mos-5 yrs. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
12/9 - Lab Rats at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/9 - Teen Tuesday at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. Every T 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
12/9 - Reinventing Embroidery for Tweens at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Wednesday - 12/10 - Reading & Rhythm for 2-3s at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment class. Child must be accompanied by an adult. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-

7968; bocalibrary.org
12/10 - Clue Crew: Solving Mysteries for Kids at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 7-8. 4-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
12/10 - Game Day at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 12/17 4:30-6:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
Thursday - 12/11 - Little Lap Adventures at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0 2 yrs. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/11 - Drop-In Family Storytime at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. Every Th 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
12/11 - Make & Take: Winter Charm Bracelets at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
12/11 - Kindergarten Prep Pals at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-5. 4:30-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Friday - 12/12 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Ages 0 months to non-walking. 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

12/12 - Cultural Performance: Peter and the Wolf - A Symphonic Tale for Children at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Saturday - 12/13 - Wee Move! at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 years. 10-11:15 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
12/13 - Once Upon a Story at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0-5. 11-11:30 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/13 - Haitian Folkloric Dance Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 6-17. Every Sat through 12/27. Ages 13+. 12:30-1:30 pm. \$60/resident; \$75/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
12/13 - Gaming Guild at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 12/20. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

DECEMBER 14-20

Sunday - 12/14 - Wild Wonders at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Hike, crafts, stories. Ages 3-6 w/an adult. 9:30-10:15 am. \$8/resident & member; \$10/non-member. Reservations: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Monday - 12/15 - Story Explorers Book Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 6-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/15 - All That Glitters: Post-Reconstruction to Boom & Bust at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
Tuesday - 12/16 - Crafty Holiday at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. All ages. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Thursday - 12/18 - STEAM for Little Hands - Akutaq Ice Cream at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 years. Dress for a mess! 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
12/18 - Ms. Lovely's Storytime at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-5 yrs. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/18 - Picture Book Club: The Gingerbread Boy by Paul Galdone at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
Saturday - 12/20 - STEM Camp: Hour of Code at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 7-12. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/20 - Finding Nemo Jr. at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Two shows: 4 & 7:30 pm. \$20/ adults; \$15/children. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

DECEMBER 21-27

Sunday - 12/21 - Art For Everyone at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-12. 2-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Monday - 12/22 - STEAM for Big Brains - Air Plants at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades K-5. Dress for a mess! 11:30 am-1 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
12/22-23 - Winter Break Camp at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Games, crafts, educational activities. Young conservationists learn about the importance of caring for/protecting sea turtles, other marine life. Ages 9-11. 8:30 am-noon. Per day \$30/resident; \$38/non-resident. Reservations: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47
Tuesday - 12/23 - School Is Out! Craft Time Is In! Owl Pencil Holders at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Grades K-5. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
12/23 - Teen Movie Night: Little Women (2019, PG) at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/23 - Bedtime Story Time at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-5. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
Saturday - 12/27 - Bones to Books at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5-8. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/27 - Creation Station at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Limited seating. 11 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

DEC. 28-JAN. 3

Monday - 12/29 - TAB (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/29-30 - Wobbles Over Winter Break at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org
Friday - 1/2 - Movie Matinee: A Minecraft Movie (PG) at Boynton Beach City Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 10:30 am-12:15 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 11/26. Please check with organizers for any changes.

DECEMBER 6

Saturday - 12/6 - Short Stories for Writers w/Dr. Caren Neile at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 12/20 & 1/3. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

12/6 - Freestyle Saturdays Art Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every Sat through 12/20 10 am-12:30 pm. Per class \$29/ resident; \$35/non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

12/6 - Workshop: Watercolor & Wonder: Modern Holiday Wreath Painting at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Held again 12/18. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

12/6 - \$5 Studio Days at Creative Arts School, 51 N. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Ages 5+. Two times: 11am-12:30 pm; 1:30-3 pm. \$5. 561-243-7209; delraybeachfl.gov/cas

12/6 - Ceramics by You Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Held again 12/20 1-2:30 pm. Per class \$15/resident; \$19/ non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

12/6 - Workshop: Mystical Abstract Landscape w/Acrylic Paint at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-4 pm. \$60. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

12/6 - Mark Binder - A Story Central Performance at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

12/6 - Late Night Catechism at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 3 pm & 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$56.05. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

12/6 - Annual Boynton Beach Holiday Parade in downtown Boynton, Federal Hwy & Ocean Ave. 4-6 pm. Free. 561-742-6010; boynton-beach.org

