

Along the Coast



Kay Valente rides with Boots through Boca's West Lakes Community. **Photo by Lauren Loricchio**

Associations challenge pets as emotional support

By Arden Moore

There's a new "breed" of dog unleashing plenty of debate and controversy. Identified as "emotional support animals" or ESA, these dogs are making their way into housing developments in South Florida, even those with no-pets-allowed policies.

Depending on whom you ask, these ESA dogs are regarded as healthy godsend or reviled as unruly rule breakers. But they have the law on their side. And that is making some property managers and condo association board members bark in protest.

Kay Valente created a legal firestorm in the West Lakes Community in Boca Raton when she obtained a "pet prescription" from her

See **PETS** on page 13

Along the Coast

Few bouquets from taste-testers of public tap water

By Jan Norris

Terms like "undertones," "balance" and "finish" are typical of wine tastings — but they also apply to any beverage. Last month, three tasters used them to help describe ... water.

Not just any water, but water drawn from taps at various city and town halls along the coast. Spurred by a Manalapan commissioner who raised questions about the drinkability of his town's

water, *The Coastal Star* conducted a blind taste-test to determine whether he was all wet.

Waters were judged on appearance, aroma and taste.

The testers' consensus? Manalapan's water is pretty bad, but not the worst around. Gulf Stream, which gets its water from the Delray Beach water supply, took that prize. Boca Raton's won

See **WATER** on page 10

Whose water tastes best?

A *Coastal Star* tasting ranked tap water of area towns, from best to worst, on a 100-point scale:

1. Boca Raton, 83 points
2. Highland Beach, 82 points
3. South Palm Beach/WPB, 73 points
4. Lantana, 69 points
5. Manalapan, 63 points
6. Ocean Ridge/Boynton Beach, 57 points
7. Gulf Stream/Delray Beach, 46 points

Boca Raton



ABOVE: Diane Benedetto, left, and friends play in the yard of her family's home.

RIGHT: Benedetto today at age 95.

Photo by Lauren Loricchio



A wild child of old Boca looks back

Diane Benedetto — née Imogene Alice Gates — remembers when the plantation that gave Palmetto Park Road its name was a home to trees and ornamental plants.

The place was home to wildlife and a

cast of eccentric characters.

In the 80-odd years since she was a girl, the self-proclaimed wild child was a dancer who went on to raise a family.

Benedetto, 95, has written a book about growing up in Boca. **Page 6**

Real Estate

\$10.4 million Boca condo sets records

By Christine Davis

The One Thousand Ocean penthouse with 4,000 square feet of terraces and miles of ocean views that sold this June set three records: In addition to being the first penthouse to sell in the building, it also fetched the highest sale price for a condo in Palm Beach County for 2011 (\$10.4 million), plus the highest price

ever per square foot in Boca Raton (\$1,500 per square foot, and its interiors are unfinished). Its new owners, a European couple with young children, just fell in love with it, said Corcoran Group Realtor Senada Adžem, who represented the buyers. "Two years ago they looked at properties from Boca Raton to Palm Beach and

See **CONDO** on page 19



Realtor Senada Adžem represented the buyers in the purchase of a \$10.4 million condo. **Photo by Tim Stepien**

Inside

Storm readiness

New technologies help you survive the aftermath of a hurricane. **Page 9**



Meet Your Neighbor

Highland Beach's Karen Robinson didn't retire. She joined the Peace Corps. **Page 14**

Ex-mayor leaves town

Highland Beach's Jim Newill, condo embroiled in lawsuits. **Page 3**



Plants, pigs, face-painting

Boca's Ellenville Garden Center launches evening green market with music, more. **Page 4**

The Coastal Star

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James E. Patrick is a founding shareholder and CEO of National Healing Corp., founded in 1996. Patrick received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2011 Florida Award in the health care category. Photo by Tim Stepien

Editorial

Head off the dog days of summer with Boca Festival Days

These are the dog days of summer, and they are sultry. But if you consider August a month marked by lethargy, inactivity or laziness, think again. Take a look at the Coastal Star community calendar (Pages 15-16) or the Boca Festival Days listings (Page 7), and you'll find plenty of reasons to get out and about.

Boca Festival Days has come a long way since the 1980s, when the celebration — designed to build civic pride and fend off the dog days of summer — included a few events like fishing tournaments, psychic readings and a teddy bear parade.

The 2012 version pairs businesses with nonprofits to raise awareness and money for charities. Events happen all month throughout the city and there is something for everyone.

Among this year's events are Wine Country Safari at the Boca Raton Museum Art School, a casual wine tasting, with proceeds benefiting Twin Palms Center for the Disabled; Martinis & Manicures at Topsy Spa Salon in Royal Palm Place,

with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society; and the Boca Ballroom Battle at the Boca Raton Resort & Club, a local spin-off of TV's *Dancing with the Stars* for the benefit of the George Snow Scholarship Fund.

Other events include a back-to-school breakfast, singing, skating and bowling competitions, table tennis, and even a Yappy Hour, a Fido-friendly cocktail hour in Mizner Park.

Things are plenty hot at Mizner Park Amphitheatre this month, too, and several of the concerts are free. Among them are tribute shows honoring the Beatles, Elvis and U2. All you have to do is bring a chair or blanket, find a spot to sit, and take in the tunes. Dancing is optional.

So go ahead, make some plans. Have some fun. Sing a little song. Do a little dance.

Just don't say there's nothing to do.

Mary Thurwachter
Managing Editor



LETTERS: The Coastal Star welcomes letters-to-the-editor about issues of interest in the community. These are subject to editing and must include your name, address and phone number. Preferred length is 200 words or less. Mail to 5011 N. Ocean Blvd. #2, Ocean Ridge, FL 33435 or email editor@thecoastalstar.com.

