

The Coastal Star

February 2026

Serving Hypoluxo Island, South Palm Beach, Manalapan, Ocean Ridge, Briny Breezes, Gulf Stream and Coastal Delray Beach

Volume 19 Issue 2

Along the Coast

Proposed state law would target e-bike speeds

By Rich Pollack

Florida's laws governing new methods of transportation have been moving slower than a 3-year-old on a tricycle as the number of electric bikes on roads, bicycle paths and sidewalks throughout South Florida and elsewhere in the state continues to explode.

"The technology has gotten ahead of us," said state Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman (R-Highland Beach), pointing out that there are now several types of e-bikes, electric scooters and e-skateboards. "It used to be just cars, trucks and motorcycles."

With the Florida Legislature now in session, lawmakers are hoping to finally address e-bikes on a statewide basis, with a bill that Gossett-Seidman co-sponsored wheeling its way through the legislative process.

The current version requires the creation of a state task force to study the issues surrounding e-bikes and make recommendations. The bill, which is still a work in progress, also requires the state to improve the processes used to collect data regarding e-bike crashes.

Another provision in the bill — and one that will have the

See E-BIKES on page 37



Jim and Ann Frank, visiting from Houston, look on as dredging begins Jan. 29 on the north end of Delray Beach. The \$19.2 million beach renourishment project will restore 2.65 miles of coastline. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Beach widening launches in Delray

Ocean Ridge prepares for own blast of sand

By John Pacenti

"Delray Dave" has seen plenty of beach restorations during his 40 years of watching the sand ebb and flow while visiting the city's beach volleyball courts.

Dave Posta, a local volleyball legend, spoke on Jan. 26 within feet of heavy equipment prepared to pump sand back onto Delray Beach for \$19.2



Posta

million.

Just to the north, Ocean Ridge was also gearing up for its \$9.4 million beach restoration project with a contract awarded and surveying commenced.

The long-term fate of the beach is ultimately "up to God and Mother Nature," said Posta, a former pro volleyball player who is now a coach. "It

could go away right away."

Posta recalled past projects where the sand washed away in as little as a month and others that held for a couple of years. He noted one dredging about a decade ago that vanished after a single storm, and earlier major projects in the 1990s and 2000s that transformed the beach enough to support dozens of volleyball courts and pro tournaments.

People who haven't experienced a beach renourishment need to know

it's a massive project, he said.

"The pipes run all the way up and down the whole beach," he said. "They literally have to build these little ladders for people to get over them."

In the meantime, just off Casuarina Road, the large pipes, a bulldozer and generators were sitting in wait until they were moved north up the coast about a half-mile. There they were hooked up to a "subline" already in the

See BEACHES on page 37

Ocean Ridge

Condo project could unearth more of town's ancient history

By John Pacenti

In the shadows of multimillion-dollar homes and the steady hum of traffic on Florida's State Road A1A, a 1,000-year-old Native American whaling village rests on a 270,000-square-foot swath of beachfront just south of the Boynton Inlet.

To the south of it, in Ocean Ridge Hammock Park, evidence of modern-day Santería and

Vodou (the Haitian variation of Voodoo) ritual are observable to the trained eye of an anthropologist.

Joggers pass the ancient whaling village without a second glance, and local teenagers occasionally camp in the thick woods, unaware they are sleeping near Santería shrines and Vodou spell jars.

Now, anthropologists and

See HISTORY on page 16



A metal doorway holding a pair of silver rings stuck in a tree where contemporary Santería has been performed in Ocean Ridge Hammock Park. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

Scientists want to study native whaling site when development breaks ground

Afro-Caribbean religion, ritual evident in Hammock Park, anthropologist says

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The ArtsPaper

Boca Museum exhibit examines Art Nouveau movement and the man who helped launch it. **Page AT7**



Drive-in delight
Lantana hosts alfresco movie night. **Page AT1**

Candidate profiles

Meet the people running for municipal offices in Delray Beach, Gulf Stream and South Palm Beach. **Pages 18-23**

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Editor's Note

Voters don't get much say when few run for office

Turtle time is coming, so let's talk elections.

March marks the start of the annual sea turtle season, when beach lighting dims and stakes marking buried turtle nests begin sprouting along the shoreline.

It's also municipal election season, when local voters head to the polls — if they haven't already cast their ballots through the mail — to choose their town and city leaders.

However, unlike sea turtle nestings, which come year after year no matter the weather or the danger from predators, local elections are often canceled due to lack of competition.

So, yes, there will be elections along Palm Beach County's southern coast this year, with 12 candidates and two major referendums on the March 10 ballot in Boca Raton, seven candidates in South Palm Beach, six in Gulf Stream, and a pivotal three-way race to be decided in Delray Beach.

But that's not the case in other coastal towns — such as Manalapan, Lantana, Ocean Ridge and Highland Beach — where there won't be an election because incumbents have already retained their seats without opposition. And it's not like Gulf Stream has an abundance of candidates, as its six candidates — five incumbents and one newcomer — are vying for five open seats, which sounds more like a single round of musical chairs.

Nor will there be an election in Briny Breezes, even though only one of its three open seats has been filled. No one is running for mayor or a second open council seat — even the incumbents didn't file. It'll be up to the reconstituted Town Council to find and appoint willing residents to fill those vacancies after March 10.

There are two competing possibilities for the lack of competition many of our communities experience. The negative one: apathy. The positive: a general feeling among residents that their town is being run well.

In Gulf Stream, where the

route to a seat on the Town Commission typically involves a promotion from the town's Architectural Review and Planning Board, having any election at all is newsworthy. The upcoming election will be only the town's fifth in the last 50 years.

Gulf Stream's last two contested elections were in 2017 and 2014. Before that, you have to go back to 1993 and then to 1978.

Sometimes, people just need a reason to run. In Boca Raton, the reason this year appears to be about how — or if — the city's downtown campus will be developed, while in South Palm Beach opposition has mounted over plans to build a new Town Hall.

Still, even in Delray Beach, which is in ongoing political upheaval, no one came forward to challenge incumbent Commissioner Angela Burns. The three candidates there are seeking to replace former Vice Mayor Rob Long, who was sworn in as a state representative in December. That race could be critical given that the City Commission is currently split 2-2 on many key issues.

If you're looking for *The Coastal Star's* endorsements in the local races, you won't find any because we don't make any. In this edition, we've put together election stories and candidate profiles to help inform you about the various choices. After that, it's up to you.

I think it's time for you to be like one of those determined sea turtles and show up (if there's an election where you live), either on election day at the polls, or through mailing in your ballot in time for your vote to be counted.

And start thinking ahead to when sea turtle season ends on Oct. 31, because soon after that, candidate qualifying for the

2027 municipal elections will be held. Could that be your time to run?

— Larry

Barszewski, Editor



Coastal Stars

Visits with hospitalized kids motivate Gulf Stream sisters to raise more money

By Brian Biggane

A movement that began as a tribute to a friend at Indiana University 25 years ago has found its way to Saint Andrew's School in Boca Raton, and a pair of teenage sisters from Gulf Stream have learned some important life lessons as a result.

Phoebe Condon, a senior at Saint Andrew's, and her sister Annabel, a freshman, are among the dozens of students at the school raising money in a program called Dance Marathon. The sisters previously attended Gulf Stream School.

Dance Marathon is designed to help the Children's Miracle Network in general and Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami in particular.

"As an adviser, it is a pleasure to witness the development of student leaders, and Phoebe is an exceptional example," said Victoria Zingarelli, a history teacher who oversees the club. "She has set a wonderful example not only for her younger sister but for many underclassmen in our program."

Dance Marathon began at Indiana University in 1991 as a memorial. Students committed to dancing 24 hours or more as a means of raising money and collected \$10,900 that first year. It has continued to this day and last November raised \$3.4 million, with total contributions now approaching \$60 million.

Zingarelli was a student at the University of Florida in 1995 when students introduced the program there. And she was teaching at Saint Andrew's in 2017 when she overheard students discussing the possibility of bringing it there. She volunteered to help and soon Dance Marathon had a new home.

Phoebe Condon joined the group her freshman year in 2022, but said her interest and involvement increased significantly after she and her classmates made a trip to the Nicklaus hospital two years later and got a firsthand look at what their fundraising was helping to accomplish.

"That lets you know what you're doing and who you're supporting," she said. "It was very emotional."

One stop was a wing where children were undergoing open-heart surgery. The students looked through a window and saw one baby whose chest hadn't been closed as doctors waited to determine if more had to be done.

"It was probably the saddest thing I've ever seen," Phoebe said.

"Then I went again this



Annabel and Phoebe Condon are raising money for Nicklaus Children's Hospital via the Feb. 20 Dance Marathon at Saint Andrew's School, where they are students. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

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couple of years, for a total of \$200,000. The goal this year is \$40,000 and the drive culminates Feb. 20 with its main event.

The Saint Andrew's event is a scaled-down version of the one in Indiana, lasting only four hours with four musical genres.

"I'll dance a lot but some of the time I'll just stand around," Phoebe said.

Phoebe has taken on greater responsibility during her time in the program — as a junior becoming lower and middle school captain to spread the word to younger children and this year moving up to vice president. "And now Annabel has become one of the captains as well," Zingarelli said.

Now going through the process of deciding on a college — Wake Forest, which older sister Lily attends, is one option — Phoebe plans to work toward a degree as a therapist, and this experience has underscored that goal.

"It's definitely made me want to work in the medical field, but more with post-traumatic events, like cancer. I want to work directly with children, so this club has definitely furthered my passion for psychology." ★

To make a tax-deductible donation to the cause, visit events.dancemarathon.com/teams/75330.



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Letter to the Editor

McCarty: Reaching out to mayor is every resident's right — including mine

I am writing you in reference to John Pacenti's January 2026 article: "Mayor's concerns cause 'chaos,' spur audit of downtown agency."

In the article, Pacenti notes that I offer advice to Mayor Tom Carney on occasion. Very true. Also true is that on a regular, often daily basis, Delray residents reach out to the mayor via phone, text or email with viewpoints, advice and criticism. And he in turn solicits their input. A healthy dialogue.

The mayor is always appreciative of residents' input, mine included.

Tom Carney and I have known each other for over 30 years, and he is mindful that I served on the Delray Beach commission for three years, and 18 years as a Palm Beach County commissioner representing Delray Beach. Many issues facing the city today are similar to those I experienced during my time in public office.

I am proud that I served my community as an elected official, and frankly, that I was reelected by the people of Palm Beach County at every election, 13 times in a row.

Pacenti was careful to note that, yes, I was convicted and went to prison. Where his reporting falls short, whether intentional or due to a lack of research, was that he failed to inform his readers that in June of 2010 the United States Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the statute governing my conviction was ruled unconstitutional. It was because of that unanimous ruling that I was given an unconditional presidential pardon.

Readers deserve to know the whole story.

— Mary McCarty
Delray Beach

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Boynton Beach

Demolition marks progress for stalled Pierce project

By Patrick Sherry

Demolition of the Miller Land Planning building on Boynton Beach Boulevard next to Ace Hardware began in January, the first visible sign of progress for a stalled redevelopment project in downtown Boynton Beach approved nearly three years ago.

The building was the first to go in preparation for The Pierce, 115 N. Federal Highway. The Pierce, a complex of apartments, restaurants, retail stores, a parking garage and green space, is expected to take up most of the properties on the west side of Federal Highway between Ocean Avenue and Boynton Beach Boulevard, extending to the Florida East Coast Railway tracks. Ace Hardware is not part of the project site.

Affiliated Development originally estimated this as a \$73 million project, but has since said it will likely cost at least \$100 million. The 2.3-acre complex will have buildings up to eight stories tall and offer 150 units each of workforce apartments and market-rate luxury rentals. The developers will also construct a new home on the site for the Hurricane Alley Raw Bar and Restaurant.

City commissioners, meeting as the city's Community Redevelopment Agency governing board, received an update on the work at their Jan. 8 meeting.

Developers have replaced underground sewer lines at the site. The work, which started in October, needed to be finished before any construction could be done.

The project has faced a number of roadblocks. After it received commission approval in March 2023, some nearby property owners filed a lawsuit challenging the city's decision to relinquish control of some of the public rights-of-way on the project site. It put the developers' plans on hold until the following year, when a judge allowed the project to move forward.

They once again faced problems when it was discovered that some of the original property owners still owned lots on the site. After resolving this issue, they attempted to continue site preparation, but during the permitting process, they determined they needed to move underground sewer lines.

No construction date is currently set. ★

South Palm Beach News

Town Hall design delivered — Maria Zappas-Porter, a frontline designer for CPZ Architects, told South Palm Beach Town Council members at their Jan. 20 meeting that the 146-page set of site plans for the new Town Hall was delivered on Jan. 16 and is awaiting final approval.

Zappas-Porter gave an extensive audiovisual presentation of the plans, with the first floor consisting of a garage for underground parking as well as a possible cafe area and a maintenance room. The second floor has offices for the council and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, two community rooms with partition panels and space for town staff.

Vice Mayor Monte Berendes said after the meeting that the expandable community rooms will be welcome as exercise classes have been drawing overflow crowds during the season.

Planning council offers assistance — Kim DeLaney of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council made a lengthy presentation laying out how the planning council can help local communities. She offered its assistance as the town continues to address issues concerning its State Road A1A sidewalk and the absence of an A1A crosswalk within the town's borders.

Council member Ray McMillan pointed out that towns both north and south of the South Palm Beach are in the process of getting new sidewalks and asked when South Palm Beach can have the same. The Florida Department of Transportation, which handles work on and along A1A, was invited to the meeting but did not send a representative.

DeLaney said her conversations with Town Manager Jamie Titcomb are just beginning and encouraged the council to put together a plan to address concerns by its February meeting. DeLaney is also scheduled to return as part of an ongoing lecture series in March.

Lift station expenditure approved — The council approved authorizing \$29,000 be paid to Hinterland Group for repairs to the town's lift station. A representative from Mock Roos & Associates, which has been contracted to build a new lift station, gave an update. The council also approved a motion to pursue a federal grant to cover most or all of the \$3 million to \$4 million the project is expected to cost.

The lift station receives sewage from the town's condos and sends it to the Lake Worth Beach treatment plant. The station is between the Brittany and Concordia West condominiums.

— Brian Biggane

Gulf Stream



Town Manager Trey Nazzaro (foreground), Police Chief Richard Jones and Town Clerk Reneé Basel constitute three changes in leadership jobs in Gulf Stream in recent years. Nazzaro's promotion in January follows Jones' hiring from Ocean Ridge in 2023 and Basel's promotion in 2022. **Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star**

Town promotes retiring manager's right-hand man to top job

By Steve Plunkett

At their first meeting since Town Manager Greg Dunham announced his retirement, Gulf Stream town commissioners quickly elevated Trey Nazzaro, his assistant, as his successor.

"I think Trey is the perfect candidate," Commissioner Joan Orthwein said before the unanimous vote Jan. 9.

"I'm absolutely in favor of this," Commissioner Robert Canfield said.

Choosing Nazzaro was one of three options Dunham gave to replace him. Commissioners could also have gotten free help in a search for job candidates from a state municipal managers group or spent up to \$30,000 on a headhunter.

By picking Nazzaro and opting not to replace him with another assistant, "We'll actually be saving money," Orthwein said.

But Nazzaro did receive a healthy salary boost, from \$178,000 a year to \$230,000.

"We should move him up equal to Ocean Ridge," Mayor Scott Morgan said, and into the midrange of manager pay on the barrier island.

After being praised by Morgan and Dunham, Nazzaro lauded Town Clerk Reneé Basel, who he said "is just such a such a huge value add in her position."

"She's not only the town clerk but does a lot of what I would consider assistant manager or senior-level things," just like the relationship previous Manager Bill Thrasher and Clerk Rita Taylor had, Nazzaro said.

"That's the relationship that I envision having with Reneé."

Nazzaro, 43, started working

for the town in 2014 as a paralegal at Gulf Stream's law firm, Jones Foster, while he was still attending St. Thomas University School of Law. The town passed a resolution of appreciation for the work he did then, authoring Gulf Stream's public records policy. He graduated that year magna cum laude and spent the next two years as a law clerk in federal court in Miami before being hired full time by the town as staff attorney.

"You had at one point 33 lawsuits that you were actively managing with our outside counsel, which were usually two or three," Vice Mayor Tom Stanley recalled of Nazzaro's early days. "I would go into your office and all I would see was stacks and stacks of things. There were motions and pleadings and depositions."

At the time, the town was being buffeted by thousands of public records requests and dozens of lawsuits, mostly by a couple of residents.

"I think when you see a young man go through something — you had a young child and a family, you were here late and you did all those things for us to get us through that. You know, that shows the character, the type of professional, the type of employee, type of family member that we want on our staff," Stanley said.

Commissioners were also effusive with praise for Dunham, who was hired in 2017 when Gulf Stream was still battling lawsuits and public records requests.

"Your calm demeanor and presence stabilized what could have been a real problem in this Town Hall because we



Dunham

had already lost staff," Morgan said. "But you kept people together, you moved it forward, and we made it through that time, due in no small part to your leadership."

Dunham also guided the town through the end phase of its utility undergrounding project and devised its ambitious 10-year capital improvement plan to replace water mains and stormwater drains and resurface roadways.

"So as you move forward into your retirement, I want you to know that you leave with honor but also with the best wishes and the gratitude of this town," the mayor said.

Dunham began his career as a police officer and assistant city manager in Texas, then moved to Florida State University for a master's degree in public administration. He was an assistant city manager in Palm Beach Gardens, then town manager in Ocean Ridge from 1998 to 2002 and in Manalapan from 2002 to 2010. After a break from government work, he served as town manager of Kenly, North Carolina, for five years before coming to Gulf Stream.

He thanked his staff "for your hard work and your dedication and commitment to make Gulf Stream the best town for our residents to live in."

"It's been the best job I've ever had," Dunham said. "What a job to have at the end of your career and what a town to work for." ★

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Ocean Ridge

Town selects new engineering firm

Move ends a 20-year alliance; exiting leader did not submit bid

By John Pacenti

Ocean Ridge has selected Craig A. Smith & Associates as its primary town engineering firm and approved negotiations with five additional specialty consultants to provide continuing professional services, town officials said Jan. 28.

That ends a two-decade relationship between the town and engineer Lisa Tropepe of Engenuity Group. Tropepe did not submit a bid or return a phone call seeking comment.

Deerfield Beach-based Craig A. Smith & Associates will serve as the "anchor" firm for day-to-day engineering work.

The Town Commission also voted at its Jan. 12 meeting to authorize staff to enter negotiations with CHA Consulting, Pennoni Associates,

CPZ Architects, West Architecture & Design, and Florida Technical Consultants for specialty services.

The specialty firms fill specific project needs, Town Manager Michelle Heiser said. For example, Florida Technical Consultants will update the town's GIS and provide a public dashboard.

Steve Smith of Craig A. Smith & Associates said his team has ample local experience and is ready to work with Ocean Ridge. "We are intimately familiar with your challenges," he told the commission. "We're local. We've always been local, and we will be involved."

Town officials said the transition should be smooth for ongoing projects.

Heiser told the commission that Tropepe will continue work on active contracts and permitting, while the newly selected firms will assume new assignments after contracts are finalized. ★

The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be distributed the weekend of March 7

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Delray Beach

Crews break water main while drilling well for new plant

By John Pacenti

To make an omelet, you have to break a few eggs. When it comes to Delray Beach's \$280 million water plant, that apparently meant breaking the main line that provides water to the city.

A 36-inch water main break at Delray Beach's water treatment plant early Jan. 3 forced the city to temporarily rely on neighboring municipalities for water supply while crews worked to repair the damage.

The break occurred around 4 a.m. that Saturday during drilling operations for a deep injection well. Utilities Director Hassan Hadjimiry said the contractor hit the underground pipe while drilling the well, which is needed to dispose of undrinkable water from the new facility's nano-filtration system.

"These are 36-inch pipes that can carry close to 20 million gallons per day," Hadjimiry told the City Commission at its Jan. 6 meeting. "When that is impacted, millions of gallons of water can come out in a day."

The city contained the break by 11 p.m. the same day and immediately activated interconnections with Palm Beach County, Boca Raton and Boynton Beach to maintain water service.

Residents were never without water, though the city requested they reduce unnecessary usage for irrigation, car washing and driveway cleaning during the emergency.

Hadjimiry told *The Coastal Star* the incident highlights the challenges of working around aging infrastructure at the 60-plus-year-old treatment plant site, where "there are a lot of treasures that are hidden underground." Despite

the city's having maps of underground utilities, the exact locations can be difficult to pinpoint due to the facility's age, he said.

"Whenever you open a ground that hasn't been exposed for, God knows how many decades, you find this stuff," he said. "You plan for the worse but hope everything gets done right."

Youngquist Brothers, the contractor handling the deep injection well project, will bear the costs for the damaged pipe and emergency repairs, Hadjimiry said. The company specializes in deep injection wells throughout Florida.

The utilities director emphasized that water quality was never compromised during the incident.

Repairs took about a week and involved the replacement of the damaged 36-inch pipe and some defective valves discovered during the incident. "It's not something that you go to Home Depot and get the part," Hadjimiry said.

The water treatment plant, currently producing up to 9 million gallons per day through an alternate pipeline, continues operating normally. The new facility is scheduled for completion by mid-2028 and will significantly expand the city's water treatment capacity from 14 million to 22 million gallons per day.

City officials participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new water plant on Jan. 29 at the treatment plant site.

The city's utility system operates on an enterprise fund separate from the general budget, so repair costs and temporary water purchases from neighboring municipalities will not mean higher water bills for residents, Hadjimiry said. ★



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Boynton Beach

Commission wants to know if planned CRA purchases have resident backing

By Patrick Sherry

Boynton Beach commissioners serving as the Community Redevelopment Agency board hit the brakes on moving forward with a \$7.25 million land acquisition at the city's downtown gateway on Boynton Beach Boulevard. They want to know if nearby property owners will hinder any of their revitalization plans.

The location of the 13 parcels at 444 W. Boynton Beach Blvd., east of Interstate 95, leads into

the heart of downtown. Late last year, work crews demolished the Inn at Boynton Beach — purchased by the CRA for \$8.1 million in October — that sits adjacent to the site. The CRA land acquisition in this area is part of plans to turn the east-west corridor into a major city center.

Commissioners considered acquiring the 3.30-acre site at the Jan. 20 CRA meeting. Chris Brown, the CRA's executive director, advised the board to move quickly to approve the

land buy to meet the proposed March 13 closing date.

"It's an excellent purchase, and I think it will combine with the hotel that we bought previously," Brown said. "This will make a great assemblage for a new development."

To pay the seller's asking price, city staff recommended reallocating \$2.5 million set aside for a parking garage to property acquisition. While most of the board supported buying the land, there were concerns about the lack of

plans to acquire surrounding properties that could be added to the assemblage — and potential opposition from nearby neighborhoods.

Commissioners Aimee Kelley and Thomas Turkin wanted more input from those homeowners to ensure that the city could move forward with any future projects on the site. They believe there should be community buy-in before they pour money into it.

"I want to make sure that we're not going down this road,

and then we have residents who don't support what maybe this board's vision is, or the city's vision is, in these parcels," Kelley said.

The board moved consideration of acquiring the land and reallocating funds towards its purchase to the Feb. 10 CRA meeting. The board directed staff to bring back feedback from residents near the site and prepare more details on purchasing other surrounding properties. ★

Josie's Ristorante planning to move a short drive away

By Patrick Sherry and Larry Barszewski

Island residents will have to drive a little farther in the future if they want to get their fix of authentic Italian cuisine from Josie's Ristorante. Owners of the popular Boynton Beach dining spot are making preparations to build a new home for their restaurant.

The new location will be on Federal Highway 1.5 miles south of Josie's current home at the southeast corner of Woolbright Road and Federal Highway.

The standalone restaurant would be at 3047 N. Federal Highway, on the east side of Federal a few blocks north of the Walmart, but the land

first needs to be rezoned by the city from special high density residential to general commercial.

The City Commission gave initial approval to that rezoning at its Jan. 20 meeting. A second vote, scheduled for its Feb. 3 meeting, had to be postponed because the item was not advertised properly. The commission now plans to take up the request at a special meeting Feb. 10.

At the Jan. 20 meeting, Joni Brinkman, principal and senior planner for Urban Design Studio, spoke on behalf of the applicant.

"They are an establishment that's been here many years," Brinkman said. "They're a staple

of the community, and they're excited to be able to go into a new building eventually."

The owners' lease ends in November, and they have already started the permitting process for the new construction. They were not able to provide details on how the new restaurant will look or when they expect it will be completed.

The new site is being split from another parcel that will still be zoned for high density residential.

The rezoning initially worried some commissioners who feared current state law could open the doors to a development they would not want to see at the site.

Commissioner Angela Cruz

said the rezoning might make the property eligible to be used through the state's Florida's Live Local Act.

"I just wanted to get a commitment that that's not the intent here, and it's just to build a restaurant," Cruz said.

State lawmakers designed the Live Local Act to increase affordable housing by incentivizing the building of residential developments on sites zoned for commercial, industrial, or mixed use.

Several municipalities across the state have criticized the law because it allows developers to override local restrictions for housing projects.

Brinkman told commissioners the owners only want to build a restaurant on the

property.

"The applicant has gone to extensive costs to date to prepare all the drawings, the architecture, and the permitting ... my understanding is their intent is to build the restaurant," Brinkman said.

Local residents also voiced support for the restaurant and its plans.

"I think we should go forward with this," Susan Oyer said. "I'm sure they're going to do the right thing because they're fine upstanding people in our community."

Commissioners then unanimously approved on first reading amending the site's future land use map and the rezoning of the property for commercial use. ★

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Work finishing up on State Road A1A

Motorists driving north on State Road A1A approaching Linton Boulevard may be getting some relief from congestion at the intersection as workers reinstalled wires that help control when the traffic signal should change.

Two Florida Department of Transportation projects, one from Linton Boulevard through Highland Beach and the other from Linton Boulevard to Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, are wrapping up with just a handful of jobs remaining to be done.

One of the tasks that had been outstanding was the installation of traffic-signal detection loops, which was completed in late January. Without the triggering devices, the lights had been changing at timed intervals.

That work is part of the 1.55-mile road project on A1A in Delray Beach that includes regrading the road from Linton Boulevard to Casuarina

Road as well as regrading swales in the area.

The \$2.2 million project also includes sidewalk and curb ramp improvements, upgrading pedestrian crossing signals at two intersections on A1A and installing flashing beacons at five crosswalks. Improved signage and pavement markings are part of the project.

The vast majority of the work on that project is completed with the exception of the improvements at Linton Boulevard and concrete work being done on Nassau Street.

A few brief road closures may be required during work in those areas.

Work on the 3.35-mile project in Highland Beach is also all but completed, according to FDOT, with contractors working on a punch list of small corrections or additional improvements.

—Rich Pollack

Delray Beach

Tie vote keeps tennis star's grandmother off City Commission — again

By Larry Barszewski and John Pacenti

Tennis star Coco Gauff's grandmother wanted to be a Delray Beach city commissioner — if only for a handful of meetings — but she and her supporters couldn't get the commission to agree.

Odom

Yvonne Odom has been a respected leader in the city's Black community for decades.

The opportunity to fill the commission vacancy created when former Vice Mayor Rob Long was elected a state representative in December seemed to Odom's supporters a perfect opportunity to honor her for her contributions to the city.

But due to politics, the City Commission has been stuck at 2-2 on several recent issues, with Odom's appointment yet another casualty. The commission voted 2-2 on her appointment in December and

then again at its Jan. 20 meeting — after many residents spoke in support of her nomination.

Mayor Tom Carney and Vice Mayor Angela Burns wanted to put her on the dais, but Commissioners Juli Casale — saying "mischief is afoot" — and Tom Markert chose to leave the seat open until voters pick someone on March 10.

Rather than seeing it as a ceremonial appointment, Casale and Markert said they did not think an unelected commissioner should be the swing vote on any upcoming issues.

However, in December, Markert and Casale had voted to appoint Price Patton, a member of the city's Planning & Zoning Board and part owner of *The Coastal Star*, to the post, but he also was defeated 2-2.

The recent actions weren't something new for Odom. She lost out on filling a previous commission vacancy, also on a 2-2 vote, in 2017.

But Odom did not go quietly this time. She held a news conference with the NAACP on Jan. 30, with speakers

alleging a pre-cooked political outcome despite giving Odom's supporters the impression she would be selected.

"We never know what is behind the scenes. You only know what somebody tells you," Odom said. "It reminds me of an abusive relationship where the joker slaps the you-know-what out of a person and sends them flowers the next day."

Dedrick D. Straghni, president of South Palm Beach County NAACP, said that allowing the Black community to believe Odom would sit on the dais was nothing but political theater.

"A decision that looked pre-decided, dressed up with talking points and delivered with the expectation that the public would just swallow it," he said.

In a Jan. 28 letter to the editor in the *Sun Sentinel*, Mayor Carney called Casale's and Markert's votes "an appalling rebuke to that community," saying "two of my fellow commissioners paid tribute to Dr. King one day, only to reject an icon of the Black community the next." ★

Ocean Ridge

Town faces uncertainty over who'll handle future water, fire rescue services

By John Pacenti

First, it was about the drinking water supplied to town residents. Now it's also about the fire rescue services residents receive.

Ocean Ridge leaders have learned that Palm Beach County could assume responsibility for Boynton Beach's water utilities and its fire rescue services — both of which the town uses.

Any changes would affect Briny Breezes, which also relies on Boynton Beach for water and fire rescue services.

Ocean Ridge Town Manager Michelle Heiser informed the Town Commission at its Jan. 12 meeting of the fire rescue possibility, though she noted Boynton Beach's discussions with the county are in the preliminary stages regarding the fire department.

"This is really exploring options," Heiser said.

Heiser told commissioners she was monitoring the situation and did not expect an immediate drop in service, but she cautioned that "sometimes change means a change in costs as well."

For the current fiscal year, Ocean Ridge pays Boynton Beach nearly \$1.6 million for fire and EMS services.

Town Attorney Christy Goddeau noted existing

agreements can limit how and when services are changed, saying the current agreement for fire rescue services is good through Sept. 30, 2028.

Boynton Beach and county officials have not released a timetable for a decision. Any formal proposal likely would prompt public hearings and disclosures detailing the operational and financial impacts before elected bodies decide whether to proceed.

The fire rescue considerations came in the wake of earlier announcements that Boynton Beach would also consider handing over its water treatment operations to Palm Beach County.

Boynton Beach City Manager Dan Duggar has said the city would drop its efforts to annex several communities west of its boundaries if the county would purchase the city's water operations.

The County Commission has approved county staff's investigating a potential takeover of Boynton Beach's water utilities.

Besides getting water and fire rescue services from Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge relies on city staff for its vast expertise, Heiser said.

"Our relationship with the city ... has been really strong from the city manager's office to the fire department and also, specifically, the utilities department," Heiser said. ★

will give the city more time to secure a grant reimbursement to cover some of the cost.

The plant, built in 1982, needed improvements to be able to treat wastewater more effectively. In 2016, the City Commission entered into a \$300,000 grant agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to rehabilitate and modernize it.

City documents do not disclose the total cost of the project, but most of the grant funds will cover construction services.

— Patrick Sherry

Boynton Beach News

At last, wastewater plant upgrade at Oceanfront Park — The aging wastewater treatment plant at Boynton Beach's Oceanfront Park is expected to have its long-delayed upgrade finished within the next few months.

The project, initially approved a decade ago, is expected to make wastewater treatment at the site more reliable and resilient.

The City Commission approved extending the project deadline, with the grant closeout scheduled for September 2027. The new deadline

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Manalapan

Town overhauls fee schedule for building permits

By John Pacenti

The Manalapan Town Commission has approved a broad update to its building-related fee schedule, the first major overhaul since 2010, following staff recommendations that existing fees no longer cover the true cost of operations and legal review.

Building official Jacek "Jack" Tomasik told commissioners at their Jan. 20 meeting that the changes focus on "supporting fees," not the core building permit fee itself, which remains unchanged.

Key elements include:

- Higher planning and zoning application fees for variances, special exceptions, site plan reviews, zoning text amendments, and ARCOM (Architectural Commission)

reviews, which Tomasik said are currently "completely outdated" and fail to reflect the intensive back-and-forth with applicants and attorneys.

- A new surety requirement tied to the cost of police traffic maintenance during construction, to address State Road A1A situations where FDOT requires officers or traffic control around work zones. The bond would be collected before road-affected work begins.

- Zoning review fees were added to all building permits after staff noted Florida law prohibits using building permit revenue to fund zoning work. The new fee will help pay for additional hours by Zoning Administrator Alice Everard, who has agreed to increase her schedule by six hours a week to keep pace with demand.

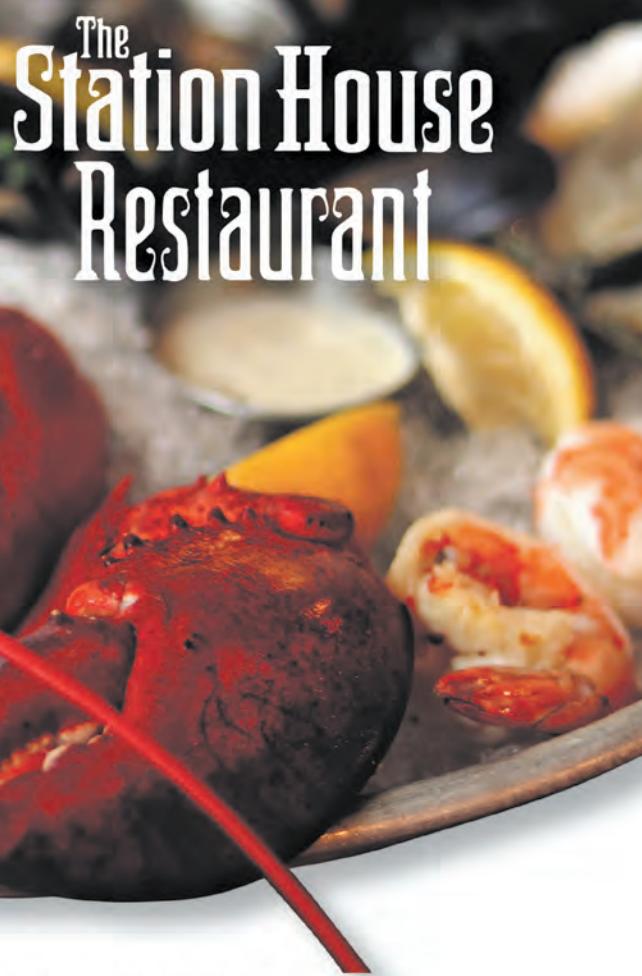
- A revamped permit renewal

and extension structure, reducing the renewal fee from a flat \$1,000 — which Tomasik said made little sense for small jobs like water heaters and AC change-outs — to \$250 for minor permits, with larger projects paying 2% of the calculated permit fee.

- A refund policy to return a substantial portion of fees when projects are canceled after a permit application is submitted or the permit is issued.

- New expedited plan review fees — \$1,000 for residential and \$1,750 for commercial — allowing applicants to pay extra to have plans reviewed on an overtime basis without delaying other projects.

Tomasik said the package is intended both to "recover the cost of operation" and keep Manalapan "statutorily compatible" with Florida law, while aligning generally with neighboring municipalities of similar size. ★



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Police to get tech upgrade

Manalapan town commissioners have signed off on a 10-year contract that will overhaul the town's police technology — from body-worn cameras and tasers to in-car video and license plate recognition (LPR) cameras.

Police Chief Jeff Rasor said the department is moving from a patchwork of three- and four-year contracts to a single 10-year agreement with Axon, an industry leader.

The new body camera includes built-in language translation for up to 100 languages. Officers will be able to press a button, have speech translated into English, and then respond into the camera with their message rendered back into the other language.

Rasor emphasized that Manalapan's current LPR system, run by a company called Insight, is a decade old and functions as a "license plate recorder," not a reader. The new system will read plates in real time as they enter Manalapan and flag stolen vehicles, stolen tags, and cars tied to felony offenses outside the town.

Cameras at town entry points will be supplemented by LPR in patrol vehicles, allowing officers to scan plates as they drive and catch suspect vehicles that bypass fixed readers, he said.

Rasor called police technology a "force multiplier."

"It gives us the opportunity to interact with the criminal before they actually commit the crime, and essentially making the town safer," he said.

— John Pacenti

Manalapan

Party celebrates the season

J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, Manalapan — Jan. 23



LEFT: Manalapan residents (l-r) Al Young, Bunny Young, Jill Stromberg, Jack Elkins, Shirley Saleeby, Patricia Knobel and Bear enjoy the festivities as Manalapan welcomes the new season. ABOVE: Rick and Suzi Goldsmith. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

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Sand transfer plant to have administrative hearing in June

Manalapan's long-running battle over the Boynton Inlet transfer plant that sends sand from the town's side to Ocean Ridge is heading toward a four-day administrative hearing scheduled for June 2, the Town Commission was told at its January meeting.

Town Manager Eric Marmer said the town has retained a coastal expert as a witness and is in the process of providing him with documents from both Palm Beach County and Manalapan as part of its challenge. The case centers on how the sand transfer plant affects erosion along the barrier island, including Manalapan's shoreline.

Marmer noted the hearing, expected to take place in West Palm Beach, does not immediately affect the plant's operations, and the facility will "continue to operate as it is."

The hearing is expected to feature dueling experts and detailed technical evidence about sand movement and shoreline impacts. Commissioners and residents will be allowed to attend, Marmer said.

Local frustration over beach erosion has been a recurring topic in and around Manalapan, with some residents arguing that current sand management practices benefit other stretches of coastline while leaving the town's dunes and oceanfront properties increasingly exposed.