12/6 - Cortadito - A Tribute to the Buena Vista Social Club at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$50-\$55. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

12/6-7 - Fleamingle - The Flamboyant Flea Market at Vintage Gym at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 9 am-2 pm. Appointments: delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

12/6-7 - 25th Annual Downtown Delray

Beach Art Festival, 401 E Atlantic. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 561-746-6615; artfestival.com

12/6-7 - My Son The Waiter: A Jewish Tragedy & Still Not Famous at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Sat: 7:30 pm; Sat/Sun: 2 pm. \$45-\$65. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

DECEMBER 7-13

Sunday - 12/7 - The Good Day Market at Lake Biwa Pavilion (Near Morikami), 16800 S Jog Rd, Delray Beach. Farmers, food vendors, artisans and wellness brands. Held again 12/21. 9 am-2 pm. Free. eventeny.com/company/?c=399873

12/7 - Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, 411 N Fed Hwy, Boynton Beach. Hosted by Boynton Beach Veterans Council. 11 am. Free. 561-742-6010; boynton-beach.org

12/7 - When Opera Goes Wrong: Disasters On and Offstage at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

12/7 - Renaissance Art Conversations - Michelangelo's David: Myth, Reality, and Unending Fascination at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$0/member; \$18/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

12/7 - Sunday Matinee Music Series: A Celtic Christmas w/Emily & Kel at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 3-4 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

12/7 - 3rd Annual Delray Stories: Fighting for Freedom, Honoring our Veteran Community at Arts Garage , 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8:30 pm. \$40. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 12/8 - Why We Don't Talk Politics: Polarized America w/Kevin Wagner at Florida Atlantic University Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/8 - Dance to Dawn Class at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Adults. Every M through 12/29. 11 am-noon. Per class: \$10-\$13; 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

12/8 - The New Wave of Public Art in the 21st Century w/Glenn Weiss at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/8 - Advanced Squares at Boynton

Municipal Meetings

12/8 – Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

12/9 – Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 9 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

12/9 – South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

12/11 – Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. townofbrinybreezes-fl.com

12/12 – Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

12/16 – Boca Raton Auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

12/16 – Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

12/16 – Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every M 2-4 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

12/8 - Seminar: CSI: Inside Forensic Investigations w/Patrick McLaughlin at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/8 - Monday Movies - Documentary: Food, Inc. 2 at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

12/8 - Pickleball at Hester Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Combines badminton & tennis. Adults. M/F 6-8 pm. \$5-\$7; \$50-\$65/24-visit pass. 561-742-6550; boynton-beach.org

Tuesday - 12/9 - Career & Employment Help w/CareerSource PBC at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Representative fluent in English, Creole, French. Adults. Every T 9 am-4 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

12/9 - But They Were Good to Their Mothers: Jewish Gangsters in America w/Helene Herman presented by FAU Lifelong Learning Institute at The Vintage Gym at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10:30 am-noon. \$30.40/ member; \$38/non-member & guest pass 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/9 - Lincoln and Immigration: Lessons for Today w/Stephen Engle & Harold Holzer at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/ member; \$50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/9 - Exhibition Opening: The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt at FAU Schmidt Center Public Space, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 12/16. T-F: 1-4 pm; Sat: 1-5 pm. Free. fau.edu/ artsandletters/galleries/exhibitions/

12/9 – Socrates Café at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

12/9 - Israel and Jihadism: The

Metamorphosis of Israel's Major Radical Islamist Threat w/Robert Rabil at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/ annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/ non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/9 - Movie Night at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

12/9 - The Bee Sting by Paul Murray part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

12/9 - Heritage Lecture - "Peace River," a novel by Eliot Kleinberg (Florida & The Civil War) presented by the Delray Beach Historical Society at Old School Square, Crest Theater Suite C, 51 N Swinton Ave. 6 pm. \$15/non-members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

12/9 - All Arts Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 2nd T 8-10:30 pm. \$10-\$15. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 12/10 - Masterclass: Open Figure Studio w/Model with Instruction at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. Registration: 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

12/10 - Workshop: Narrative Landscapes: Telling Stories Through Figures at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-4:30 pm. \$225. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

12/10 - Who is an "American?": The Debate over Birthright Citizenship w/ Roy Klein at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/10 - US Policy in the Middle East: Conditions for Peace w/Walid Phares at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/10 - Artist in Focus Tour - Alphonse Mucha's Inspiration and Process at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Held again 12/17. 1-1:30 pm. Free w/ paid Museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