Award-winning entrepreneur stresses importance of family

By Linda Haase

Although his law practice was thriving, James Patrick couldn't pass up an opportunity to do something different.

And, he says, his decision to co-found National Healing Corp. in 1996 has been very gratifying. The Boca Raton-based company, which provides management services and the latest technology and expertise in wound healing to hospitals to establish quality wound healing programs, has grown tremendously. It now partners with more than 170 hospitals in 32 states, including Bethesda Memorial Hospital (its first managed wound center), says Patrick, the company's CEO.

The hard work hasn't gone unnoticed. In June,

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Patrick, who lives in coastal Boca Raton, was given the prestigious Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Florida in the health care category. The award is given for exceptional entrepreneurial achievements, honoring leaders who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses.

"It is an honor. It is a milestone for me. It's a recognition that our company has pioneered new ways to approach the health care service market for wound care and has made a meaningful imprint nationally on how

wound care services are delivered," he said, (Patrick is now eligible for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2011 National Award).

"We are helping people live longer and better lives and that is personally a rewarding thing to be able to do," said Patrick, 51. The company has a tremendous opportunity to grow — and combat a rising tide of chronic wounds caused by the increased incidence of diabetes, vascular disease, obesity and an aging population, he says.

"My professional goal is to build this company to a leadership position in wound care and champion the best healing rates for our patients as possible," he says.

Although Patrick spends a lot of time traveling for business, home is Boca Raton, where he lives with his wife, Donna, and children, 17-year-old Kendra and 15-year-old Truman.

"We like to travel, go to museums and spend time together. Family is the bedrock of my life and existence. Continuing to share and grow as a family is very important to me," says Patrick, who has a Juris Doctor degree from Albany Law School and a LL.M. degree in taxation from the University of San Diego. "My personal goal is to continue to build a strong and loving relationship with my family."

Patrick, who played football in high school and at Boston University (where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree), also jogs, skis and is a voracious reader — everything from classic literature to economics to cultural and religious history.

And, no doubt, he'll be researching India, which he plans to visit in the fall. ★

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Highland Beach

Town will rely on reserves to prevent tax increase

By Steve Plunkett

The town will dip into reserve funds again to continue providing municipal services without raising property taxes.

Town commissioners tentatively adopted the rollback rate of \$3.41 per \$1,000 of taxable value at a special meeting July 26. State law will let them lower the rate as they fine-tune the budget, but not raise it. Voter-approved debt will add 93 cents per \$1,000 to the tax bill.

The current year's rate was \$3.25 per \$1,000 value plus 94 cents per \$1,000 for debt.

"To balance our budget we'll need to take \$702,256 from our unreserved fund balance," acting Finance Director Cale Curtis told them.

It's a strategy the town has been using as its tax base declined more than 25 percent over the past five years, Curtis said, from a high of \$2.3 billion to the current \$1.7 billion. In just the past year it dropped 4.3 percent.

Curtis said the proposed budget funds all department services and calls for no layoffs, pay cuts, furloughs or reductions in town employee benefits. The town will reduced operating expenses about 6 percent, he said.

The proposal's biggest-ticket items include \$75,000 for books and other media at the library, \$21,000 for a new air conditioner at Town Hall and \$15,000 to put header curbs on Bel Lido at A1A.

Commissioner John Pagliaro asked if the tax rate could be lowered, Commissioner Doris Trinley asked if it should be raised to avoid using the reserve fund.

"We're facing very difficult times in the economy today. I think it's very trying on all of our residents that we keep taxes the same as they are rather than increasing it this year," Mayor Bernard Featherman said.

Public hearings on the budget will be 5:01 p.m. Sept. 6 and Sept. 21 at Town Hall. ★

Milani park gets royal treatment from the county

By Steve Plunkett

Except for the occasional lawnmower, work at the county's future Cam D. Milani Park has ended until 2020.

"I'm not passing out a whole lot of checks, so mum's the word," County Commissioner Steven Abrams said as he gave the town an oversized check for \$5,000 in early July to help pay for 10 royal palms in front of the vacant grassy parcel.

"It makes a big difference. Milani Park looks beautiful now," said Deanna Kelvin, who with her husband, George, accepted the check on behalf of town residents and gave Abrams a book, *The History of Highland Beach*, as a thank-you.

The trees cost \$1,000 apiece, Town Manager Kathleen Weiser said. Permits ran the total to \$15,000.

East of A1A the park site features a coastal rock outcropping where Japanese pineapple farmers fished a century ago.

Early this year, the county



Royal Palms are known for their massive trunks and large fronds. Photo by Jerry Lower

installed a 6-foot concrete buffer on the south and west sides of the park's west portion, restored wetlands, and put in sod and a split-rail fence. That work cost \$157,669.

The county and Highland Beach agreed last year that the park would not be built beyond this first phase for at least 10 years.

Helped by a \$184,000 state grant, the town began planting royal palms along A1A in 2007, but skipped the disputed Milani site. ★

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Coasting Along

Homespun green market offers plants, pigs, face painting and more

By Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley

Ellenville Garden Center is becoming a community center for eastern Boca Raton.

Not only do owners Beth and Craig Peschl sell plants and landscaping services, they also host a weekly farmer's market. On Thursday evenings, the market attracts 200 to 300 people.

"This center and its market are a new concept that really isn't out there yet," says Jason McCobb who is working with the Peschls.

It's based on markets he enjoyed while visiting Napa and Sonoma, Calif. There, people would lay down blankets and watch the kids play while drinking a bottle of wine and listening to music.

"The families would hang out all evening. I'd never experienced a market like that," McCobb says.

When he returned to South Florida in 2009, he wanted to do something similar.

He met the Peschls when he was looking for land on which to grow baby greens. He set up his organic and sustainable farm on five of the 10 acres they own in Delray Beach. Then he teamed up with the couple to run the market.