—John Pacenti

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HISTORY

Continued from page 1

archaeologists are asking for cooperation when crews break ground for the town's newest condominium — currently the site of a former co-op at 6855 N. Ocean Blvd. on A1A.

For anthropologist Dorothy Block, a native of Lake Worth Beach with a master's degree in coastal archaeology,

this ridge south of the Boynton Inlet is not just a scenic landscape, but a valuable cultural resource

where the history of indigenous whalers rests in the sand atop the ocean ridge. She has shared her peer-reviewed scholarly paper, recently published in *The Florida Anthropologist*, with the elected officials of Ocean Ridge. She hopes archaeological testing will be performed before new construction starts at the co-op site.

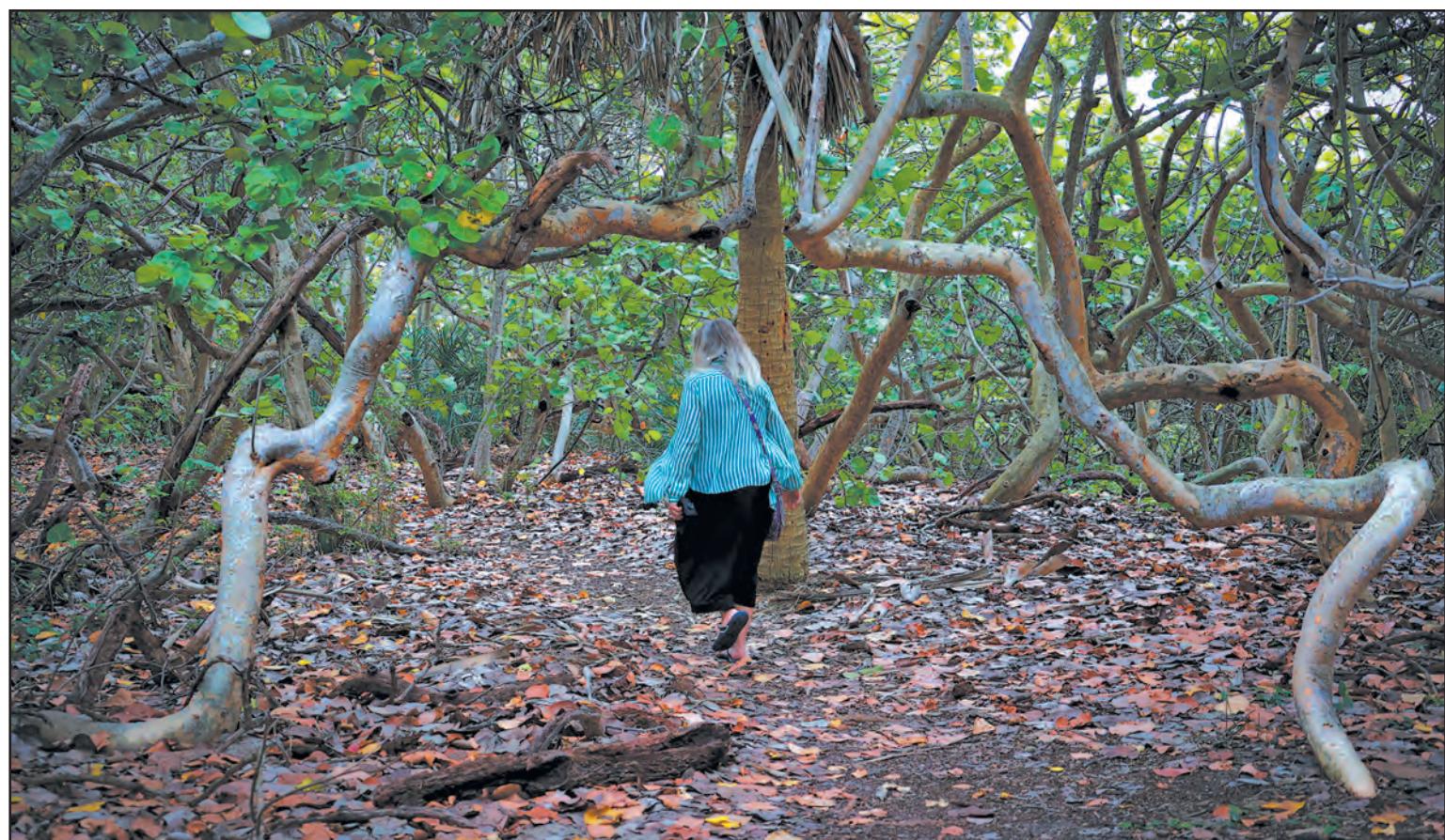
"It's a dangerous myth that archaeology will stop development. It doesn't. We're there to help expedite the process," Block said.

Ocean Ridge — as its name implies — is indeed a ridge, a rocky outcropping. It's not a barrier island where sands ebb and flow. The Native American Jeaga people lived and worked at their village along the ridge between A.D. 750 and 1440. The habitation refuse of their village is called a "midden." Only recently has Block, through her research, discovered that the midden is quite large.

"We haven't known since the mid-1950s where the Boynton Inlet midden is, or how big it is. Now we know."

Midden larger than thought

The site served as a "prime central place" for Indigenous people to mine the rich resources of both freshwater Lake Worth to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.



While mid-20th century reports suggested the site had been destroyed by development, Block's recent surveys and monitoring of recent utility pipe installations in Ocean Ridge have revealed that a significant portion of the midden remains.

"A midden isn't just trash. It's the output of daily life — fire pits, house floors, food remains — a village site," said archaeologist Dr. George Luer.

Evidence suggests the Jeaga were skilled marine mammal hunters who intercepted right whales on their canoes in the winter.

"Some brave soul, a whaling chief, jumps on top of the whale, and stabs it in the head. It goes down, they harness it with rope nets, and they beach it," Block said.

The high elevation of the ridge allowed hunters to watch for seasonal wildlife, including manatees, sharks and sea turtles. At the University of Florida, Block has examined bones from at least three individual right whales from the midden. They were unearthed during excavations at the site in Ocean Ridge in the 1950s.

An opportunity to explore

Now there is a unique opportunity to again explore the midden. The Ocean Ridge Town Commission recently endorsed a plan for a 15-unit condominium — the town's first new multifamily condominium in decades — that could unearth layers of history.

"Archaeologists do what's called a phase one survey," Luer said. "So that you can understand the nature of the deposit, and you can maybe keep development off intact areas, or cover it with fill and not hurt it further."

Luer — whom Block referred to as a "rock star of Florida archaeology" — highlighted the ingenuity of the Indigenous people who lived there. Lacking local sources of stone for tools, they adapted by using the thick lips of aged Queen Conch shells to create "celts" — ax-like tools.

Block found remnants of a "celt" in an easement on Hudson Avenue. The artifact likely came from another Aboriginal mound

ABOVE: Anthropologist Dorothy Block walks through the woods of Hammock Park, where she has found evidence of Afro-Caribbean beach rituals. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**
LEFT: A Santería altar constructed of coconuts, palm fronds and driftwood was found on the beach side of the park.

Photo provided

site known to exist on Hudson.

Block said so far she has had a lukewarm reception by the Town Commission, with some members telling her that her research is incorrect and the midden does not extend to the site of the new condominium. "They didn't read, or didn't understand, what I wrote," Block said.

Ocean Ridge Mayor Geoff Pugh, when asked about Block's research, said it would be up to the developers to grant access to scientists. "It's not up to us, that's for sure," he said.

Pugh, who has installed pools for 30 years, said his crews have encountered Indian artifacts and expressed appreciation for Block's work. "It's the neatest thing," he said.

The four-story Dutch Colonial condominium at 6855 N. Ocean is being built by Ohio-based Edwards Companies after it purchased the co-op on the 2.1-acre site for \$29 million in October 2022.

Efforts to reach the company for comment were unsuccessful.

The Miami Circle

One of the most recent celebrated Native American sites is the Miami Circle, remnants of a Tequesta community on the mouth of the Miami River. It was uncovered during the construction of a condominium.

For developers, the Miami Circle might as well be a four-letter word because its discovery stopped a condominium in its tracks.

In 1998, Miami-Dade County's designated archaeologist Bob Carr was driving by a construction site on Brickell Key in Miami. Carr informed the developer that he was under an obligation to the city of Miami to perform an archaeological field survey.

The circle itself turned out to be a ceremonial site. "We believe it was a shaman's house," Carr

said.

But there was so much more, he said.

"We found an entire urban town built in A.D. 300 that no one had ever seen or suspected existed," Carr said. "It turned out to be one of the most significant discoveries made in the history of North America, and now it's a national landmark."

In other words, no condo — but the developer did sell the land for \$26.7 million to the state of Florida.

Documenting the past

Carr emphasized that efforts to study these sites go far beyond "treasure hunting." Instead, it's about "documenting a significant archaeological site" to reveal who Florida's earliest inhabitants were, particularly on the increasingly developed barrier islands.

As for the Boynton Inlet midden, Carr doesn't foresee any development being stopped.

"These sites should be fully documented as part of the developmental process," he said.

He said some major municipalities are designated "certified local government," obliged by law to complete archaeological assessments. Block said Ocean Ridge has established preservation/conservation areas that include protections for archaeological resources, but they do not include the area of the midden.

The town of Jupiter moved to protect its own midden in January, agreeing to purchase 5.5 acres of waterfront property for \$10.5 million from a developer because of its historical and archaeological significance, according to Stet News. The Seminole and Miccosukee tribes have said their ancestors are buried on the Suni Sands property.



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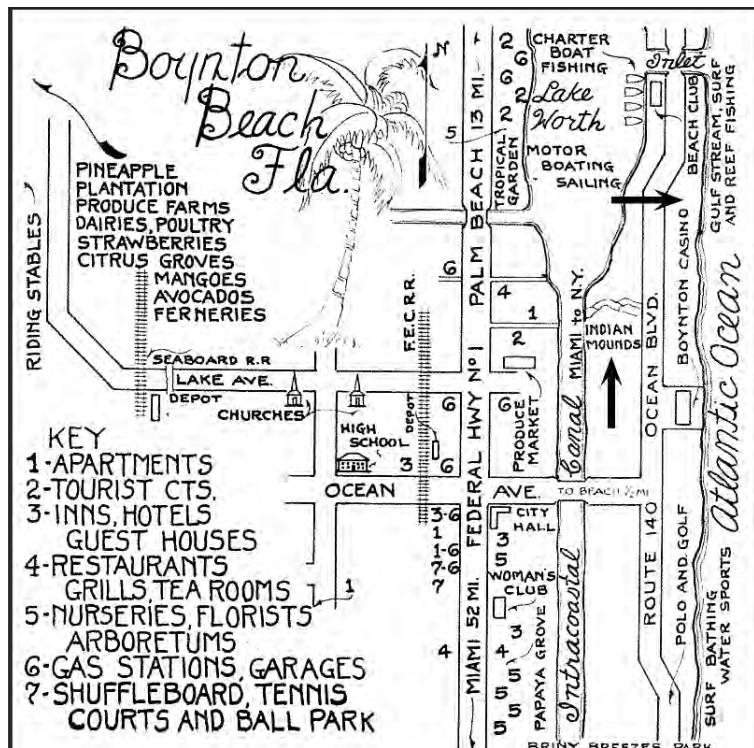
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LEFT: A historic map had arrows added to point out the historic sites. Map provided

MIDDLE: Contemporary view of the locations.

Coastal Star map based on a Google Map photo

ABOVE: Whale bones and other items recovered from the midden. Photo provided

Block explains. The inclusion of a personal item suggests the feature is a Vodou spell. "I think somebody cast this spell in hopes of becoming pregnant," she says.

Then, around the other side of the tree is a note at the base. "Rest in peace, beloved son."

The woods keep their secrets well. Only the spell maker will ever really know the whole story of how the Vodou spell unfolded.

The story of the Boynton Inlet midden is not just a story of the past; it is a story of the present. It is about how we value the land we inhabit.

On the morning of Jan. 25, Block said she found a binding spell at Hammock Park. "I thought it was voodoo at first," she said. "But a quick search

tells me it's related to European witchcraft."

Two dolls were wrapped with a particular rope, she said. "The spell was meant to control people represented by the dolls," Block explained.

But Block said, despite the interesting nature of the magic at Hammock Park, the real cause célèbre is for social scientists to be able to catalogue the midden.

The excavation of the old co-op site should not be perceived as a threat, Luer reiterated.

"Most people have a misconception," he said. "It's a necessary step, just like engineering or architectural design — a component of development that shouldn't be left out." ★

Signs of Santería and Vodou

In an hour-long interview at Hammock Park, Block took this reporter on an incredible journey through her documentation of contemporary cultural phenomena, including the practice of Afro-Caribbean syncretic religions like Santería along the shoreline.

In the dense maritime hammocks, Block has discovered evidence of "beach" rituals that transform the natural landscape into a sacred space. One notable site involved a ficus tree resembling a womanly figure, where a complex "fertility shrine" is venerated and where a bees' hive

is nestled in its base.

Out on the beach, she showed two palm saplings set up for offerings, surrounded by Cuban cigar butts. Beneath the altar lie three birds beheaded as a blood sacrifice to Yemaya, an old African ocean goddess.

"It's woods magic. It's nature magic. It's an old African nature-based religion that was transported during the African diaspora, and, for example, into Cuba," she said.

"Now you're a black slave, you're in Cuba, right? You have your own religion, but they're forcing Catholicism on you. And so you synchronize those two, right? And so it's (Santería),

the survival of the African rituals."

Luer said there has been a resurgence of such beliefs among Latin people and New Age believers, where botanicas sell items to be used in Santería.

Along another winding path, there is a twisting ficus. It is here that Block has found evidence of a Vodou ritual, and a possibly tragic story is within its crevices.

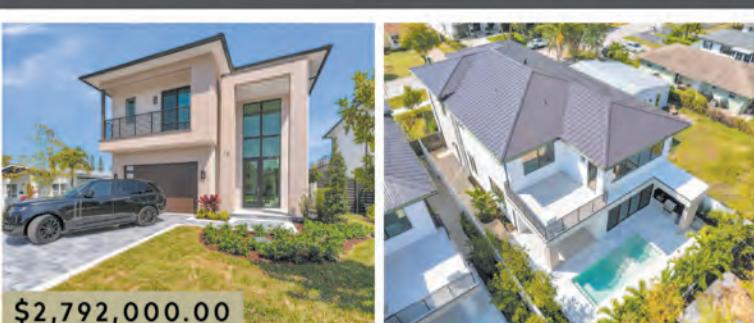
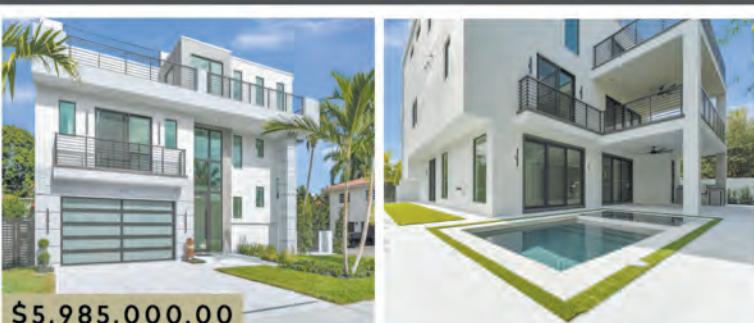
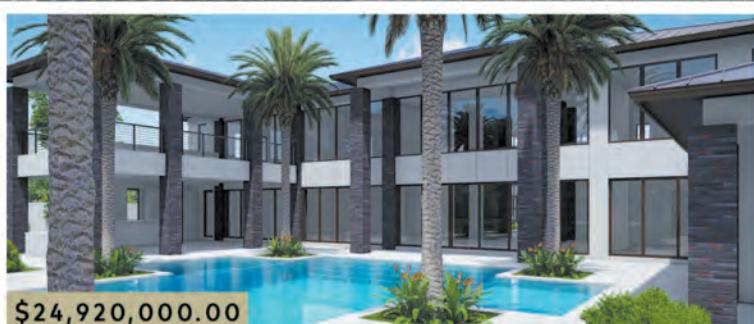
The artifacts included "witch" jars containing milk and honey — symbols of fertility and motherhood — and a pair of ladies' sexy black underpants. "So that same idea of fertility, sweetness, and motherhood,"

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South Palm Beach

Election could decide fate of Town Hall construction plans

By Brian Biggane

The seemingly endless on-again, off-again struggle to build a new Town Hall for South Palm Beach will be by far the most important issue when four of the five seats on the Town Council are contested in the March 10 general election.

Bonnie Fischer, who has served on the council since 2011 and as mayor since 2015, is being opposed by Rafael Pineiro, who has recruited fellow residents Francesca Attardi and Adrian Burcet to run against incumbents Monte Berendes, Elvadianne Culbertson and Sandra Beckett.

Berendes was elected to the council in 2022, while Culbertson (April 2024) and Beckett (December 2024) were appointed to fill vacancies in unexpired terms. The three top vote-getters will join the winner of the mayor's race and Council member Ray McMillan — whose seat isn't up for election this year — on the council.

The challengers all oppose the current plan to build a new Town Hall and prefer the current building be renovated to meet the town's needs.

Pineiro has been outspoken in his criticism of the council and its many decisions regarding the Town Hall, with the town now just months away from a groundbreaking on the estimated \$6.5 million construction project. He would like to void a \$161,000 contract with Fort Lauderdale firm CPZ Architects and hire an engineering firm to study whether a new building is needed — or if the current one can be renovated for far less money.

"We want to be open and transparent," Pineiro said. "What people want is an expert opinion, that 'this is what needs to be done, this is how much it's going to cost.'"

The SIPs detour

If the contract with CPZ were to be canceled, it wouldn't be the first time a deal has fallen through. In October 2021, the council contracted the firm of Synalovski Romanik Saye for \$63,000 to explore the options of renovating the current building or building a new one. The following October the contract was terminated after Fischer,

upon returning from a meeting of building contractors, told the council a new building could be constructed using the technologically advanced Structural Integrated Panels (SIPs) process for only about \$2 million.

More than two years later, in late 2024, the town put out bids specifically asking for firms with SIPs experience. Moonlight Architecture, which specializes in SIPs construction, was the choice in January 2025, but when its financial terms could not be met, the council pivoted to CPZ, which had brought a SIPs expert when it made its proposal.

This past October, CPZ representative Joe Barry told the council SIPs would not be a cheaper option than using more traditional construction and the council voted 3-2 for the latter, with Fischer and Culbertson dissenting.

"I still wanted to go with SIPs but got outvoted," Fischer said.

'Nobody paying attention'

As all this was transpiring, Pineiro circulated a petition among residents asking the council to put the brakes on its timeline.

"We walked around asking people, 'Do you know about the Town Hall?' Nobody was paying attention, and this was creeping up on us," said Attardi, who met Pineiro while working on another petition for the council to set aside space for a dog park. "It was in the offseason, when people were gone, and we still got more than 100 signatures."

Current council members — including those seeking election — are unanimous in their opinion that it's too late to turn back now. They cite a report submitted by Town Manager Jamie Titcomb that the cost of a retrofit would be more than 50% of the value of the building, which under state regulations would trigger costly renovations to the existing building to meet all current codes and elevations.

"We've had meetings about refurbishing the building since back in 2021 and were told, 'Don't,'" said Berendes, now the vice mayor. "To do major renovation, that's not fiscally responsible. You're going to spend \$200,000 on an engineering study and find out the same things we found out

five or six years ago. It doesn't make any sense to me."

"This is for the future of the town, something we can be proud of," Beckett added.

At a special council meeting in early January that attracted an unusually large crowd for a council meeting — some 40 to 50 people — seven residents addressed the council regarding the Town Hall. Five spoke in favor while two, including Pineiro, were opposed.

Building heights

Another issue that has been discussed in town and has gotten attention this election is increasing height limits on buildings on the west side of State Road A1A. The current limit is six stories and, with developers looking to move in and replace structures that are now 40 years old or older, Berendes has said the time is coming when the limits need to be raised.

"I don't know how much longer they can exist as they are," he said. "To guarantee we won't raise the height? No, I won't do that."

That doesn't sit well with Attardi, who moved to South Palm Beach from New Jersey in 2023 and resides in one of those six-story buildings.

"Where am I supposed to go if the developers move in?" Attardi said. "I want to keep our little town the way that it is."

'They're not involved'

While Pineiro has served many years on condo HOA boards in Broward County, his two running mates have little if any experience in governing. Attardi said she has attended "a few" council meetings in recent months while Burcet said he has "popped in" to them on occasion, though all four incumbents insist they have never seen him at one.

Pineiro "has been to maybe four meetings," Beckett said. "The other two think this is their town, but they're not involved. They don't come to meetings, they don't get on boards and committees and things to get involved in their community."

Burcet said a work schedule that demands he sleep during the day has made attending meetings difficult.

"But I'm getting information

through sources and it's clear to me nothing is getting done," he said. "So, if we get the community on the same page we can get things done instead of just continuing to bicker at these Town Hall meetings."

While the four incumbents up for election expressed gratitude over the large turnout at the special council meeting, there was also frustration that residents didn't express their

interest in the Town Hall project sooner. Council meetings in recent years typically attract fewer than a dozen people.

With groundbreaking approaching, the incumbent council members have a sense the time has passed to start over yet again.

"Why would we even want to consider that?" Beckett asked. ★

Two candidates face off in town's first mayoral race in 11 years

The mayor serves a four-year term. The current mayor has won without opposition in her last three elections.



Bonnie Fischer
(Incumbent)



Rafael Pineiro

Personal: 68; associate's degree in electronics from the University of Puerto Rico; three-year town resident; married, two stepchildren, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren.

Professional: Retired, former IT executive with IBM and Dell for a combined 35 years.

Elected office experience: None.

Important issues: Wants to see more transparency and responsible stewardship in the Town Council, especially in terms of the plan it has to demolish and rebuild Town Hall, which he opposes.

Quote: "What's happening to our Town Hall is called 'demolition by abandonment,' allowing a building to deteriorate intentionally so that demolition can eventually be justified. In 2020, the town was presented with a fully compliant, fiscally responsible \$1.4 million plan to modernize our existing Town Hall. It was ignored in favor of an \$8 million, so-called 'dream project.' Since then, our tax dollars have been treated like a blank check. If elected, I will conduct a professional review to recover funds paid for unusable, incompetent designs that did not meet basic site requirements. I will bring the original refurbishment plan off the shelf, update the costs for today's market and present real choices to the residents, such as funding quality-of-life improvements that residents actually use like the A1A walking path."

Candidate profiles compiled by Steven J. Smith

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interest in the Town Hall project sooner. Council meetings in recent years typically attract fewer than a dozen people.

With groundbreaking approaching, the incumbent council members have a sense the time has passed to start over yet again.

"Why would we even want to consider that?" Beckett asked. ★

South Palm Beach

At-large election has five candidates seeking three council seats

The Town Council is composed of an elected mayor and four council members serving staggered four-year terms. This year's top two council vote-getters will serve full terms, while the third-place finisher will be elected to an unexpired two-year term.



Francesca Attardi

Personal: 54; bachelor's degree in political science from Montclair State University, New Jersey; three-year town resident; single.

Professional: Owns Francy Paws, a pet concierge business, which has operated for the past two years.

Elected office experience: None.

Important issues: Wants transparency in the Town Council; prefers a less expensive refurbishment for Town Hall rather than tearing it down and building a new one; wants to see sidewalks in town repaired.

Quote: "What inspired me to run was the fact that our Town Council has been very dismissive of residents' comments and concerns. I can do better than that. You can't complain about the way others are running things if you're not trying to do something about it. We have to let people know there are other opinions in this town that matter. And those opinions are not being represented by the council we currently have in place."



Sandra Beckett
(Incumbent)

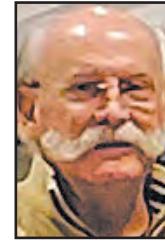
Personal: 87; bachelor's degree in education (elementary education) from West Liberty State College; master's degree in education — and education specialist degrees in school psychology and educational administration — from Kent State University; six-year town resident; divorced, two children, four grandchildren.

Professional: Retired; former teacher, school psychologist, special education coordinator and educational administrator, for more than 50 years.

Elected office experience: South Palm Beach council member, December 2024-present.

Important issues: Favors a tear-down and rebuild of Town Hall; wants to see sidewalks in town repaired; advocates for the replacement of an aging wastewater lift station near Town Hall to prevent costly overflows and backups; favors beach renourishment efforts, supports improved governmental relationships with sister cities; supports developing new programming and events for the community.

Quote: "My goal is to continue my service to the people of South Palm Beach as we work together for a bright future for us all, which includes a new Town Hall and enhanced services and therefore, enthusiastic residents. Our current council has been working together and moving ahead with plans for a well-designed, attractive building for South Palm Beach Town Hall — for the residents and the administrative staff, for all the governmental things we have to do, the events, activities and so on. We are also working with the federal government to obtain funds for the replacement of a lift station in town. In addition, we're working with the Florida Department of Transportation to redo aging sidewalks in town. These are very important issues that face our small community, and our council is running together to continue providing good leadership for our town."



Monte Berendes
(Incumbent)

Personal: 79; bachelor's degree in economics from Queens College, New York; 11-year town resident; married, three children, five grandchildren.

Professional: Retired; owned Montmar Corp., a jewelry import business, for 15 years; had an air freight company for 10 years; served a three-year hitch in the U.S. Army, in which he was associated with its Military Intelligence Corps.

Elected office experience: South Palm Beach council member, 2022-present; currently vice mayor.

Important issues: Fiscal responsibility; wants a small-town vibe to South Palm Beach; prefers a tear-down and rebuild of Town Hall; supports a Florida Department of Transportation study to also see the main sidewalk in town repaired.

Quote: "I want to keep South Palm Beach where it is, with a small-town atmosphere and vibe. We've addressed lighting issues on the sidewalks in town, which I advocated for. I also want to maintain our commitment to beach replenishment, which we recently had done and is very important to our town. It's why we live here, for the beach."



Adrian J. Burcet

Personal: 27; graduated from Wellington High School; seven-year town resident; single.

Professional: Operations administrator for FedEx in West Palm Beach for 4½ years.

Elected office experience: None.

Important issues: Prefers a less expensive refurbishment for Town Hall rather than tearing it down and building a new one.

Quote: "This is my first time running for Town Council and I'm approaching this opportunity with the perspective that fresh eyes, new energy and a deep commitment to listening to the residents of South Palm Beach bring real value to this community. If elected, what I hope to accomplish is to help build a town that's sustainable, inclusive and prosperous for everyone who calls it home. That means conducting an independent assessment of our Town Hall to make informed choices about restoration versus replacement, saving money and preserving our history where possible. It means properly utilizing our taxpayer funds so families can thrive here long term, strengthening public safety and ensuring every resident's voice is heard."



Elvadianne 'Elva' Culbertson
(Incumbent)

Personal: 83; master's degree in environmental management from Chadwick University; 20-year town resident; married, three children, five grandchildren.

Professional: Retired; former documentation specialist for the U.S. Navy for 20 years.

Elected office experience: South Palm Beach council member, 2016-2021, April 2024-present.

Important issues: Favors a tear-down and rebuild of Town Hall; wants to see sidewalks in town refurbished; advocates for the replacement of an aging wastewater lift station near Town Hall to prevent costly overflows and backups; favors beach renourishment efforts.

Quote: "I'm the daughter of a suffragette, so I was brought up to believe if you don't vote you can't complain. I want to continue to improve our town in terms of its municipal issues. The new Town Hall will allow us to enhance our offerings to the town — both educational and social."

South Palm Beach town election

Election day: March 10

Last day to register to vote:

Feb. 9

Last day to request mail-in ballot: Feb. 26

Candidate profiles compiled by Steven J. Smith

Candidate profiles were compiled via telephone interviews. Candidates were asked to supply personal information regarding their age, education, marital status and number of years residing in their municipalities. They were also asked to provide a brief history of their professional life and experience, if any, in holding public office. Finally, they were asked about their positions on issues facing their communities and to provide an overarching quote detailing the reasons they believe they should be elected (or reelected), along with a current photograph.

Along the Coast

Candidates set for March 24 election to fill Caruso's seat

Republican Jon Maples and Democrat Emily Gregory will face off in a special election March 24 to replace former Rep. Mike Caruso in the Florida House.

That election comes after the current annual legislative session is expected to end.

Maples, a financial planner and former Lake Clarke Shores Council member, and Gregory, a small-business owner from Jupiter, won their respective primaries Jan. 13. Both want to represent House District 87, which includes most of

Manalapan, the eastern part of Lantana, plus South Palm Beach and points north to Juno Beach.

The seat became open when Gov. Ron DeSantis picked Caruso, a Republican, to be Palm Beach County clerk and comptroller in August, after then-Clerk Joseph Abruzzo was hired as county administrator.

This special election is for the roughly eight remaining months of Caruso's term. The seat will be back on the November ballot for a full two-year term.

— Steve Plunkett

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Gulf Stream

Town holding first municipal election since 2017

Voters in Gulf Stream can take part in the town's first contested election since 2017 next month.

The Town Commission's five incumbents are on the March 10 ballot as well as a political newcomer. The top five vote-getters will win seats.

The incumbents — Scott Morgan, Thomas Stanley, Robert Canfield, Michael Greene and Joan Orthwein — appear together in a paid ad in *The Coastal Star* touting "results that matter."

Also on the ballot is 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. The incumbents all sat on the ARPB as well.

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.

Greene, who lives on the west side of North Ocean Boulevard, similarly was appointed to the commission in February 2024.

Commissioners will choose a mayor and vice mayor from among themselves after the election.

— Steve Plunkett

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Gulf Stream

At-large election features six contenders for five seats

The Town Commission is composed of five commissioners elected to three-year terms, with the commission appointing one of them to serve as mayor. All five seats are open this year.



Robert Canfield
(Incumbent)

Personal: 46; master's degree in business administration from Pepperdine University; 10-year town resident; married, no children.

Professional: Regional sales manager for Rain Bird Corp., a landscape irrigation firm he has been with for 10 years.

Elected office experience: Gulf Stream town commissioner, January 2024-present.

Important issues: Wants appropriate attention paid to capital improvement projects such as the Place Au Soleil infrastructure upgrades, as well as road resurfacing issues in the town and the water connection project coming up with Boynton Beach. The town will switch its primary drinking water source from Delray Beach, extending a main water line along Gulfstream Boulevard. It is a multimillion-dollar endeavor to improve water reliability and potentially lower costs.

Quote: "I appreciate and have been honored to have the opportunity to represent the residents of Gulf Stream and Place Au Soleil. I look forward to continuing ... and can't stress enough the importance of an active, local government. From my time on the Architectural Review and Planning Board and now the Town Commission, my goal has always been to consistently and fairly enforce the Town Code while maintaining an open mind to suggested changes, where they make sense. Public safety is also something that has been very important ... I have worked closely with Chief Jones and his officers as they have implemented new crime prevention technology across town — and I fully support measures such as their drone initiative."



Michael Glennon

Personal: 39; master's degree in business administration from Columbia (University) Business School; six-year town resident; married, two children.

Professional: Managing director of investment strategy and head of private investments for Mariner, a registered investment advisory firm, for the past four years.

Elected office experience: None.

Important issues: Advocates for proactive management, communication and transparency between local government and town residents; interested in creating better defined policies and procedures around town, such as for road closures and boil water notices.

Quote: "Gulf Stream is a really special community and I want to protect and preserve what makes the town so special while also ensuring we're building a Gulf Stream for the future. I want to do all I can to improve, in a more holistic manner, the connectivity between disparate communities within the town — such as residents of Place Au Soleil, the core of Gulf Stream's central area, those who live in the town's apartments and those who live on the ocean. That way the future of Gulf Stream will be as bright as its past."



Michael Greene
(Incumbent)

Personal: 64; master's degree in business administration from Harvard University; six-year town resident; married, three children, one grandchild.

Professional: Owns a private investment firm called AE Industrial Partners, which has been in existence for 19 years.

Elected office experience: Gulf Stream town commissioner, February 2024-present.

Important issues: Concerned with infrastructure issues in the town, such as the Place Au Soleil road improvement project and the water connection project coming up with Boynton Beach.

Quote: "I think the town of Gulf Stream has a unique culture. It's a small, very tight-knit community. We enjoy our protection on things, like limited real estate development so things don't get out of control, being able to provide good services to the town in terms of policing safety, addressing water needs, maintaining a good relationship with Gulf Stream School and maintaining what is a long history of quietly enjoyed residential living."



Scott Morgan
(Incumbent)

Personal: 68; juris doctorate from the Dickinson School of Law; 25-year town resident; married, three children, four grandchildren.

Professional: Owner and president of Humidifirst Co. for the past 19 years — a manufacturer of large, ultrasonic humidification systems for commercial and industrial use; was a trial lawyer for 25 years.

Elected office experience: Gulf Stream town commissioner (and appointed mayor), 2014-present.

Important issues: Wants to increase financial reserves to ensure the town's fiscal stability while preparing for the anticipated completion of "the much-needed capital improvement plan," focusing on water lines, inadequate stormwater drains and regular flooding in low areas of Core District.

Quote: "I have lived in Gulf Stream for many years and raised my family here. In my opinion, our town is the most unique and beautiful community in Florida. It is special largely because of our home rule approach and the congenial nature of our residents. We also have an effective commission — five members who work well both together and with town staff — and I believe Gulf Stream will benefit from keeping this experienced team together. I will continue to be proactive in addressing the needs of our town: Converting water service over to Boynton Beach to significantly reduce water prices, completing the CIP infrastructure program, maintaining the town's financial stability and low millage tax rate, while being responsive to the calls and requests of our residents."



Joan Orthwein
(Incumbent)

Personal: 70; bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia; 41-year town resident; widowed, three children, two grandchildren.

Professional: Works with her family's investment office, where she is involved in long-term oversight, governance and major financial decisions.

Elected office experience: Gulf Stream town commissioner, 1995-present, including several terms as mayor and vice mayor.

Important issues: Considers public safety and police excellence her top priority; concerned with fiscal responsibility and maintaining low taxes; believes in the importance of clear communication with — and responsiveness to — the community.

Quote: "Local government works best when it is steady, thoughtful and grounded in respect for the people it serves. I believe effective leadership requires listening carefully, communicating clearly, and staying accountable — especially when issues are complex or disruptive. Good governance means continually applying what we learn so decisions are well explained, well executed and rooted in the long-term health of the community. If re-elected, I will continue working to ensure Gulf Stream is well run and financially sound for those who live here today and for future generations."



Thomas Stanley
(Incumbent)

Personal: 48; juris doctorate from Florida State University College of Law; 15-year town resident; married, no children.

Professional: Attorney for the last 23 years, currently with the firm MacMillan & Stanley.

Elected office experience: Gulf Stream town commissioner, 2012-present. Currently vice mayor.

Important issues: Advocates for completing current public works and capital improvement projects, such as switching the town's water line from Delray Beach to Boynton Beach, and infrastructure upgrades focusing on road reconstruction, water mains and stormwater systems in the Core District; wants an interlocal agreement done so Gulf Stream can manage the private sewer system with its board; wants to continue supporting the town's police force and its advancements; advocates being "prepared and nimble" in order to respond to new and unexpected challenges for the town.

Quote: "My goal is to protect the timeless charm that defines Gulf Stream while working on innovative solutions to keep us resilient and thriving into the future."

Candidate profiles
compiled by
Steven J. Smith

Gulf Stream town election

Election day: March 10

Last day to register to vote: Feb. 9

Last day to request mail-in ballot: Feb. 26

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**VOTE
MARCH 10**
Canfield ★ Greene
★ Morgan ★
Orthwein ★ Stanley

Delray Beach

Three first-time candidates square off in commission race

By John Pacenti

The three candidates vying for an open seat on the Delray Beach City Commission must have a masochistic streak. Whoever wins had better bring her boxing gloves, because the group currently elected fights more than a dysfunctional family at Thanksgiving.

Voters will choose from Judy Mollica, Andrea Keiser and Delores Rangel in a March 10 election to fill the seat vacated by now State Rep. Rob Long. Commissioner Angela Burns was unopposed and has earned another three-year term.

"I think it's anybody's race," former Mayor Shelly Petrolia said. "These are not known women — none of them. There is nobody out there that, you know, has run before, that everybody knows."

Mollica represents the crowd still stung when the nonprofit running Old School Square was booted off the campus by the commission — with Petrolia as mayor — in 2021 over a lack of financial transparency.

Rangel is positioning herself as the everyman candidate who doesn't adhere to any one camp and knows how to get things done from her decades of seeing the commission in action as an administrative assistant.

Keiser considered running for County Commission but decided to put her hat in the city race instead. A land use attorney who has represented developers, Keiser is polished, quick on her feet, but is still getting up to speed on the issues.

Keiser wants to bring civility back to the commission. "I believe that you can disagree with someone, you can even be 100% right on an issue, but to publicly humiliate people is not a desirable leadership quality and trait," she said.

She has contributed \$102,000 to her own campaign.

Andre Fladell, a longtime political player in Delray Beach, says the election is shaping up to be a contest of old-school politics versus new.

"Keiser comes extremely well-financed. I think she'll be able to deliver a message," Fladell said. "Judy is going to have to rely on a door-to-door game. It's going to be a very good test of which of those two components is more effective in the cycle."

Fladell characterized Rangel as a spoiler. "Delores knows a lot of the local inside people. That group might tend to be more with Judy Mollica," he said. "So you would think she would pull votes."

Petrolia is supporting Rangel, who might not be an ace at public speaking, but she knows the issues inside and out.

"She was practically the person who got everything done when I was in office, and for every commissioner, every single thing we ran up against, she was handling. She knows how to do it," Petrolia said.