12/10 - Pastels Made Easy Class at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Ages 18+. Every W through 12/17 1-4 pm. Per class \$35/resident; \$44/ non-resident. Registration: 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

12/10 - Workshop: Holiday Mandala on Wood at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-4 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

12/10 - Seminar: Media in the Age of Contention w/Alex Sirken at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/10 - Artistic Journeys Reception - Plein Air Society at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 4-6 pm. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

12/10 - Sounds of Music! Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young w/Ned Dorman at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

12/10-11 - Workshop: Photography Passion Projects 2-Day Class at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 5-8 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

12/10-12 - Workshop: Portrait Drawing from Life 3-Day Class at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 1-4 pm. \$240. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

12/10-14 - The Winter Wonderettes at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Runs through 12/28. Noon. \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Thursday - 12/11 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Share quilting information, perpetuate quilting as a cultural & artistic form. Limit 10 quilters at a time. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

12/11 - Line Dancing at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every Th 10:30-11:30 am. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

12/11 - Workshop: Fluid Florals in Watercolor for Beginners at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-

Continued on the next page

DELRAY BEACH GREENMARKET

October 2025 thru May 2026

SATURDAYS

9am - 2pm

Old School Square

*Closed December 13th for Holiday Parade

75+ Farmers, Bakers, and Food Artisans

Live Music / Pet Friendly / Cooking Demos



A Delray Beach CRA Project



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

9614; artswarehouse.org
12/11 - Workshop: Color Theory with Colored Pencils at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-3:30 pm. \$30. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
12/11 - Brushstrokes & Bookmarks - Dulcinea: A Novel at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4:30 pm. \$15/member; \$20-\$25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
12/11 - Art of Dance: The Magic of Line at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 6-7:15 pm. \$10/member; \$20/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
12/11 - Night Market at Sanborn Square Park, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Food options, beer & wine, local artisans and live music. 6-9 pm. Free. myboca.us/2324/Night-Market
12/11-12 - Workshop: Mimic the Masters Acrylic Painting 2-Day Class at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

Friday - 12/12 - Plant Giveaway at Wildflower Park, 551 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. 11 am. Free. myboca.us/wildflower
12/12 - Workshop: Mandala Holiday Greeting Cards at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-4 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
12/12 - Subtropic Film Festival Winners: 2025 Showcase at Lake Theatre at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 601 Lake Ave, Lake Worth Beach. 6-8:30 pm. Free. 561-471-2901; palmbeachculture.com
12/12 - Beginner Squares at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every F 6-7 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
12/12 - Castoffs Square Dance at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. Basic modern western square dancing. All ages. Every F 6-9 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
12/12 - Water Wonders: A Sip & Paint

Green Markets

Delray Beach Winter Green Market every Saturday, except Dec. 13, at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave. More than 60 culinary and artisan vendors, plus live music. 9 am-2 pm. 561-276-8640; delraycra.org/green-market
Lake Worth Beach Waterside Farmers Market every Saturday, under the overpass at A1A and Lake Avenue. 9 am-1 pm. Free. 561-547-3100; lakeworthfarmersmarket.com
Boca Raton Green Market every Sunday through 5/3 at Royal Palm Place, 508 Via de Palmas. Fresh produce, goods by local artisans, fresh meats and seafood, locally-grown flowers, and handcrafted wares. 8 am-12:30 pm. Free. bocagreenmarket.com
Boca Farmers Market every Sunday at Boca Raton Innovation Campus (BRiC), 4950 Communication Ave.. Featuring 9:30 am yoga, fresh, local food and handmade goods. 9 am-1 pm. Free. bocafarmersmarket.com

Experience w/Deborah LaFogg at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. 6-9 pm. \$40. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org
12/12 - South Florida Studio Showdown Artist Blow-Out at Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts, 1105 2nd Ave S, Lake Worth Beach. 6:30-9:30 pm. \$25-\$50. Reservations: 561-508-7315; benzaitencenter.org
Saturday - 12/13 - Calling All Serious Writers! Saturday Writers Studio presented by Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. All other Sat via Zoom. 10 am. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
12/13 - Open Figure Studio w/Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
12/13 - Workshop: PaletteKnife Power: Paint with Boldness & Texture at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
12/13 - Sketching in the Galleries at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. For all ages. 11 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid Museum admission. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
12/13 - Workshop: Jewelry Wax to Silver - Ring Carving at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Noon-4 pm. \$235. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
12/13 - Art School Open House & Holiday Market at Boca Raton Museum

of Art School, 801 W Palmetto Park Rd. 1-4 pm. Free. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
12/13-14 - Boca Raton Fine Art Show at Sanborn Square Park, 72 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 941-755-3088; hotworks.org