"This market is really cool the way the vendors are set up to zig and zag through the plants," says Greg Schneider who, as owner of MisGreg's Produce, sells the fruits and veggies he grows on his farm in Stuart. He also brings his pet black pig, Maxwell, who lies in the shade of a tree. "Kids love to pet him," he says.

At the market, you can also enjoy live music, eat food prepared by a local restaurant, let your kids play with hula hoops on the lawn, fill up on barbecue prepared in a



Fresh produce is the focus of Ellenville's Garden Center, which draws 200 to 300 people each Thursday. Photo by Jerry Lower

IF YOU GO

Ellenville Garden Center, 220 NE 11th St., Boca Raton, 245-7347. The Moonlit Farmers Market is every Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m.

drum smoker in the parking lot or sample homemade empanadas. You can cool off with wine ice cream, chill with a snow-cone or savor cupcakes and cheesecake from local bakeries while your kids have their faces painted. You can even buy treats for your pet.

"We were surprised to find this. We didn't know it was here," says Dan Cope of Boca Raton who is visiting the market for the first time.

His wife, Mary, heard of it when she was looking for "fun things to do" with their daughter and three grandchildren visiting from Kentucky. Those grandchildren include David, 7, who has his face painted like Spiderman and his sister,



Coconut Creek resident Emerson Ouellette, 7, works the Hula Hoop at the Ellenville Garden Center farmers market in Boca Raton. Photos by Tim Stepien



Boca Raton resident Rylee Azarowicz, 5, feeds Maxwell the pig spinach at the Ellenville Garden Center. Maxwell, 1, is owned by Greg Schneider, market vendor and owner of MisGreg's Produce.

Emily, 4, who is painted as a butterfly.

The Peschls opened their garden center just north of Mizner Park two years ago. It sits on what was one of the last pieces of undeveloped property in Boca Raton.

"There wasn't much here but dirt and weeds," Beth says.

They spent about \$1 million over a year making improvements including a large inviting lodge-like structure complete with a

stone fireplace.

During market hours, it's filled with vendors offering their wares in air-conditioned comfort.

Outside, you'll see a red Ford flatbed truck that the couple towed into place. Beth's father used it on the family chicken farm in Ellenville, N.Y., and she remembers riding in it as a child.

There are other memories here, too. On a high shelf under the roof, there's the Radio Flyer wagon, the Flexible Flyer sled and Fire Chief engine she played with as a child.

And a whole new generation of children is getting involved in agriculture at the center.

This summer, McCobb (aka Farmer Jay) is hosting his Farmer Jay's Junior Sprout classes that teach youngsters in local summer programs how to plant and raise seeds organically and sustainably.

"I want to get the word out," he says. ★



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Around Town

Mayor's dancing-champ son has tips for Ballroom Battlers

"I've got a book deal in the works. We're talking about a made-for-TV movie," Jay Whelchel says.

This time last year, the Boca Raton commercial real estate specialist was the toe-tapping, fast-moving, high-kicking king of the dance floor at the Third Annual **Boca's Ballroom Battle** and he has the disco ball trophy to prove it.

Volunteer and philanthropist **Laura Stoltz** took the women's title.

The year has passed so quickly: The fourth annual dance-off, which raises money for the **George Snow Scholarship Fund**, is set for Aug. 19 at the **Boca Raton Resort & Club**; Whelchel admits his attention has not been on the dance floor:

"Actually, dancing the baby to sleep is about it," he said, confirming that 6-month-old daughter Vivian has replaced professional partner **Mariya-Khristina Shurupova**. She and brother **Jack**, 2½, couldn't care less how nimble the old man is.

"Children just don't respect the accomplishment at all," Jay Whelchel lamented. "They don't understand the significance of it."

Kidding aside, Whelchel took last year's event quite seriously, practicing for several months before the competition. Plus, he felt added pressure: His mother, Boca Mayor **Susan Whelchel**, had won the inaugural. So Jay prepared for his hustle routine as he had approached game days as a high school and college athlete.

"The week before I was about 50 percent ready, but it got closer, I started to visualize the routine, got my game face on," he said. "You start to focus and it all comes together. I got up for it at the right time."

This year's contestants include businesswoman and philanthropist **Yvonne Boice**, plastic surgeon Dr. **Rafael Cabrera**, Boca West Country Club General Manager **Jay DiPietro**, Coldwell Banker Executive Vice President **Ingrid Fulmer**, Mercedes Benz of Delray Executive Manager **Ralph Mesa**, Bell Rock Capital Managing Director **Jacqueline Reeves**, philanthropist and volunteer extraordinaire **Pat Thomas** and Waste Management's South Florida Director of Disposal Operations **Bryan Tindell**.

Welchel has some tips. "I wasn't nervous," he said, "No, I was excited. You're up for it. Don't know what's gonna happen, so it all comes down to preparation.

"It seems so abstract when you're practicing, but it will click. For some it'll click in a month or maybe a week. When I first heard the song, it seemed so fast that I couldn't even feel the beat, but eventually you learn your routine so well that the speed slows down. That's



Jay Whelchel and Mariya-Khristina Shurupova practice for last year's Boca's Ballroom Battle at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. Photo by Jerry Lower

what happened to me."

The Ballroom Battle is a highlight of **Boca Festival Days**, a monthlong celebration of the city, its institutions and its people. Sponsored by the **Boca Chamber of Commerce**, Boca Festival Days gives the city's for-profit Chamber members an opportunity to raise support and money for its nonprofit members.

Following a July 27 kickoff party at **Carrabba's** on Southwest 18 Street, the first fundraiser was the inaugural **White Coats 4 Care** reception, sponsored by **Kaye Communications** Aug. 1 at **Carmen's Restaurant at the Top of the Bridge Hotel**. Donations of \$100 or more will buy lab coats and other important equipment for students at FAU's brand-new **Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine**, which opens for class the same day.