Delray Beach city election

Election day: March 10
Last day to register to vote: Feb. 9
Last day to request mail-in ballot: Feb. 26

Rangel's problem is financing. She has reported about \$2,000 in contributions.

The Coastal Star asked the candidates about issues facing the city. Here is a look at how they responded. A fuller look at their comments is available online at TheCoastalStar.com.

Civic service

Both Keiser and Mollica can boast that they are prepared through years of serving on various boards in the public and private sectors.

Keiser is a board member of the Delray Beach Housing Authority and was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis to the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County, among other commitments.

Mollica — a real estate broker — currently serves on the Planning & Zoning Board and holds positions with the local Rotary Club and Mae Volen Senior Center. She is also president of Friends of Delray.

Rangel says she is all about practical experience, working with the commission. "I bring a wealth of institutional knowledge that my opponents don't possess — plus I've lived in Delray for 59 years," she said.

Coastal issues

On issues of interest to coastal residents, Keiser said, "I believe it's important to protect our beach and the quality of life for those that live there." She said the noise ordinance also needs to be enforced, saying, "People chose to live on the coast to hear the ocean, not the downtown."

Mollica says preserving the beach is paramount, but says the endless numbers of renourishment projects are not sustainable.

Rangel says safeguarding the beach is a must, calling it "our jewel." She also sees other issues for the barrier island.

"There are street flooding issues and residents want better enforcement of the 'No Wake' zone on the Intracoastal. I will work with the Beach Property Owners Association and coastal residents to address these issues," she said.

The DDA

The Downtown Development Authority has been Mayor Tom Carney's favorite punching bag. He forced the city to do an audit of the DDA and his concerns were used to justify an ongoing state audit.

Keiser said she hadn't seen the city audit and couldn't comment, but said there is merit to looking at the finances of entities that receive taxpayer

money. "You have to be accountable and responsible for the use of that money and ensure it's being used in the proper way," she said.

The other candidates threw support toward the DDA, which received \$2.7 million — mostly through a special property tax on downtown properties — to support and promote businesses to create a thriving downtown.

"It feels to me from the outside looking in that this poor agency is being bullied," Mollica said. "And, you know, there could be a chance that it gets dissolved because there's an appetite for that anyway, in Tallahassee."

Rangel said she supports the DDA; she saw firsthand how it transformed downtown to the vibrant scene it is today. "The only 'waste' here is the waste of time and taxpayer money by subjecting the DDA to an additional state audit," she said.

Development

"I'm not sure why I have to be pro-development or anti-development," Keiser said. "I think it really is about time and place, right? So, you know, every piece of real estate is different."

She said she yearns for the time when mom-and-pop stores

dominated the downtown area. "I would like to restore that, you know, charming town, and help those small-business owners by maybe filtering them out into the arteries of the downtown."

Rangel didn't mince words: It was time to put a halt to current development, saying, "We all need a break."

"The building of Atlantic Crossing has certainly taken its toll and residents are really tired of all the construction, noise and traffic from these massive projects that go on for years," she said.

Mollica was more measured as a member of the city's planning board, saying only that she is disheartened to see businesses disappear and be replaced by townhomes. She then turned to her services at the Volen Center and her commitment to seniors.

She reported that she raised more than \$13,000 for her campaign since October — including a maximum \$1,000 contribution from Neil Schiller, a prominent land-use attorney who has represented developers and property owners in front of the commission.

Home rule

Rangel appears to be ready

to make the issue of protecting home rule a central theme of her campaign.

"The League of Cities works to address the [state] preemptions, but I would like to go a step further and create a multi-city coalition," she said. "After all, there is strength in numbers and I think a multi-city coalition to challenge the increasing number of state preemption laws that strip away local 'home rule' authority could be more effective."

Mollica is "outraged" by the erosion of home rule.

"I think that the property tax [elimination] proposals sound attractive to people, but what it's actually going to do for a municipality is going to defund our police, and it's going to defund our fire (department). It's going to defund any road work. It's going to defund any beach restoration. It will defund us entirely."

Keiser both-sided the issue.

"I think lowering costs for our families and our residents is always a priority. However, there's also the other side, where people are scared that it's going to detrimentally impact our essential services if we cut that much revenue," she said. ★



Andrea Keiser

Personal: 42; received her juris doctorate from Nova Southeastern University; 12-year resident of Delray Beach; married, three children.

Professional: Managing member and attorney for her own law firm, Keiser Legal, since 2018; has been a practicing attorney for 14 years; serves as the chief operating officer and general counsel for the Primrose School of Royal Palm Beach, a preschool.

Elected office experience: None.

Important issues: Wants to lower costs for Delray Beach families by making housing and education more affordable; wants to make city government more efficient, transparent and accountable; advocates for the protection of the city's quality of life, culture and historic character while maintaining strong public safety.

Quote: "Delray Beach deserves leaders who put people first. My commitment is simple: be accessible, listen and make informed decisions which protect the charm and personality of Delray Beach."



Judy Mollica

Personal: 65; attended Rollins College and the University of Central Florida but did not graduate; eight-year city resident; married, one child, two grandchildren.

Professional: Owner of Ocean East Properties since 2014; has been a real estate broker for 34 years.

Elected office experience: None.

Important issues: Concerned with costly parking fees in the city, thinking they could scare away tourists; says local businesses aren't sufficiently recognized and supported by the city government; advocates for public safety.

Quote: "I've been civically involved for many years through the Rotary Club of Delray Beach, where I'm on the board of directors. I'm also a member of Friends of Delray, which is a diverse group of Delray Beach residents who work together to preserve our city's unique sense of place and identity. I want to positively influence the city I love. My agenda is the community. I want a commonsense, respectful approach on the dais with collaboration and consensus building."



Delores Rangel

Personal: 67; briefly attended Palm Beach Community College, but did not graduate; 59-year city resident; married, three children, five grandchildren.

Professional: Retired in 2023 after 27 years as senior executive administrative assistant for the city of Delray Beach.

Elected office experience: None.

Important issues: Concerned with tax rate increases; wants lower property taxes; wants to see capital improvement projects stay on track.

Quote: "I watch commission meetings and feel they could dive deeper into issues. I love the city of Delray Beach. When I retired, my work was not finished. I would like to continue my service to this community. Delray is my hometown and I've got a lot of years left. I'm not going to sit home, watch TV and crochet. I want to make sure our residents are taken care of. I want to be a voice for our community."

Candidate profiles compiled by Steven J. Smith



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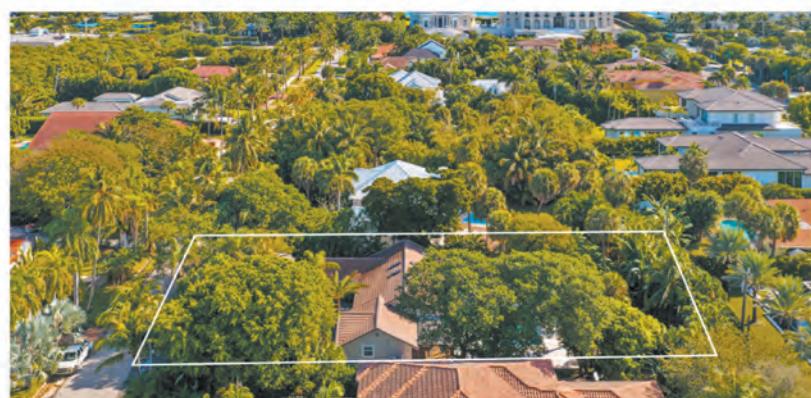
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**801 Bond Way
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**41 Coconut Lane
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\$2,275,000



**1625 S Ocean Boulevard 11
Delray Beach, FL 33483**
\$6,950,000



**525 NW 12th Street
Delray Beach, FL 33444**
\$5,995,000



**30 Oceanview Drive
Ocean Ridge, FL 33435**
\$2,195,000



**Paloma Villas
725 & 735 Lake Avenue
North Delray Beach, FL 33483**
\$3,195,000 each



**Magnolia Place
170 & 130 SE 1st Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444**
\$3,250,000 each

A chilly prenuptial testing of the waters

Red Reef Park, Boca Raton — Feb. 1



Braving a record-setting cold snap, Boca Raton couple Andrew Hance and Veronica Wilkins endure near-freezing conditions at the beach to have some engagement photos taken by Boca Raton resident Alexia Abreu and her friend Justin Lara (at left). **ABOVE:** Hance and Wilkins were drenched by a wave that caught them and Abreu by surprise. Abreu had the luxury of coming dressed for the day's cold weather, with the eventual high reaching only into the upper 40s. **Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

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Delray Beach

Pavilion project

East Atlantic Avenue and South Ocean Boulevard, Delray Beach — Jan. 27



Reconstruction of the Delray Beach Pavilion is ongoing as the iconic structure needed a complete rebuild because the wrong fasteners were used to hold it together when it was last refurbished in 2013. As a result, it began falling apart when salt air corroded the fasteners. Officials expect the \$817,400 project to wrap up in March. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

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Briny Breezes

Alderwoman changes mind on wanting to keep her seat

By Steve Plunkett

Alderwoman Holly Reitnauer may not be leaving the Briny Breezes dais in March after all.

Reitnauer, who was appointed in December 2024 to replace Kathy Gross in Seat 2, did not file papers in November to run for election in March.

But things have changed, she now says, and she would like to remain on the Town Council.

"I have given it a lot of thought, and my health situation has improved. So therefore I would like to remain in my seat, helping to move Briny forward," she wrote in a letter to the council received Jan. 13.

She is the first person to officially express interest in filling the position.

Alderman Jeff Duncan was the only one of three

Continued on the next page

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The next edition of *The Coastal Star* will be distributed the weekend of March 7

Lantana News

Town officials make pitch to legislators — Lantana Town Council members and Town Manager Brian Raducci made a short visit to Tallahassee on Jan. 13-14 for Palm Beach County Day at the state capitol.

Raducci said the outing provided local leaders a chance to observe the legislative process in person, meet with lobbyists, and network with other municipalities and organizations that attended the event.

Lantana lawmakers met with Sen. Mack Bernard and Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman and discussed gaining their support to fund the town's 2026-27 requests for \$4.57 million worth of state appropriation, which include:

- Rehabilitation for four lift stations;
- Improvements for the water treatment plant instrumentation and controls;
- Improvements to the North Fourth Street gravity sewer and drainage;
- ADA walkway improvements at Maddock Park;
- Renovation of the Police Department's emergency operation center.

Raducci says that while these requests have been submitted, grants to fund them are not guaranteed.

Bonefish Cove habitat restoration update — Work continues at Bonefish Cove, a project that's creating a chain of two mangrove islands and oyster reefs in the central Lake Worth Lagoon.

Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management has given the latest update on the habitat restoration project. The location is just north of Hypoluxo Island.

ERM reports that no additional work has been completed in the north island since December.

The contractor still needs to complete the finishing touches on the final portion of the rock wave break structure around the island and is assessing the success of the red mangroves planted a month ago, according to the report.

For the south island, the contractor continues delivering, stockpiling and grading sand to form the oyster reefs and a submerged sea grass shelf. Seven of the 10 oyster reefs are complete in the north portion of this section.

In coming weeks, the contractor will continue building additional oyster reefs and shaping the intertidal island.

Barge traffic during weekdays has been reauthorized, with barges permitted to travel from Peanut Island to Bonefish Cove from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, in addition to weekends and holidays.

Working hours at the Bonefish Cove project site are from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

For more information, go online to discover.pbc.gov/erm/Pages/Lake-Worth-Lagoon.aspx

Tree City designation — For the 35th consecutive year, Lantana has been recognized as a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation.

The recognition honors the town's long-standing commitment to urban forestry, environmental stewardship and community pride.

An Arbor Day celebration, which will include a tree planting, will be held in April. The time, date and location have yet to be announced.

— Mary Thurwachter

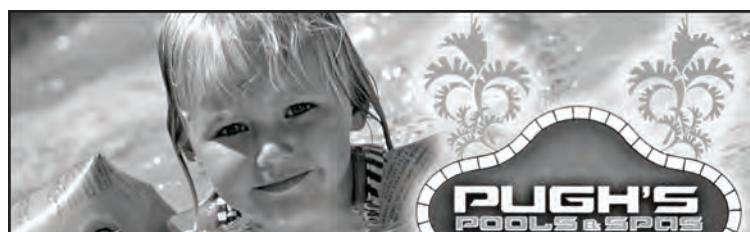
incumbents in November to file qualifying papers for the March 10 election. Reitnauer — who is married to Alderman Bill Birch — and Mayor Ted Gross, Kathy's husband, did not.

That meant Duncan was automatically elected to his Seat 4 position for a second two-year term and that there would be no election in Briny Breezes. Duncan originally was appointed as an alderman in December 2023 when no one filed to run for then-Council

President Christina Adams' seat.

According to the town's charter, the council will appoint someone to fill Mayor Seat 6 and Reitnauer's seat in March.

Gross in December said he was not seeking another term, citing his dissatisfaction with Briny's weak-mayor form of government, the effect of the state's Sunshine Law on his personal relationships and his desire to spend more time supporting people affected by sex trafficking and abuse. ★



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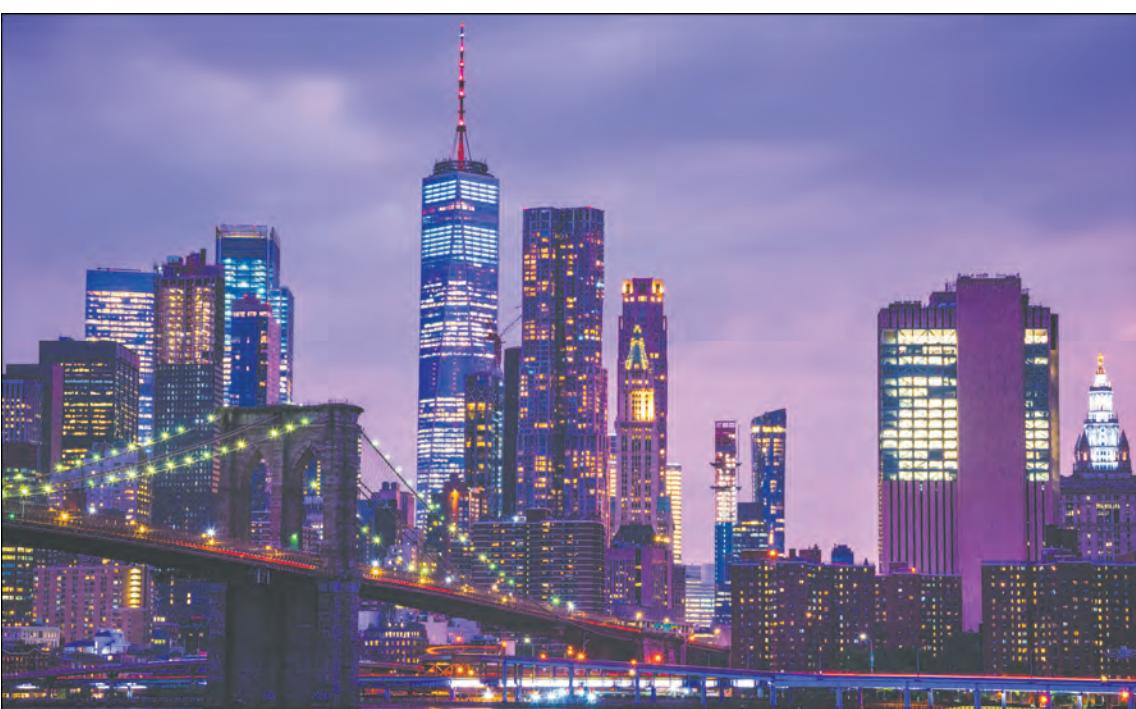
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Delray Beach

City turns over text messages
between mayor and Mary
McCarty to *Coastal Star*

By John Pacenti

Delray Beach Mayor Tom Carney has turned over communications between himself and Mary McCarty, a former city and county commissioner still heavily involved in local politics.

The Coastal Star requested text messages, emails and other communications through a public records request after reports that McCarty was directing Carney from the gallery of the commission chambers during meetings.

The messages turned over do not show communications during a meeting, but they do show McCarty advising the mayor on controversial issues. The messages are also not under McCarty's name — but a pseudonym that the mayor says is a long-standing joke between them.

A commissioner who sits right next to the mayor on the dais, though, said he has seen messages come into the mayor's phone with McCarty's given name during commission meetings. McCarty told the newspaper in December that her gesturing during meetings is due to frustration with commissioners' lack of decorum.

City Attorney Lynn Gelin said the messages turned over completely fulfill the public records request made by the newspaper.

Carney told *The Coastal Star* that no one person has special access to him, and he speaks to any number of concerned citizens about issues.

"I have an open-door policy, I talk to a lot of people about all sorts of issues," Carney said. "I reach out to people for ideas. People call me. I take the calls."

He said McCarty appears as "Martin Davis" on his phone — the fiery former head of Paramount studios — as a joke between them.

"She's been listed in my phone that way for 20 years. Why should I change it?" the mayor said.

The communications — emails and texts — were turned over seven weeks after the public records request was made on Dec. 8. One of the delays, according to Gelin, was due to the mayor's catching the flu in the first week of January.

"I would hope that you would show grace to someone who is dealing with a particularly harsh strain of the flu," Gelin said when asked about the delay.

The requested text messages were provided to *The Coastal Star* as a series of screen shots cut-and-pasted into a document.

On one thread, McCarty was upset that the city had decided to sue the state over erasing its LGBTQ Pride rainbow intersection.

"There are X cities in Florida that are not subjecting their taxpayers to this. Why are we? This commission should not be used as a political pawn to advance a social agenda," McCarty wrote on Sept. 10.

Carney had unsuccessfully opposed the city's joining the lawsuit at a commission meeting the day before her text. Carney then convened a special meeting of the commission — the day after McCarty's text message — where he successfully urged the commission to reverse its decision to be part of the litigation. He called for the unscheduled meeting specifically for that purpose.

McCarty also had strong opinions for the mayor in August on a controversial renovation proposal for a historic home at 46 Marine Way in the Marina Historic District.

"Just tell them to redesign and be done with it," McCarty told Carney on Aug. 18.

And indeed, that is what Carney suggested at the Aug. 19 meeting. The commission ended up rejecting the variances that would allow the home to be elevated by 14 feet, among other things. McCarty, in the text thread, referred to the city's Historic Preservation Board, which supported the variances, as "corrupted."

In another text thread, on Dec. 7, McCarty appeared to try to influence who would be the designated vice mayor after Rob Long left the commission to run for the state house. She told Carney to make a motion to make Commissioner Angela Burns vice mayor.

Carney nominated Burns as vice mayor at a commission meeting the next day.

Commissioner Tom Markert told *The Coastal Star* in December that he saw Carney's phone and that the mayor was texting with McCarty under her given name at a meeting "in the last two months." He also was informed that the text messages turned over to the newspaper were under the "Martin Davis" moniker.

"Yes, that is just lovely," Markert said with a laugh.

Carney disputed the allegation. "It's frustrating to have Commissioner Markert say he sees me texting someone whose name never appears in my phone. Therefore, it would be impossible for him to see me texting Mary McCarty," he said.

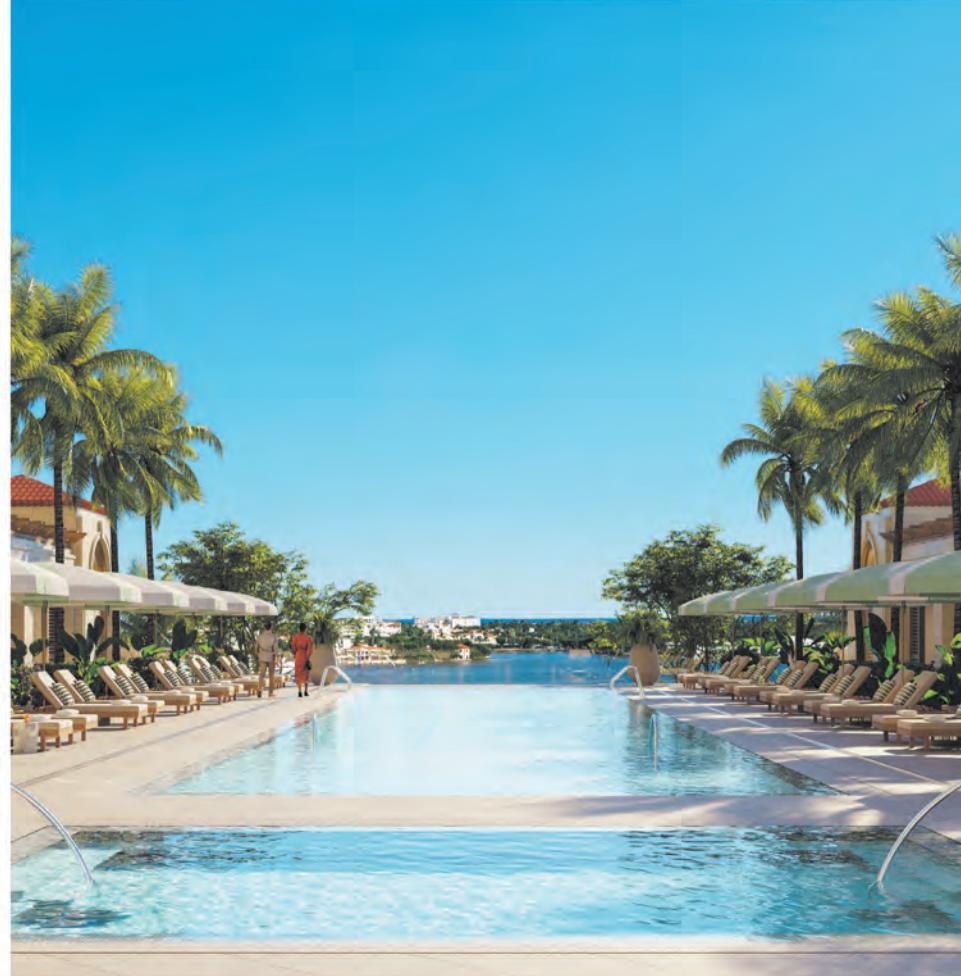
He said the only person he texts during meetings is his wife.

A few emails were also turned over. In one, dated Sept. 25, McCarty — a fellow Republican — advised the mayor: "Understand you have a democratic, hostile board, so when you get all of the info, see if it is something that will be acceptable." ★



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10 Questions

Ted Hoskinson started out as a teacher but ended up creating his living, first by making a business around balloons and then by owning and operating Party 'N Paper, a card and gift store chain in Washington, D.C. After retiring — and following the death of his wife, Anne, in 2016 — he turned his attention back to education and founded a literacy intervention program and teacher recognition nonprofit, Roots and Wings.

This year, Roots and Wings marks its 10th anniversary with a Feb. 24 fundraising event, "Roots and Wings Goes to Hollywood," which celebrates filmmaking.

Hoskinson, 78, of coastal Delray Beach, expects to host 180 guests and raise \$100,000. In 2024, funding and donations brought in \$1.3 million to cover costs of about \$750,000, and the organization continues to grow.

Roots and Wings' two programs are implemented in 20 Title 1 public elementary schools in Palm Beach County. The nonprofit's teacher appreciation program is called Above and Beyond Awards, and this year Hoskinson foresees that 200 teachers and staff will receive awards. They will each receive a check for \$200, gift cards and gifts from local businesses, and a framed certificate.

Roots and Wings' Project Uplift program provides after-school instruction to 1,500 children needing help with reading.

"We have two ceremonies a year where we honor students' progress," Hoskinson explained. "At midyear, if they have already met their growth goal for the year, they receive a free bike and helmet courtesy of Boca West Children's Foundation.

"The second ceremony is at the end of the year. We give certificates and we give Olympic-style medals for reaching their growth goals and stretch goals.

"We gave away 272 bikes last year, 900 certificates for making gains on their test scores, and 1,200 medals," he said. "Many got both medals for growth goals and stretch goals. We also gave away 711 T-shirts for perfect attendance."

Hoskinson hopes to expand the program to additional schools and, in time, he hopes to give out college scholarships.

More about the upcoming February event at Good Night John Boy in Delray Beach: "We are featuring 20 movies and

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Ted Hoskinson



we're asking people to dress as their favorite character from one of those movies and we're giving away prizes."

Also, Hoskinson said, "All of our 20 schools will make different centerpieces. Each school had to pick one of the movies. Our judges will vote on the centerpieces and we'll give prizes to the schools for the three best centerpieces."

— Christine Davis

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

A. I grew up in Washington, D.C., and attended Sheridan School for grades 2 and 3 and then St. Albans School for Boys for grades 4-12. I then attended Tulane University in New Orleans where I graduated with a BA in history.

Washington was a wonderful place to grow up, as it had small-town, old-town charm. St. Albans was an incredible school with great teachers and competitive students. That school environment taught me that I was not the smartest guy by far in the class, and that I had to work hard if I wanted to be successful.

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

A. I was lucky to become the senior class president at Tulane. I graduated in 1969 and I began a teaching career in New Orleans at a small private school called Metairie Park Country Day. I taught second grade. I loved the kids and they taught me as much as I taught them.

If You Go

What: Roots and Wings

Goes to Hollywood

Where: Good Night John Boy, 33 SE Third Ave., Delray Beach

When: 6:30-9:30 p.m. Feb. 24

Admission: Tickets are \$150 (barstool seating), \$250 (general seating at a table) and \$300 (VIP seating by dance floor).

Info: 561-516-1957 or sherry@rootsandwingsinc.org

Tickets: secure.qgiv.com/event/rootsandwings or rootsandwingsinc.org/event/roots-and-wings-goes-hollywood-10th-anniversary-gala

They were inquisitive and kind and caring to one another. I was like their surrogate father since most of them were asleep by the time their fathers arrived at home.

I got a call from St. Albans in early April of that year, asking me to return and teach fourth grade there. I loved Washington and St. Albans so I said yes. Teachers don't make a lot of money (my salary was \$8,500 that first year), so I started a business to help me survive financially. It was a college marketing company. After a couple of years, I started a balloon delivery and decorating business. I taught for 15 years, but the school eventually had me establish their Summer Programs Office when they saw my business abilities.

 Roots and Wings

PROJECT Uplift

Helping Children with Reading and Reading Comprehension Skills



Ted Hoskinson of Delray Beach keeps busy with programs that educate Palm Beach County children and reward teachers through his Roots and Wings nonprofit, which is based in Boca Raton. **Tim Stepien/Coastal Star**

Fort Lauderdale. We started coming and spending weekends until we decided to buy a condo.

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

A. The relaxed atmosphere and its small-town charm. Great restaurants and a wide variety of choices. Tennis and the beach.

Q. What book are you reading now?

A. *Passion Isn't Enough*, by David Rhode.

Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?

A. I love good jazz ... and Frank Sinatra ... and the oldies.

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

A. "When you seek happiness for yourself it will always elude you. When you seek happiness for others you will find it yourself."

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

A. Charlie Spicer, the fourth grade "master-teacher" at St. Albans, who taught me what to teach so that I could teach it my way ... and Steve Potts, a true man of integrity, who showed me what that word really meant.

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

A. Robert De Niro.



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Boynton Beach

The Villages: Old storefronts must go, but historic home will have new life

By Michael Cook

A Miami-based developer once planned to tear down the historic Andrews House in Boynton Beach. After local preservationists stepped in, the developer changed course and now plans to restore the faded yellow, two-story house as a cafe.

Developer Edgewater Capital Investments still plans to demolish all other buildings on the land it owns surrounding the city's oldest residence to make way for a mixed-use development along East Ocean Avenue downtown. Some affected business owners are beginning to plan to relocate ahead of construction, with the development expected to rise within a two-year horizon.

"Everything except for the Andrews House will be demolished," said Manny Mato, principal of Edgewater Capital Investments, referring to the south parcel of land it bought in 2022 on Ocean Avenue. Across the street on the north parcel, the same developer is currently constructing The Villages at East Ocean, an eight-story residential and commercial complex expected to open in 2027.

Mato said the property where the Andrews House sits will



Plans call for the 119-year-old Andrews House (bottom left in foreground) to be moved, restored and converted into a cafe, rather than be demolished, as part of the second phase of The Villages mixed-use project that will rise beside it. **Rendering provided**

be part of Phase Two of The Villages project. He described the plan for residential units and retail space as a smaller and more affordable version of the main project. The timeline for the south parcel depends on city approvals, but Mato hopes construction will break ground and be completed within the next few years.

What's there now

On the south side of Ocean Avenue, west of the Florida

East Coast Railway tracks, there is life in the aging, mostly single-story buildings: from two homes and warehouses to retail. Businesses line the avenue, from East Ocean Cafe and The Blossom Shoppe Florist to the Original Barber Shop. Some will be asked to join the new development, Mato said.

One of the businesses is ArtSea Living, an art and pottery studio. Owner Barbi Lentz said the business had been in that storefront for about five

years, which was intended to be a temporary spot. She is now in the process of packing up shop.

ArtSea Living is relocating across the train tracks east to the 500 Ocean apartment and retail complex. The studio is set to open in late February with upgraded ground-floor retail space. The studio, which originally opened in 2003, has moved several times locally due to similar issues, and Lentz mentioned that operating in a mixed-use space gives her

business a sense of security.

Donald Karney of Broward Properties Inc., which manages the buildings on The Villages' southern parcel and other properties for the same developer, said each tenant would have at least six months to vacate once the project receives final city approval.

"We're not in the business to bum-rush people out or be ogres or unreasonable," Karney said, indicating that his company would accommodate everyone as best it can. He said the same process used at the start of the main project is being followed, with about five buildings knocked down in that portion.

Kevin Fischer, Boynton Beach's division director of planning and zoning, said that tenants now in the commercial buildings on site will go through a process with the property owner to terminate their leases to allow for demolition.

Warehouse shop objects

Mato made clear that the businesses will have the option to rent space in the new retail area once it is completed. However, he said that warehouse businesses, such as local painters, carpenters, and machinists, might not be the best fit for a storefront setting.

Continued on the next page

Coastal & Golf Communities

featured by Erik & Susan Ring

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On a warehouse-lined road on the lot leading to the Andrews House, one of the warehouse shops is Ibis Painting, a painting contracting business. The owner, Alissa Beerthuis, has occupied the garage-like space for about 11 years.

For the past several years, Beerthuis said, there had been a lingering rumor that the buildings might be torn down, so the news did not come as a complete surprise. She said that if she is forced to move, she will be left "high and dry," since any available workspace elsewhere likely would cost twice as much.

"I understand that these aren't the prettiest of businesses, but they're essential for the community," said Beerthuis. As for the Andrews House, she said that the aging house is not the most "attractive" and will not blend well with newly constructed buildings.

Edgewater Capital Investments obtained a demolition permit for the Andrews House in November 2024, but after residents raised concerns, the developer agreed to halt the demolition. "The Andrews House itself is not historic from a legal sense," Mato said. "It's not a designated historic property, so we could demolish it tomorrow if we wanted to."

Yet, after conversations with city officials, Mato and his team decided to preserve the house. It was a gesture of "goodwill" for the community and a project that makes sense for the company, he said, so that "everyone wins." As for the restoration of the house itself, which was built in 1907, Mato said site approval will dictate the exact plan to comply with building codes.

Fischer stated that if the Andrews House is restored, a commercial kitchen or cafe could be permitted within the house, as such uses are allowed in the city's zoning district.

The game plan is to refurbish the exterior and return it to its previous state, Mato said, while the interior will depend on factors that may change, including the cafe's layout. He added that the inspiration comes from across the train tracks, where the historic Ruth Jones Cottage — a relocated 1920s home — has been restored and is now Nicholson Muir, a gourmet butcher shop and restaurant.

Mato said the Ocean Avenue corridor has the potential to match other successful downtowns in surrounding cities, thanks to its proximity to the beach and other attractions. He added that the larger mixed-use project — and the ongoing collaboration with the Community Redevelopment Agency and the city — will play a role in shaping that vision.

A 'historic street'

Janet DeVries Naughton, a past president of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, said that since the city is attempting to rebuild downtown as a destination, the house will serve

as an asset and an "anchor" for the city's history. She said visitors can enjoy coffee while learning from this type of historical attraction.

"But the fact is that there are only a few of these that exist. And in order for people to learn about the past, they need to be able to see and feel history," Naughton said, referencing the vernacular frame of the home.

Naughton painted a picture of Ocean Avenue as a "historic street," saying there will be modern growth paired with reminders of the past, such as the 1927 high school, now the Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, and the 1913 Boynton School, now the Schoolhouse Children's Museum.

While Mato has decided not to wreck the Andrews House, and to give it a second life right along Ocean Avenue, that's not quite the outcome some preservationists desired.

The Save Andrews House Committee, formed after the building's near destruction,

prefers using funds to relocate the house next to another nearby historic structure, the CRA-owned 1919 Oscar Magnuson House on the north side of Ocean Avenue.

The current Boynton Beach Historical Society president, Barbara Ready, said she was taken aback when the developer had simply wanted the house removed from his property to create more space for development.

Ready added that if the adaptive reuse architecture is not executed well, it could compromise the house's historic value and original layout, including features such as the existing Dade County pine wood.

"We were pretty disappointed that he didn't want to just give it to us. We figured that, being in our custody, it would be a lot safer," she said. "But who knows where it's going to be 20 years from now, when this developer moves on." ★

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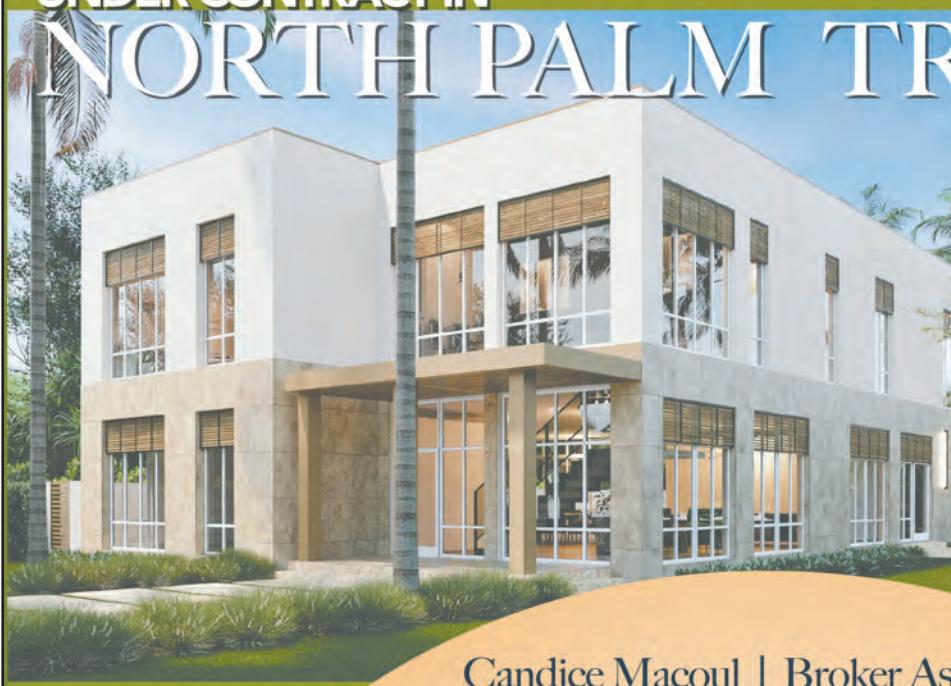


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Obituaries

VILLAGE OF GOLF — Nance Price Bernet died Jan. 7 surrounded by family at her home. She was 94.

She was born on March 9, 1931, in Dearborn, Michigan, to Martin and Eleanore Price. Her family then moved to the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Miss Price was raised in Cleveland Heights and graduated from St. Ann School, Beaumont School and Ursuline College. A gifted artist, she also studied at Parsons School of Design in New York.

Returning to Cleveland, she fell in love with Philip Bernet after he courted her in his family's 1955 Corvette (one of the first to be built). They married in September 1955 and enjoyed a honeymoon tour to Europe on the Queen Mary.

Upon return, they settled in Shaker Heights and Pepper Pike, Ohio, building a life centered on family, friends and community. Philip and Nance welcomed their son, Marty, in 1964, and daughters Molly in 1966 and Mia in 1968.

After vacationing in Delray Beach, since 1955, they moved the family permanently in 1968.

Looking for things to do in their new hometown, the couple purchased two hotels on the ocean, The Barrington and The Breakers on the Ocean, places they and their parents had stayed at when they vacationed here. They sold



The Barrington, now Berkshire on the Ocean, in 1978 and continued to run The Breakers on the Ocean until 2012.

In 1978, the pair opened HyPa HyMa. Started as a gift shop, art gallery and candy store, with just a few pieces of women's clothing, it gradually evolved into a boutique destination for ladies in the area to be outfitted for all occasions.

After her husband died in 1990, Mrs. Bernet stepped into entrepreneurship to manage the family businesses, juggling the roles of mother, grandmother and business owner. Even in her later years, running the businesses brought her much delight and pride in her accomplishments.

Volunteering and service were very important to Mrs. Bernet. She served in officer roles with the Junior League of Cleveland, remaining a member until her death. She volunteered with Catholic Charities in Cleveland and in Palm Beach, serving on the board and chairing several elder affair fundraisers. She volunteered with the Red Cross and the Christ Child Society.

She supported Gulf Stream School and St. Vincent Ferrer School, which her children and grandchildren attended. She was a member of The Country Club of Florida, The Delray Beach Club, and a former member of The Country Club in Cleveland.

A woman of many hats, literally and figuratively, Nance juggled several

roles — with many different names: Nance, Skippy, Mrs. B, Hyma and Mom. Each name held a special role and those who knew her by those names were all welcomed into her heart equally.

Nance, a loving and true friend. Skippy, a cherished and lively daughter, sister and aunt and the hostess and center of family celebrations. Mrs. B, an employer who treated all with respect and loyalty, supporting them and their families along the way.