DECEMBER 14-20

Sunday - 12/14 - The Good Day Market at Boynton Beach Mall (outside near Dillard's), 801 N Congress Ave. Farmers, food vendors, artisans and wellness brands. Held again 12/28. 9 am-2 pm. Free. eventeny.com/company/?c=399873
12/14 - Boynton Beach Gold Coast Band Concert at Coral Lakes Theater, 12751 El Clair Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. 3 pm. \$10. goldcoastband.org
12/14 - The Allman Revival - A Tribute to The Allman Brothers Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$55-\$60. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Monday - 12/15 - Hanukkah begins 12/15 - The Past and Future of the Gaza Strip w/Mitchell Bard at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
12/15 - Seminar: PBD Dramawise: The Seafarer w/Gary Gadwallader at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
12/15 - The Juke Box Musical w/Steven

Friedman at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
12/15 - Jim Crow in Florida w/Eliot Kleinberg at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
12/15-17 - Jeff Harnar Sings The 1959 Broadway Songbook at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. M-W: 2 pm; T/W: 7:30 pm. \$55-\$65. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
Tuesday - 12/16 - The Russian Mafia: State Power, Organized Crime, Oligarchy and Global Reach w/Robert Rabil at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
12/16 - Who Put The Bomp?: The Roots of Rock 'n Roll From DooWopp to the British Invasion w/Don Teig at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
12/16 - Book Talks - Non-Fiction/ Biographies: Joan Didion, the 1960s & 70s by Joan Didion at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
12/16 - Our People are Your People: The Jewish Struggle for Civil Rights (1954-1965) w/Stephen Berk at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
12/16 - Messages in Harmony: The Story and Songs of Peter, Paul & Mary w/PinkSlip Duo at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-8:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
12/16 - FAU Astronomical Observatory public viewing at FAU Science &

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Thank you for helping to make The Coastal Star the go-to source for local, timely news. Our goal has always been to link all of us, one to the other, from South Palm Beach to Boca Raton. We connect our communities by shining a bright light on the ins and outs, ups and downs of coastal life, its unique style and the possibilities (and pitfalls) it creates for all of us. We appreciate your support.

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The Coastal Star

SHINING A LIGHT TO CONNECT OUR COMMUNITIES

BOYNTON BEACH
LANTANA ❄️ DELRAY BEACH ❄️ HYPOLUXO

Holiday Boat Parade

DEC


12

6 PM

Boynton Harbor Marina
735 Casa Loma Blvd., Boynton Beach

Veterans Park
802 NE 1st St., Delray Beach

BOYNTONBEACHCRA.COM



12/19 - Bonfires & Night Market at Lake Worth Beach Complex, 10 S Ocean Blvd. Bring beach chairs/blankets. 6-9 pm. Free; metered parking. 561-533-7395; lakeworthbeachfl.gov
12/19-20 - Nestor Torres: 20 Years of Dances, Prayers & Meditations at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55-\$60. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Saturday - 12/20 - Workshop: Winter Fruit Still Life at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. \$50. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
12/20 - Workshop: Mixed Media Magic: Underwater Art & Expressive Collages at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
12/20 - Workshop: Fabric Collage at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 2-4:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
12/20 - Music in the Museum - Echoes of Elegance and Emotion: A Viola Recital at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$20/member; \$25-\$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org
12/20 - Monique Marvez at The Studio at

Library Classes

Local libraries offer hundreds of adult classes each month. To discover what you can learn at your library, please visit:
Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org
Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org
 For children and teen classes, please see our **Tots & Teens** calendar.
"Libraries are the free universities of the people." — Andrew Carnegie

Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 8 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

DECEMBER 21-27

Sunday - 12/21 - Exhibit Opening Reception at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 1/16. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org
12/21 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
12/21 - 21 Swag Band: Mic Check One - Two at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$58-\$63. 561-450-6357;

artsgarage.org
Monday - 12/22 - Monday Movies - Feature Film: 20th Century Women directed by Mike Mills at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 5:30-8 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org
12/22 - Boca Raton Bowl Joint School Pep Rally at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 6-7:30 pm. Free. bocaratonbowl.com
Tuesday - 12/23 - 10th Annual Bush's Boca Raton Bowl of Beans Game at FAU Stadium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Postseason college football. 2 pm. See website for tickets: bocaratonbowl.com
12/23 - Friends Virtual Book Club: The