With its Blue Hawaii theme, the Festival Days' "Summer in the City" bash at **Mizner Park Amphitheater** should be heaven for Elvis lovers with a Vegas-style stage tribute to the king of rock 'n' roll. Show begins at 7 and doesn't cost a cent to get in. For details about all the events, which continue through Aug. 29, go to bocachamber.com.

Speaking of tribute shows, **Neil Zirconia**, who bills himself as "the ultimate faux Diamond," brings his version of *Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show* to Boca's **Pavilion Grille** Aug. 13. Despite its location in the ultramodern glass-enclosed atrium of Boca's **Stonegate Bank Building**, the Pavilion is a throwback to a time when people went dancing.

It features a 2,000-square-foot dance floor. Dance lessons

are offered Tuesday and Wednesday nights and live music puts transforms that training into action just about every other night, usually for a \$10 cover charge that includes one drink. Those who prefer dinner with their dancing can opt for hors d'oeuvres, soups and salads (\$3-\$17), sandwiches or burgers (\$10-\$16) or entrees (\$17-\$32). Occasionally, the dining room is taken over by private parties, so reservations (912-0000) are a must, unless you're prepared to dance in the parking lot.

Since 2004, the **Boca Raton Singers** have staged modest concerts and performed in local nursing and retirement homes, often for no charge. But then the economy played a sour note, as various public agencies, including city governments and the **Palm Beach County Cultural Council**, cut funding to several small cultural organizations. To many, \$10,000 is a paltry sum; to the singers, it meant everything.

Enter **Henrietta de Hoernle**, better known as the countess. She likes their music. More important, she admires the fact that every member is a volunteer, even Music Director **Gerald Luongo**. So when board president **Connie Paladino** called to plead her case, the countess agreed to help out.

The chorus will still have to raise money on its own, but with the countess' help, it plans to expand in size and stage larger, more ambitious shows. And it's changed its name ... to the **de Hoernle Singers**.

Open auditions will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 29 and Sept. 12 at the group's rehearsal site, **Grace Community Church**, 600 W. Camino Real. Notify Paladino in advance by email at cmpaladino@aol.com.

Now that the women's **World Cup** is over, soccer fans are turning their attention to Boca Raton for a few games, at least. **magicJack**, Boca's surprise, last-minute franchise in **Women's Professional Soccer**, features seven members of the women's national team play including player and newly named head coach **Abby Wambach** and goalkeeper **Hope Solo** (no relation to Han Solo).

magicJack's new owner is as controversial as his players are talented. Palm Beacher **Dan Borislow** bought the **Washington Freedom**, moved to Boca and renamed it **magicJack** for the internet telephone device that made him millions. He's often seen tooling around Palm Beach on his \$30,000 **Can-Am Spyder RT**, a three-wheeled motorcycle. He's also a fan, and

even played the game.

Only three regular season home games remain, all of which will be played at FAU's soccer stadium.

New Jersey's **Sky Blue Soccer** comes to town Aug. 6, led by U.S. National Team player **Heather O'Reilly** and Swedish player of the year **Therese Sjögran**. Four days later, it's the Western New York Flash with four-time world player of the year **Marta** and Satellite Beach's own **Ashlyn Harris**. Expect the largest crowd ever to watch a soccer game in Palm Beach County.

magicJack will close out the regular season Aug. 14 against league-leading **Philadelphia Independence**. For ticket info, go www.ticketmaster.com.

While the opening of a medical school is a big story, the big questions around FAU concern football.

No. 1: How will the **Owls** do this year? A: Could be dicey. Head coach and Ocean Ridge resident **Howard Schnellenberger** says the quarterback is key and hopes to pick one no later than 10 days before the opener at **University of Florida**. If he survives the Swamp, he gets **Michigan State** a week later and **Auburn** two weeks after that.

No. 1: Asked if he had the energy for his 11th season at age 77, Schnellenberger, FAU's first and only head coach, said, "If I didn't, I'd already be gone." Athletic Director **Craig Angelos** says he won't make a decision until the season is over.

No. 1: How's the stadium doing? Still ahead of schedule and under budget, school officials boast.

As for specs, it seats 30,000 in the grandstand, 24 suites, 26 loge boxes, more than 1,000 open-air premier club seats and more than 4,000 priority club seats. Suite, loge and premier club seat holders can relax in an air-conditioned, 8,000-square-foot premier club or a covered, 16,000-square-foot outdoor priority club. By the way, premium seats (not just for fat-cat boosters) are wider.

The student-and-band-only section is in the south end zone. Student tickets are free.

Elsewhere, most season tickets are \$135 and \$150. That covers the entire east stands, north end zone and the west stands to the 5-yard-line at the north end. A seat on the 50 can be had for \$385. A seat in Section 205 Row Z will set a die-hard Owl fan back \$1,480 while one in Loge 306 C will go for \$9,560.

But then, this is Boca.

First home game is Oct. 15 against **Western Kentucky**. The stadium also will play a big role in FAU's 50th anniversary

celebration Oct. 29.

Meanwhile, **Fanfest** on Aug. 20 should offer more answers.

Here and there: It's called the **English Tap & Beer Garden Restaurant**, but the new spot in **Boca Center** is German-inspired — a Biergärten concept with open-air dining and lots of international beers and other libations and live entertainment. It's actually the offspring of **Wild Olives**, which was moved into the old **Cucina D'Angelo** space next door by owner **John Watson**. Wild Olives Exec Chef **Ken Stevens** stays on, so look for an eclectic pub menu with emphasis on locally grown and fresh.

The Morfogen the merrier. Since **Nick Morfogen** arrived 15 years ago, **32 East** has ranked as one of the best restaurants in the Southeast. This month brother Stratis, a veteran of the New York and more recently Miami restaurant scene with partner **Philippe Chow**, will open Philippe in Boca Raton. The casual version of Chow's Manhattan showcase will take over the former **III Forks** site on East Palmetto Park Road.