In 1995, Nance became a grandmother and thus became Hyma. Hyma was loved beyond words by her grandchildren, and she loved them so dearly and supported them in every aspect of life.

And, of course, she was Mom. Her children were most fortunate to have her as a role model of love and devotion to family, faith and fun.

Mrs. Bernet had boundless energy, a wonderful sense of humor, a desire to learn something new every day, and to live life to its fullest. Getting in a daily swim, reading three newspapers a day, running her businesses, engaging in a lively yet friendly debate about current affairs, watching Mass on television every morning, or texting at all hours to her friends and family — Nance continued these activities until just a few days before she died.

The family would like to especially thank her loving companion, Nancy Smith, whose uplifting energy and

devotion to her made her final years upbeat and positive. They would also like to thank the compassionate nurses at Trustbridge Hospice who provided gentle care and dignity for Mrs. Bernet in her final days. Mrs. Bernet was predeceased by her husband, Philip, her beloved parents, Martin and Eleanore Price, and her loving and devoted sister, Maryruth Pfeiffer.

She is survived by her children Price Martin "Marty" Bernet (Beth) of Boynton Beach, Mary Ruth "Molly" Balunek (Peter) of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and Anna Maria "Mia" Bernet of Delray Beach; grandchildren Erin Bernet McKean (Corey), Susie Bernet, Andrew Bernet, Ellie Bernet, Jennifer Bennett, Emma Balunek and Sophia Balunek, and her precious great-grandchildren, Owen and Milo McKean.

She is survived by devoted and cherished nieces and nephews, who were her "second children" with whom she held a special bond.

A funeral Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer Church, with a celebration of Nance's life following at The Delray Beach Club, took place Jan. 21. Interment was private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Beaumont School, 3301 N. Park Blvd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118, or Trustbridge Hospice Foundation, 5300 East Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33407.

— Submitted by the family

Dr. Leonard Clark Griff

LANTANA — Dr. Leonard Clark Griff died on Dec. 24 at 90 years of age, surrounded by loved ones at his home on Hypoluxo Island.



Born on Feb. 18, 1935, in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Griff devoted his life to helping others as a radiation oncologist.

Alongside his beloved wife, Roberta, they raised their four children in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Together, they built a close-

knit family that now spans many generations. Dr. Griff was the proud grandfather of 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, each of whom held a special place in his heart.

Known for his optimism and warmth, Dr. Griff could talk to anyone for hours.

He is survived by his wife, Roberta, their four children; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild, who will continue to carry his legacy forward.

A service was held Dec. 26 at Palm Beach Memorial in Lantana.

— Submitted by the family

Judy Cotter

DELRAY BEACH — Judy Cotter, a longtime resident, died Dec. 29. She was 81.



Born in New York City on Jan. 10, 1944, she possessed a spirit as vibrant and colorful as the dresses she wore.

For 35 years, Mrs. Cotter was the heart of The Snappy Turtle boutique in Delray Beach. Customers visited as much for resort wear as for the chance to chat with "Mrs. Judy," who was easily identified by her signature bright lipstick and echoing laugh. She worked until the day before her death, a testament to her strength and love of life.

Her summers were spent in the rural charm of Smallwood, New York. For 55 years she found joy at her cabin in this Catskill hamlet.

She is survived by her adored son, John, and daughter-in-law,

Lisa. She was grandmother to Samantha, Sasha and Shawn. Mrs. Cotter also leaves behind her beloved siblings Peter, Chrissie, Paul, Irene, Dale, Joanne and Jimmy, as well as her former husband, Jack. She was preceded in death by her parents, Pat and Joe Hopkins, and her brother, Ray.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Lucy Catholic Church in Highland Beach at 11 a.m. Feb. 28. A summer date for a celebration of life in Smallwood will be announced later.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Smallwood Youth Experience, providing recreational and educational opportunities for children in the Smallwood community. Donations may be made online at smallwoodcivic39.wildapricot.org or via check to the Smallwood Civic Association, PO Box 151, Smallwood, NY 12778.

— Submitted by the family

Marilyn Kay (Lawrence) Ireland

OCEAN RIDGE — Marilyn Ireland, known for her one-of-a-kind charisma, died Jan. 7. She was 95.

Mrs. Ireland — beloved as Meem, Mimi and Mema — was bubbly and colorful, possessed of a magnetic personality. She loved getting to know people and their stories, and everyone loved her in return.

Born Dec. 4, 1930, Marilyn spent her childhood in Almont, Michigan, where she loved riding horses on her parents' farm.

After graduating from Almont High School, she entered Stephens College in Missouri, studying aviation to be a flight attendant.

Mrs. Ireland was meant to be on the stage and she had her opportunity as a model for General Motors, being crowned as Miss Apple Queen, participating in local parades — driving her red convertible Corvette with the grandkids sitting on top waving to the crowds. She repeatedly took honors at Mitzenfeld Department Store for being top salesperson.

She also liked to give back to the community, volunteering as a candy striper for Beaumont Hospital, and at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the resale shop.

Soon after graduating from college, she met



the love of her life, Hugh Ireland. They married and raised three children — Jeff, Lisa and Craig. Life was full of adventure in the homes they made, mostly in Michigan (Bloomfield Hills, Ludington, Metamora, Rochester and Torch Lake) and in Ocean Ridge.

As much as Marilyn will be missed, her family is grateful for all the wonderful memories.

She is survived by her children Jeff Ireland, Lisa (Kim) Hubert, and Craig (Paula) Ireland; grandchildren Stacie Ireland, Cameron (Emily) Ireland, Christen (Dan) Kirsammer, Catherine Ireland, Cail (Kaila) Hubert, and Kalyn (Colton) Walters; and great-grandchildren Mia Chapman, Ella Chapman, Paxson Walters, Freya Ireland and Louisa Kirsammer.

She was predeceased by her parents, Ross and Marion Lawrence; husband, Hugh Ireland; sister, Sharon Kirk; and grandsons Jeffrey Ireland and Logan Hubert.

Mrs. Ireland was buried at the Metamora Cemetery in Metamora, Michigan. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children Research or Tunnels to Towers. Please consider leaving a memory or condolence on the online guestbook, at <https://www.wintfuneralhome.com/obituary/marilyn-ireland>.

— Submitted by the family

Ronald Gene Standerfer

GULF STREAM — Ronald Gene Standerfer died Jan. 14 at the Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center in West Palm Beach. He was 91.

Born in Belleville, Illinois, Ron was the only child of Gene and Aline Mobley Standerfer.

While attending the University of Illinois, he took his first airplane ride on a vintage World War II-era B-25 bomber and it changed his life. He served in the Air Force and Air National Guard. He flew 237 missions over Vietnam and Laos in 1968-1969, earning two Silver Stars, the Purple Heart and 13 Air Medals.

In civilian life, he owned an aircraft charter and management company and later was a writer and publisher.



Mr. Standerfer was pre-deceased by his parents and his son, James G. Standerfer. He is survived by his wife, Marzenna "Maya" Standerfer, his stepsons John Harrell of Lorton, Virginia, Steve (Rayna) Harrell of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, Michael (Vivienne) Krynski of New York City, and his four grandchildren, Ethan, Irene and Dominick Harrell, and Maximus Krynski.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Feb. 12 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S. Swinton Ave., in Delray Beach, with a reception to follow.

Burial will be scheduled later at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mr. Standerfer's memory can be made to Vietnam Veterans of America (vva.org).

— Submitted by the family

E-BIKES

Continued from page 1

most impact on pedestrians and bicyclists in the area — requires the rider of an e-bike to slow to 10 miles per hour when within 50 feet of a pedestrian on a sidewalk or pedestrian path.

"It's about time," said Emily Gentile, president of the Beach Condo Association of Boca Raton, Highland Beach and Delray Beach. "It will help the pedestrians quite a bit."

Gentile said that quick-moving e-bikes make it difficult for some pedestrians, especially older walkers, to step aside.

"People are complaining that they're riding on the sidewalks and scaring the heck out of

them," she said.

Gentile said that while the proposed legislation is welcome, she believes the key to its effectiveness will be enforcement.

She's not alone.

"It's a wonderful start, but how are they going to enforce it?" asked Rich Garrett, president of the Florida Bicycle Association, who would like to see the legislation go even further.

He would like to see a 10-mph speed limit on e-bikes on sidewalks all the time.

Garrett believes that the number of crashes involving e-bikes has been significantly under-reported, an issue that the proposed legislation

addresses to some degree.

The legislation would require law enforcement agencies to report the date and time of the crash, the class of e-bike involved — there are three classes based on maximum speed and whether it has a throttle — the age of the rider and whether that rider has a license or permit.

An earlier version of the bill would have required e-bikes capable of going faster than 29 mph to be classified as e-motorcycles and require operators to have a license or permit.

That provision was withdrawn in committee, Gossett-Seidman said, because lawmakers wanted more data.

"We don't want to pass a law that's not fully researched and doesn't take into account all the different counties," she said. "Some areas like Boca have many electric bikes and others have hardly any."

The task force that would be created should help provide the data lawmakers need, she said.

While Garrett supports the legislation in its proposed form, he is a strong advocate for education and would like to see all e-bikers required to take an education class.

"They should all have to know the rules of the road," he said.

In addition, he believes the weight of an e-bike should be a consideration in legislation.

Garrett said he would like to see the Florida Bicycle Association have a seat on the task force that would be created under the proposed legislation.

Safety is a key concern for Garrett and for Gossett-Seidman, who says that

legislators have to find a balance between that and the transportation needs of e-bike riders.

"One of our goals is getting them where they need to go in a safe fashion," she said.

While the Florida House bill and a similar bill in the Florida Senate would apply statewide, local municipalities are able to pass ordinances and rules governing e-bicycles.

Boynton Beach, for example, is considering an ordinance that would prohibit electric vehicles from being used on any public sidewalk.

In Boca Raton, e-bike users are required to follow the rules of the road and keep right, when possible.

Gossett-Seidman says she is sure that some statewide regulation on e-bikes will come out of the legislative session.

"We're going to apply the most common sense possible and make the most people safe and happy," she said. ★

BEACHES

Continued from page 1

water that will go out to a barge taking sand from a borrow pit, said a Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company worker keeping sentinel.

Though he wouldn't give his name, the worker said that he had to make sure kids don't climb on the pipes or homeless people don't find shelter in them. The worker, though, was living it up with an umbrella and chair in the sun, knowing the hard work was just a few days away.

"This is unbelievable," he said. "Our last job was in New Jersey and when we left it was 12 degrees with the wind. We get down here, it's 65 degrees."

The crew typically works seven days a week, 12 hours a day, he said.

The barge temporarily returned to port in West Palm Beach at the beginning of February due to rough seas from high winds brought by the recent cold front, but it was expected to return after a few days.

Here comes the sand

There will be 1.3 million cubic yards of sand poured on the beach. To put that in perspective, that is enough sand to cover 200 football fields a yard deep, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said.

The beach is expected to be widened by about 250 feet with the coverage area stretching from the city's border with Gulf Stream to south of Atlantic Dunes Park. The completion deadline is April 30.

"We're making every effort to get it completed before the onset of turtle nesting season," said Delray Beach Public Works Director Missie Barletto.

The federal government pitched in \$13 million of the \$19.2 million through the Fiscal 2025 Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. The city has allocated \$5.4 million for the project.

The critical erosion to Delray Beach occurred during the 2022 hurricane season with storms Nicole and Ian. Though only a Category 1 storm that made landfall near



Gavin Koerth, a survey rodman working with Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, assists a survey at the north end of Delray Beach prior to the project. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Vero Beach, Nicole's massive size and long duration created a relentless storm surge and pounding waves that battered Florida's east coast. Ian created a compounding effect.

Some areas on the beach, such as near the pavilion, have eroded to only a few feet.

Barletto reassured residents and visitors that the beach will remain open during the restoration, though portions will be temporarily closed for active work. She urged beachgoers to use alternative access points around active work areas.

Ocean Ridge preparations

To the north in Ocean Ridge, information was scarce. Town Manager Michelle Heiser said she only knew that surveying was being done in January.

According to the Dredging Today news outlet, Weeks Marine from Covington, Louisiana, has won a \$9.4 million firm-fixed-price contract for the U.S. Army Corps project. Roughly, 500,000 cubic yards of sand will be placed on the beach

just south of the Boynton Inlet to about Thompson Street.

Like the Delray Beach project, Ocean Ridge aims to be done with its restoration by May so as not to affect the peak of turtle season.

Get your shells here

Barletto noted a local perk that has accompanied past dredging work: crews often filter shells and lay out piles for the public to search.

"In the past, they've kind of laid those out in an area for shell hunters to go through and see what they can find," she said, adding that the city asked Great Lakes if it would repeat that public service for this project.

Back with Delray Dave, he said the restoration project will affect the posts that hold up the volleyball nets.

"See what we're going to run into now, they're gonna build the sand up 3, 4 feet. We don't have 3, 4 feet more on our pole. So we're gonna have to pull the poles out, but we are aware of that," he said. ★

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Business Spotlight

Garlic Fest returns to Delray with smaller footprint but all its stinkin' glory

Returning to Delray Beach, the odiferous Garlic Fest, known as the best stinkin' party in South Florida, will be at Old School Square on Feb. 28 and March 1.

The event was created in 1998 by Festival Management Group's nonprofit arm, Delray Beach Art Inc. Jennifer Costello, the executive director of those organizations, gives a history of how the festival started.

"In the late 1990s, Delray Beach was still a quiet, sleepy town," Costello says. "Our founders, Nancy Stewart-Franczak and Bern Ryan, joined local civic leaders to brainstorm how to bring life back to the downtown. Their idea was bold: Create a 'signature event that would generate excitement, ignite tourism and, most importantly, support local nonprofits.'"

At first, the idea was met with laughter, Costello says.

"Undeterred, Nancy and Bern persuaded a few civic leaders to go to Gilroy, California, home of the world-famous Garlic Festival. What they saw there was eye-opening — a vibrant community celebration that energized the downtown, drove tourism and raised significant funds for nonprofits."

Inspired by Gilroy's success, Delray Beach leaders gave the green light. First celebrated in a downtown parking lot, the festival offered food, art and music. Within five years, the festival amassed more than 20,000 visitors, impacting activities in the downtown area and necessitating street closures — a bit more than Delray Beach leadership was looking for, Costello explained.

To accommodate the city's needs and to keep the garlicky good times going, the festival moved to John Prince Park in Lake Worth Beach, and then, following an interruption caused by the pandemic, it moved to Wellington.

With approvals in place, Garlic Fest returns to Delray Beach in all its stinkin' glory with a smaller footprint and no street closures. In a more mindful collaborative model — partnering with the Downtown Development Authority and working with the Community Redevelopment Agency's Delray Beach Green Market, Coco Market, the Delray Beach Open and ArtNest — the festival is not bigger, but aims to be just as good or even better with food, art, crafts and music.

Spin Doctors will headline the music, joined by the Fabulous Fleetwoods and Given to Fly.

Keeping to a smaller footprint, "We are not bringing back the garlic chef stadium or the carnival rides," Costello said. "But we will have The Clove, which will have an elevated bar and food seminars."

With 120 feet of food along the festival's Gourmet Alley,



Chefs at Garlic Fest will offer free demonstrations, such as this one at a past festival, at noon both days at The Clove, site of garlic-themed food and beverage. The Clove's premium bar will offer cocktails such as jalapeño margaritas, garlic bloody marys, pickled garlic martinis and Crazy Uncle Mike's brewed garlic bread beer, along with nonalcoholic drinks. Marketplace vendors will sell fresh garlic, jarred garlic, garlic graters and other goods. **Photo provided**

event-goers will get to feast on delicacies such as garlic ice cream, gourmet garlic smash burgers and garlic conch fritters.

Eighty vendors will sell a mix of arts and crafts, plants and edibles, such as fresh or jarred garlic, spices, sauces, jerky and honey.

The festival may have a small footprint, but it will make a big impact, Costello says. "We're excited to be back home."

Hours of Garlic Fest are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Feb. 28 and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on March 1. Tickets are priced at \$15 on Saturday until 6 p.m. then the entry cost goes to \$25. On Sunday, the cost is \$15 all day. Tickets can be purchased at eventeny.com/events/ticket/?id=18647.

A California tech company advancing quantum computing development is moving its corporate headquarters to the **Boca Raton Innovation Campus**, the city's former IBM site, after the city approved a \$500,000 incentive grant on Jan. 6 to lure the company.

D-Wave Quantum Inc., based in Palo Alto, says an increased interest and demand for its quantum computing technology and systems are behind its desire to establish "a key development hub" in Boca Raton. It plans to transition its headquarters to the city by the end of 2026.

The change will give D-Wave a presence on both coasts, providing system redundancy in the case of disaster recovery and expanding a North American

presence that already includes facilities in Connecticut, California, Alabama and British Columbia.

The company also announced that **Florida Atlantic University** has made a \$20 million commitment to install its Advantage 2 annealing quantum computer — "aiming to accelerate and solidify the state of Florida's position as a leader in quantum computing."

"With our new headquarters in Boca Raton, D-Wave will bring to South Florida incredible opportunities for advanced research, talent recruitment, and high-impact technology development that is shaping the future of computing," said D-Wave CEO Alan Baratz.

Boca Raton's economic development incentive is based on D-Wave's commitment to create 100 jobs in the city over the next five years, with annual salaries exceeding \$125,000.

A 1.34-acre lot from the oceanfront to Intracoastal Waterway at **1300 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan**, sold for \$27.49 million in January. The seller was 1300 South Ocean LLC, managed by local attorney Maura Ziska. The buyer was Pitchoune Life LLC, a Delaware-registered company, care of Dennis Zaslavsky in Deerfield, Illinois. Zaslavsky is the senior managing director of Clearstead Advisors, a financial consultant.

Gary Pohrer of Serhant and **Nick Malinosky** of the **Exclusive Group at Douglas Elliman** were the listing brokers on the deal, while **Marine**

developer Kolter Group, based in Delray Beach.

The four-bedroom home, built on the 1.03-acre site in 2009, features a summer kitchen, bar, balcony, pool and a private pathway to the beach.

Carol Sawyer Parks is the president and CEO of Sawyer Enterprises and Sawyer Parks Inc. She developed the **W Boston Hotel & Residences** and the **Niketown** building on Newbury Street in Boston.

While the Kolter Group builds residential communities and condos, it also has a custom home division, which works closely with Marc Julien Homes. **Nick Malinosky** and **Michael O'Connor** of the **Exclusive Group at Douglas Elliman** brokered the deal.

A trust in the name of Bridget Maguire sold an 8,131-square-foot estate at **215 W. Coconut Palm Road, Boca Raton**, in the **Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club**, for \$16.5 million — a drop of \$3 million since its previous purchase less than two years ago. The new owner is 215 Coconut Palm Land Trust, with Aaron S. Adler as trustee.

Maguire, founder of Miami-based Premier Legal Advantage, bought the home for \$19.5 million in June 2024. It was first listed for \$22.5 million in August 2024, but the listing price fell to \$18.5 million in November 2025.

Built on the 0.34-acre site in 2022, the five-bedroom home features a dock, a zero-edge pool, spa, bar/wine room, private study and an outdoor fireplace.

Maguire's company is a consultant and recruiter for major law firms. The deal was brokered by **David W. Roberts** with **Royal Palm Properties**.

Boca Villas Apartments, a 106-unit co-op building at **1191 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach**, sold for \$22.5 million. The seller was an LLC managed by local investor Daniel Edwards, and the new owner is Palmetto Coast Holdings LLC, a company registered in Delaware with an address in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Edwards, who had owned

one of the units, purchased the property in a sale approved by the co-op board in June 2025 for \$18 million. The development, known through the years as **The Horizon of Delray Beach**, was built in 1952. It is sited on a lot just under 1 acre with 120 feet of oceanfront.

The buyer was represented by the **Matt Moser** and **Nick Gonzalez** team of **Serhant**. The seller was represented by **Christian Prakas**, also with **Serhant**.

Boston real estate developer Carol Sawyer Parks sold her 9,368-total-square-foot estate, with 90 feet on the ocean, at **2545 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach**, for \$17.5 million to **KM One LLC**, an affiliate of

The Boca Chamber's 20th annual Diamond Award luncheon will be held Feb. 20 at The Boca Raton, in celebration of women whose leadership has shaped Boca Raton and southern Palm Beach County.

Continued on next page

This year, the Diamond recipient is **Marta T. Batmasian**, co-founder of Investments Ltd., for her support of initiatives that advance education, health care and community well-being.

The chamber will also present the **2026 Pearl Award** to **Sabrina Greenberg**, founder of EcoLoops and a senior at Saint Andrew's School. The Pearl Award honors a young female leader and graduate of the Boca Chamber's Young Entrepreneurs Academy who demonstrates entrepreneurial excellence. Greenberg's work with EcoLoops reflects her commitment to sustainability, innovation and social impact.

For information or tickets, contact Sarah Vielot at svielot@bocachamber.com.

Alina Residences Boca Raton announced that assistant property manager **Ahmed Abbas** was recognized by FirstService Residential as its Rookie of the Year. The award was presented at Le Méridien Dania Beach at Fort Lauderdale Airport.

Abbas joined Alina Residences in November 2024 in an administrative role. He advanced to assistant property manager, where he coordinated with contractors, managed unit closings and supported residents of Alina 220.

The Greater Lantana Chamber of Commerce announced its new board of directors in January at an installation dinner at The Carlisle Palm Beach. **David Lumbert** of Ocean Bank is now the president. The new vice president is **Laura Urness** of the Presson Group with Corcoran Realty. **Jane Richardson** of Friends of Foster Children serves as treasurer, and **Jackie Phelan**, owner of Underground Promos LLC, is secretary.

Past champion and Boca Raton resident **Frances Tiafoe** committed to play in the **34th Delray Beach Open**, Feb. 13-22 at the Delray Beach Tennis Center.

Tiafoe, who has ranked as high as world No. 10, was a 20-year-old wild card ranked No. 91 when he won the Delray Beach Open in 2018.

Other players scheduled to compete include **Taylor Fritz, Casper Ruud, Tommy Paul, Learner Tien and Alex Michelsen**.

Juan Martin del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open champion and 2011 Delray Beach winner, is returning to the tournament in the Legends exhibition-style matches, along with six-time Delray doubles champions **Bob and Mike Bryan**, former French Open champions **Luke and**

Murphy Jensen, and past Delray Beach Open singles champions **Tommy Haas, Xavier Malisse and Jan-Michael Gambill**.

Fans can watch qualifying rounds for the ATP 250 tournament as well as practice sessions.

New this year, children 14-and-under will receive a free Stadium Court reserved seat with the purchase of an adult ticket on the day of the event at the box office.

For more details, visit delraybeachopen.com.

The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County's voters guide to 18 municipal elections in the county goes online Feb. 7 at lwvpbc.org. To access the free guide, click on the Voter Toolkit 2026 button. Elections will be held on March 10.

"The league delivers nonpartisan information to local voters every election," said Amy Kemp, the league's president. "Providing potential voters with reliable, responsible, nonpartisan information is our primary mission."

The league has compiled biographical information and political positions from 85 candidates in 32 campaigns in the guide, called Vote411.

For the November elections, the league will host an Election Expo and publish both a printed

and online Vote411 guide to all local, county, state and federal campaigns that will be on the ballot in the county.

The Institute for Regional Conservation, along with the **Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce**'s Young Professionals Association of Delray, recently hosted a beach dune ecological restoration event at Delray Municipal Beach as part of IRCC's **Restoring the Gold Coast** program.

Volunteers from the Young Professionals, FAU Sustainability Club and the Beach Keepers removed sea grape from dune habitat to benefit the federally endangered beach jacquemontia plant. This site represents the largest remaining population of the species in Palm Beach County.

The Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority recently launched its redesigned website, **DowntownDelrayBeach.com**. The new platform makes it easier for businesses, residents and visitors to discover, plan and experience the downtown.

Based on an economic impact model using its analytics along with benchmarks from Destinations International, Visit Florida, and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the website is estimated to generate \$15.5

million in annual economic impact, including \$10.35 million in direct visitor spending.

New features of the website include destination mapping of shops, restaurants, spas, galleries, hotels and cultural destinations — and nearby parking to these destinations.

Users can create personalized Art Walk routes. Businesses are grouped into themed experiences. Signature attractions are highlighted.

It contains a centralized listings for events, dining, lodging and activities. The site's guides are expected to add an estimated \$1.35 million in incremental annual revenue.

"Our goal was to create a modern, mobile-friendly website that doesn't just inform, but actively guides people through downtown Delray," said **Suzanne Boyd**, director of marketing for the DDA.

The new site helps people "discover new places, plan fuller experiences, and engage more deeply with everything downtown has to offer — while directly supporting our local businesses."



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



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Around Town

February 2026

The Coastal Star

Philanthropy - Page AT2
 Celebrations - Page AT5
 Health - Page AT18
 Tots & Teens - Page AT28
 Calendar - Page AT30

Inside**On the Water**

Snook fishing can be tricky; heed your guide. Page AT20

**Dining**

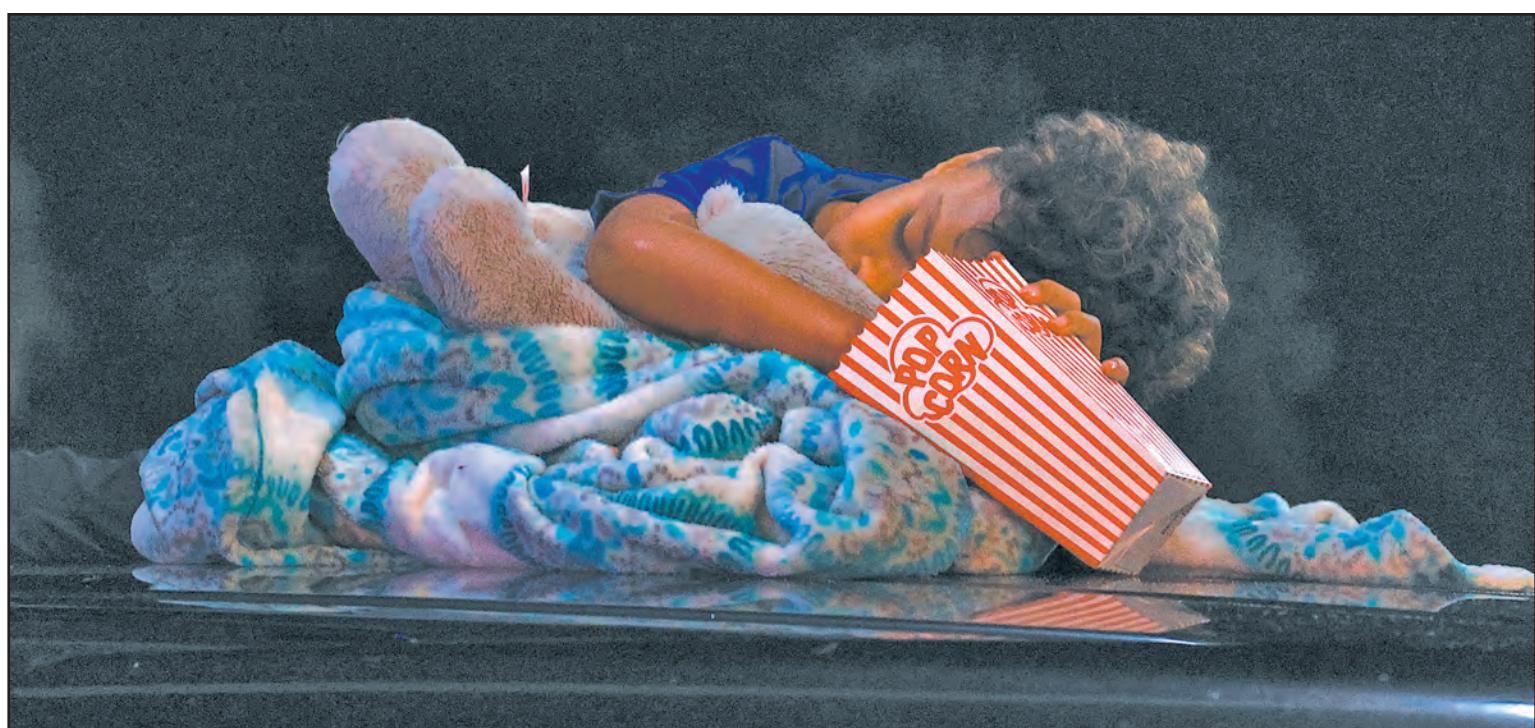
Charm City Burger Co. comes to Boca Raton. Page AT26

**Paws Up for Pets**

Expert advice on how to train your doggie. Page AT27



House of the Month
 Waterfront residence in Ocean Ridge. Page AT35

Entertainment

Liam Bingham, 6, of Boca Raton, dozes on the hood of the family car during Lantana's showing of *How to Train Your Dragon* in January. The second and final movie of the season will be *Jurassic World: Rebirth* on Feb. 27. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Lantana draws families with free films, popcorn at makeshift drive-in



ABOVE: A girl sits on top of the family vehicle to watch *How to Train Your Dragon* at Lantana's Sports Park.

RIGHT: Lantana residents Ari Georges and Carlie Matula enjoy a charcuterie board in the back of a pickup during the movie.



Lights! Camera! Popcorn!

By Ron Hayes

The nation's curmudgeons will no doubt grumble that any drive-in movie theater showing only two movies a year hardly deserves to be called a drive-in theater at all.

About 150 mothers, fathers, friends and children — lots and lots of children — who drove in to Lantana's Sports Park on Friday evening, Jan. 9, to watch a movie under the stars would disagree.

In its own humble way, the town of Lantana is keeping alive a once great American tradition. Each January and February, the town hosts a "Drive-In Movie Night," a free movie on an inflatable, 33-foot screen.

Free popcorn, too. All you can gobble. January's movie was *How to Train Your Dragon*, last year's live-action remake of the 2010 animated feature about Hiccup, a Viking boy who befriends a wounded dragon, named Toothless, and learns about friendship.

See **DRIVE-IN** on page AT16

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Philanthropy Notes

Palm Beach Symphony donates 1,000th instrument to students

The ninth annual Holly Jolly Symphony Fête luncheon at the Kravis Center raised nearly \$500,000 to benefit music education initiatives.

Palm Beach Symphony presented 31 instruments, including 27 brand-new instruments, to students and educators from three Palm Beach County Title I schools that are part of the Paul & Karen Levy Residency Program.

This included the milestone 1,000th instrument to be given since the donation program began in 2016, with the totals now up to 1,022 instruments and 3,500 accessories. During the current season, 124 instruments have been donated.

"Will and I know from our own experience the role music education plays in shaping a child's life," said Mary Demory, who chaired the event with her husband, Will Demory.

"These young musicians experience something truly extraordinary. Whether they are attending their first Masterworks performance or learning directly from our orchestra's artists, you can see the spark in their eyes."

"When they are handed an instrument, the joy is unforgettable. Learning music doesn't just create musicians. It also builds discipline, determination and confidence and shapes the next generation of artists and leaders."

Students and educators from the three recipient schools — Woodlands Middle School, The Conservatory School @ North Palm Beach and Plumosa School of the Arts — attended the December event along with nearly 500 guests.

Learn about Palm Beach Symphony's concerts, events, giving opportunities and more at PalmBeachSymphony.org.

Longtime Kravis supporter receives Dreyfoos award

The Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts' major donors, life trustees and guests honored Kravis supporter George Michel with the Dreyfoos award for his lifetime of service. The former resident of Palm Beach and current resident of Palm Beach Gardens has served on the Kravis board of directors from the beginning more than 30 years ago.

Founding CEO Judy Mitchell said the award, named for the late Kravis founding chairman, Alex Dreyfoos, is given only on special occasions and only to individuals who have demonstrated continued outstanding dedication and service to the Kravis.

"It's an honor being associated with so many great people who made this organization happen and it



Christine Lynn and Lois Pope attended the Holly Jolly Symphony Fête. Pope was the principal sponsor. **Photo provided**

goes back more than three decades," Michel said at the Dec. 17 dinner. "And of course, the guy I miss a lot — Alexander W. Dreyfoos.

"When I was living in Stamford, Connecticut, Alex told me he was going to South Florida to raise \$10 million to build a cultural center. I didn't think much of it, but knew he would do it."

Levis JCC has openings in special-needs program

The Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center has a few openings in its Project L.I.F.E. (Learning, Independence, Friendship, Experiences), a weekday program that supports young adults with special needs to help them build life skills.

Part of the JCC's Helene & Roy Schwedelson Special Needs Department, Project L.I.F.E. serves people ages 18-30+ through a structured, Monday-Friday program from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Participants develop social skills with health, wellness, recreation and volunteer opportunities on and off the west Boca Raton campus.

"At its heart, Project L.I.F.E. is about empowerment, inclusion and possibility," said Ali Landman, vice president, Special Needs Services. "We're creating a space where young adults with special needs are not only supported but valued — where they can contribute, learn and thrive as active members of the community."

Project L.I.F.E. launched in the fall with 13 participants. While the program is private-pay, families may seek reimbursement through Med Waiver. Partial scholarships are also offered. Participants need not be Jewish.

For more information, visit levisjcc.org/specialneeds or call

561-852-3200.

Boynton OKs expansion for Feeding South Florida

The Boynton Beach City Commission unanimously approved a major site plan modification on Dec. 2 that will allow Feeding South Florida — the leading hunger-relief organization serving Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties — to build a 32,000-square-foot warehouse at 4925 Park Ridge Blvd. at the Quantum Corporate Park.

The project is the final phase of Feeding South Florida's campus expansion and will significantly enhance the organization's ability to serve people throughout South Florida.

Construction will begin following permitting and pre-construction coordination with city departments.

In other Feeding South Florida news, South Florida Kia dealers, along with the Miami Heat, Miami Dolphins, JM Family Enterprises and JM&A Group, have donated \$400,000 to the organization.

Kia's "Accelerate the Good" charitable initiative raised \$150,000 of the total. JM Family Enterprises and subsidiary company JM&A Group donated \$100,000. The remaining \$150,000 came from the Heat and Dolphins.

Feeding South Florida President and CEO Paco Vélez received the check on Dec. 16 during a ceremony at Feeding South Florida's Pembroke Park warehouse.



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Pay It Forward

Spring Boutique a way to help Wayside House support women in crisis

By Lou Ann Frala

How can a shopping spree be good for someone else? When the spree is to benefit Wayside House, a nonprofit organization based in Delray Beach that focuses on women's substance abuse and addiction recovery.

The annual fundraiser, the Spring Boutique and Trunk Show, a fixture for more than three decades, begins Feb. 10, with a preview party for shoppers to check out the 21 vendors — nine new this year — from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Aloft Hotel in Delray Beach.

The boutique runs Feb. 11 and 12 starting at 10 a.m. each day.

Vendors, drawn from all over the country and one from Germany, showing clothing, jewelry, accessories and home decor, are: Amanda Johnson Studio, Blair's Belts, Blazers by Design, Brad and Vandy Reh Fine Jewelry, Carrie Dunham, Carson & Co., Charlotte Brody, CMM Designs-Status Faux, Daniella Ortiz Handbags, Harbor Sweets, Hyde Forty-Seven, IslaPayal, IVI Vision, Janet Gregg, Jennifer Tyler Knitwear, KP Design, Liz Paper, Liza Byrd Boutique, Pearly Vine, The Romantic Room, and Vernon Scott.

Last year's event drew more than 700 shoppers and raised \$180,000 for the organization founded in 1974 by Dr. Susan B. Anthony — the great-niece and namesake of the noted 19th century women's rights advocate — and Phyllis Michelfelder of Gulf Stream. Anthony died in Boca Raton in 1991, Michelfelder in 1998.

Wayside's mission since its founding has been to serve vulnerable women, including pregnant women in the throes of substance abuse or other chemical addictions.

The Spring Boutique is "our largest fundraiser of the year so it's critical for our mission," said event co-chairwoman Whitney Jones.

Jones and co-chairwoman Alexandra McCall are in their second year heading the event and are focused throughout the year on drawing vendors and building support for Wayside House.

As McCall says: "Wayside House's 90-day residential program for women, including its scholarship offerings, helps bridge the gap between recovery programs and the women who would otherwise be unable to afford excellent care. Wayside offers hope, dignity and long-term support to women who may have lost their way but



Shoppers check out the merchandise at the 2025 Wayside House Spring Boutique and Trunk Show.
Photo provided by Wayside House

deserve the resources and compassion necessary to reclaim their lives."

Women 18 and older can receive treatment to get back on their feet. Programs include life skills and employment

assistance, with a placement rate higher than the national average, says Marlene Passell, Wayside's director of communications.

Equine and horticulture holistic programs put the

women in touch with both horses and the earth as they grow food that is used in the residential treatment center kitchen in Delray Beach. ★

If You Go

What: Spring Boutique and Trunk Show

When: Feb. 11 and Feb. 12, with a preview party for shoppers to check out the 21 vendors — nine new this year — from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 10. The boutique runs Wednesday and Thursday starting at 10 a.m. each day.

Where: Aloft Hotel, 202 SE Fifth Ave., Delray Beach

Cost: Tickets for the preview party are \$150 and include valet parking, early shopping, drinks and light bites. Register at waysidehouse.net/2026-spring-boutique.

More information:
561-278-0055

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Philanthropy Calendar

Pay It Forward

Note: Events are current as of 1/21. Please check with organizers for any changes.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday-Thursday - 2/10-2/12 - Wayside House's Spring Boutique & Trunk Show

at Aloft Delray Beach, 202 SE Fifth Ave. Shop among dozens of vendors

from throughout the United States at the organization's premiere fundraiser supporting addiction-treatment services for women.