Frozen River: A Novel by Ariel Lawhon presented by Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org
Thursday - 12/25 - Christmas Friday - 12/26 - Kwanzaa 12/26 - Alan Chamo - M1ND H4CK3R at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Saturday - 12/27 - The Steely Dan Project at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 7:30 pm. \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
12/27 - Otis Cadillac & El Dorados featuring The Sublime Seville Sisters - The Final Performance at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

DEC. 28-JAN.3

Sunday - 12/28 - Bryan Eng at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$55.50-\$58.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Wednesday - 12/31 - The Original Psychic Stand-Up w/Karen Rontowski at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 6 pm & 8:30 pm.

Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com
12/31-1/4 - Both Sides Now: The Music and Lives of Joni Mitchell & Leonard Cohen at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. W: 2 pm \$75, 6 pm \$129; Th/F/Sun: 2 pm; Sat: 8 pm. \$49. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
Thursday - 1/1 - New Years Day Friday - 1/2 - First Friday @ 5 Concert at Centennial Park & Amphitheater, 120 E Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. Food trucks, artisan market, children's activities and music. 5-9 pm. Free. 561-742-6024; boynton-beach.org
1/2 - First Friday Art Walk Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events; 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org
1/2 - The Art of Laughter with Headliner Nick Griffin featuring Sheena Reagan at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$43. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Saturday - 1/3 - Ultimate Floyd Tribute - An Evening with Pink Floyd at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org.

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House of the Month



LEFT: The oversized chef’s kitchen, anchored by a 14-foot Taj Mahal marble island, pairs sleek design with high-end functionality through Thermador appliances and Bosch dishwashers. **RIGHT:** The impressive staircase is a custom mono-stringer with tempered glass and ash treads, leading from custom, impact-resistant wooden double front doors.



Step into a world of refined luxury and thoughtful design with this magnificent estate, boasting 6,500 square feet of total living space.

A beauty in Boca Villas



The spa-style bath has a free-standing tub with six shower heads in the primary suite upstairs.

Set in the prestigious Mizner Park section of Boca Raton, this stunning new construction, a two-story residence, offers five en suite bedrooms with custom closets, six full and one-half baths, a private elevator, and a full home office. An expansive loft, dual laundry rooms, and a whole-house generator entwine convenience with elegance. Step inside to the dramatic two-story foyer with a striking glass-and-wood staircase that leads to open, light-filled living spaces. Upstairs, the primary suite is a sanctuary with dual walk-in closets, spa-like bath, and private balcony overlooking the pool. The outdoor retreat features a covered lanai, summer kitchen, and sparkling pool which creates the ultimate setting for gatherings. Blending refined design with modern innovation, this custom home places you in the heart of Boca Raton. Offered at \$6,395,000.

Contact Terry Larsen, Luxury Properties Specialist, 561-289-4462, Terry.larsen@raveis.com, or at William Raveis, 193 E. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton, FL 33432.

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Laura Gallagher | 561.441.6111



Delray Beach
408 S.E. 2nd Street | \$4,250,000
Matthew Bachrad | 917.628.4021
Danielle Stern | 818.216.2320



Boca Raton
335 N.E. 5th Street | \$6,395,000
Terry Larsen | 561.289.4462



Boynton Beach
11955 N. Lake Drive | \$2,799,999
Margaret Russell | 561.358.1298



Ocean Reef Towers | Boca Raton
2066 N. Ocean Boulevard #2SE | \$1,500,000
Matthew Bachrad | 917.628.4021
Danielle Stern | 818.216.2320



Ramrod Key
27385 Saint Lucie Lane | \$1,900,000
Dom Belmonte | 561.503.6402



Jupiter Island
488 S. Beach Road | \$50,000,000
Brad Bermes | 260.312.1910



Lyndon Arms | Delray Beach
200 Andrews Avenue #4 | \$1,225,000
Terri Berman | 561.445.2929
Laura Gallagher | 561.441.6111



Jardin Del Mar | Delray Beach
200 S. Ocean Boulevard B-135 | \$1,149,000
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Clark Parriott | 443.250.2910



Lake Worth
10625 Oak Meadow Lane | \$1,049,999
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