The opening, planned for mid-August, should be star-studded, as Morfogen has some big investors — literally: **Alonzo Mourning**, ex-Miami Heat, **Jerome Bettis**, ex-Pittsburgh Steelers and still-active hoop stars **Chauncey Billups**, **New York Knicks**, and **Al Harrington**, **Denver Nuggets**.

Chow is one of two dozen chefs from Boca to Palm Beach participating in the **March of Dimes' Sixth Annual Signature Chefs Auction**, Sept. 9 at the **Boca Raton Resort & Club**. Exquisite wines and spirits, sumptuous samplings from the chefs and an auction of dining packages. Call (561) 684-0102.

Heading north. As we reported earlier, **Angelo Elia**, owner of **Casas d'Angelo** in Fort Lauderdale, Nassau and Boca, (but no link to **Cucina d'Angelo**) had been looking for months for the right spot to bring the Angelo name to Delray. He finally found it just south of Atlantic on Seventh Avenue — the old **Carolina's Coal Fired Pizza** space. He hopes to have **D'Angelo Trattoria** open by summer's end, with a gelato shop to follow soon after.



Thom Smith is a freelance writer. Contact him at ThomSmith@ymail.com.

Boca Raton

Former wild child bares all about growing up in early Boca

By Mary Jane Fine

She looks so grandmotherly, rocking gently there in a corner of the Boca Raton Children's Museum, where her book of childhood memories will reside once it finds a publisher. Sweet and genteel. Self-effacing and shy. But that would be just a first impression, and wrong-headed. Because, right now, her granddaughter Tracy Eldridge is calling up a memory that is NOT in the book and will NOT be told to children.

"Can I show this?" she asks, holding out her cell phone.

Diane Benedetto — née Imogene Alice Gates — glances at the phone's little screen.

"There's nothing wrong with that," she says, a bit indignant. "That's my favorite picture."

No wonder. The photo is of her, maybe 70 years ago: She is a beauty, kneeling, nude, in profile, one hand covering a breast, her long wavy blond hair cascading past her shoulders.

"When guys ask me to send them a picture of me, that's what I send," her granddaughter says, and grins.

The memories attached to that photo, and the dancing career that fostered it, may fill another book one day. "I've got enough material to start a book company," boasts Diane.

At 95, she is a connoisseur of memory. At any given moment, a date or place or happenstance may prove slippery, but the essence is there, strong and vital enough to call up a bygone era and those who lived it.

The book is called *Imogene Alice Gates: Frontier Child*, and it tells the story of growing up in Boca Raton before Boca became Boca, before the Army Corps of Engineers turned a lagoon into the Intracoastal Waterway, before the jungle of palmetto palms and scrub brush was hacked away and groomed into the neat, orderly civilization that makes her long for yesteryear's Florida.

Poppi Mercier, the museum's executive director, calls it "a



Diane Benedetto (left) poses with her mother and her brother Buddy in a photograph dating from the 1920s. Photos courtesy of the Boca Raton Historical Society

primary resource book," a first-person account of history.

She worked with Diane for a year or so, shaping the older woman's voluminous written and recalled stories into book form. Photos from the Boca Raton Historical Society illustrate it, alongside Diane's own black-and-white sketches.

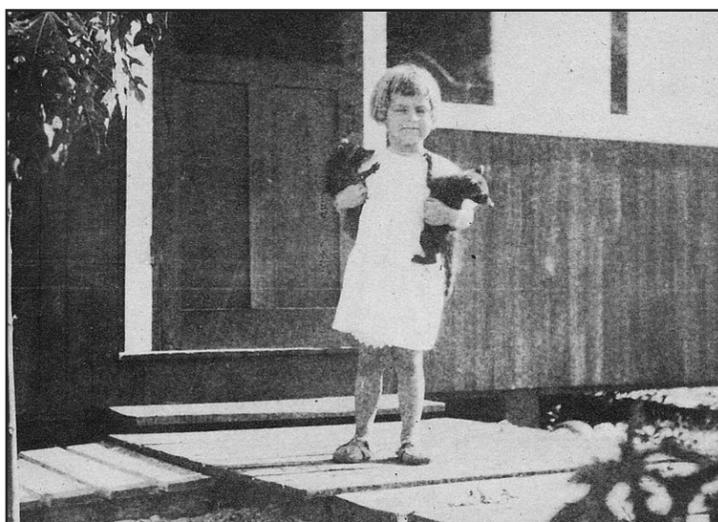
Paper dolls, pet raccoon

Childhood, then, was a time when little girls played with paper dolls snipped from catalogues; when the remedy for a sore throat was tying a poultice of mashed onions and kerosene around one's neck; when rum runners and bootleggers "ran rampant," as she writes, and townspeople gathered to watch after they were caught, their bottles smashed.

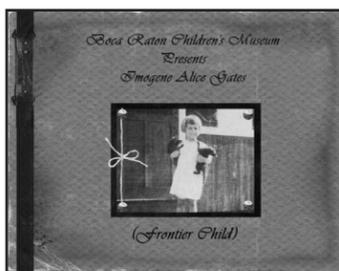
Diane writes about Pete, the half-tame raccoon that was her near-constant companion, and about riding on dirt roads in her father's Model-T Ford, bought for the then-grand sum of \$300.

She recalls the day Pete snatched a neighbor's lunch pail (chicken, which they both enjoyed) and tells of the neighbor who sent for a mail-order bride (a 300-pound mother of five, he soon learned).

From the rocking chair in the Children's Museum, she tells other stories, stories that didn't make it into the book. About filching nickels and dimes from milk bottles on front porches, after she and her parents, Harley and Harriet Gates, moved to Miami



A photograph of Diane Benedetto holding two baby raccoons was used for the cover of her book about growing up in early Boca Raton, *Frontier Child* (below).



following a freeze that killed the banana and lemon trees and ornamental plants on the family's 38-acre Palmetto Park Plantation.