5-7 pm Feb. 10, 10 am-5 pm Feb. 11 and 10 am-4 pm Feb. 12. \$150 Feb. 10, free Feb. 11 and 12. 561-278-0055 or waysidehouse.net/2026-spring-boutique

Wednesday - 2/11 - Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services' Reflections of Hope Luncheon

at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. A keynote speech by Allison Holker, a celebrated dancer, choreographer and television personality, at a benefit for behavioral-health services and substance-abuse programs. 11 am-2 pm. \$180. 561-852-3360 or ralesjfs.org/event/reflections-of-hope

2/11 - Boys & Girls Club of Delray Beach's Heart to Heart Dinner

at The Little Club, 100 Little Club Road, Delray Beach. An evening featuring a curated sit-down dinner with exceptional cuisine and an exciting live auction – all in support of the club and the youths it serves. 6-9 pm. \$300. 561-676-5472 or bgcpcb.org/events/2026-heart-to-heart-dinner

Friday - 2/13 - 2nd Annual Beyond the Label Fashion Show Luncheon & Auction

at Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center, 5150 Town Center Circle. Benefitting Boca School for Autism. 11:30 am-1:30 pm. \$90/person. givebutter.com/c/beyondthelabel

Thursday - 2/19 - Woman's Club of Delray Beach's Real Men Bake & Valentine Sock Hop

at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. Sample sweet and savory delights baked by a who's-who cast of male volunteers at a '50's-themed benefit for local charities. 6-9 pm. \$40. 561-870-6345 or 561-706-8577 or delraywomansclub.com/home/real-men-bake-fundraiser

2/19 - The Symphonia presents A Little Night Music at House of Devam, 190 W Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton. Wear casual chic and enjoy light bites, wine and live music. 6:30 pm. \$100 per person; \$175 per couple. 561-414-5226; thesymphonia.org

Friday - 2/20 - Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce's Diamond Awards Luncheon

at The Boca Raton, 501 E. Camino Real. Honor a woman who is dedicated, inspiring, accomplished, motivated, noble and driven, has achieved success in her field and makes a difference in the community. \$125. 561-395-4433, Ext. 233 or bocachamber.com/diamond-award-luncheon

Saturday - 2/21 - The Boca Raton Museum of Art's 76th Annual Gala: From La Belle Epoque to the Summer of Love

at the museum, 501 Plaza Real. Gala dinner amid the galleries: 6-9 pm; Summer of Love Party in the sculpture garden: 9-11:30 pm. Gala: \$1,500; Summer of Love Party: \$100. 561-392-2500 x212; bocamuseum.org

2/21 - Child Coalition's 9th Annual Tech with Heart Gala

at Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Help a nonprofit by attending a cocktails-and-dinner event with an after-party. The Coalition rescues minors from sexual abuse by building technology for law enforcement. 6-11 pm. \$450. 561-208-9000 or childrescuecoalition.org/events/9th-annual-tech-with-heart-gala

Tuesday - 2/24 - Florida Atlantic University's Cabaret for a Cause: A Scholarship Fundraising Event with Local Celebrities at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 W. Plaza Real, Boca Raton. An evening of live performances that includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, decadent desserts, cocktails and drinks and dancing all to benefit scholarships to the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. 6:30-9:30 pm. \$200. 561-297-2337 or fauf.fau.edu/events/cabaret-for-a-cause

2/24 - Roots and Wings Goes Hollywood - 10th Anniversary Gala

- at Good Night John Boy, 33 SE 3rd Ave, Delray Beach. Features dinner, dancing, prizes, and a live auction. Guests are encouraged to dress as their favorite film or musical character from a list of featured films. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes of the night. Proceeds directly support Roots and Wings' literacy initiatives and teacher recognition programs across Palm Beach County. 6:30-9:30 pm. Tickets start at \$250. 561-404-0455; rootsandwingsinc.org

Wednesday - 2/25 - YMCA of South Palm Beach County's Inspiration Breakfast

at Peter Blum Family YMCA of Boca Raton, 6631 Palmetto Circle South. Hear from burn survivor John O'Leary, the keynote speaker, while raising money for programs aimed at youths, families and seniors. 7:30 am. \$300. 561-237-0944 or ymcaspb.org/programs/events/inspiration-breakfast

Thursday - 2/26 - Real Men Bake at Delray Beach Library

100 W Atlantic Ave. Fundraiser for FRWC Women's Club of Delray Beach. Local celebrity chefs prepare bite-size samples of their best dishes. Featuring DJ dance party, 50/50 raffle drawing and cash bar. 6-9 pm. \$45. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Friday - 2/27 - The Lord's Place second annual March to End Homelessness

at Centennial Square, 150 N. Clematis St., West Palm Beach. Registration: TheLordsPlace.org/march. Day-of registration is at 2 pm. The hope is that 200 people will take the 2.6-mile walk and raise a minimum of \$350,000. Money raised will be matched by The Honorable Ann Brown, in honor of Cathy Brown. 61-494-0125 or thelordsplace.org

MARCH

Friday - 3/6 - George Snow Scholarship Fund's Cowboy Ball

at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. Help students achieve their dream of attending college while enjoying an evening of country-chic style. 6-11 pm. \$350. 561-347-6799, Ext. 114 or scholarship.org/events

3/6 - Caron Treatment Centers' 2026 Caron Florida Gala

at Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa, 10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. An evening celebrating recovery and shining a light on the organization's mission of providing treatment for addiction as well as funding research and prevention. 6-9:30 pm. \$500. Sales end on 2/26. 215-292-5226 or 610-731-1045 or caron.org

Saturday - 3/7 - Sandoway Discovery Center's Muscle on the Beach

at Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Get excited about a car show featuring 150 American hotrods and trucks from decades past as well as a silent auction and a raffle all benefiting the nonprofit's hands-on learning experiences that focus on Florida's fragile ecosystems. 10 am-3 pm. Free. 917-670-6993 or 617-312-4701 or muscleonthebeach.com



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Celebrations

FAU's Transcend Tomorrow campaign celebration

The Addison, Boca Raton — Dec. 4



With contributions from alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends, FAU raised more than \$617 million over the past decade for scholarships and programs as part of 'Transcend Tomorrow: The Campaign for Florida Atlantic University.' That surpassed the campaign goal of \$600 million.

LEFT: (l-r) Nicole Williams, FAU President Adam Hasner and Aalesha Chisholm-Green. RIGHT: Dick Schmidt and Sharon Kusuke. Photos provided by Florida Atlantic University

YMCA Prayer Breakfast

The Breakers Palm Beach — Dec. 11



More than 350 attended the YMCA of the Palm Beaches 16th annual Prayer Breakfast. Former Super Bowl champion quarterback Joe Theismann, now an entrepreneur, Emmy Award-winning NFL analyst, author and philanthropist, spoke of the importance of supporting the YMCA's mission. 'True success isn't just about achievements,' he said. 'It's about how we lift up and contribute to those around us, bringing our best every day for the good of others.' Learn more at ymcapalmbeaches.org. Follow on Instagram @ymcapalmbeaches. TOP LEFT: Guest speaker Theismann. ABOVE: Evelyn Hopkins and Guy Quattlebaum. LEFT: Tim Coffield and Pat Rooney. Photos provided by Tracey Benson Photography



New history marker

Old School Square, Delray Beach — Jan. 22



The Delray Beach Preservation Trust partnered with the city and Hanlon \ Mayo Architecture to replace a historical marker at the entrance to the Old School Square Historic District. The distinctive marker was cast at Sewah Studios foundry in Marietta, Ohio, and the text approved by the city and the historic division of the Florida Department of State. Old School Square Historic District, formed in 1987, was the first of five historic districts established in the city. The trust also partnered with the city to replace a marker at the entrance of the Del-Ida Historic District. ABOVE: (l-r): Kelly Barrette, vice president of the Delray Beach Preservation Trust; and Jaime Mayo and Michael Hanlon, principal partners of Hanlon \ Mayo Architecture. Photo provided

Cocktails for the Club

St. Andrews Club, Delray Beach — Dec. 9



The seventh annual Cocktails for the Club raised a record \$284,789 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's Delray Beach club. The event was chaired by Laura Compton. Proceeds will go to the club's hunger relief efforts, workforce readiness program and digital literacy. For more information, visit bgcpbc.org or call 561-683-3287. ABOVE: Laura and Charles Compton. Photo provided by Tracey Benson Photography

Arbor Day planting

Linear Park, Ocean Ridge — Jan. 9



Florida Arbor Day was Jan. 16, but members of the Ocean Ridge Garden Club got a head start, planting a native gumbo limbo tree to mark the occasion a week earlier. Club members say early in the year is the perfect time to plant trees, though they will require watering to get established before the hotter spring temperatures arrive. This tree was donated by a club member. ABOVE: (l-r): Garden Club members Susan Holtz, Britt Flanagan, Mickey Austin Farley, Carol Larson, Elisa Garcia and Cindy Martel. Photo provided

278 S. Ocean Blvd, Manalapan, FL 33462

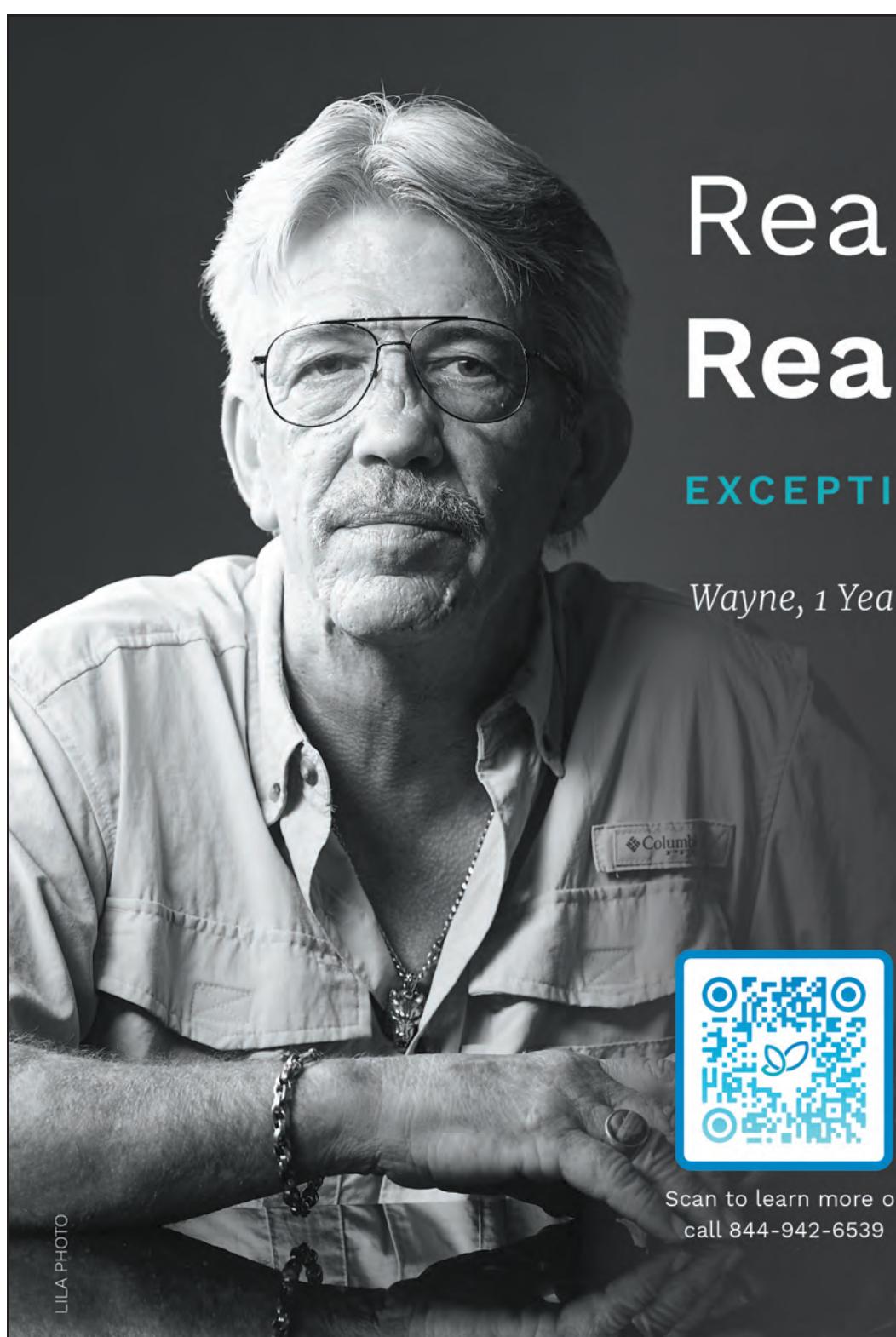
OPAL Awards

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton — Jan. 10



The 28th annual gala, hosted by the Rotary Club of Boca Raton, celebrated community leadership and philanthropy. The gala was co-chaired by Jan Savarick, Neil Saffer and Dara Siegel. It honored Steven Bernstein and Abby Bernstein-Henderson, Michelle Hagerty, Dr. Van P. Williams, Haley and Brad Winstead, and Rotarian Lifetime Legacy Award recipient Myron Yudkin, 97, who received a standing ovation. Christine Lynn was honorary chair and presenting sponsor. Proceeds will benefit Rotary's scholarship and youth programs.

TOP LEFT: Siegel, Paige Kornblue, Savarick, Hagerty and Saffer. **TOP RIGHT:** Neil Gillman, Bernstein-Henderson, Doris Gillman and Alex Henderson. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Lynn, Patricia Thomas and Terry Fedele. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Peter and Susan Brockway. Photos provided



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Art



Memorable Mucha

Boca Museum exhibits works by Art Nouveau master

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Art Writer

The Boca Raton Museum of Art's latest exhibit, *Timeless Mucha: The Magic of Line*, brings a touch of Art Nouveau magic to South Florida.

On view through March 1 are more than 100 works by Czech artist Alphonse Mucha (1860–1939), known for his elegant lines, romantic women, and iconic posters. The exhibit was created in partnership with the Mucha Foundation.

It marks the second Mucha retrospective to be seen in South Florida in recent years. The Flagler Museum in Palm Beach featured an overview of the artist's work in the spring of 2024.

Mucha was born in Ivančice, Moravia, then part of the Austrian Empire, and now part of the Czech Republic. In the early 1900s, he moved to Paris,



Examples of iconic designs by Alphonse Mucha for posters, ads, magazine covers and the like. **Photos provided**

where in 1894 he had the good fortune to design an affiche for famed actress Sarah Bernhardt, who was appearing in a production titled *Gismonda*.

The poster, double the size of traditional posters, was done in his now-signature Art Nouveau style using muted golds, harmonious greens and blues, natural forms, flowing lines,

and his distinct halo above the head — all of which have come to be known as *le style Mucha*.

Bernhardt is depicted dressed in an embroidered robe, wearing an ornate headdress, holding a palm frond, and posing in what is now called Mucha's "Q" pose, where the feminine shape takes on the form of the letter Q and the trailing elements, such as hair, visually form the shape of a capital Q.

The poster became an international sensation, and Bernhardt, notoriously difficult, proclaimed, "You have made me immortal." She offered Mucha a five-year contract (from 1895 to 1900) to produce work for her, including theater posters, stage sets, costumes and jewelry.

His 1896 poster *La Dame aux Camélias*, a depiction of courtesan Marguerite Gautier portrayed by Bernhardt, illustrates her again in a flowing gown, her hair and feet adorned with camellias. The Q style is evident, along with

See **MUCHA** on AT12

Theater

New play 'Conversa' starts a conversation at Theatre Lab

By Erik Kvarnberg
ArtsPaper Theater Writer

FAU Theatre Lab wants everyone possible to get to know playwright, actor, and stand-up comic Joanna Castle Miller, and this starts with *Conversa*.

Conversa is an autobiographical play written and performed by Castle Miller, directed by Theatre Lab's Producing Artistic Director Matt Stabile, and accompanied by live music from Theatre Lab veteran Paul Curtis.

Conversa, the first play in a trilogy, is about identity, migration, and Castle Miller's relationship with her ancestors.

"I knew that I wanted to tell a story about my mother and about her journey and about my journey and how those two

things relate to each other," Castle Miller said. "And then as I was writing it, it sort of became clear to me that it was really about the ability, the right of people to go on journeys."

The chance to work with Stabile and the whole crew at Theatre Lab has opened up the idea for Castle Miller. One of the biggest additions was multi-instrumentalist Curtis, whose fifth show at Theatre Lab is *Conversa*.

Curtis brings a menagerie of instruments and songs to the stage, as *Conversa*'s plot intertwines with the story of the Sephardic Jewish people, descendants of the ancient Jewish population on the Iberian peninsula.

See **CONVERSA** on AT10

Music

Jazz star Yoko Miwa to make welcome Arts Garage return

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

her drumming husband Scott Goulding, plays the Arts Garage once again on Feb. 21.

Touring performers never forget the first time they get booked at one of their favorite venues. Especially when it turns out that they can't work there.

Such was the case in March 2020, when jazz pianist and composer Yoko Miwa was set to play at the Arts Garage in Delray Beach. COVID-19 intervened, like it did through much of life during that year, robbing Miwa and her trio of their initial debut there.

Yet the classically trained Japanese pianist has returned almost every year since to display her unique combination of touch, tone, technique and taste. Her trio, with acoustic upright bassist Will Slater and

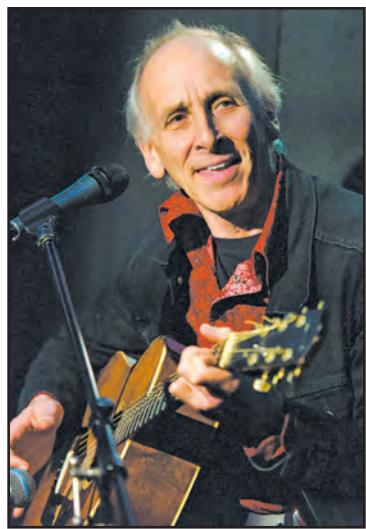
"I think this is the fourth or fifth time we've played there since that cancellation," Miwa says by phone from Boston, her adopted hometown. "I believe we also did late 2021, but maybe not 2022, before doing every year since. We really like the venue, and coming to Florida, because Boston can get very cold in the winter."

The 55-year-old pianist's place of residence isn't just because it's one of America's top cities, especially from a musical standpoint. Miwa has been in Beantown since 1997 after auditioning to attend its jazz launching pad, the Berklee

See **MIWA** on AT8



Jazz pianist and composer Yoko Miwa brings her trio to Delray Beach's Arts Garage on Feb. 21. **Photo provided**



Elijah Wald, pictured at the Café Wha in 2025, will appear at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on the Boca Raton campus of Florida Atlantic University on Feb. 5. Photo by RI Sutherland-Cohen

Music

Author/musician Wald to share insights in FAU appearance

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

Even if the name of author, musical artist and historian Elijah Wald doesn't ring a bell, chances are that you've experienced or at least heard of something he's associated with.

A recent example is the 2024 Bob Dylan biopic *A Complete Unknown*, which starred Timothée Chalamet and was directed by James Mangold. The film was inspired by Wald's 2015 novel *Dylan Goes Electric! Newport, Seeger, Dylan and the Night That Split the Sixties* (Dey Street/Harper Collins).

It's one of a dozen books by Wald, 66, who started out as a globe-trotting, singing, finger-style guitarist specializing in folk interpretations and world music in the late 1970s before embarking on his writing career.

Wald, who performed at the South Florida Folk and Acoustic Music Festival in Davie on Jan. 31, planned to participate in discussions with FAU professor Rod MacDonald at the school's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute locations in Jupiter (Feb. 3) and Boca Raton (Feb. 5).

Wald's wide-ranging books cover multiple musical genres, including the Mexican-

themed *Narcocorrido: A Journey Into the Music of Drugs, Guns and Guerrillas* (Harper Collins, 2002); *Escaping the Delta: Robert Johnson and the Invention of the Blues* (Amistad, 2005); and *The Dozens: A History of Rap's Mama* (Oxford University Press, 2012). His latest offering is *Jelly Roll Blues: Censored Songs and Hidden Histories* (Hachette Books, 2024).

There are also a couple of album releases, notably *Street Corner Cowboys* (Black Rose, 2000), yet most of Wald's recordings and performances now appear on his website.

"We're living in a new

world," he said by phone from his home in Philadelphia, "and my musical blog posts reach so many more people than an album could. And the Dylan movie has done amazing things for my career."

Wald said he likely will play some Dylan songs during the university appearances. However, "Those will be mostly conversation with Rod, so I'll leave it up to him to pick some of the directions we go in — perhaps about my work, American folk music, and pop, blues and jazz."

Continued on next page

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MIWA

Continued from page 7

College of Music, on a lark as a classical music student at the Koyo Conservatory of Music in her hometown of Kobe, Japan. She not only aced the audition, but earned a full scholarship.

"It all changed my life," says Miwa. "At my audition, I played 'Bye-Ya' by Thelonious Monk. My teacher at Koyo, Phillip Strange, was American. He's a really great pianist, and he chose that song for me."

Miwa's jazz technique had initially been honed in Japan by organist and instructor Minoru Ozone. Miwa performed at his nightclub and worked as a piano teacher at his music school, and only intended to stay and study in Boston for a year when she arrived. Twenty-nine years later, she's still there, with the last 15 as an associate professor in the Berklee piano department.

"I have around 30 students a week," she says, "and with some of them, I think to myself, 'This person is really going to be something special.'"

Gifted jazz vocalist Kevin Mahogany (1958-2017), who was one of Miwa's fellow professors at Berklee, felt the same way about her, choosing Miwa to accompany him for both his classes and live shows.

"When I heard that Kevin was coming to the school to teach, I requested to accompany him in all of his classes, because I'd always really liked his voice. There was an audition. Thankfully, he chose me, and I was so honored. I miss him."

The latest of Miwa's nine album releases is the critically acclaimed *Songs of Joy* (Ubuntu Music, 2021), featuring tracks she composed during the pandemic lockdown and garnering acclaim from peers as well as critics.

"I greatly appreciate and respect the clarity and strength in Yoko's playing," says 62-year-old fellow pianist Benny Green, a star in his own right. "It is very apparent — the honesty, care and depth of foundation she touches the piano with."

A five-year recording hiatus ends later this year with two disparate Miwa releases.

"One album will be with the

If You Go

See the Yoko Miwa Trio at the Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach.

When: 8 p.m. Feb. 21

Tickets: \$65.50

Info: 561-450-6357, artsgarage.org

trio," she says. "The other will be me playing in a duo with a vocalist named Mikayla Shirley. She's 24 years old, and in the master's program at Berklee, and I just love her voice. We've been playing duets of jazz standards for a couple years now, and that album will be called *The Midnight Hours* and will be released soon, with the trio album coming out over the summer. I don't have a title for that one yet."

Asked about her classical and jazz piano influences, Miwa has a laundry list that includes legends and contemporaries such as Green.

"For classical music, my favorite has always been Chopin," she says. "For jazz, my longtime hero is Bill Evans. He's the reason I initially got into jazz. Oscar Peterson is the other reason. But I also love Keith Jarrett, McCoy Tyner, Thelonious Monk, Mulgrew Miller, Kenny Barron, Bill Charlap, Brad Mehldau, Larry Goldings, and Benny Green."

Pop music also factors into Miwa's output. Her recordings and concerts include occasional covers of the likes of the Beach Boys, Joni Mitchell, Led Zeppelin, and The Beatles.

"I'll play some of my new material at the Arts Garage," she says, "as well as selections from *Songs of Joy* and some of the earlier albums. Plus some Beatles."

And lest any Fab Four fans think that Miwa was named for John Lennon's widow, this Yoko sets the record straight.

"Most older traditional Japanese names are based on Chinese characters," she says. "The 'Yo' portion of my name is for the ocean, with the 'ko' portion signifying child. So it's 'ocean child.' I've heard that Yoko Ono's first name is based on the same Chinese characters."

Continued from previous page

A Complete Unknown wasn't the first film based on a Wald book. The Coen brothers' 2013 film *Inside Llewyn Davis* starred Oscar Isaac as a Greenwich Village folk performer in 1961, and was inspired by Wald's book about his mentor, *Dave Van Ronk: The Mayor of MacDougal Street* (Da Capo, 2005).

Van Ronk (1936-2002) was Wald's co-writer after having been a seminal figure in New York City's folk revival, and the two had rubbed elbows with MacDonald, a singer-songwriter there during the 1980s.

"I attended New York University for one year from 1976 to 1977," Wald said. "But that was really specifically to study guitar with Dave Van Ronk. When he said he was done teaching me, I left college.

"He was absolutely my deepest influence, not only on guitar but also as a writer and historian. He was probably the best-read, most intelligent human being that I've ever spent a lot of time with."

Another best-selling Wald book is *How the Beatles Destroyed Rock 'n' Roll: An Alternative History of American Popular Music* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

"I didn't get backlash from anyone who actually read the book," Wald said with a laugh.

"John Lennon and Paul McCartney both made albums celebrating the rock 'n' roll they grew up on, and that really ended when they released *Revolver*. The Beatles stopped playing live, and the music was taken off the dance floor.

"I was doing a radio interview in New York after that book came out, and a woman called in and said, 'What he's saying is exactly how I remember it. By 1967, all the boys were in one room, smoking dope and

listening to *Sgt. Pepper*, and all the girls were in another room, dancing to Motown.' I wrote that the Beatles destroyed rock 'n' roll, not ruined it. There's a difference. Everyone agrees that they created a new world.

But when you do that, there are losers as well as winners."

A Cambridge, Mass., native with international touring experience, Wald has sound reasoning for making the City of Brotherly Love his home.

"I've lived here about eight years now because of the cost benefit," he says. "I think it's by far the best urban environment for the money in the United States at this point."

Shara Hughes
Inside Out

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If You Go

See Elijah Wald at 7 p.m. Feb. 5 at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at FAU, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton.

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Info: 561-297-3185, olli.fau.edu

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Joanna Castle Miller at the Nahmanides Institute in Girona, Spain. Photo provided by FAU Theatre Lab



CONVERSA

Continued from page 7

"It's been a really steep learning curve, because it's music that was not necessarily in my vernacular, but that's part of the fun," Curtis said. Original compositions from Curtis make up about half of the play's score; the rest are arrangements of other songs.

Through the rehearsal process with Curtis, Stabile, and Theatre Lab's team of professionals ahead of the scheduled opening the first week of February, Castle Miller was looking at this play with new light, as both the playwright and the sole actor of the show.

This includes modification of the script, but also opens up possibilities for set design and the incorporation of music that could change all the way up to opening day.

The origins of *Conversa* started years ago, with the initial freedom of being able to write as if she had institutional support. What she had written first was a play called *Inferna*, part of the trilogy that *Conversa* belongs to. During *Inferna*, Castle Miller knew there was another story that she couldn't include in *Inferna* alone. And so *Conversa* was written, and will have its debut before *Inferna*.

To Castle Miller, this story is more than something that happened to her. "This trilogy is about starting out as someone who is deeply close-minded, thinks in a binary, very fundamentalist, very closed-off and insulated way," she said.

"And the transition of that person to who I am now is what inspired the story, but then as I was writing it, [I realized] 'this is something that a lot of us are going through right now.'

"I think my hope, especially with *Conversa*, more than any other play I've written, is that we all start somewhere together, and then we end up somewhere totally different at the end."

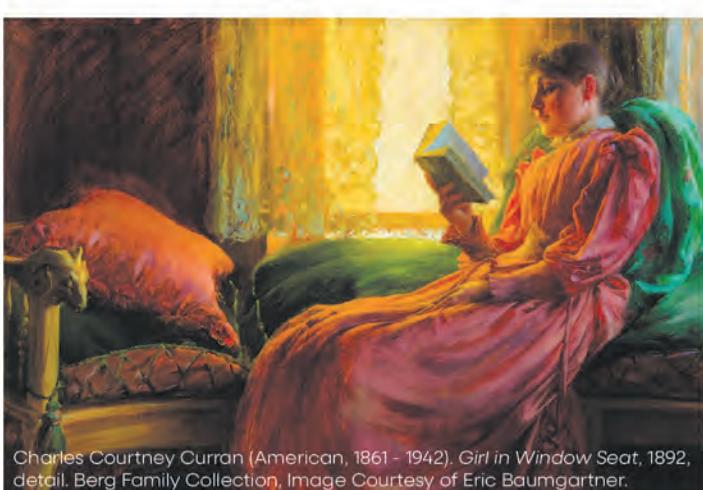
Stabile believes this play will be a favorite for the community, for both its subject and its comedy. "I think audiences are going to be very surprised at how often they are laughing and then, you know, two pages later, like, oh, that just broke my heart a little bit there."

This set of plays is emblematic of Theatre Lab's purpose of supporting modern works for the community.

"You don't have to work nearly as hard in new work to find things that you are experiencing right now in your own life," Stabile said. "The playwrights are living and working and existing in the same exact soup that you're in."

Conversa and *Inferna*, which will run April 11-26, will be the final two shows in the current Theatre Lab space in Parliament Hall on the school's Boca Raton campus, before moving to the Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre for the 2026-27 season.

FLAGLER MUSEUM



Charles Courtney Curran (American, 1861 - 1942). *Girl in Window Seat*, 1892, detail. Berg Family Collection, Image Courtesy of Eric Baumgartner.

Golden Hour

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The Spring Exhibition traces the celebrated American painter's journey from his Ohio roots to New York, Paris, and the mountaintop artists' colony of Cragsmoor, New York, where he spent four decades capturing sunlit gardens, breezy mountaintops, and moments of quiet grace. Blending the elegance of the Gilded Age with the airy brushwork of American Impressionism, Curran's paintings, filled with women in flowing white dresses, playful children, and lush floral landscapes, offer a luminous vision of summer at its most poetic.

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Comedy

It's all smiles for comic Rudner in happy return to South Florida

By Jan Engoren
ArtsPaper Writer

Talking to comedian Rita Rudner by phone is like having a front row seat to one of her shows.

Although she calls herself quiet — a self-described “middlevert” — Rudner’s polish and years of comedic training shine through her conversation.

Rudner will be appearing for three shows at the Boca Black Box Center for the Arts on Feb. 9 and is best known for her epigrammatic one-liners.

A native of Florida — she grew up in Coral Gables — Rudner says she’s excited to be coming back to Boca Raton.

“It has great shopping,” she says in classic Rudner deadpan. “It has a good combination of upscale and bargains — Saks and Marshall’s, Neiman’s and TJ Maxx.”

Once she steps off the plane, feels the humidity and sees the palm trees, she says, “I feel like I’m coming home and reliving my childhood.”

Since her debut on *Late Night with David Letterman* in 1982, Rudner has worked steadily. In Las Vegas, where she enjoyed a multiyear run, she sold almost 2 million tickets, grossed more than \$100 million, and became the longest running solo female

comedy show in the city’s history.

Rudner didn’t set out to become a comedian. By the age of 17, she already had a career on Broadway as a dancer, but after 10 years, realized she wanted to do something that allowed her more creative input.

She looked around, noticed there weren’t many female comedians, and decided to give it a go.

“I worked hard at it,” Rudner says, adding that it doesn’t come naturally. “I learned as much as I could, I did as much as I could and read as much as I could.”

She studied Buster Keaton, Jack Benny and Woody Allen, comedians who she says are quiet, like her. Along the way, she got advice from Jerry Seinfeld and Louie Anderson.

That calm sensibility extends to her home life.

“I’m quiet and listen to other people,” she says. “Whereas my husband, (writer and director) Martin Bergman, can wake up and be funny, I wake up, have coffee, do word puzzles and am quiet.”

The two have been married for more than 30 years and have collaborated on numerous projects, including the 1992 film *Peter’s Friends* starring Emma Thompson, Hugh Laurie, Kenneth Branagh and Stephen



Stand-up comic Rita Rudner grew up in Coral Gables.
Photo provided

Fry. Rudner co-wrote it along with Bergman and won a Best Supporting Actress award for her role at the American Comedy Awards.

The two also co-wrote the 1996 romantic comedy *A Weekend in the Country*, starring Rudner, Jack Lemmon, Dudley Moore and Richard Lewis, directed by Bergman.

Offstage, the Bergman-Rudners recently rooted for the University of Miami Hurricanes in last month’s game against Indiana. Their daughter, Molly Bergman, a singer/songwriter, is a recent graduate of the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami.

Rudner’s credits encompass 10 comedy specials including

If You Go

Rita Rudner appears at the Boca Black Box Center for the Arts, 8221 Glades Road, No. 10, Boca Raton.

When: 3, 5 and 7 p.m. Feb. 9

Tickets: \$63.50, \$73.50,

\$83.50

Info: 561-483-9036;

bocablackbox.com

Desert and walking on the beach with her dog.

Looking back, Rudner is happy she left Broadway and took control over her career.

“There’s a certain amount of freedom that comes with stand-up,” she says. “It was a good decision to have more control over my career. I can write my own scripts and have more control over my life, especially as a woman.”

“There’s no cost associated with writing,” she says. She adheres to Woody Allen’s old adage that 80% of success in life is showing up. She doesn’t believe in luck and says luck “happens,” after you’ve worked hard and are prepared when an opportunity presents itself.

She also credits her hard work and discipline she learned from her dance background.

“There are many funny comedians,” she says, “but they may not have a consistent work ethic.”

Rudner knows something about consistency — she’s been working for four decades and can now choose her projects. “I only do things I want to do,” she says.

“If it’s not convenient or a bad climate, I don’t go.

“But if it’s Boca, and I get a direct flight and love the audiences, I say yes,” Rudner says.



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The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art

Opens Saturday, February 14 at 10 a.m.!

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Jeffrey Rosen

“The Pursuit of Liberty: How Hamilton vs. Jefferson Ignited the Lasting Battle over Power in America”

Monday, February 9 at 3 p.m.

Amanda Triossi

“Past and Present Alchemy: The Art and Essence of High Jewelry”

Wednesday, February 11 at 3 p.m.

“1776”

Special Musical Screening

Saturday, February 14 at 2 p.m.

Sarah Grant, Ph.D.

“Marie Antoinette Style”

Wednesday, February 25 at 3 p.m.



Photo by Caroline Bittencourt

Danish String Quartet

Sanda & Jeremiah Lambert Concert Series

Wednesday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m.

“McQueen”

Friday Film Series

Friday, February 27 screening at 2 and 5:30 p.m.

“Inter Alia” starring Rosamund Pike

National Theatre Live Screening

Saturday, February 28 at 2 p.m.

Go to fourarts.org for tickets and more programs

MUCHA

Continued from page 7

Art Nouveau flourishes like ornate floral borders and soft pastels. It is an example of the Mucha Woman, embodied by swirls of exaggerated and abundant hair.

He also inserted Slavic motifs and Moravian folk patterns into his designs as an homage to his Czech heritage. Together, these posters, illustrations, and decorative panels — rich with graceful figures, floral motifs, and halolike patterns — came to embody Art Nouveau's ideal of art infused into everyday life.

Mucha's designs effectively formed the template for the international Art Nouveau movement, with soft pastels, sinuous lines, natural forms, and geometric shapes becoming hallmarks of the style.

In addition to his posters, he had a career designing "cover art," such as magazine covers, and created a number of covers for Hearst, the American newspaper company. He also produced new decorative panels without text to be used purely for decoration, which were manufactured in large quantities and made available to the general public.

By blending fine-art craftsmanship with commercial appeal, he elevated poster design to a respected art form and made beauty accessible to a broad public, as his magazine covers, postcards, and calendars became ubiquitous at the turn of the 20th century.

As an ad man, Mucha may have been the first to sell products without actually mentioning the product. His 1896 poster for Job cigarette rolling papers showcases the Mucha Woman with curly hair

cascading below her shoulders, her eyes closed, a dreamlike expression on her face, holding a lit cigarette. The smoke wafts up and swirls around her face.

Likewise, an 1897 ad for a rail trip from Monaco to Monte Carlo depicts a seated woman in a flowing dress, her hands to her face, with a backdrop of mountains and blue water. Surrounding her are touchstones of Art Nouveau symbolism — lilacs, hydrangeas, carnations, and violets. In the distance one can see the casinos of the Côte d'Azur.

The exhibition highlights the full-circle nature of Mucha and his influences. Originally influenced by Japanese aesthetics and woodblock carvings, his work now influences Japanese manga artists and a long list of other artists.

Psychedelic concert posters for bands such as the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, and The Rolling Stones were shaped by Mucha's artistic sensibility, nature motifs, decorative backgrounds, and flowing hair.

In addition to Mucha's works and personal objects, the exhibit showcases works by other artists, including Dean Torrence, who created the 1969 album cover *Let the Sunshine In* for Diana Ross & The Supremes, as well as Wes Wilson and Stanley Mouse, who created the 1966 poster for the Jug Band Tour and Big Brother and the Holding Company.

"This cross-cultural influence demonstrates how Mucha's artistic language transcended both time and geography," says curator Kelli Bodle. "This exhibition is the first one that has displayed how Mucha's distinct line work can be precisely traced from the 1900s through concert posters and albums of

If You Go

Timeless Mucha: The Magic of Line is on display through March 1 at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real, Mizner Park.

Tickets: \$16 adults; \$12 seniors; free for ages 15 and younger
Info: bocamuseum.org

This oversized poster of actress Sarah Bernhardt for the play *Gismonda* caused a sensation and rocketed Mucha's career. **Photo provided**

the 1960s and 1970s, to Japanese manga and American comics.

"His work is timeless," she says.

Also on display are photographs — including one of Paul Gauguin playing the harmonium *sans* trousers — taken in Mucha's studio in Paris on the Rue de la Grande Chaumière, actual objects from his Czech home, a self portrait done in his Munich apartment in 1886, as well as a crucifixion painting he created at the age of eight.

By juxtaposing Mucha's original works alongside pieces by contemporary artists working in his style, the exhibition celebrates Mucha's originality and creative genius and illustrates how the balance he struck between decorative beauty, commercial appeal, and emotional accessibility lives on today.