"I would go to the store and buy candy," she says, with a wicked little smile. And she tells about her dancing days.

Showgirl days

"I did a little ballet, a little interpretive," she says of the career that led her to choose the name Diane. "I did Hawaiian. You name it. And I never had a lesson. I just went out and was a dancer."

She ticks off the venues: the Biltmore Hotel, Miami's Esquire Club, Lou Walter's Latin Quarter on Palm Island.

Her eyes twinkle as she describes the nicely naughty showgirl costumes she fashioned, down to their elaborate headdresses. One of her favorites was The Devil and the Virgin: half red horns and cape, half white dress and long white glove.

"She used to hang it on the

closet and scare me to death," says Tracy, and they both laugh.

Remnants of the past linger. The family's plantation gave its name to Palmetto Park Road. A family home is now a realty office; another became the former Wildflower Restaurant. The city of Boca Raton bought that now-vacant property, on the north side of Palmetto Park Road, in 2009, and seeks to develop it, according to a memo from the city manager's office, as "a significant attraction with an important connection to the city's downtown."

Memories of the past linger. "I was a child of the wilderness," Diane Benedetto says. "I remember my swing between two palm trees. Bamboo was growing all over the place, 50 feet into the sky, almost. And all the birds would come there. It's horrible now. It is. I don't think it's beautiful anymore. They've destroyed all the rocks on the beach and the cliffs where I used to do all my meditating as a teenager."

When it is time to leave the museum on this day, Tracy retrieves her grandmother's walker. Then she and Poppi Mercier, one on either side, assist the onetime dancer, the onetime wild child, in navigating the few front steps. And, just that quickly, the past recedes once more. ★

City seeks ideas, partners for Wildflower property development

By Margie Plunkett

Boca Raton is looking for public suggestions as well as letters of interest from potential developers on uses for the Wildflower property, a vacant piece of waterfront land the city

bought for \$7.5 million in 2009.

"This is a premier space and we really have to consider seriously what we'd like to do," said council member Michael Mullaugh at a workshop meeting last month.

The 2-acre property, on the

Intracoastal Waterway on the north side of Palmetto Park Road, is the former site of the Wildflower restaurant, which the city purchased with the intent to improve so that it fits with the city's "vision of a vibrant active waterfront destination." The city is seeking a use, including a public-private partnership, that will attract residents to it and the adjacent downtown area.

The intent is to keep the waterfront open to the public, demonstrate a connection to Silver Palm Park, have a pedestrian orientation and stand financially on its own, according to Deputy City Manager George Brown.

"This is a once-in-a-city's-lifetime opportunity to address what we want to do on our waterfront," said council member Anthony Majhess, suggesting a charrette to collect thoughts on the future of the Wildflower site. "It's a piece of land that can be used for other than bathing suit type recreation."

He said he has concerns on improvements like a restaurant, which the city's received an email about, and an expanded boat ramp.

"I would be supportive of something that is revenue producing, like a restaurant," Councilmember Susan Haynie said.

Mayor Susan Whelchel talked about the possibility of waterfront restaurant activities as an opportunity to enjoy with family and friends. To succeed, she said, the Wildflower use has to be a very strong revenue opportunity — which could lead to the purchase of additional properties to achieve a promenade.

The city is accepting letters of interest from anyone proposing to develop the Wildflower site. Both can be submitted by Aug. 31 via a link on Boca Raton's website — www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us/wildflower/. A public meeting will be set as early as September. ★

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Highland Beach

Ex-mayor moves to Boca after suing his condo association

By Steve Plunkett

Former Mayor Jim Newill is moving out of town five months after losing his re-election bid to a campaign engineered by his neighbors and former



Newill

supporters at Villa Costa condominiums. He bought his new condo in Trieste at Boca Raton from the brother of Mayor Bernard Featherman, the man who beat him at the polls March 8.

The reason Featherman's brother was selling: He and his wife were buying a unit in Villa Costa, where the new mayor and his wife also live.

Newill said his condo neighbors "forced me into a distress sale."

"It's all pertaining to a lawsuit against Villa Costa," Newill said, deferring further comment to his lawyers. "I don't want to say anything that could jeopardize my suit."

Daniel Featherman, the mayor's younger brother, said he did not know Newill was the buyer of his Trieste condo until late in the sale.

"You wouldn't believe something like this would happen," he said.

"It's like out of a movie, I guess," Bernard Featherman said.

The offer to buy was made by a real estate agent and a lawyer, the younger Featherman said; the first time he saw Newill's name was when an insurance agent came to inspect the sale.

"He himself was not at the settlement," Daniel Featherman said.

The falling-out at Villa Costa began in 2009 when Newill sued the condo association, as well as each board member individually, over the state of his penthouse unit.

"He claimed all sorts of things — improper construction, he claimed things about mold. What else did he claim? Just about everything," said Carl Feldman, president of the association.

Feldman was Newill's campaign treasurer in 2005 when Newill first ran for Town Commission and again in 2008 when he first ran for mayor. Retired Judge Joseph Colby, the board's vice president, was Newill's manager in 2008.

Feldman said he and Colby asked Newill to drop their names from the suit and just sue the condo. When Newill refused, Feldman said they shifted their allegiance to Bernard Featherman, the board's new secretary, who they thought was "more qualified" for the mayor's job.

Colby said Newill's handling of a flap over racist and off-color emails at Town Hall convinced him to look for

another candidate.

"We realized whatever Newill was doing was not going to be good for the town," Colby said.

Newill broke a 2-2 vote in January to discuss then-Town Manager Dale Sugerman's planned punishment of the town clerk for sending the emails, then recommended ordering Sugerman to rescind a one-month unpaid suspension or be suspended himself for insubordination. Sugerman was suspended for five months with pay until his contract expired. In April, a hearing officer decided a written reprimand was enough punishment for the town clerk.

Being the incumbent this year, Newill apparently felt he was a shoo-in, Feldman said.

"He refused to debate [Featherman] and he didn't put out much campaign literature. He didn't go to many condos," Feldman said.

Featherman took the opposite tack, even walking the beach in his blue blazer to meet voters, Feldman said.

Feldman said Newill's lawsuit is still pending, but no other owner at Villa Costa has complained about the building.

"In fact, the new fellow who bought his unit didn't find any mold," Feldman said.

He said he does not know Newill's reasons for leaving.

"No one in Town Hall seems to know why either," said Feldman, the newest member of the town's Planning Board.

Colby has been on the town's Board of Adjustment and Appeals since 2008, when Newill vouched for his appointment to the panel. He's now vice chairman. Bill Gross, another Villa Costa board member named in Newill's suit, just took a seat on the town's Financial Advisory Board.

Former Commissioner John Sorrelli said Newill was moving because of problems with his condo, plus losing the election was "a big disappointment."

"It's his own fault," Sorrelli said. "He didn't debate."

A certified public accountant, Newill and his wife bought their Villa Costa condo in December 2001. He later became chairman of the town's Financial Advisory Board and served on the condo board. Newill became a commissioner in 2005 and mayor in 2008. The Trieste is off Federal Highway north of Yamato Road.

"I certainly wish Jim Newill good wishes wherever he moves," Bernard Featherman said. He remembered being disappointed by Newill's abrupt departure from the commission chambers when the new mayor was sworn in.

"He gave his time and worked for the town, and I wanted to give him credit," Featherman said. "He just ran away from me." ★

Boca Festival Days

a party so big it spans a whole month

Engineered by the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, Boca Festival Days is a series of events that pair nonprofit members with for-profit members to raise money and awareness for charities.

Here's a list of what's going on:

Aug. 8, Martinis & Manicures, 6-9 p.m., Tippy Spa Salon, Royal Palm Place, 100 Plaza Real South, Suite J. Benefits Making Strides Against Cancer. Tickets: \$25 includes martinis, food, and mini manicure, or \$15 without manicure. Reservations: 333-1000.

Aug. 11, Cocktails with a Cause, 6-8 p.m., Blue Martini, Town Center, 6000 Glades Road, Ste C-1380. Benefits the Jewish Association for Residential Care. Tickets: \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door and includes appetizers, two drink tickets, a chance to win raffle prizes.

Aug. 12, Summer in the City Blue Hawaii, a Tribute to Elvis Presley, 7-9 p.m., Mizner Park Amphitheater. Come as an Elvis look-alike. Features a Las Vegas-type variety show. Bring blanket or chair. Free parking in garages. Refreshments available from nonprofit groups.

Aug. 13, Wine Country Safari, 6-9 p.m., Boca Raton Museum of Art School, 801 W. Palmetto Park Road. Benefits Twin Palms Center for the Disabled. Tickets: \$20 per person, \$35 per couple. 859-1883.

Aug. 13, Guided Tour of Historic Boca Raton Resort & Club by docents from Boca Raton Historical Society, 2-3:30 p.m. Boca Raton Resort & Club, 501 E. Camino Real. Tickets: \$15. Hotel valet fee: \$10. Reservations: 395-6766, Ext. 101.

Aug. 17, Party to the Max, 6-8 p.m., Max's Grille, 404 Plaza Real. Benefits Hospice by the Sea. Tickets: \$25 includes two free drinks and hors d'oeuvres. 395-5031 or www.hbts.org.

Aug. 18, Boomtime Boca: Boca Raton in the 1920s, exhibit, all day, Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail. 347-3900.

Aug. 18, Juried Art Exhibition, Pictures of Paradise, all day, Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Drive. 347-3900.

Aug. 18, Back to School Breakfast, 7:30-9 a.m., Boca Raton Bridge Hotel, 999 E. Camino Real. Special tribute to Maria Levix, executive director of the Schmidt Family Foundation. Tickets: \$30 in advance, \$40 at door. 391-7401.

Aug. 18, Celebrity Shake Up, 5-7 p.m., Morton's Steakhouse, 5050 Town Center Circle, Suite 219, Shops at Town Center. Benefits youth in foster care. Drinks, food, music and mingling. 470-8300.

Aug. 19, Boca's Ballroom Battle, 6-10 p.m., Boca Raton Resort & Club, 501 E. Camino Real. A local version of *Dancing with the Stars*. Benefits George Snow Scholarship Fund. Tickets: \$150-\$200. 347-6799.

Aug. 20, Back-to-School Skate Competition, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tim Huxhold Skate Park, 400 Crawford Blvd. \$10 for skater, free to spectators. 367-7001.

Aug. 20, Dancing in the Sky, 6-10 p.m., Boca Raton Bridge Hotel, 999 E. Camino Real. Benefits injured soldiers and veterans. Live music, food, raffles. \$25. 860-3173.

Aug. 22, So You think You Can Sing? 6-9 p.m., Dubliner, 435 Plaza Real in Mizner Park. Benefits Hospice of Palm Beach County. Tickets: \$20 (\$10 more of contestants who could win a \$250 cash prize). 988-7242.

Aug. 23, SLAM Table Tennis, 7 p.m., Bogart's Bar & Grille, 2nd floor, Cinemark 20, 3200 Airport Road. Social Ping Pong. Benefits Boca Raton Regional Hospital. 544-3044

Aug. 25, Habitat for Humanity 20th Birthday Celebration Hosted by Zavee, 6-7:30 p.m., Ovenella Pizza, 499 S. Federal Highway. Tickets: \$20-\$25. 819-6070, Ext. 203.