Or, as Bodle says, "Mucha's work lives on. His aesthetic is still enjoyed by people today."



Asandra, *Conversations With Spirit 5*, Acrylic on Panel, 16x20, 2022

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Reviews

Here are excerpts from reviews posted to the Palm Beach ArtsPaper site. For the full reviews, please visit palmbeachartspaper.com.

La Bohème (Palm Beach Opera, Jan. 23, Kravis Center)

Palm Beach Opera opened its 2026 season with *La Bohème* by Giacomo Puccini. Premiered in Turin 130 years ago, it has remained one of the five most performed operas worldwide.

Its simple yet heart-wrenching story, combined with Puccini's unsurpassed gift as melodist, makes for a most satisfying night at the opera, for audience connoisseurs and beginners alike.

Utilizing traditional sets from Seattle Opera and costumes from Opéra de Montréal, the production did not fail to impress, thanks to its strong cast and outstanding playing by the opera's orchestra, under the direction of guest conductor Vincenzo Milletari. In addition, the imaginative direction by Peter Kazaras and the sensitive lighting by Stuart Duke ensured a truly theatrical experience.

As Mimi, soprano Anita Hartig delivered her part with a solid technique and with an acting that grew more dramatic as the evening went on. Her opening aria, "Si, mi chiamano Mimi," displayed solid vocal technique while also lacking the frailty demanded by the character. Her transformation in the third act, however, led to a truly memorable "Addio, senza rancor!" and by the fourth act she had the house in her hands, giving an emotionally wrenching final scene.

Tenor Liparit Avetisyan was the perfect Rodolfo. His "Che gelida manina" was delivered with passion and without any strain in the higher notes. Avetisyan was also an accomplished actor both in the lighter moments of the opera and in its dramatic ending.

Alfredo's friends were handled well by veterans as well as members of the company's Young Artists Program.

As Marcello, Edward Parks had an imposing stage presence and a voice that matched it. Soloman Howard made for a superb Colline, his booming voice projecting effortlessly. His "Vecchia zimarra, senti" was one of the highlights of the evening. Young Artist Mario Manzo was a vocally splendid Schnaunard.

Finally, as Musetta, Sydney Mancasola was an act on her own. Her "Quando m'en vo," was vocally secure and her acting avoided the sometimes over-the-top characterization of Marcello's lover.

No review would be complete without mentioning the musical direction of guest conductor Milletari, who shaped orchestral phrases with utmost care while providing the musical support needed by each singer. It has been some time since the orchestra sounded this good.

All in all, a production to be remembered. — *Márcio Bezerra*

Ballet X (Duncan Theatre, Lake Worth Beach, Jan. 16)

BalletX, the dynamite ensemble of versatile dancers from Philadelphia, launched the season's popular Friday Modern Dance Series.

The small contemporary ballet company of 15 dancers blew the audience away with their unstoppable energy and technical expertise.

For a ballet company, one could say that BalletX is a bit of a hodgepodge — but in the most wonderful of ways. The dancers are of all different ethnicities with various body types and training who have come together and created a strong sense of artistic unity. Indeed, the three works presented on the program were jam-packed with skilled and athletic dancing.

Starting the program with flair was a campy work choreographed by Australian dancer and choreographer Loughlan Prior that visits a little-known part of queer history, called *Macaroni*. In the 18th century, calling someone a "macaroni" was a way of ridiculing an effeminate character.

The eight dancers were dressed in electric green unitards layered with purple coattail jackets. Designed by Emma Kingsbury, the costumes set the tone of the work, allowing the dancers to let it rip as they preened, pranced and gestured with floppy hands.

Macaroni served as a fun introduction to 18th-century British queer-coding as well as the company's energy and style.

The next work, *Become a Mountain*, was choreographed by Justin Peck, former dancer and now resident choreographer of the New York City Ballet. In the choreographer's note in the program, Peck wrote that the dance simulated the arc of a mountain climb, unfolding in three parts: "A climb to a summit, the emboldened feeling of reaching the peak and finally, the adrenaline rush of sliding down the other side."

The curtain opened to the bare bones of a stage. A single dancer began to fill the void. Wearing white sneakers that squeaked on the dance floor, Ashley Simpson moved through her phrases in her solo introspectively. She was soon joined by the other 14 dancers, all wearing the same white squeaking sneakers, which added another dimension to Dan Deacon's electronic score, *Become A Mountain Sites I-IV*.

Closing the program was *Big Wig* by Irish choreographer Marguerite Donlon. The 26-minute work is a reflection on traditional Irish dance but is filled with the most unexpected visuals: the signature shoulder-length, curly wig that girls wear for Irish dancing competitions.

Toward the end of the dance, all 15 performers are onstage, with their wigs first attached to different body parts like an unwanted appendage and then ripped off and flung in the air. These zany images will linger in my mind for a long time.

— *Tara Mitton Catao*

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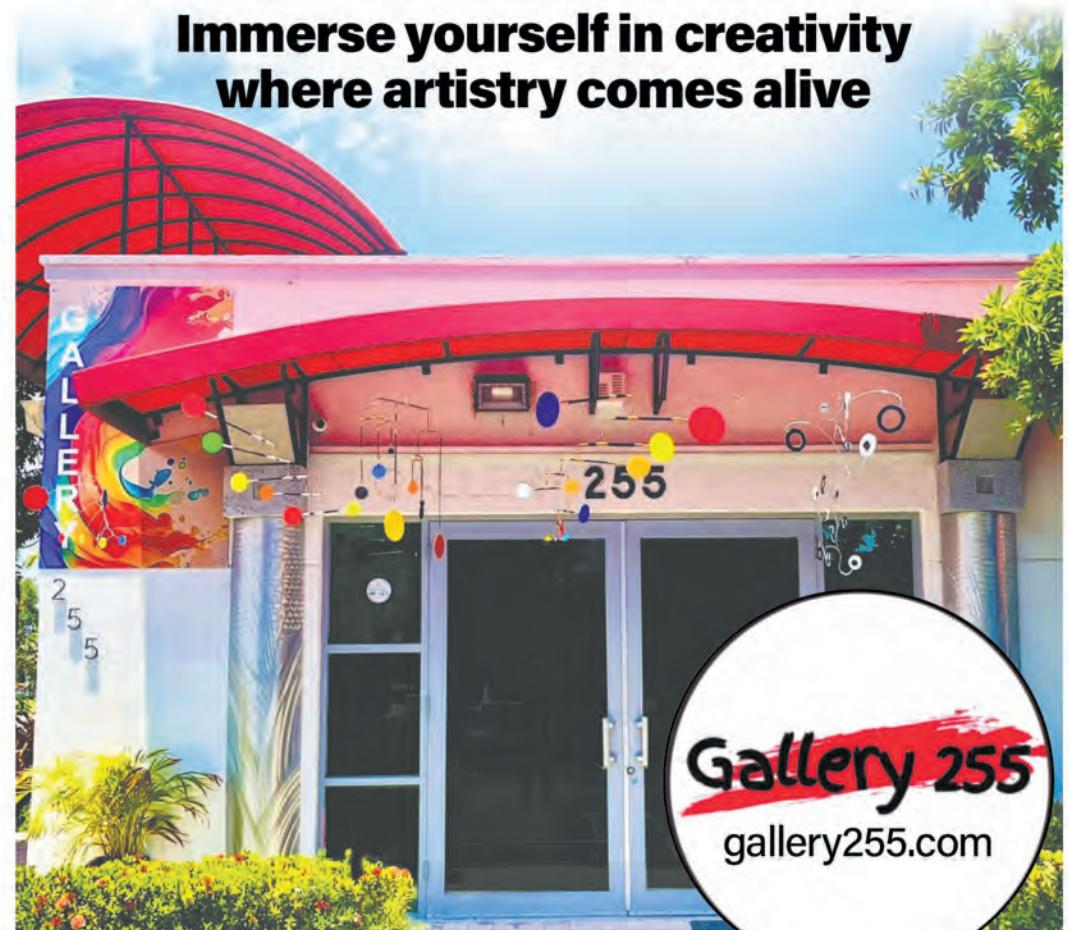
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Arts Calendar

Editor's note: Events listed through Feb. 28 were current as of Jan. 24. Check with the presenting agency for any changes. Ticket prices are single sales unless otherwise specified.

ART

Armory Art Center: Through March 5: Annual Student and Faculty Exhibition and Sale. 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 Feb. 28: *Marmoris; This Is. The End.* 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 Chacón: 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.* Opens Feb. 22: *Spotlight on Crystal Bacchus.* Through May 3: *The Art of Her.* TFree. 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 delrayoldschoolsquare.com/cornell

Cultural Council for Palm Beach County: Opens Feb. 6: *Claudia Henao: El Dorado*, through March 21; *Being Well, Well Being*; through April 4. Free. 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth Beach. Noon-5 pm T-F. 561-471-2901, palmbeachculture.com/exhibitions

Flagler Museum: Opens Feb. 10: *Golden Hour: Charles Courtney Curran and the Romance of American Impressionism.* Through May 24: *May I Help You, Madame?: The Making of the Modern Department Store; Landscapes in Miniature.* \$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](http://flaglermuseum.us)

Lighthouse ArtCenter: Through Feb. 21: *Burger Angels: The Art of Daniel Ryan.* \$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; Take Akari: Bamboo Lights; Blue & White, a display of white 7th- and 8th-century Chinese porcelain dishes. \$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 Feb. 22: *Leslie Hewitt: Chromatic Scales.* Through March 1: *Anastasia Samoilova: Atlantic Coast; Shara Hughes: Inside Outside.* Through March 29: *Art and Life in Rembrandt's Time: Masterpieces from the Leiden Collection.* \$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: Opens Feb. 14: *The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art.* Through April 4. \$10. 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 10 am-3 pm M-F. 561-655-7226, fourarts.org

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Friday, Feb. 6

Jacksonville Symphony: The orchestra, under conductor Courtney Lewis, welcomes tenor Limmie Pulliam for lieder by Strauss and opera selections by Puccini and Leoncavallo. \$86. 7:30 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. kravis.org; 561-832-7469

Sunday, Feb. 8

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: Gloria Chien, Chad Hoopes, Richard Lin, David Finckel and Wu Han perform American pieces. \$40. 3 pm, Society of the Four Arts, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Isidore String Quartet: The New York foursome opens the Flagler Museum's 2026 music series with the String Quartet No. 3 of Brahms and the "Sunrise" Quartet of Joseph Haydn. \$95. 7:30 pm, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 561-655-2833 or flaglermuseum.us

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Jolente De Maeyer and Nikolaas Kende: The Belgian duo of violinist De Maeyer and pianist Kende offer sonatas, as well as three light pieces by Fritz Kreisler. \$95. 7:30 pm, Flagler Museum, 1 Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. 561-655-2833 or flaglermuseum.us

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Danish String Quartet: The Copenhagen-

The COASTAL STAR

based foursome presents a divertimento (K. 138) by a 16-year-old Mozart, Igor Stravinsky's *Suite Italienne* and Beethoven's Quartet No. 13. \$40. 7:30 pm, Four Arts, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. 561-655-2766 or fourarts.org

Thursday, Feb. 26

Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach:

Cellist Gary Hoffman joins artistic director

and violinist Arnaud Sussman and violist Paul Neubauer for a program of string trios. \$86. 7 pm, Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. kravis.org or 561-832-7469

DANCE

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Pilobolus: The acclaimed dance company presents the immersive *Other Worlds*; theatrical ballet *Tales from the Underworld*, and *Bloodlines*, a duet examining familial bonds. 7:30 pm. \$150-\$175. Glazer Hall, 70 Royal Poinciana Way, Palm Beach. glazerhall.org or 561-576-7860

Friday, Feb. 20-Saturday, Feb. 21

Dorrance Dance: Michelle Dorrance's New York-based company explores the rich repertoire of tap dance in this return to the Duncan Theatre's Modern Dance Series. 8 pm. \$49. 4200 Congress Ave., Lake Worth Beach. 561-868-3309

JAZZ AND BLUES

Friday, Feb. 6

The Resolvers: This little big band fuses Jamaican reggae roots with New Orleans stylings. 8:30 pm. \$30 and up. Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-931-2889 or crazyunclemikes.com

Saturday, Feb. 7

Sean Chambers & The Savoy Brown Rhythm Section: Veteran blues-rock guitarist and vocalist Chambers teamed with Brown in 2022; they'll be grooving at The Funky Biscuit. 8 pm. \$44-\$50. 303 SE Mizner Blvd., No. 59, Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Sunday, Feb. 8

LP & The Vinyl: With influences including jazz, R&B, rock, and Brazilian music, the group will explore the likes of Bowie and The Beatles and perform their own original songs. 2 pm. \$55-\$60. 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Friday, Feb. 13

Isle of Klezbos: Bringing Yiddish musical tradition to South Florida, this all-women sextet is led by Eva Sicular on the drums. Arts

Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Wednesday, Feb. 18

The Frank Bang Big Band: Chicago-born Frank Bang landed a five-year gig as the touring guitarist for blues legend Buddy Guy before launching his own band. 8 pm. \$21-\$40. The Funky Biscuit, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., No. 59, Boca Raton. 561-395-2929 or funkybiscuit.com

Saturday, Feb. 21

Yoko Miwa Trio: Internationally acclaimed pianist Miwa is joined by Will Slater on bass and Scott Goulding on drums. 8 pm. \$60-\$65. Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 561-450-6357 or artsgarage.org

Friday, Feb. 27

Eric "Raw Dawg" Gales: With over 18 albums under his belt, the renowned blues guitarist is back and better than ever. 8:30 pm. \$65. Crazy Uncle Mike's, 6450 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-931-2889 or crazyunclemikes.com

Opens Feb. 7

Conversa: The the world premiere of this original, one-woman, autobiographical production by Jewish playwright and performer Joanna Castle Miller. Through Feb. 22 at FAU Theatre Lab, Parliament Hall, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. 561-297-6124 or fau.edu/artsandletters/theatrelab

Opens Feb. 15

Good Night, Oscar: This dramedy explores Oscar Levant's 1958 appearance on *The Tonight Show* with Jack Paar, where the composer and actor talked about addiction, mental health and media exploitation. Written by Doug Wright. Through March 1 at Maltz Jupiter Theatre. \$50 and up. 1001 E. Indiantown Road, Jupiter. 561-575-2223 or jupitertheatre.org

Through Feb. 22

My Fair Lady: Set in 1912 London, this classic Lerner and Loewe musical from 1956 is based on a play by George Bernard Shaw. \$100 and up. Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-995-2333 or thewick.org

Opens Feb. 27

Strictly Murder: Suzy and Peter, an English couple living peacefully in Provence, France, have their lives rocked when it turns out Peter might be a killer on the run in this classic play by Brian Clemons. \$45 and up. Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. 561-272-1281 or delraybeachplayhouse.com

Opens Feb. 27

Biloxi Blues: The second installment of playwright Neil Simon's autobiographical trilogy follows Eugene Jerome as a young army recruit during World War II. Through March 15 at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. \$40 and up. 561-586-6410 or lakeworthplayhouse.org

OPERA

Friday, Feb. 20-Sunday, Feb. 22

The Pearl Fishers: Palm Beach Opera's second show this season tells the dramatic tale of a love triangle with high stakes in Georges Bizet's 1863 opera. High Priestess Leila, sung by Francesca Pia Vitale (Friday and Sunday) and Aigul Khismatullina (Saturday), vows chastity in her mission to serve her village, but Nadir (Long Long, Jack Swanson) and Zurga (Joo Won Kang, Giry Gurev) are determined to obtain her love. Kathleen Smith Belcher directs and David Stern conducts. 7:30 pm F and Sat, 2 pm Sun.

Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-832-7469, 561-833-7888; or kravis.org or pboopera.org

POPULAR MUSIC

Saturday, Feb. 14

Rascal Flatts: Formed in 1999 in Nashville, the rock-country band's first six albums were certified platinum or higher. This year, they take on the Life is a Highway Tour. Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. 7 pm. \$87 and up. ticketmaster.com

Thursday, Feb. 19

Boy George & Culture Club: Known for hits like "Karma Chameleon" and "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me," the British new wave band is an iconic staple of the 1980s. \$60 and up. Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. 8 pm. ticketmaster.com

Opens Feb. 27

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Boca Raton Regional
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BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA

DRIVE-IN

Continued from page AT1

bravery and acceptance.

Cars began arriving to watch Hiccup and Toothless swoop, dip and dive through the skies well before the 7 p.m. showtime.

Ari Georges and Carlie Matula of Lantana were not content with free popcorn.

They waited for the show to begin nestled in the bed of their Ford F250 pickup with a large platter of homemade charcuterie between them.

"We saw the flyer and it sounded like fun," Matula said, "so we went to Aldi and bought five different cheeses, salami, prosciutto, capicola and pine berries."

Camille Bingham of Boca Raton was poking around Facebook when she happened on an announcement for the event.

"I have five kids and four are here," she explained. "With five kids, I'm always looking for something free and fun."

Marcus Freeman brought his son Makai, 7, and daughter Kaliyah, 10, down from Jupiter after finding the movie night listed on EveryParent (everyparentpbc.org), a resource guide sponsored by the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County.

All were here for the first time.

Family-friendly films

A little after 7 p.m., Nadine Shawah, Lantana's Parks & Recreation superintendent, welcomed the crowd.



Anna Goris, owner of the Gimme Grillin food truck, serves customers at Lantana's Sports Park during the town's Drive-In Movie Night in January. **Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star**

"Tonight's radio frequency," she announced, "is 88.3 FM. Tune to that station on your car radio and you can hear the movie in your car."

"Have a great night and enjoy the movie."

Lantana movie nights debuted in 2015, with the films shown on a screen facing the ocean from Lantana Municipal Beach park until winds drove them to Bicentennial Park in 2019.

COVID-19 darkened the screens in 2020. Both the January and February showings were canceled because of bad weather that year. One film was shown in Bicentennial Park in early March, but the second never appeared when the shutdown was announced.

The movies returned a year later, with orange cones in every other parking space to promote

social distancing. The cones remain so folks can set up chairs beside their cars.

With the move to the Sports Park, Lantana movie nights had become drive-in movie nights.

Presented by a company called Fun Flicks, the evenings cost the town about \$2,000 for each presentation.

"Once a film comes out on DVD, we're able to show them," Shawah said.

Fun Flicks erects the screen and projects the film, but Shawah chooses the titles.

"We'll show a PG-13 film," she explained, "but I screen them first and check the kids' review sites that show us ratings for families and tell us what's in them. I want to be sure there's not violence."

How to Train Your Dragon is rated PG.

"We get couples and families

with kids," she said. "Our most popular are the Disney and superhero movies, and the Star Wars Trilogy."

Katherine Reich-Brill of Lake Worth Beach brought her daughter, Ayla, 7, some chocolate chip cookies, and popcorn.

This was her first time, too. She didn't know about the free popcorn.

"I figured I'd bring my daughter," she said. "I don't think she's ever seen a drive-in movie. Growing up, our dad would take us to the drive-in movies. Now you can't find them anymore. So, it's nostalgia."

Alas, it has to be.

Origin of drive-ins

If you have fond memories of childhood nights at the drive-in, bless the memory of Richard Hollingshead. Or maybe his mother.

"His mother was — how shall I say it? — rather large for theater seats," Jim Kopp of the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association told *Smithsonian* magazine in 2008. "So, he stuck her in a car and put a 1928 projector on the hood of the car, and tied two sheets to trees in his yard."

Five years later, on June 6, 1933, Hollingshead opened America's first drive-in, in Camden, New Jersey. Tickets were 25 cents, and the movie was *Wives Beware*, a British comedy starring Adolphe Menjou as a man who fakes amnesia to cheat on his wife.

The idea took off. Admission was cheap. You could smoke in your car. Your crying baby didn't bother others. By 1958, there were 4,063 drive-ins across these United States.

Where did they go, all those drive-ins?

Color TVs. DVRs. Indoor movies could host five or six showings a day; drive-ins only one. Indoors got the most popular titles; drive-ins got the B films. As the suburbs spread, land prices rose, and the moms and pops who tended to own drive-ins couldn't afford the land to build more.

When Kopp spoke to *Smithsonian* in 2008, only about 400 drive-ins were still operating. Today, there are about 320, according to the website driveinmovie.com.

In 1955, Florida had about

If You Go

What: Lantana's drive-in movie featuring *Jurassic World: Rebirth*

When: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27
Where: Sports Park, 903 N. Eighth St.

Cost: Free
Information: Arrive early and bring a battery-operated radio for the sound if you don't want to drain your car battery. 561-540-5754; lantana.org

150 drive-in theaters. Today, only four survive, in Lakeland, Dade City, Ocala and Ruskin.

In Palm Beach County, the Delray Beach Drive-In, 2001 N. Federal Highway, opened in 1956 and closed in 1992, according to the website.

The West Palm Beach Drive-In at 1140 Old Dixie Highway opened in 1951 and went dark in 2002.

Belle Glades' Lakes Drive-In, 1391 N. Main St., lasted from 1962 to 2003.

The Lake Worth Swap & Shop Drive-In at 3438 Lake Worth Road opened in 1967 and survived until 2021.

Now only the Lantana Drive-In Movie Nights survive. Two nights only, two months a year.

Thumbs up all around

While the dragons swooped and dipped, moviegoers wandered over to the Gimme Grillin food truck, the Kona Ice shaved ice truck. Most popular, naturally, was Lamar Venegas' popcorn machine. Venegas works for the town's Public Works Department but was drafted to be the night's popcorn man.

"I've gone through about 15 8-ounce bags," he reported.

Enrique Padilla, 14, was back for another bag.

"This is great," he said. "I saw the cartoon version, but this is the first time I'm seeing the live action version. I'd love to come back and see another movie here."

By 9:30, Hiccup and Toothless had vanquished the dragon called Red Death and shown that dragons and Vikings can be friends. The parking lot lights came on, the popcorn machine went dark, and cars drove out of the drive-in.

In the bed of their Ford pickup, Ari Georges and Carlie Matula lay wrapped in blankets, the platter of leftover charcuterie between them.

"We kind of fell asleep at the end there," Matula confessed. "I'm 22 now, and I saw the original when it came out in 2010 when I was 8. It brought back a lot of memories."

Her sleepy friend agreed.

"It was a great movie and a good atmosphere," Georges said. "This brought everyone together. *Jurassic World* is one of my favorites, so I'm definitely coming next month."

Jurassic World: Rebirth (PG-13), Lantana's second and final Drive-In Movie Night of 2026, will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, at the Sports Park, 903 N. Eighth St. ★

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the YMCA

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Kathy & Paul Adkins

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Photo credit: Warner-Prokos Photography

You're a long-time resident of South Palm Beach County. How have you seen its civic needs change?

Over the past 30 years the population of South Palm Beach County has seen a notable demographic shift towards younger families and working age adults. That shift is driving increased demand for the services that those families need including affordable housing, better schools, and community services provided by organizations like the YMCA.

Strong communities support the less fortunate. What causes do you personally find most compelling and why?

We focus our support on the organizations that provide the greatest impact to people's lives – particularly youth and families. The fact that the Y touches over 40,000 people in our community every year is amazing.

You've donated to the YMCA. What was the focus of your investment and why did you pick the Y as a vehicle for that gift?

We've donated and volunteered for the Y for over 20 years because of the tremendous impact the Y has on our community. In particular, we love the impact the Y has on drowning prevention in South Palm Beach County. Drowning is the #1 cause of death in children. It's a critical need and often overlooked.

How would you describe the YMCA's community role to someone who's just moved into the area?

The YMCA serves as the community hub in South Palm Beach County that brings people of all ages, backgrounds, and income levels together to improve health, support youth and families, and foster a sense of belonging and civic responsibility.

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For information on
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Palm Beach County's
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Health & Harmony

Wearable technology helping people reach fitness goals

As AI and high-tech gadgets become more ubiquitous, people are taking advantage of wearable technologies and mobile apps to take their fitness and health routines to the next level.

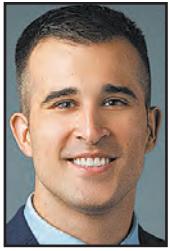
One of these people is Boynton Beach resident Tony Vitale, 71, a retired Realtor, computer instructor and Apple reseller. A self-described "tech geek," Vitale swears by his Apple Watch and Apple Health app to keep his weight and health on track.

He monitors his workouts and heart rhythm for A-fib and used the Lose It! app to help him lose 100 pounds through a diet and exercise program that included the treadmill, cardio classes and resistance training. "I developed a routine," he says.

He even invested in a



Vitale



Akpinar



Naughton

Withings scale, which measures body fat, muscle mass, body composition and other metrics, as well as a sleep mat to track sleep duration, patterns, REM cycles, heart rate and snoring.

A devotee of the Apple Health app — which stores his lab results, notes from doctor visits and tracks blood pressure and other vitals — Vitale chooses physicians who also use the platform. "It's a way to gain some control over your health outcomes," he says.

His enthusiasm reflects a broader shift. Wearable technology such as the Apple Watch, Oura ring and Whoop band continues to grow in popularity, despite raising some concerns over data privacy and how that data may be used.

According to the American College of Sports Medicine, wearable tech is projected to be the No. 1 fitness trend for 2026. Other top trends include fitness programs for older adults, exercise for weight management, mobile exercise apps, balance and flow training and core strength.

Dr. Berkcan Akpinar, an

orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist at NYU Langone Medical Associates in Delray Beach and West Palm Beach, has seen the shift firsthand.

A former team physician for the Boston Bruins, Red Sox and New England Patriots, Akpinar is a strong proponent of using technology to improve health. He uses an Apple Watch himself.

"Technology for health is readily available and easy to use," he says.

His watch even pings him when he's "slacking off," a reminder he appreciates. The start of the new year, he notes, is an ideal time to set health goals. His own resolutions include going to the gym four to five days a week, eating more greens and vegetables and cutting back

on conveniences like Uber Eats and DoorDash.

Akpinar encourages people to begin their fitness journey slowly. "Start with the basics," he says. "Jumping jacks, toe touches, knee pushups and stretching."

Once you are warmed up, he recommends a power walk, stair climber or elliptical machine, gradually adding resistance training over time.

According to the Fitness Industry Insights website, which tracks fitness trends, virtual training and fitness apps are projected to grow 26.72% through 2030, and wearable tech is expected to grow by 14.6% over the same period.

Additionally, the Consumer Technology Association reports that more than 65% of U.S. adults who use wearable technology rely on it not only for fitness, but also to monitor sleep, stress, heart health and personal productivity.

Experts note that while wearables can be powerful tools for behavioral change, they're not a substitute for a physician. Devices can vary in accuracy, and over-reliance on data, constant monitoring and self-interpretation of results may not always serve the wearer.

Boynton Beach librarian Janet Naughton, 68, also depends on her wearable technology to stay active. "I like it for accountability and competitiveness," she says. Naughton began using the Peloton app during the pandemic and continues to find it "extremely helpful," especially for on-the-go workouts.

"I can do a 10-minute arms session with light weights anywhere, anytime," she says. "The app lets me know when I'm on a streak, and I can work out with others or compete if I want."

She's part of a PeloLibrarian group and believes that even small daily efforts add up.

Naughton also uses a Fitbit and its companion app to track her weight, steps, sleep and heart rate. The device reminds her to move if she's been sedentary for too long.

"I'm not a fitness buff or the healthiest person, but these apps help me keep active," she says. "Technology is amazing."

While wearable technology may not be a magic bullet for everyone in the pursuit of health and wellness, it has become an accessible and steady companion — one that can guide, motivate and empower you along the winding road toward better health.

Jan Engoren writes about health and healthy living. Send column ideas to jengoren@hotmail.com.



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Health Notes

New chief operating officer appointed at HCA Florida JFK Hospital



Powe

Megan S. Powe was appointed chief operating officer for HCA Florida JFK Hospital in Atlantis and assumed the job in January.

Previously, she served as chief operating officer for Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee. Prior to that, she held multiple senior leadership roles within Tenet Healthcare, including

hospital COO, market chief strategy officer and chief strategy officer.

Powe holds a master's degree in health care administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, and a bachelor's degree in business administration, with concentrations in management and marketing, from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama.

Pediatric cancer patients treated to holiday party

Students from American Heritage Schools' premedical program, from both Broward and Palm Beach County campuses, hosted the 26th annual holiday party for 18 pediatric cancer patients from Salah Foundation Children's Hospital at Broward Health Medical Center in

December.

Patients received holiday treats and took part in activities that included gingerbread cookie decorating, ornament making, bracelet crafting and games.

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

Health Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 1/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

FEBRUARY 7

Saturday - 2/7 - 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

2/7 - 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

2/7 - Zumba Class

at South Beach Park Pavilion, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton.

Every Sat 10 am. Free. 561-393-7703;

downtownboca.org

2/7 - Yoga Class

at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every Sat 9 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

2/7 - 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

2/7 - AA Meeting

at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 5:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

FEBRUARY 8-14

Sunday - 2/8 - 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

2/8 - 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

2/8 - CODA (Codependents Anonymous) Meeting

at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sun 6 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Monday - 2/9 - LGBTQ ACOA Meeting

at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every M 6:30 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Tuesday - 2/10 - Chair Yoga

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Every T 10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/10 - Yoga with Sophia

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. Held again 2/24 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 2/11 - Tai Chi Class

at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. Every W 9 am. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

2/11 - Yoga at the Library

at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Every W/F, 10 am & 11 am. \$350/members; \$450/non-members. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

2/11 - 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

2/11 - 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

2/11 - Seminar: Atrial Fibrillation -

The Cardiac Arrhythmia of Our Time: What it is and Why You Should Know w/James Reiffel 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

2/11 - Scripps Research Front-Row Lecture Series: The Sweet Side of Drug Discovery: How Sugars Can Help Shape the Future of Medicines w/Yuzhong Liu, Ph.D.

1-hour virtual lecture. 7 pm. Free. Register for link: frontrow.scripps.edu

Thursday - 2/12 - LGBTQ+ AA Meeting

at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Th 7 pm. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

2/12 - Alateen Meeting

at St. Mark Catholic Church, 643 NE 4th Ave, Boynton Beach. Every Th 7:30 pm. Free. 561-278-3481; southpalmbeachafg.org

FEBRUARY 22-28

2/28 - Lions Club of Delray Beach - Diabetes Screening Event

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10

am-12:30 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

MARCH 1-7

Tuesday - 3/3 - Full Moon Yoga & Ecstatic Night Under the Stars

at Old School Square Park, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

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On the Water

A hard lesson on catching snook along the Intracoastal

It was the opening night of the winter snook season, and the fishing was fast and frustrating.

Capt. Ron Mallet had two experienced sea trout fishermen from South Carolina on his boat, and they were fishing for snook for the first time.

Mallet gave his customers some pointers, telling them to hold their rods out to the side as they drifted live shrimp in the Intracoastal Waterway. When they felt the "thump" of a snook bite, all they had to do was reel the line tight to set the hook.

Less than an hour into the trip, after a few missed hits and broken lines, one of the anglers, who was following Mallet's advice, landed a beautiful 36-inch snook. The fish was released because it was over the slot limit of 28-32 inches to keep a snook (anglers are allowed one per day).

"He was ecstatic," Mallet said. "The other guy kept trying to horse in the snook and kept breaking the line. Then the first guy caught a 28-incher, which went into the cooler. On the next drift, he released one.

"Meanwhile, I'm trying to help the other guy, but he won't



Dave Stewart holds up a snook. Capt. Ron Mallet says snook fishing in South Florida is excellent during the season that starts in February, but anglers should be prepared for broken lines and some lost fish. **Photo provided**

listen."

At the end of the trip, the first angler hooked yet another snook, the biggest of the night. As the fish stripped line from the 17-pound plug rod, the angler offered the rod to his fishless friend.

The stubborn fisherman took the rod and held it straight up. Mallet suggested the angler point the rod tip down and to

the side so he could steer the snook away from trouble. The angler ignored the advice and, as a result, was unable to stop the fish, which swam straight to a rockpile and broke the line.

The snook fishing in South Florida when the season opens Feb. 1 — it's been closed on the Atlantic coast since Dec. 15 — can be terrific. But be prepared to lose some fish. And if you're

paying to fish with a guide, it pays to listen to the guide.

This time of year, snook can be found from the Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Beach County to the back end of finger canals connecting with other canals that eventually flow into the Intracoastal. During the winter, snook move into these canals seeking warm water. Snook become listless in cold water and can be snagged or netted, which is why the season is closed from mid-December through January.

Later in the spring, snook congregate near inlets and beaches as they prepare to spawn. The season closes again from June 1 to Aug. 31, when snook are spawning and easily targeted because they are so concentrated.

Bridges located over or near the Intracoastal are prime snook fishing spots. Snook also can be found after heavy rains by open spillways — the Boynton and Lake Worth spillways are among the best spots — where the snook ambush baitfish flushed out of freshwater canals.

Mallet likes to drift with the current along sea walls using live shrimp. Usually, the bigger

the shrimp, the bigger the snook it attracts. Lures that imitate shrimp also hook snook.

The top of the outgoing tide is the best time to fish, whether from a boat or a bridge. That's when snook will lie in wait for baitfish to be carried by the current and past pilings, boat docks and rocks.

Given those hangouts, break-offs are inevitable. That's why many anglers who fish from bridges use 80- or 100-pound line with heavy-duty 10-foot rods. When you use light tackle, technique is critical, as that stubborn angler from South Carolina discovered.

Mallet doesn't take any chances when he gets a bite. He reels quickly to get the fish away from obstructions.

"If you can, take the initiative when a snook is first hooked," he said. "Treat every fish as if it's a serious one."

Outdoors

writer Steve Waters can be reached at steve33324@aol.com.



Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 1/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

FEBRUARY 7

Saturday - 2/7 - 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

2/7-8 - Nature Connections at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet in the amphitheater for a short presentation featuring our native flora and fauna. All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Every Sat/Sun 11-11:15 am. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

FEBRUARY 8-14

Tuesday - 2/10 - Island Treks at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Visitors guided on a short trek along the boardwalk through the tropical hardwood hammock forest, pausing for some intracoastal views through the mangroves. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Every T 10-10:30 am. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Wednesday - 2/11 - EcoWatch Lecture Series: Deciphering Florida's Coastline w/Mike Jenkins at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 13 & up; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

2/11 - 31st Annual Lantana Fishing Tournament Meeting

at Lantana Pizza, 467 Greynolds Circle, Lantana. 5:30-7 pm. 561-585-8664; lantanachamber.com

Saturday - 2/14 - Annual Everglades Day Festival

at Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 10216 Lee Rd, Boynton Beach. Fun zone for kids, guided walking & biking tours, tram tours, archery, fishing, local exhibitors & vendors, food trucks & more. Space is limited, reservations required for many activities. Check website for complete daily schedule. 10 am-3 pm. Free. fws.gov/event/everglades-day-2026

FEBRUARY 15-21

Sunday - 2/15 - Intracoastal Adventures: Advanced Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 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 - 2/17 - Beach Treasures at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Learn about seashells, the animals that make them. Caravan to Red Reef Park, 1400 N State Rd A1A, to search for ocean treasures. All ages; child must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 3/4 2-3:30 pm. Free. Reservations: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

FEBRUARY 22-28

Wednesday - 2/25 - EcoWatch Lecture Series: Cryptic Diversity and Hidden Interactions Shape Coral Reef Responses to Environmental Change w/Carsten Grupstra at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 13 & up; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

aspx?CID=47

Thursday - 2/26 - Early Birding w/Al 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. Binoculars recommended. Meet on nature center front porch. Ages 10+; child must be accompanied by an adult. 8:30-10 am. Free. 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Friday - 2/27 - Golden Hour Guided Tours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided tour ends w/sunset views of the Intracoastal Waterway from the beach by the Seminole chickee. Ages 7-adult; child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 5:30-7 pm. \$10/resident & member; \$13/non-resident. Registration: 561-544-8605; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

Saturday - 2/28 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat America: A Boating Safety Course at Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. Park, 2010 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Boating terminology, boat handling, navigation rules, regulations, more. Course provides knowledge needed to obtain a boating certificate; possible insurance discount. 8 am-3 pm. \$35/paypal; \$30/cash. 561-312-6439; birdlover5@bellsouth.net

2/28 - Intracoastal Adventures: Intro to Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Ages 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

MARCH 1-7

Sunday - 3/1 - Intracoastal Adventures: Stand Up Paddleboarding at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida's unique animals/ecosystems. Ages 13-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 9-10:30 am. \$20/member; \$25/non-member. 561-544-8615; myboca.us/calendar.aspx?CID=47

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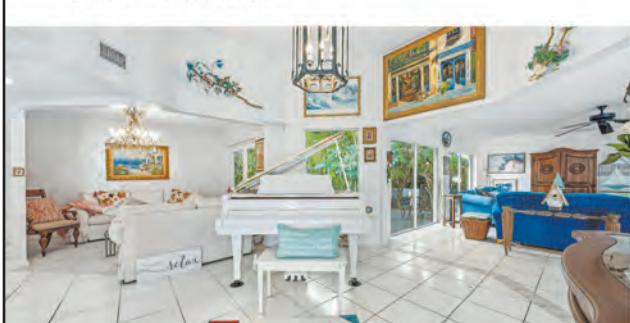
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Finding Faith

Boca couple fights antisemitism through philanthropy, education

In November, Elliott and Robin Broidy of Boca Raton paid \$1.5 million for an old drawing. Not a piece of fine art, but an architectural sketch drawn on cheap newsprint dated Oct. 24, 1941.

The landscape-oriented drawing, about 3 feet long and 2 feet wide, is sepia-toned with age and protected by plastic; it depicts a house of horrors: the crematoria at Auschwitz-Birkenau, where millions of Jews were systematically exterminated.

What the Broidys now own is one of only two known original drawings produced in preparation for meetings where the logistics of killing Jews on an industrial scale would be discussed.

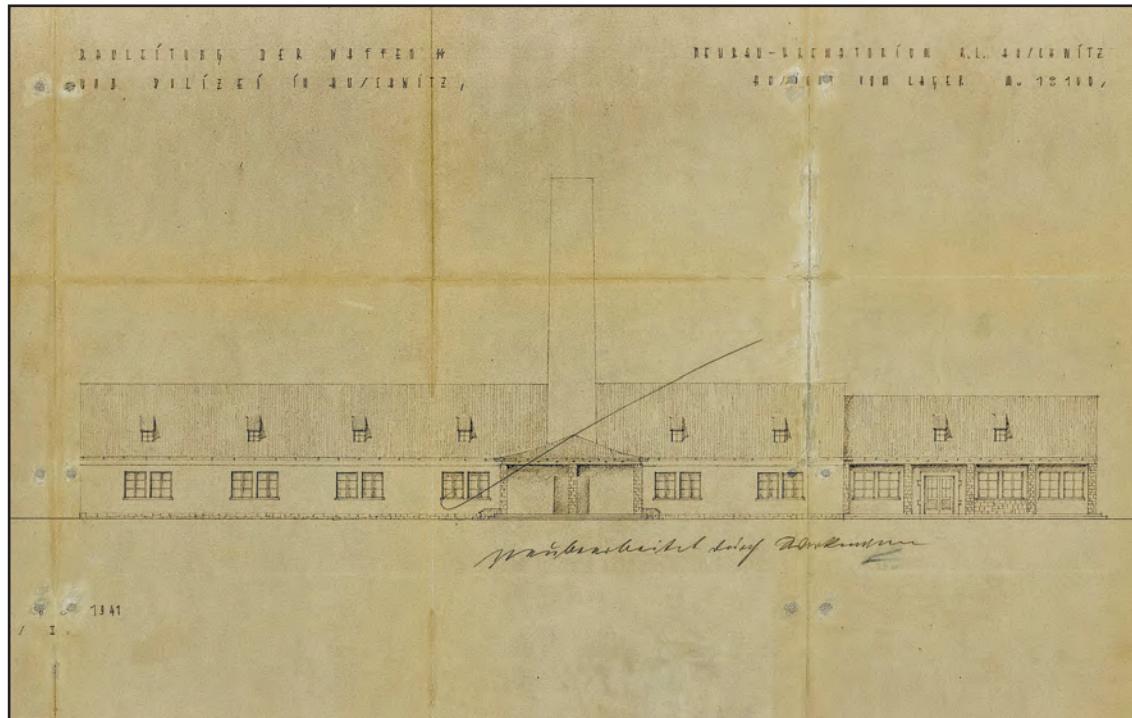
"The drawing we have is clear proof of genocidal intent," Elliott Broidy wrote in a Nov. 21 op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*. "To behold it is to confront the deliberate design of evil. My most sincere wish is for this whiteprint to be memorialized as part of an irrefutable body of evidence that negates Holocaust denial and helps to forever silence malevolent revisionists while also educating new generations about the lessons of the Holocaust."

Robin Broidy recalled the first time she stood before the drawing: "It's a horrible feeling. You're standing so close to evil. These people created this document that you're holding in your hands with the purpose of murdering, exterminating, terminating mass numbers of people. And you're just, you're sad."

The document itself is nothing special: "The paper isn't premium," Robin Broidy said. In wartime paper is expensive. "They were doing as much as possible on very cheap paper, so all the blueprints are on low-quality paper."

The significance of the document lies in the date. Drawn by SS architect Walter Dejaco under the authority of Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Höss, it's the snapshot of the moment when the men who planned the execution of millions of Jews actually put pen to paper and drew up the plan for the place the extermination would happen. The whiteprint is stark and irrefutable proof that the Shoah, the Hebrew word for the Holocaust, was conceived months before the announcement of the "final solution" in January 1942 at the Wannsee Conference.

The Broidys purchased the artifact from Rabbi David Baron of Temple of the Arts Synagogue in Beverly Hills, who had received it from a friend of a congregant who had bought it at a Nazi memorabilia auction in Germany. Neither the buyer nor seller was aware of its historical significance. According to journalist



Elliott and Robin Broidy (at left) purchased this architectural drawing of the crematoria at Auschwitz-Birkenau, where Jews were killed and cremated as part of Nazi Germany's 'final solution.' This is one of only two known original drawings produced of the building. Photos provided

Benjamin Raziel of *Forbes*, the Nazis understood the power of documentation and they tried to destroy as many records as possible as the Allies approached, so finding artifacts of this import is rare.

Professor Robert Jan van Pelt, the foremost expert on Auschwitz architecture, authenticated the document, but when asked to place a value on it, Robin Broidy said, "He couldn't. He said, 'I can't value it. It's priceless.'"

In an act of remembrance and reverence, the Broidys agreed to pay \$1.5 million to the Temple of the Arts for the drawing. The money would be earmarked for Baron to use to create a global early-childhood curriculum promoting empathy and altruism. The rabbi's curriculum aims to reach children when they are young, long before extremist ideologies can take root.

"He has done research that indicates that children's values are formed between zero to 5," Robin said. "Therefore, if you can teach children altruism, empathy and listening to another person's point of view then, they will be less likely to become an extremist and less likely to create hateful attitudes."

That you become what you are taught isn't a new idea, but Robin said, "Education is always the key. Education is the key to succeeding in life and to being a good person, getting your values straight."

It's also quite simple. Robin likes to tell the classic story of Rabbi Hillel, who was asked,

"Can you teach the entire Torah standing on one foot?" Robin says his answer is the answer: "Sure I can. Whatever is hateful to you, do not do unto others. That's what Jews are taught from their infancy."

Baron told the Broidys how much money he would need to start his program, and they settled on a number. "It was a number that had some meaning," Elliott said, "because out of the 6 million that died, 1.5 million were children."

It's not the first time the Broidys have stepped up like this. They've been actively fighting antisemitism and extremism for years. Their support turned "hell-on-earth" into a symbol of truth and light when the Counter Extremism Project transformed Rudolf Höss' residence at 88 Legionow St. into the Auschwitz Research Center on Hate, Extremism and Radicalization (ARCHER) at House 88.

The lovely private villa with its gardens and swimming pool where the Höss family lived in comfort and affluence — Höss' wife called it "paradise" — sits just outside the fence of Auschwitz. The Höss children played under skies darkened by the smoke rising from the crematoria next door. While they hosted lavish parties with decadent food, Jews starved just feet away.

Today the property has a mezuzah on its front door. ARCHER at House 88's goal and message are to turn a site of mass murder into a global center dedicated to exposing the machinery of hate and

educating the world. Education must begin with children, but it has to continue through adulthood. Truly, no dog is too old to learn.

Today's battle is against misinformation and how easily it spreads. Researchers and educators, policymakers and activists work to prevent the spread of online extremism, promote safety on digital platforms and counter misinformation and radicalization.

"What ARCHER is fighting against is the mainstreaming of extremism — the same propaganda, the same misinformation, the same lies that enabled the Germans and the SS to be able to do this without a second thought, without remorse, without thinking," Robin Broidy said. "That is the message that we are trying to send to today's young people. Anytime somebody tries to tell you that the other someone else is less than human, don't believe them."

The fight continues right in our own backyard.

In January, several news agencies, including WPEC CBS12, reported that Palm

Beach County sheriff's deputies had investigated a swastika and racial slurs painted on the pavement outside Florida Cancer Specialists, a medical office plaza in West Boca. An employee discovered the white lettering which targeted both Jewish and Black communities. A discarded paintbrush and empty paint can were recovered nearby but no usable fingerprints were found. The damage was estimated at about \$500, and the graffiti was quickly removed. But the implications will last.

Antisemitism is part of being a Jew, but Jews don't fight hate with hate, Robin says: "You move on, and you try to show the world that you're decent, wonderful human beings. You try to be positive, try to educate."

To that end, the Broidys plan to display the whiteprint at institutions and organizations dedicated to combating antisemitism and preserving the memory of the Holocaust, before making a long-term gift of it to one institution. "Probably the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum," Elliott said.

The Broidys relocated to Boca Raton from Los Angeles to be closer to their children, grandchildren and about three dozen of Robin's relatives.

Elliott, chairman and CEO of Broidy Capital Holdings, is an entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist with a career spanning four decades. Robin is a former film producer and movie executive who with Elliott has been devoted to the fight against antisemitism — they call it "our major fight" — for decades.

Philanthropically, the Broidys support organizations dedicated to countering antisemitism, hate and extremism, including the Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem, the Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab (CELL), the George Washington University Program on Extremism, and StandWithUs.

"This document is our way of changing the world a little bit, if possible, and that's no small feat," Elliott said.

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Contact her at fontaine423@outlook.com.

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Religion Notes

Former white supremacist to speak at Chabad event

“From Hate to Hope: My Journey Beyond White Supremacy” is the title of a lecture by Frank Meeink, formerly a prominent white supremacist, offered by Chabad of South Palm Beach at 3 p.m. Feb. 15.

The former skinhead became a Jewish activist after serving time in prison. Some claim he was the inspiration for Edward Norton’s character in the cult film *American History X*.

On a much lighter note, the Chabad, at 224 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan, will host a Purim Party at 5 p.m. March 3 with food, the megillah reading and live music. Purim is the spring festival that celebrates the miracles told about in the book



Meeink

of Esther and the salvation of the Jews in Persia over Haman in another unfulfilled plot to destroy them.

Reservations are requested for all events at chabadspb.org RSVP.

Cason United Methodist holds ‘Love Luncheon’

A Valentine’s Day-themed party takes place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 14 at Cason United Methodist Church, 342 N. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. The Love Luncheon is a specially prepared “meal that makes a difference.” It is hosted by Cason Kids Care, which teaches Christian principles of kindness and service to kids 5-11, and The God Squad, a newly formed group for middle schoolers.

The luncheon supports 4 Kids (4kids.us) and its Christian foster care outreach.

A \$10 donation is requested. Reserve your place online by

going to casonumc.org/calendar and selecting the event, or call 561-276-5302.

Two community events at First Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach hosts its annual Step-Above-Rummage Sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 5-7 at the church, at 33 Gleason St. Find new and used items in a well-organized, department store-like setting with plenty of friendly sales help.

On Feb. 8 at 4 p.m., First Presbyterian sets the mood for Valentine’s Day with a concert called “Music to Eat Chocolates By,” showcasing love songs performed by the First Delray singers joined by Gordon Roberts at the piano. The repertoire of songs includes beloved music from Broadway, opera, the American Songbook and contemporary genres. There will be chocolate!



An example of the items that will be available at the Step-Above-Rummage Sale at First Presbyterian. **Photo provided**

Tickets are \$20 each.

For more information about these events, call 561-276-6338. Visit firstdelray.com/concerts/upcoming-concerts for more music info.

Marriage workshop offers chance for deeper love

Advent Lutheran Church, 300 E. Yamato Road, Boca Raton, will host “Love Well: A 2-Day Marriage Workshop” from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 20 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 21. This in-person workshop is designed

to challenge, strengthen and encourage spouses to deepen their love for each other.

Discover new ways to meet each other’s needs, communicate more effectively, resolve conflicts with grace, and better understand how personality impacts relationships.

The \$149 price per couple includes a relationship workbook and guided teaching and conversations in a supportive, faith-based setting. To register, visit rwlw.org/ events.

For more information, call 954-909-0360 or email Monica@livethelife.org.



Aaron Kula with his Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra. **Photo provided**

Orchestra in sing-along concert at B’nai Torah

Aaron Kula & the Klezmer Company Jazz Orchestra performs a joyful sing-along concert — “It’s Fiddler on the Roof! A Community Sing-Along with Actors & Musicians” — at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at B’nai Torah Congregation, 6261 SW 18th St., Boca Raton. Four professional actors and eight KCJO musicians lead the fun, with projected lyrics to all your favorites: “Tradition,” “Matchmaker,” “Sunrise, Sunset” and “To Life.”

Later in the month, at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18, B’nai Torah presents “The Piano Man Show!” featuring the songs of Billy Joel, Elton John, Carole King, Barry Manilow, Stevie Wonder and more performed by cantor Randy Herman and special guest Coleen Dieker.

General admission tickets for each performance are \$30 for members and \$40 for guests at the door.

For more information, call 561-392-8566 or email info@bnai-torah.org.

Humanity discussion to be held at Temple Beth El

“What Does It Mean to Be Human?” is part of the Wisdom & Wonder Series with Rabbi Rachel Mikva and meets from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 12 at Temple Beth El’s Schaefer Family Campus, 333 SW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. Topics include: What does it mean to be human; are we good; are we free; are we more than dust?

Our religious convictions influence our feelings about public policy, from criminal justice to abortion to the definition of gender.

Continued on the next page

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).

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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: stgregoryepiscopal.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: Jewishestdelray.com
• Rabbi Shmuel Biston. • Saturdays at 10:00 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.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

CHURCH OF THE PALMS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 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.

JOURNEY CHURCH • GoJourneyChurch.com • We’re here to help you transform your life by Experiencing God, Finding Freedom, Discovering Your Purpose, and Making a Difference. There’s a campus near you! Services are Sundays 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. • **West Palm Beach**: 2341 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415 • **Boynton Beach**: 715 S. Federal Hwy., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • **Lake Worth Beach**: S. Military Trail, Lake Worth Beach, FL 33463.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

SAINT MARK GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 2100 Yamato Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33431 • Phone: 561-994-4822 • Web: saintmarkboca.net • Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayers (Matins); 9:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy. All are welcome.

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BOYNTON BEACH 235 SW 6th Ave., Boynton Beach, FL 33435 • Phone: 561-732-3774 • Web: fpcboynton.org • Services: Sundays at 10 a.m. in-person; live streamed on You Tube and Facebook. Fresh traditional worship; volunteer opportunities. Personal spirituality deepens in community worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELRAY BEACH 33 Gleason Street, Delray Beach, FL 33483 • Phone: 561-276-6338 • Web: firstdelray.com • Our purpose is Building Disciples, Transforming Lives. • Sunday Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Religious institutions of all faiths are invited to be included in this paid feature. For more info, call 561-704-7834.

Register at tbeboca.org or call 561-391-8900.

Author to speak on her 'Jewish Way to Good Life'

B'nai Torah's 2025-26 Author Series, presented in partnership with the Jewish Book Council, brings acclaimed writers, rabbis and thinkers from around the world to B'nai Torah to share their



Stutman

newest works. The next presentation features Rabbi Shira Stutman at 7 p.m. Feb. 12, speaking about *The Jewish Way to a Good Life*.

Stutman is senior rabbi at Aspen Jewish Congregation and encourages Jews to embrace Chesed, Tzedek and Shabbat as pathways to joy. The event is free, but registration is required at btcboca.org/event/author-series-rabbi-shira-stutman.

Participate in Yoga Mass and Sacred Movement

St. Gregory's Episcopal, 100 NE Mizner Blvd. in Boca Raton, continues to offer two programs that combine movement and prayer.

At 4 p.m. Feb. 19, Yoga and Sacred Movement mixes gentle stretching movements and breath work with reflection on scripture and prayer.

The program is led by parishioner and yoga instructor Daphne Lombardo under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Robyn Neville and is open to seniors and families. Bring your yoga mat and water.

At 4 p.m. Feb. 28, join YogaMass in St. Mary's Chapel, a combination of graceful yoga, words of faith and contemplative meditation with the Revs. Elizabeth Pankey-Warren and Neville leading. Bring your yoga mat and water. Call 561-395-8285 or email rneville@st-gregorys.com.

'Pastoral Ministry' class at St. Vincent Ferrer

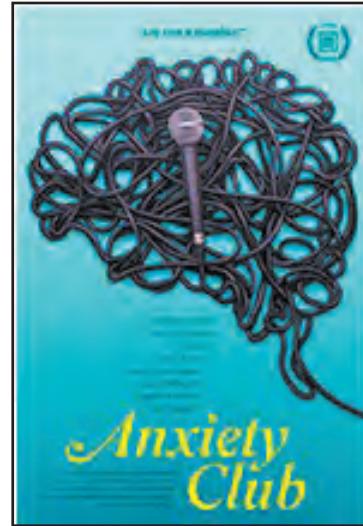
St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 840 George Bush Blvd., Delray Beach, hosts the School of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Palm Beach and is registering its next class, "Pastoral Ministry," which will begin March 5. Classes meet at the church from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays for six sessions. Registration is \$10 and textbooks are \$10-\$20.

The SCF offers courses for Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. Classes are taught by Lily Potito, who holds a master's degree in theology from Ave Maria University. To register, call 561-276-6892, ext. 1305, or email faithformation@stvincentferrer.com.

The next class is part of a three-year certificate program offered by the Diocese of Palm Beach. In addition to

St. Vincent, the diocese offers classes at Ascension, St. Jude and St. Joan of Arc Catholic churches, all in Boca Raton.

Visit diocesepb.org/ministriesoffices/ministries/hispanic-ministry/school-of-christian-formation.html for the complete schedule.



Anxiety Club explores comedians' efforts to overcome anxiety. Photo provided

Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival to begin Feb. 7

The Judy Levis Krug Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival presents about 50 documentaries, short and feature-length Jewish-themed films from around the globe this month at Movies of Delray and the Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center.

Plus, enjoy special guest appearances, discussions, panels and special events from Feb. 7 to 22. Movies of Delray is at 7421 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach. The Beifield Auditorium at the Levis JCC is at 21050 95th Ave. S., Boca Raton.

The films include *Once Upon My Mother*, *Anxiety Club*, *Hold on to Your Music*, *Fantasy Life* and *The Future Awaits*.

Single tickets are \$14. A five-film pass is \$59, 10 films for \$105, or all access for \$360. For a full schedule and tickets, visit levisjcc.org/filmfestival.

Trinity Lutheran set to host two-day gospel conference

Trinity Lutheran, 400 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach, is hosting a multi-speaker event, "Out of the Darkness and Into Christ, A Gospel Conference," Feb. 20-21. The event includes keynote speakers Chad Bird, Scott Keith, Erick Sorensen, Erica Sorensen, and Trinity Lutheran Pastor Jake Roedensens.

Bird is a scholar-in-residence at 1517, a nonprofit organization "that exists to declare and defend the Good News that you are forgiven and free on account of Christ alone." He holds master's degrees from Concordia Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College and his books include *The Christ Key*, *Unveiling Mercy* and *Hitchhiking With Prophets*.

Keith is the executive director of 1517, a speaker, writer, triathlete and co-host of both "The Thinking Fellows" and "Tough Texts" podcasts, and he is the

author of *Being Dad: Father as a Picture of God's Grace*.

To register or for more information, visit www.1517.org/events/trinitydelray2026.

Faith-based book club set to meet at St. Paul's

The Sacred Space Book Club meets again from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 21 in Bush Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church to discuss works of both fiction and nonfiction that further our understanding of the history of inequity, discrimination and pain suffered by members of minority and marginalized communities.

Participants help build the list of books to read and take turns facilitating the discussions. The group grew out of the Sacred Ground and Becoming Beloved Community programs, which use films and reading materials to act as springboards for dialogues on race that are grounded in faith.

It is not necessary to attend every meeting to participate. Contact Ellen Kentner for more information about the club at ellen@stpaulsdelray.org.

Also at St. Paul's, beginning on Feb. 7, Patti Daniell, an experienced registered yoga teacher, will lead gentle yoga from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays in the Parish Hall. A donation of \$10 is suggested.

St. Paul's is at 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 561-276-4541; stpaulsdelray.org.

—Janis Fontaine

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 1/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

FEBRUARY 8-14

Sunday - 2/8 - 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 - 2/9 - 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

2/9 - 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

Tuesday - 2/10 - Tuesday Morning Prayer Service

at Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. 10 am. Free. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Wednesday - 2/11 - 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

2/11 - 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 - 2/12 - Thursday Morning Telephone Prosperity Coffee

presented by Unity of Delray Beach Church, 101 NW 22nd St. Phone meeting (605-475-6006, passcode 3013030).

Free; love offering. 561-276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

2/12 - 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

2/12 - 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 - 2/13 - 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

2/13 - 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

2/13 - 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; templesinaiapbc.org

FEBRUARY 15-21

Sunday - 2/15 - Dr. Stephen G. Gerzof; 'Understanding Our Enemy: Islam 101' at Beth Ami Congregation, 1401 NW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. 2 pm. Free. RSVP: 561-347-0031; bacboca.com

Sunday - 2/22 - Cantor Meir Finkelstein in Concert at Beth Ami Congregation, 1401 NW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. 2 pm. \$18 general admission, \$36 Sponsor Section, \$72 Patron. 561-347-0031; bacboca.com

FEBRUARY 22-28

Friday - 2/27 - "Pop" Shabbat! Services led by Rabbi Bert Kieffer with Gary Lawrence on keyboard. Shabbat Prayers set to the music of four great Jewish superstars Burt Bacharach, Neil Diamond, Billy Joel, and Paul Simon at Beth Ami Congregation, 1401 NW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. 7 pm. Free. RSVP: 561-347-0031; bacboca.com

Please Be Our Guest!

Join us Friday

February 27

7:00 p.m.

"Pop" Shabbat!



Services led by Rabbi Bert Kieffer with Gary Lawrence on keyboard.

Shabbat Prayers set to the music of Four Great Jewish Superstars Burt Bacharach, Neil Diamond, Billy Joel and Paul Simon

Catch our Spirit!



1401 NW Fourth Avenue, Boca Raton | www.bacboca.com

No charge to attend most of our programs, but please call the office

(561) 347-0031 and let us know to expect you!

Dining

Boca Raton finally gets charmed — by an award-winning burger spot.

Charm City Burger Co. owners Michael Saperstein and Evan David opened the first outpost of their popular Deerfield Beach burger spot in downtown Boca Raton.

It was announced as “coming soon” more than two years ago, but finally came to fruition in January — at 201 NW First Ave., the former Baja Cantina space.

“The building was in rough condition,” Saperstein said. “It took us a while to build out. After we were granted a new lease in Deerfield, there wasn’t the urgency to move, so we took our time to do it right.”

They’ve expanded space-wise and with a larger menu at the new restaurant, Saperstein said.

“It’s bigger, a little bit more modern. A lot of same bright colors, same woods, diamond plate decor.”

It’s a from-scratch kitchen, with most items cooked once the diner orders at the counter.

“With a bigger kitchen, we can do more dishes and serve a few different items,” he said.

Those include gluten-free, hand-breaded chicken tenders served in a variety of sauces; an updated “double-smash”



Charm City Burger Co. offers a mouth-watering array of burgers, fries and more. **Photo provided**

veggie burger, seared in yellow mustard, served with dairy-free American cheese, grilled onions and pickles; a “super deluxe” grilled cheese with a four-cheese blend, candied bacon, roasted garlic confit, and a spicy tomato-bacon jam.

Saperstein said the fries and the new Southern fried sweet onion “bloomer” are offered cooked in beef tallow, which he says is healthier than frying in processed seed oils. Vegetarians can ask for all fried foods to be cooked in sunflower oil instead.

New snacks include grilled corn ribs with a barbecue spice and served with an Alabama white barbecue sauce that’s vegan and gluten-free.

Flash-fried potato chips are cooked to order, dusted with spices or flavors of the diner’s

choice. Gluten-free brownie pudding and a “half-baked” chocolate chip-peanut butter cookie, both served with ice cream, are new desserts.

Burgers remain the signature item, described on the restaurant webpage as “five-star chef-designed burgers at a quick service price.”

Saperstein said the price will hold at \$12 for the basic burger, dressed with lettuce, tomato, onion, pickle and Charm sauce. American cheese (optional) is free, too. Diners get a choice of buns: artisan-baked sesame, whole wheat oat, or sliced brioche. The last is a \$1 upcharge. “Prices are all over the place. But we aren’t raising our burgers — nope,” Saperstein said.

The meat is a proprietary blend, a one-third-pound patty ground daily at Sunshine Provisions, a USDA facility in Hallandale. Saperstein and David own that company.

No new alcohol drinks will be offered, Saperstein said.

“We’re toying with the idea of working with a brewery to make a special beer just for us. But we are keeping it the exact same — beer only. We’re family oriented.”

As for other expansion plans, “We’re just now open

here, but it’s a possibility now with the new model.”

He said he’s more worried about the new downtown development that is proposed to go up all around his building. “We’re a little worried about that — delays in road openings, when they’d be finished, and so on.”

But he already has new clients and hopes for many more. “Some people were afraid to come here to this area,” Saperstein said, calling it a “dive.” But he hopes the new restaurant and cleanup attracts burger lovers and families.

Charm City Burger Co., 201 NW First Ave., Boca Raton. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Boca Bacchanal

The big wine event of the season, Boca Bacchanal, returns for its 23rd season in April, with a kickoff event at Saks Fifth Avenue in Town Center at 6 p.m. Feb. 26.

Wine samples and gourmet bites will be on the menu.

The event is also the big reveal for the vintner dinners, where chefs and wineries are paired to a host home. Tickets to these dinners, which sell out quickly, go on sale then.

The dinners are April 9 and 10 at various homes in the area.

The Grand Tasting, featuring champagnes, other wines and beers, as well as gourmet food samples from area chefs, is at the Addison in Boca Raton, scheduled for April 12.

The event is hosted by and benefits the Boca Raton Historical Society/The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum.

Tickets for the kickoff event are \$75 at bocahistory.org/boca-bacchanal, the same place you can buy Bacchanal tickets once they are released.

Valentine's Day benefit

For an interactive dinner to celebrate Valentine’s Day, take part in “Love in the Kitchen” at the Feeding South Florida food bank in Boynton Beach.

Chefs Chrissy Benoit and Susan Taves will host a cooking class and wine tasting with desserts, raffles and live entertainment from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 7, a week before the holiday. Cost is \$150 for individuals, \$275 per couple at secure.qgiv.com/event/fy26_loveinthekitchen, with money going to support hunger relief.



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



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Paws Up for Pets

Dog training experts share tips on nipping bad habits in Buddy

Did you just adopt a puppy or an older dog? My congratulations—and condolences. Chances are that your much-loved canine pal may be displaying some unwanted behaviors, such as barking rapidly when the doorbell rings or chewing your just-bought sneakers.

With more than 200 breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club and endless mutt combinations, dogs certainly put the capital D in diversity. But what every dog, big and small, young and old, benefits most from is proper training.

Fortunately, help is here. In recognition of February's designation as National Dog Training Education month, I reached out to five well-credentialed dog trainers based in Palm Beach County who have collectively trained thousands of dogs of all sizes, ages, breeds and temperaments.

Mitchell Stern, owner of Yes! Dog Trainers in Boynton Beach, is on a quest to increase adoptions at animal shelters by training both the person and the dog.

"I tell clients, 'Don't be a dog owner. Be a dog trainer' to bring out the best in their dogs," says Stern. "Training your dog for five minutes per day enhances the bond, trust and communication with your pet."

He emphasizes that no one training tip will fit all dogs. Dogs, like people, are individuals.

But he does offer this strategy to curb nuisance barking.

"When your dog is looking out the window and barking incessantly, we must acknowledge the job their DNA tells them to do," says Stern. "Your dog is alerting you to an outside presence. So, try standing up, going to the window, getting in front of your dog, cactus your arms and make a big show of looking outside for the 'murderer.'

"Then announce 'all clear' and run to the other side of the house. Say 'thank you,' and give your pup a treat. Eventually, announcing 'all clear' will have your pup leave the barking behind and come to you for a pet-fest, treats or praise."

Got a mouthy new pup who loves to nip? Robert Burnell, of Sit Means Sit based in West Palm Beach, first advises pet parents that puppies use their mouths to explore and to interact, as they are still learning the rules of the household.

"Reward your pup when he is calm or preoccupied with chewing a safe toy," says Burnell. "You can try putting bitter apple or vinegar on your hand or leg to make it taste bad and offer them a Nylabone or Gumma bone soaked in (salt-free) chicken broth that you froze. This will make it taste better and give the dog the chewing satisfaction that they need. Dogs need to chew."

Jeff and Heather Hill, owners



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Dog trainers Robert Burnell, Michelle Martiya, Mitchell Stern and Jeff and Heather Hill on the jobs. **Photos provided**

Lessons learned from dogs

When asked, "How have dogs made you a better person?" our featured dog trainers unleashed these answers:

Mitchell Stern: "Dogs live 100% in the present moment. I often think about how I carry anger from an argument I had an hour ago and then stop and try to be more like a dog."

Robert Burnell: "I have learned how to step back and look at the situation for what it is and what the dog needs. Dogs continue to instill in me patience, persistence, fairness and consistency."

Heather and Jeff Hill: "We are both patient people by nature, but working with dogs 24/7 required us to get a whole other level of patience. We also love that working with dogs has required us to continue learning and growing."

Michelle Martiya: "I now see training as a conversation. When you are in a conversation, it is much better to pause and wait for them to respond instead of just talking. Dogs have taught me to listen more."

of Sit, Fit & Trained based in Boynton Beach, emphasize the importance of crate-training newly adopted puppies as a win-win for the pup and the pet parents.

"When pups are in that infant stage, people need to be available to keep their eyes on their pup at all times, learn their body language and be ready to take them out to potty in a

How to reach trainers in this story

Mitchell Stern, Yes! Dog Trainers: yesdogtrainers.com

Robert Burnell, Sit Means Sit: sitmeanssit.com

Heather and Jeff Hill, Sit, Fit & Trained: sitfitandtrained.com

Michelle Martiya, Essential Animal Trainer: essentialanimaltraining.com

split second," says Heather Hill. "A crate can become a puppy's little happy and safe place. Puppies need that alone time to build confidence by instilling autonomy. Plus, crating a puppy at night and for naps during the day will give their owners the chance to take care of their own human needs."

Michelle Martiya, owner of Essential Animal Trainer based in Boca Raton, says be concise and consistent and don't forget to celebrate when your dog is doing something right.

"Resist saying, sit, sit, sit and repeating those cues," Martiya says. "Ask your dog for that

desired behavior by saying, 'Sit.' Then pause. Give your dog a hint to figure out he needs to sit by raising a treat over his head.

"My biggest piece of advice is to stop micromanaging your dog. If you only look for what your dog is doing wrong, you miss the awesomeness when your dog is doing something right, like sitting."



Arden Moore writes about pets and can be reached at fourleggedlife@gmail.com.

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Tots & Teens

Ocean Ridge student creates system to grow microgreens indoors

By Faran Fagen

Senior Joshua Reiter's interest in hydroponics began with an old, donated system to his school.

His science teacher at Grandview Preparatory, Donna Leech, asked, "Think you can get this running?"

If you ask Reiter, he was more interested in skipping English than becoming a farmer.

"I mostly just wanted to mess around with it and see if we could actually get it to work," said Reiter, of Ocean Ridge. "But once I began to tinker, I was hooked. We saw significant sprout growth every day, and this captivated me. I wondered just how tall they'd grow, and whether they would actually taste good."

Fast forward two years: Reiter, now 17, has turned a passion project into a consumer product with the launch of Josh's Sprouts, a compact, 3D-printed, countertop hydroponic system that allows anyone to grow fresh microgreens at home.

Reiter, founder of Josh's Sprouts and president of the school's wildlife club, realized that at-home hydroponic kits are cumbersome, often cost around \$2,000 and take up an entire shelf or room. He set out to engineer something different: a small, affordable, low-maintenance system that fits seamlessly into everyday life.

"Once I understood how the big hydroponic systems worked, I couldn't stop asking why they had to be so huge and so expensive," Reiter said. "I wanted to design something that was nice looking, compact, and simple enough that you could



set it up in under a minute and harvest fresh microgreens two weeks later."

Reiter had his first "aha moment" when he started to think about how he could get younger students involved and interested in growing sprouts.

"I knew the system had to be simple, fun and affordable so they wouldn't be overwhelmed with complicated instructions or maintenance," he said. "So, over the summer, I started work on a smaller system, then even smaller system, finally landing on my current design."

He actually had the idea for the current system in the middle of a college visit with Northeastern University while

ABOVE: Joshua Reiter markets Josh's Sprouts at his school in Boca Raton and has plans to scale up. He created a miniature hydroponic system (left) that can grow sprouts in 14 days. He sells it as a starter kit for \$40, much less than the cumbersome systems that preceded it.

Photo provided

he was talking to an admissions officer about his design.

"It was this other 'aha moment' that led me to design an 8-inch pumpless hydroponic system that grows microgreens in only 14 days," he said.

Reiter's product evolved rapidly from a student project to a consumer-ready prototype.

The Josh's Sprouts \$40 Starter Kit includes a 3D-printed outer and inner cup designed for hydroponic growing; a full spectrum grow light that serves as an artificial sun; four hemp mats (two large and two small) that pull nutrient-rich water up to the seeds; premeasured nutrient mix and scoop; and two pre-portioned seed packs

(pea shoots and sunflower microgreens).

Users simply fill the reservoir with water, add one nutrient scoop, place the hemp mat and seeds, turn on the light and walk away. A dense crop of microgreens is ready to harvest in about 14 days. The reservoir typically provides enough water for approximately 21 days.

"Microgreens are incredibly nutrient-dense because they're in such a competitive stage of life," Reiter explained. "They grow fast, are healthy, taste great on salads and sandwiches, and with this system you don't need a garden, perfect weather or a green thumb."

He estimates he has dedicated 30-40 hours per week to the project while completing both Grandview coursework and dual-enrollment classes at Palm Beach State College.

"Josh is a perfect example of what happens when you give students real freedom to explore their passions," said Jacqueline Westerfield, head of school at Grandview Preparatory School.

"Josh walked through every door — from wildlife club and field biology to 3D printing and entrepreneurship — and turned an idea into a product that could genuinely change how people grow food at home."

Reiter plans to study entrepreneurship or management in college and is exploring a future launch on a platform like Kickstarter or Shopify. In the meantime, he's debuting Josh's Sprouts at Grandview and preparing to scale up based on early demand.

As for college, Reiter really likes Virginia Tech, and is also interested in University

of Florida, Penn State, Florida State, Georgetown, Northeastern, and Babson College.

When he's not sprouting, he enjoys going to the gym, snowboarding, hiking, cooking, and hanging out with family.

All proceeds from Josh's Sprouts will support the Grandview Wildlife Club in establishing a memorial for Leech, who arranged for Grandview's first hydroponic system in fall 2024 and championed the student team responsible for managing its harvests. Her encouragement, guidance and belief in hands-on, curiosity-driven learning left a lasting impact on Reiter and countless other students.

Leech, who died of cancer in 2025, also coordinated with the Marine Education Initiative and set up time for its people to instruct students on how to operate the shelf system. She planned trips for the lower school students to visit the Marine Education Initiative's headquarters to see how its operations worked.

"When I set out on the journey of making a 3D printed hydroponic tower, Mrs. Leech was instantly supportive and excited, offering up a corner of her classroom for my testing area," Reiter said. "For one full semester, I spent five hours per week in her room talking with her about how I could get it to work. When things got slow or didn't work out the way I thought they would, she motivated me to keep looking for new solutions." ★

For more information on Josh's Sprouts, visit Reiter's website at sites.google.com/view/joshssprouts/home.

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 1/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

FEBRUARY 7

Saturday - 2/7 - 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

2/7 - STEM Specialty Program: Marvels of Motion at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-12. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/7 - Baby Sensory Play at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 3-12 mos. Held again 3/7 10-11 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/7 - 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

2/7 - Embossing Card Making for Tweens & Teens at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-17. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

FEBRUARY 8-14

Sunday - 2/8 - Sunday Chess Tournament Play at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 9 am-4:15 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

2/8 - 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

2/8 - 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

2/8 - Tween Graphic Novel Book Talk: Smile at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Monday - 2/9 - Special Guest Storytime w/a Dump Truck Driver at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 5. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

2/9 - Baby Story Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes & songs. Ages 6-12 months. Held again 2/23 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/9 - Fun w/Fernanda: Bilingual Spanish-English Story Time at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 0-4. 3:30-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/9 - Knots 'n Needles - Teen Crochet Circle at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/9-11 - Homework Help - Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. For grades K-5. Runs through 4/29. M-W 3:30-4:15 & 4:15-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/11 - Game Day at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 13-17. Every

W 4:30-6:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 2/12 - 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

2/12 - Mysterious Mona Lisa at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Grades K-5. 11 am. \$8. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

2/12 - Art from the Heart - Valentine's Edition at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 2/13 - Baby Bookworm at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Storytime for infants accompanied by an adult. Ages 0 months to non-walking. Every F 11-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

2/13 - Sensory Circle Time: Winter Blizzard at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Featuring fun activities designed to engage all senses. Ages 2-5. Held again 2/27. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/13 - Peek-A-Boo Sensory Adventures at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Literacy enrichment: stories, music, movement. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 0-non-walkers. Every F 11:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Continued on next page

Overwhelmed?

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Continued from previous page

Saturday - 2/14 - ColorSpace: Teen Art Studio at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. Held again 2/28. 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/14 - Sketching in the Galleries at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Family fare. 11 am-4 pm. Free w/ paid admission. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

2/14 - DIY Ribbon Roses at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-13. 2-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

FEBRUARY 15-21

Sunday - 2/15 - A Mo Willems Storytime at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 7. 11 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

2/15 - Art For Everyone at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-12. 2-3 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Monday - 2/16 - Artist's Story w/ Timothy Leistner at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 4-8. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Tuesday - 2/17 - Toddler Time at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 12-24 mos. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/17 - Teen Book Club: Circe by Madeline Miller at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/17 - Eco Adventures at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Ages 9-12. Held again 3/3. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Thursday - 2/19 - Toddler Tales at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 2-3 yrs. 10-10:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/19 - Bilingual Storytime at Boynton

Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Stories, rhymes, more. Ages 5 & under. 11-11:45 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/19 - Ms. Lovely's Music & Movement at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-5 yrs. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/19 - Make & Take: Clay Creations at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 2/21 - Wee Move! at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 years. 10-11:15 am. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/21 - STEM Camp: Earth & Geology

at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 10:30-11:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/21 - Bones to Books at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Children read to friends from Bonafide Therapy Dogs. All ages. 1-2 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/21 - Class: Drawing Bends & Curves

at Cornell Art Museum, 51 N. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Create a drawing inspired by one of Dorothy Gillespie's sculptures. Ages 6-12. \$15/child. 2-3 pm. 561-654-2220; eventeny.com/events/gillespie-workshop-for-kids-25384

FEBRUARY 22-28

Monday - 2/23 - Special Sensory Storytime at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Up to age 7. 10-10:45 am. Free. Registration: 561-393-7968; bocalibrary.org

2/23 - LOTG Kindergarten Readiness

Story Time at Catherine Strong Splash Park, 1500 SW 6th St, Delray Beach. Ages 3-5. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/23 - 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

2/23 - 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

Tuesday - 2/24 - Ultimate Book Club at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 9-12. 4:30-5 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/24 - Teen Movie Night: Bring It On (2000, PG-13) at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/24 - Bedtime Story Time at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 3-5. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Wednesday - 2/25 - Rhythm Explorers

at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 yrs. 11 am-12:15 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Thursday - 2/26 - 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

2/26 - Picture Book Club: See Marcus Grow by Marcus Bridgewater at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6393; boyntonlibrary.org

Friday - 2/27 - Sensory Circle Time: Winter Wonderland at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 2-5 yrs. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

Saturday - 2/28 - 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

2/28 - Bones to Books at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 5-8. 1 pm. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/28 - Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-

393-7968; bocalibrary.org

MARCH 1-7

Monday - 3/2 - Gaming Guild at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 13-17. 5-6:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/2 - Database 101 for Teens at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Ages 12-17. 6-7 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Thursday - 3/5 - Page-turners - The Hedge Knight graphic novel at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Grades 6-8. Two times: 1-2 pm & 6-7 pm. Free/members; \$15/non-members. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

3/5 - Make & Take: Penny Spinners at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Ages 5-12. 4:30-5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
A1A Retail Space – Briny Breezes, FL



INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD SUBMIT A BRIEF PROPOSAL
OUTLINING BUSINESS CONCEPT, EXPERIENCE,
AND PLAN FOR UTILIZING SPACE.

SUBMIT Proposals to: BrinyBreezesGM@gmail.com no later than March 5, 2026

The property owner is seeking proposals from qualified businesses to lease a space +/- 14x50 (700 sq ft) retail space with A1A frontage in Briny Breezes, Florida.

Ideal for: pizza shop or similar food concept, cafe, or neighborhood serving retail/professional services.

Features: strong A1A visibility, steady vehicle and pedestrian traffic, on-site parking.

Target Rent: approx. \$3,500/month
Occupancy: May 1

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Community Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 1/28. Please check with organizers for any changes.

FEBRUARY 7

Saturday - 2/7 - Decision 2026 Voters' Guide presented by the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County.

This nonpartisan, free, easy-to-read VOTE411 Voters' Guide will be accessible on the League's website. Click on the Voter Toolkit 2026 button. lwvpbc.org

2/7 - 14th Annual Barrier Free 5K Run, Walk and Roll at Barrier Free Park, 3111 S Congress Ave, Boynton Beach. Benefits the park. Includes 5K run/walk, wheelchair division, Kids 1-miler, Kids Dash. 7:30 am-1 pm. Register online: runsignup.com/Race/FL/BoyntonBeach/BarrierFree

2/7 - Briny Bazaar at 5000 N Ocean Blvd, Briny Breezes. Flea market featuring housewares, jewelry, clothing, linens, electronics, art, furniture, books & more. Proceeds go to local charities and the community. 8 am-1 pm. Free. brinybazaar.us

2/7 - Short Stories for Writers w/ Dr. Caren Neile at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. Held again 2/21 & 3/7. 10-11:30 am. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

2/7 - Book Sale at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. 10 am-1 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

2/7 - Step-Above Rummage Sale at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Proceeds support the ministry and missions of the church. 10 am-1 pm. Free. 561-276-6338; firstdelray.com

2/7 - Workshop: Bold Marks: Exploring Line and Form in Dynamic Drawings at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$60. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/7 - Workshop: Intro to Photography at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-2:30 pm. \$150. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/7 - Annual Florida Highwaymen Art Show & Sale at Boynton Beach Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. 11 am-3 pm. Free. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

2/7 - Auditions: Matilda The Musical at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Production dates 4/10-28. Roles are unpaid. Held again 7-10 pm 2/9. Noon-4 pm. Choose audition slot online. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

2/7 - Connie Regan-Blake - A Story

Central Performance: A Legend in Overalls at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

2/7 - 3D Print Basics Class at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 3/7 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/7 - The Path to Publishing presented by South Florida Women's National Book Association at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. An informative and interactive discussion on getting published. 3-5 pm. Free/donations welcome. Registration: southflorida@wnba-books.org

2/7 - Daddy-Daughter Dance at Historic Boynton Woman's Club, 1010 S. Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Ages 5-12 with fathers or favorite male guardian (uncle, brother, etc.) 6 pm. \$30/residents, \$38/non-residents. 561-742-6000; boynton-beach.org

2/7 - Concert: The Camerata di Magdalena at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 100 N Palmway, Lake Worth Beach. 7-9 pm. Free; love offering will benefit community food programs. 561-310-3230; margot@coreensemble.org

2/7 - Have Wig, Will Gig at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 7:30 pm. \$35. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

2/7 - The Bruce Tribute at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

2/7-8 - 6th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Craft Festival at 401 E Atlantic Ave. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 561-746-6615; artfestival.com

2/7-8 - The Sound Inside at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Runs through 2/15 Th-Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 2 pm. \$28. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

FEBRUARY 8-14

Sunday - 2/8 - Make & Muse - Dynamic Lines & Flourishing Botanicals: A Gel Plate Printmaking Workshop at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 10 am-noon. \$45/member; \$65/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

2/8 - Town Art Show at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

2/8 - LP And The Vinyl: Blues to Beatles to Bowie at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 2-3:30 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

2/9 - Monday Game Days: Canasta at J.

Municipal Meetings

2/9 & 2/23 - Lantana Town Hall, 500 Greynolds Cir. 6 pm. Agenda: lantana.org

2/10 & 2/24 - Boca Raton Auditorium, 6500 Congress Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

2/10 - Manalapan Town Hall, 600 S Ocean Blvd. 9 am. Agenda: manalapan.org

2/10 - South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

2/13 - Gulf Stream Town Hall, 100 Sea Rd. 9 am. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

2/17 & 2/3 - Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Ocean Ave. 6 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

2/24 - Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 5 pm. Agenda: delraybeachfl.gov

2/26 - Briny Breezes Town Hall, 4802 N Ocean Blvd. 4 pm.

3/2 - Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 6450 N Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com

3/3 - Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.us

\$69.60/member; \$87/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/10 - Resume Coaching with Merrill at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Free coaching by appointment (45 minute sessions). Runs T through 3/17. 1-5 pm. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/10 - Socrates Café at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Philosophical discussions. Every T 1:30-3 pm. Free. 561-393-7852; bocalibrary.org

2/10 - How to Spot a Scam at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-3 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/10 - Fireside Chat with Florida Atlantic President Adam Hasner and Acclaimed Journalist Major Garrett at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 2-3:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$56-\$96/member; \$70-\$120/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/10 - Water Safety at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. 5 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

2/10 - Movie Night at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. Held again 1/8 & 2/24. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

2/10 - The Vegetarian by Han Kang part of Tuesday Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/10 - American Sign Language Class at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 2/24 & 3/3 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/10 - Heritage Lecture - "The Seminoles of African Descent in Florida" presented by the Delray Beach Historical Society at Old School Square Historic Gym. 6 pm. \$15/person; \$10/society members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

2/10 - Delray Beach Orchid Society Meeting at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd T 7 pm. Free. 561-573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.org

2/10 - All Arts Open Mic Night at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 2nd T 8-10:30 pm. \$10-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 2/11 - Workshop: Modern Mixed Media Portraits at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-2:30 pm. \$125. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/11 - Coral Reef Ecology w/Pinnacle Ecological, Inc. at Boynton Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Held again 2/24 & 3/3 6 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

DELRAY BEACH GREENMARKET

October 2025 thru May 2026

SATURDAYS
9am - 2pm
Old School Square

95 NE 1st Avenue
DOWNTOWN DELRAY BEACH



A Delray Beach CRA Project

75+ Farmers, Bakers, and Food Artisans
Live Music / Pet Friendly / Cooking Demos



100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/11 - The Friends Meeting at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 1:30-2:30 pm. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/11 - The Tudors: The True History of England's Most Famous Dynasty w/ Ben Lowe at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every W through 3/25. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$95.20/member; \$119/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/11 - Movies at the Square: The Lion King at Old School Square Amphitheatre, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5 pm. Free. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com

2/11 - Workshop: Intermediate Photography at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 5-8 pm. \$90. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/11 - Artistic Journeys Reception - Tami Jo Urban - Soft Yellow Underbelly at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 6-7:30 pm. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

Thursday - 2/12 - Quilters meet at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Limit 10. Every Th 9 am-noon. \$1/lifetime membership. 561-742-6886; boyntonlibrary.org

2/12 - Jazz & Java: The Arrangers - The Creators Behind The Music at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Adults. Every Th through 3/19 10-11:30 am. \$155. Register: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

2/12 - Seminar: Classic Street Photography: What the Masters Can Teach Us w/Leo Lubow at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 3/19. 10 am-noon. \$60/annual membership; \$100.50/member; \$134/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/12 - 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

2/12 - Workshop: Intro to Watercolor: Essential Techniques & Your First Paintings at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/12 - Workshop: SEA & SKY: Abstracting the Coastline at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. \$125. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/12 - Lunch and Learn w/FAU President Adam Hasner and wife

Jillian at Beth Ami Congregation, 1401 NW Fourth Ave., Boca Raton. 11:30 am. Free. RSVP: 561-347-0031; bacboca.com

2/12 - PBD Dramawise: Driving Miss Daisy w/Gary Cadwallader 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

2/12 - Writers of The Lost Generation: Hemingway, Fitzgerald and Stein w/Lauren Radick 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

2/12 - Brushstrokes & Bookmarks - The Artificial Silk Girl: A Novel at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4:30 pm. \$15/member; \$20-\$25/non-member. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

2/12 - A Taste of Art at The Club at Boynton Beach, 623 S. Federal Highway. Enjoy paintings, kinetic art, and photography available for purchase. Free. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and wine tasting. Reservations: 561-777-7194

2/12 - Twilight Concert Series: Journey & Styx Tribute at Old School Square Amphitheater, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 5-9 pm. \$50/VIP; \$free/general admission; free/kids 12 & under. 561-243-1077; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

2/12 - Intermediate Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. Every Th through 3/26 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

2/12 - Concert: Roy & the Rockabillies

at Highland Beach Library, 3618 Ocean Blvd. 5:30 pm. Free. 561-278-5455; highlandbeach.us

2/12 - Artist Talk - John William Bailly at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 6-7 pm. Free. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/12 - Lecture - The Lens of Art Nouveau: A Look at Alphonse Much's Private Photography Collection at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Adults. 6-7 pm. \$10/members; \$15-\$20/non-members. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

2/12 - "Chai" Fidelity: Our Favorite Jewish Songs and the Stories Behind Them 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

2/12 - 18th Annual Dr. Eric H. Shaw Concert & Aria Excellence in Performance at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10-\$20. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

2/12-15 - The Great Mr. Swindle's Traveling Peculiarium and Drink-Ory Garden presented by Saita Entertainment Productions under The Boutique Big Top at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real. Held again 2/18-22. Ages 18 & up. W-Sat: 7:30 pm; 2/14: 5 & 8 pm; 2/15: 3 & 6 pm; 2/20-21: 4:30 pm; 2/22: 2 pm. \$52.25-\$95. mrswindles.com/tickets

Friday - 2/13 - Mahjong Club - Open Play at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every F 10am-noon. Free. 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/13 - Workshop: Jewelry Wax to Silver - Ring Carving at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 4-7 pm. \$24.5. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/13 - 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

2/13 - Castoffs Square Dance at Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center, 125 E Ocean Ave. All ages. Every F 6-9 pm. \$6. 561-742-6221; boynton-beach.org

2/13 - Brian Kiley at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

2/13 - Isle of Klezbos at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$60.50-\$65.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

2/13 - Rock of Abba: Tribute to Abba at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 8 pm. \$35-\$50. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

2/13-15 - For the Love of Art Store Sale at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Adults. 10 am-5 pm. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

2/13-22 - Delray Beach Open at Delray Beach Tennis Center, 201 W Atlantic Ave.

Opening day features Bob & Mike Bryan and Luke & Murphy Jensen. Full schedule/tickets: delraybeachopen.com

2/13-22 - 7th Annual Delray Beach Open Food & Wine Series consists of multiple tasting events, luncheons, and cocktail receptions. Info: 561-330-6000; delraybeachopen.com/en/food-and-wine

Saturday - 2/14 - Historic Walking Tour: Atlantic A1A & The Beach presented by Delray Beach Historical Society, at the Beach Pavilion on A1A. 10 am-noon. \$30/person; \$20/members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

2/14 - Open Figure Studio w/Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Ages 18+. Held again 6-8 pm 2/26.

10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/14 - Palm Beach Pride Pageant 2026

at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. 2 pm. \$20-\$40. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

2/14 - Music in the Museum - Fragments and Resilience: A Spotlight Tour & Violin Recital at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3:30-5 pm. \$20/member; \$25-\$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

2/14 - Florida Atlantic Faculty Prism Concert at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. Free. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

2/14 - Brian Hyland - Sealed With A Kiss at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real. 7:30 pm. \$20. 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$56.05. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

2/14 - Welcome Home: The Legacy of Carole King at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$60.50-\$65.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

2/14-15 - Boca Raton Art & Craft Festival at Town Center at Boca Raton, 6000 Glades Rd. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 561-746-6615; artfestival.com

2/14-15 - Boca Raton Orchid Society Valentine's Orchid Show & Sale at Don Estridge Middle School Safe Schools Institute, 1790 Spanish River Blvd. Orchid displays/sales. 10 am-5 pm. Advance tickets: \$3; general admission: \$5 cash. brosonline.org



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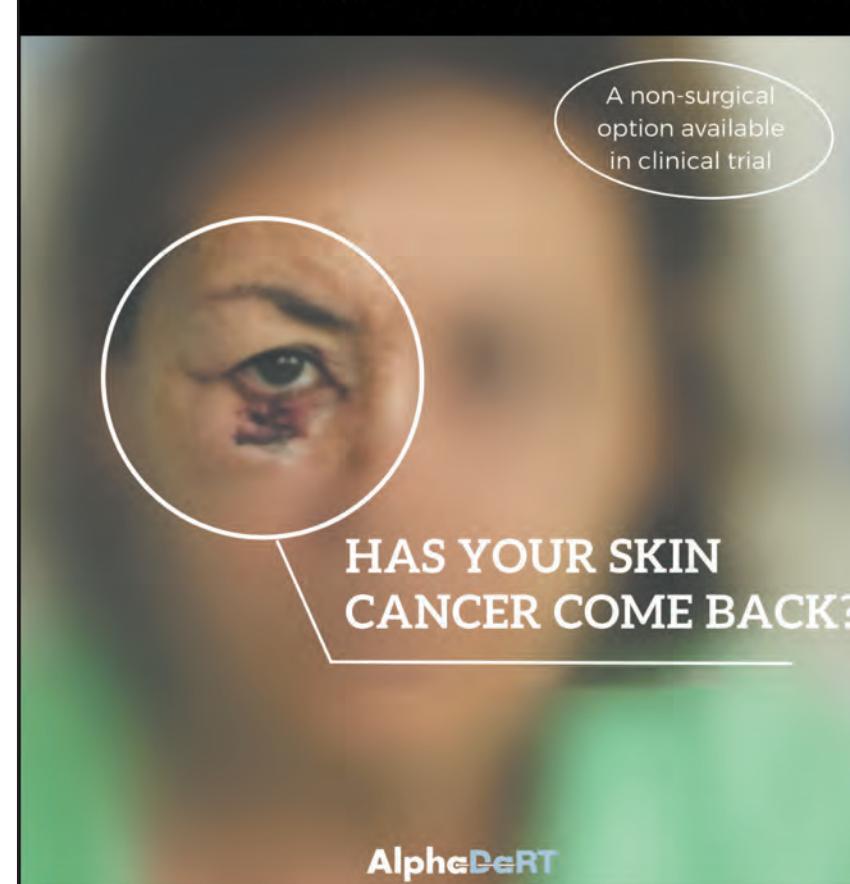
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FEBRUARY 15-21

Sunday - 2/15 - Art of Dance: The Magic of Line at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 10-11:15 am. \$15/member; \$25/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

2/15 - Exhibit Opening Reception at Artist's Eye Gallery Boutique, 604 Lucerne Ave, Lake Worth. Runs through 3/7. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-586-8666; lwartleague.org

2/15 - Times Of Your Life: The Paul Anka Songbook at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. 2 pm. \$30-\$50. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

2/15 - Ice Cream Social at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3577 S Ocean Blvd. 2-4 pm. Free. 561-588-8889; southpalmbeach.com

2/15 - Trolley Tour of Historic Pearl City meets at Martin Luther King Jr. monument, 200 NE 12th St., Boca Raton. Sponsored by Developing Interracial Social Change (DISC) 2:30-5 pm. Free. RSVP to 561-213-6214 or 240-603-9582.

2/15 - Story Central Storytelling Slam at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 3-4:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

2/15 - Free Fallin Returns - The Tom Petty Concert Experience at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$65.50-\$70.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 2/16 - Presidents' Day

2/16 - Monday Game Days: Mahjong at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. Held again 3/2. 2-4 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

2/16 - Descent: Latest Documentary from Award-Winning Director, Rory Fielding at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 4-5:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$30.40/member; \$38/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/16 - 18th Annual Boca Raton Chamber Bash at Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center/Hospitality Pavilion, 30 NW 1st Ave. 6-7:30 pm. Tickets \$60-\$100. 561-395-4433; bocachamber.com

2/16 - The Art of Storytelling: Diverse Approaches in World Cinema w/Shelly Isaacs at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every M through 3/9. 7-9 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$64/member; \$80/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/16-19 - Always: The Love Story of Irving Berlin starring KT Sullivan & Mark Nadler at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. M-Th: 2 pm; T-W: 7:30 pm. \$55-\$65. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

Tuesday - 2/17 - Book Talks - Non-Fiction/Biographies: Toni at Random: The Iconic Writer's Legendary Editorship by Dana A. Williams at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 2-3 pm. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

2/17 - FAU Astronomical Observatory public viewing at FAU Science & Engineering Building 4th floor, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 1st F & 3rd T 8 pm. Free. Schedule subject to change; check website: 561-297-7827; physics.fau.edu/observatory/events/

2/17 - Spoken Word Open Mic: Poetry, Storytelling & Lyrics at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 3rd T 8-10:30 pm. \$20-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 2/18 - Book Buzz Adult Book Club: Are You Mad at Me? by Meg Josephson at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. Registration: 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

2/18 - League of Women Voters Hot Topics Discussion: Defending Democracy in the Courts w/Barbara Pariente presented by League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County at The Fountains Country Club, 4476 Fountains Dr, Lake Worth Beach. Doors open 11 am; luncheon 11:30 am. \$45/members; \$50/non-members. Registration: 561-276-4898; lwpbc.org

2/18 - Energy: Chemical, Biological, Electrical, Nuclear & Subatomic w/ Peter 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

2/18 - Estate Planning in Pop Culture w/Jennifer Gomez at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Adults. 3-4 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/18 - Book Club at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. 5 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

2/18 - Town Hall Talk: Declaration: The Story of American Independence w/Robert Watson at The Schmidt Boca

Raton History Museum, 71 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. 6 pm check-in/refreshments; 6:30 pm lecture. Free/BRHS member; \$10/guest. RSVP: 561-395-6766 x100; bocahistory.org

Thursday - 2/19 - Workshop: Fluid Florals in Watercolor at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$40. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/19 - Workshop: ELECTRIC LANDSCAPES: Layer, Brush, and Build Impact at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-3:30 pm. \$125. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/19 - The Romanovs, Russia, and the Jews, Part II w/Stephen Berk at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every Th through 3/12. 12:30-2 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$69.60/member; \$87/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/19 - Seminar: The Jazz Soul of Irving Berlin w/Mark Gridley at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Ever Th through 3/12. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$69.60/member; \$87/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/19 - Harvey Oyer III Lecture at J. Turner Moore Memorial Library, 1330 Lands End Rd, Manalapan. 5-7 pm. Membership required. 561-383-2541; manalapan.org

2/19 - Celebrating Our Neighborhoods: Delray's Marina District & Beach presented by the Delray Beach Historical Society at Marina District & Beach Neighborhood. Cookout, bar, music, special Marina & Beach exhibit & more.

5:30 pm. By invitation only and free to neighborhood residents. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org

2/19 - The Women of Michelangelo w/ Dr. Emily Fenichel at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults. 6-7:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

2/19 - Women of Valor: Montana Tucker at 490 E Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. VIP Cocktails/dinner: 6 pm; main program: 7:30 pm. \$180. 561-394-9770; chababocabeaches.com

2/19 - The Songs of Leonard Cohen w/ Humdingers & Rod MacDonald at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7-9 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$35.20/member; \$44/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

Friday - 2/20 - Long Pose Open Figure Studio w/Model at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Age 18+. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. \$15. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/20 - The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison part of Afternoon Book Group at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 1 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0196; delraylibrary.org

2/20 - Nothing's Trivial! OLLI Boca's Trivia Contest at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3-4:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$10.40/member; \$13/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu

2/20 - 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

2/20 - Artist Blow-Out - Jason Christian 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

2/20 - Johnny Credit - Johnny Cash Tribute at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

2/20 - The Linda Ronstadt Experience with American Idol Star Tristan McIntosh at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$60.50-\$65.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Monday - 2/23 - The Redcoats are Coming: The British Soldier During the American Revolution w/ Robert Feeney 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

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The COASTAL STAR

2/20 - Generations of Soul at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$70.50-\$75.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

2/20-22 - Shakespeare's The Tempest at FAU Marleen Forkas Studio One Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Runs through 3/1. F/Sat: 7 pm; Sat/Sun: 2 pm. \$20-\$27. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

Saturday - 2/21 - Blossoming Winter: A Seasonal Reading & Writing Event at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 10 am-2:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/21 - 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

2/21 - 17th Annual Boating & Beach Bash for People w/Disabilities at Spanish River Park, 3001 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Boat rides on the Intracoastal Waterway, beach access, sporting events, ponies for petting, costumed action heroes, a Kids' Fun Zone, food & live entertainment. 10 am-3 pm. Free. 561-899-7400; boatingbeachbash.com

2/21 - Come Build Historic Delray Beach with Lego Building Blocks at the Vintage Gym at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave. 10:30 am-1 pm. \$20/team. delrayoldschoolsquare.com

2/21 - Workshop: Torn & Textured: Abstract Art with Attitude at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/21 - Florida Author Series: Steph Post and "Terra Incognita" at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 2-3:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

2/21 - Florida Atlantic's 8th Annual Brass Extravaganza at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 3 pm. Free. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

2/21 - Best of the Belgians Beer Fest, featuring breweries like Bosteels, De Dolle, Duvel, St. Bernardus, Rochefort and Barrel of Monks Brewing, at Dr. Andre Fladell Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach. Live music, food trucks, free beer glass, and unlimited 2-oz. samplings. 2-5 pm. \$50 general, \$95 VIP (includes 1 pm early admission). bestofthebelgians.com

2/21 - Irene Kofman & Friends at FAU University Theatre, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$10-\$20. 561-297-6124; fauevents.com

2/21 - Clint Holmes at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

2/21-22 - Annual Street Painting Festival at Lake & Lucerne Avenues, Downtown Lake Worth Beach. Sat/Sun: 10 am-6 pm. spf.lakeworthbeachfl.gov

FEBRUARY 22-28

Sunday - 2/22 - From Here to Antiquity - Robert Secrist - Virtuoso Classical & Contemporary Guitarist at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/22 - Music in the Museum - Chamber Music Concert: An Evening of Love, Passion & Musical Mystery at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. 3-4 pm. \$20/member; \$25-\$30/non-member. 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

2/22 - Late Night Catechism at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 3-4 pm. Tickets start at \$52. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

2/22 - Boynton Beach Gold Coast Band Concert: Going for the Gold at Coral Lakes Theater, 12751 El Clair Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. 3 pm. \$10. goldcoastband.org

2/22 - The Linda Ronstadt Experience with American Idol Star Tristan McIntosh at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 7 pm. \$60.50-\$65.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

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pm. Tickets start at \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

2/27-28 - Blues Beatles at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$60.50-\$65.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

2/27-3/1 - Neil Simon's Biloxi Blues at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Runs through 3/15. F/Sat: 7:30 pm; Sat/Sun: 2 pm. Tickets start at \$40/show, \$116/dinner & show. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org

Saturday - 2/28 - 2026 Mayors' Chess Challenge at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. For players of all ages/experience. 10 am-1 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

2/28 - Workshop: Color Crush: Mix Like a Master, Paint Like a Pro at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. \$65. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/28 - Workshop: Studio Portrait Photography: One-Light Techniques at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. Noon-4 pm. \$175. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/28 - Workshop: Jewelry Wax to Silver - Jewelry Carving at Arts Warehouse, 313 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Adults. 12:30-4:30 pm. \$265. 561-330-9614; artswarehouse.org

2/28 - 3D Computer-Aided Design w/ Tinkercad at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 3-4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

2/28 - Varga Studio Reawakening at Varga Sculpting Studio, 296 NE 6th Ave, Delray Beach. 6-10 pm. 561-512-0712; varga-studio.com

2/28 - Festival of the Arts Boca: Jurassic Park with Live Orchestra at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$35-\$150. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

2/28 - Elvin: In Person starring Matt Stone at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

2/28-3/1 - 27th Annual Delray Beach Garlic Fest at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Sat: 11 am-11 pm; Sun: 11 am-7 pm. \$15-\$25; free/children ages 10 & under. 561-279-0907; garlicfestfl.com

MARCH 1-7

Sunday - 3/1 - 3rd Annual Muscle on The Beach Car Show at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Benefits Sandoway Discovery Center. Host: TV star Mike Brewer. 10 am-3 pm. \$125/car registry; free/spectators. 561-274-7263; muscleonthebeach.com

3/1 - Sunday Music Matinee Series: Randy Corinthian Band at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. All ages. 3-4 pm. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/1 - Destination Soutown featuring The Sensational Soul Cruisers at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Two shows: 3 pm & 7 pm. \$65.50-\$70.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/1 - Festival of the Arts Boca - From Swan Lake to the Stones: A Night at the Ballet at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$35-\$150. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

Monday - 3/2 - The Continental Soldier: Washington's Army in the Revolution w/Robert Feeney 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

3/2 - Diana Ross: Reflections, Part II w/Robert Versteeg 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

3/2 - Exploring Verdi's Enduring Legacy: Part I: On Golden Wings w/ Augusta Ventura 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

3/2 - Seminar: How to Reinvent Yourself at Any Age: The Science of Habit and the Promise of Change w/Pavel Mischenko 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

3/2 - Festival of the Arts Boca: Doris Kearns Goodwin: The Enduring Significance of the American Revolution at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$50-\$75. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

Tuesday - 3/3 - The Farhud: When the Holocaust Reached Baghdad w/ Samuel M. Edelman 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

3/3 - General Meeting: Rare and Unusual Plants w/Jesse Durko at Boca Raton Garden Club, 4281 NW 3rd Ave. 1 pm. Free. 561-395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

3/3 - Boca Reads: An Afternoon with Author Walter Mosley at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 2-3:30 pm. Free. 561-393-7906; bocalibrary.org

3/3 - Conservation of Coral Reef & Estuarine Ecosystems at Delray Beach Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. 2-3:30 pm. Free. Registration: 561-266-0194; delraylibrary.org

3/3 - Beginning Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 18+. Every T through 3/24 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4-weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; olli.fau.edu

lakeworthplayhouse.org
3/3 - Art School Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition Opening at Boca Raton Museum of Art, School, 801 W Palmetto Park Rd. Runs through 3/6. 5:30-7 pm. \$10/members; \$15-\$20/non-members. Registration: 561-392-2500; bocamuseum.org

3/3 - Exhibition Opening: Multicultural Youth Arts at Cornell Art Museum, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 6-9 pm. Free. 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events

3/3 - Festival of the Arts Boca - Walter Mosley: The Only True Race Is the Human Race at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$35-\$50. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org

3/3 - Comedy Open Mic at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Every 1st T 8-10:30 pm. \$10-\$25. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

Wednesday - 3/4 - The Women of Ireland (Mna na h'Eireann) w/Kevin Westley at Boynton Beach Library, 100 E Ocean Ave. Adults. 11 am-noon. Free. 561-742-6390; boyntonlibrary.org

3/4 - Smooth Sailing: Yacht Rock and the Sound of the '70's w/ Thomas Cimarusti 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

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Experience coastal living at its finest in this fully renovated, contemporary oceanfront residence in the prestigious Meridian of South Palm Beach. This 2 bed, 2 bath (with optional 3rd bed) home is a true masterpiece, thoughtfully redesigned with top-tier finishes throughout. The expanded gourmet kitchen is a dream for entertainers and culinary enthusiasts alike. The floor to ceiling windows and sliders open up to the sprawling 300+ perfect for soaking in the ocean breeze. Offering over 2000 sq ft of living space. Priced at \$2,300,000.



120 SE 5th Avenue # 225

Welcome to luxury waterfront living in downtown Boca. This stunning 2-bedroom, 2-bath contemporary condo offers 1,700 sq. ft. of beautifully renovated space, blending modern elegance with comfort. With renovations just completed, this unit features high-end finishes and stylish updates with brand new bathrooms, Ceramic floors that flow throughout create a sleek and cohesive aesthetic, and custom, walk-in closets provide ample storage. Step outside onto your private patio just steps to the pool and the Intracoastal Waterway. This serene oasis is complemented by pool and waterfront views, easy access to the garden and pool area and beautiful sunrises. Walk to all the nightlife in downtown Boca with restaurants and shops only minutes away. Priced at \$1,250,000.

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edu
3/4 - Festival of the Arts Boca: Arthur Caplan: In Defense of Science at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$35. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org
Thursday - 3/5 - Hitler's Soldiers in America: The Hidden History of German POWs w/Annette Isaacs 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
3/5 - Intermediate Tap for Adults at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Ages 18+. Every Th through 3/26 5:30-7 pm. \$60/4 weeks; \$20/drop-in. 561-586-6410; lakeworthplayhouse.org
3/5 - Off the Wall: Shining Through Community w/Mark Delmont at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 6-8 pm. Free. RSVP: 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
3/5 - 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
3/5 - Festival of the Arts Boca -Dr. Danielle Gilbert: Life Lessons from

Hostage Negotiation at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7 pm. \$35. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org
Friday - 3/6 - Seminar: Successful Aging: The "Gold Standard" for Your Golden Years w/Laurence Miller at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. 10-11:30 am. \$60/annual membership; \$40/member; \$50/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
3/6 - Guided Activity: Painting Your Way w/James Warwick at FAU Friedberg Auditorium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Every F through 4/24. 12:30-2:30 pm. \$60/annual membership; \$200.25/member; \$267/non-member. 561-297-3185; olli.fau.edu
3/6 - Changes in Latitudes - Jimmy Buffett Tribute at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Two shows: 4 pm & 8 pm. Tickets start at \$59. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com
3/6 - 6th Annual Multicultural Youth Arts Festival at Amphitheatre at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 4-9 pm. Free. 561-654-2220; delrayoldschoolsquare.com/events
3/6 - A Rhapsodic Evening with Conrad Tao at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets

\$35-\$150. 561-571-5270; festivalboca.org
3/6 - Ariel Elias at The Studio at Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$31.70. 561-203-3742; thestudiotamiznerpark.com
3/6 - The Art of Laughter with Headliner Monique Marvez featuring Naomi Calloway at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$48. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org
Saturday - 3/7 - 7th Annual Community Spirit Race at FAU Flagler Credit Union Stadium, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Featuring 5K Run, 1 Mile Run/Walk and Kid's Fun Run. Registration: 6:30 am; start time: 8 am. Tickets start at \$30. spiritrace.org
3/7 - Conservancy Garden Tours at Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St. Call for information: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org
3/7 - Historic Walking Tour: Atlantic A1A & The Beach presented by Delray Beach Historical Society, at the Beach Pavilion on A1A. 10 am-noon. \$30/person; \$20/members. Registration: 561-274-9578; delraybeachhistory.org
3/7 - 4th Annual Muscle on The Beach Car Show at Old School Square, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Benefits

The COASTAL STAR

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

3742; thestudioatmiznerpark.com

3/7 - The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band at Arts Garage, 94 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. 8 pm. \$55.50-\$60.50. 561-450-6357; artsgarage.org

3/7-8 - Blockbuster Ballroom at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum, 7901 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Presented by Fred Astaire Dance Studios Delray Beach. Sat: 7:30 pm; Sun 2 pm. Tickets start at \$65. Reservations: 561-995-2333; thewick.org

3/7-8 - Cash Unchained - The Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 NW 9th St. Sat: 7:30 pm; Sun: 2 pm. Tickets start at \$69. 561-272-1281; delraybeachplayhouse.com

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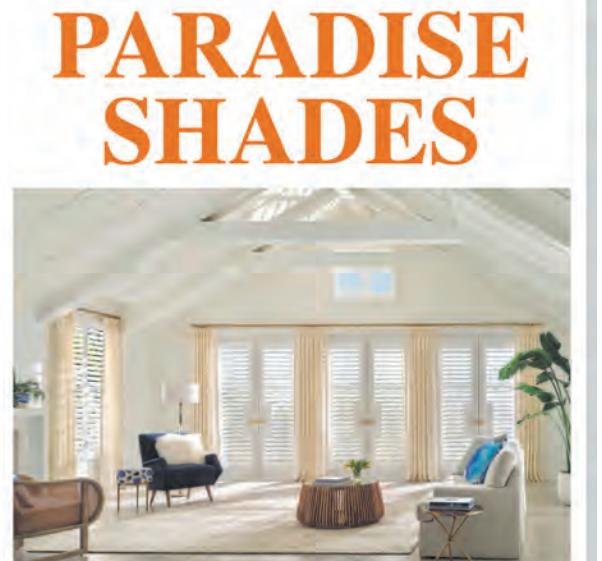
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House of the Month



LEFT: Perched on a high natural dune, the residence offers an ideal blend of privacy and sweeping vistas from primary living spaces.

RIGHT: The completely renovated oceanside heated pool is surrounded by a covered loggia and adjoins a private path directly to the ocean.



The home has multiple generous-sized living areas for gatherings, entertaining or everyday life, part of its open-concept design.

Unobstructed ocean frontage in Ocean Ridge



The ground level can be securely locked off, creating a self-contained, private suite/apartment for guests or residents.

Each month, The Coastal Star features a home for sale in our area. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers and provides readers with a peek inside one of our homes.

Meticulously renovated on a private 100-foot stretch of ocean frontage, this home has 9,500 +/- total square feet and sits on Old Ocean Boulevard in Ocean Ridge. Perfectly positioned between State Road A1A and the ocean, the home is versatile with six bedrooms, six full baths and one powder room. The ground floor includes an entertainment and media area, designer kitchen and dining space, private en suite bedroom, gym with storage for boards and bikes, and a four-person sauna and massage room. The level can be locked off to create a luxury guest house within your own home.

Upstairs the main level opens to spectacular ocean vistas with multiple living areas, en suite bedrooms, primary suite and a private office oasis.

Outside are a circular paver driveway with an epoxy-floored two-car garage and ample guest parking, entirely new deck tiling and railing by the pool, along with abundantly landscaped grounds that provide beauty as well as privacy.

Offered at \$12,995,000.

Contact Nicholas Malinosky, 561-306-4597, nicholas.malinosky@elliman.com, or Michael O'Connor, 561-414-1249, michael.oconnor@elliman.com. Douglas Elliman, 900 E. Atlantic Avenue, #1, Delray Beach

Luxury Lives BEHIND THE HEDGES

GULF STREAM | DELRAY BEACH | BOCA RATON | VILLAGE OF GOLF | OCEAN RIDGE | PALM BEACH



39 Country Road S | Village of Golf | \$8,250,000 | +/- 1.99 Acres | 5 BR, 4.5 BA | Web# RX-11055233



Newly Priced
5 Par Club Circle | Village of Golf | \$6,950,000
+/- .9 Acres | 5 BR, 5.5 BA | Web# RX-11135786



26 Country Road | Village of Golf | \$4,995,000
+/- 1.82 Acres | 6 BR, 6.5 BA | Web# RX-11064070



Newly Priced
5 Country Road E A | Village of Golf | \$3,500,000
+/- .82 Acres | 3 BR, 3.5 BA | Web# RX-11133727



36 Country Road | Village of Golf | \$3,400,000
+/- .88 Acres | 3 BR, 3 BA, 2 Half BA | Web# RX-11132424



1177 George Bush Blvd, 306 | Delray Beach
\$2,750,000 | 3 BR, 3.5 BA | Web# RX-11006798



Just Listed
20 Par Club Circle | Village of Golf | \$2,695,000
+/- 1.28 Acre Lot, FAR allows for approx. 7,667SF
Web# RX-11143079



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