Aug. 27, Wine & All That Jazz, 7-9 p.m. Boca Raton Resort & Club, 501 E. Camino Real. More than 100 fine wines. Admission \$50, VIP tickets \$100 and must be purchased in advance. Parking, \$9. 395-4433.

Aug. 27, Playground Playdate Splash! 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail. Games, scavenger hunts and a drawing for prizes. 347-3900.

Aug. 27, Guided Tour of Historic Boca Raton Resort & Club by docents from Boca Raton Historical Society, 2-3:30 p.m. Boca Raton Resort & Club, 501 E. Camino Real. Tickets: \$15. Hotel valet fee: \$10. Reservations: 395-6766, Ext. 101.

Aug. 27, Boca Raton Regional Hospital Health and Wellness Expo, 9 a.m.-noon, Sandler Pavilion at the hospital, 701 NW 13th St., free screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, PSA (for men over 40), body mass index, CAR FIT for seniors. RSVP for biometric screenings: 955-3276. The Mobile MammoVan will provide digital mammograms to women over 40. Prescription is not necessary, but preregistration is. Call 955-4700, option 1 and 2.

Aug. 28, Boca Helping Hands Fifth Annual Bowling for Bread, 2-6 p.m., Strikes@Boca, 21046 Commercial Trail. Benefits Boca Helping Hands. Everyone is asked to bring nonperishable food items. 417-0913, Ext. 202.

Aug. 29, 26th Annual Boca Festival Days Exhibition Reception, 6-8 p.m., Wyndham Garden Hotel, 1950 Glades Road. In collaboration with the Boca Raton Chamber, the Artists' Guild of the Boca Raton Museum of Art features artwork of local south Florida artists coming together to promote local cultural growth. Complimentary refreshments and wine. 395-4433.

For more information, visit www.bocaratonchamber.com.

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Boca Raton

Undeveloped Ocean Strand figures in beach and parks budget

By Steve Plunkett

The city and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District plan to spend \$15,000 in the coming budget year at Ocean Strand, mostly to cut the grass.

It's the same amount that was set aside in the current fiscal year, which started Oct. 1. So far, only \$2,520 has been spent maintaining the grounds at the 15-acre undeveloped site, which straddles State Road A1A between Spanish River and Red Reef parks.

The number is dwarfed by the \$1.1 million the district would spend replacing the hammock boardwalk and paying for a science educator at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Red Reef Park and even tinier compared with the \$1.9 million budgeted to open and operate eight ball fields at the new

Countess de Hoernle Park off Spanish River Boulevard.

Beach and park commissioners on July 18 tentatively adopted a rollback rate of \$1.01 per \$1,000 of taxable value for fiscal 2012, which would generate the same taxes as the current year's 99 cents per \$1,000. A \$456 million decline in property values district-wide was partly offset by \$261 million in new construction, said Robert Langford, the district's executive director. The district's tax base is \$19 billion.

The first public hearing on the budget proposal will be 5:15 p.m. on Sept. 12.

Commissioners wondered whether they could save money by mimicking Spanish River Park and closing Red Reef Park on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. But park officials told them closing the park has not saved Boca

Raton a substantial sum. There is no need for gate attendants when Spanish River is closed, Recreation Services Director Mickey Gomez said, but seven lifeguards still patrol the beach.

Recreation Superintendent J.D. Varney said that when Spanish River Park is closed, city employees do maintenance work at other facilities that otherwise would be contracted out, saving about \$85,000 this year. Also, Red Reef Park has taken in an extra \$32,000 in parking fees on days Spanish River was closed, Varney said.

While no money is budgeted to build a park at Ocean Strand, consultant Curtis + Rogers Design Studio is developing a master plan for the controversial site. Commissioners asked the firm to determine what amenities are available at nearby parks to avoid

offering the same attractions. No public hearings on designs have been set.

The site was discussed at beach and park district and city meetings after a developer in late 2009 proposed putting a members-only cabana club on the unused site to augment a luxury hotel planned for downtown.

Neighbors were shocked to learn Boca Raton's comprehensive plan labels the parcel residential instead of recreational.

The city is working to amend the comprehensive plan. Meanwhile, a citizens group, Keep Your Boca Beaches Public, has sued to get a special election banning private clubs on public land on the barrier island. The city is appealing.

The beach and park district bought the Ocean Strand property in 1994 for \$11.9 million, but never developed it. ★

Boca Raton Museum of Art has a new director

Steven V. Maklansky began his new post as director of the Boca Raton Museum of Art in July.

Previously, Maklansky was the executive director at the Brevard Art Museum in Melbourne. Before coming to Florida, he was director of curatorial services for the Louisiana State Museum.

He was also assistant director of art and curator of

photographs at New Orleans Museum of Art. *The New Orleans Times Picayune* named his exhibition "Katrina Exposed," featuring more than 700 photographs of the storm's aftermath, Best Exhibition of the Year in 2006.

He has an undergraduate degree from Tulane University, his master's from New York University and is a graduate of the Getty Foundation's Museum Leadership Institute.

City council declined vote on tax rate

By Margie Plunkett

Boca Raton's city manager will submit his recommended preliminary tax rate to the county after the City Council declined to vote on a tax rate late in July.

City Manager Leif Ahnell recommended a tax rate of \$3.15 for \$1,000 of a home's assessed value on a budget that includes a proposed \$20 increase in the fire fee. Without the fire services assessment fee increase, the budget would have fallen \$1.6 million short.

The recommended rate would

mean an annual tax payment of \$21 total more to a homeowner with a taxable property value of \$300,000 than the \$3.08 rollback rate — the rate that would raise the same amount of revenue as last year. Going to the rollback rate would mean \$1 million more to the budget shortfall, Ahnell said. The preliminary tax rate is not yet final: It can be reduced, but cannot be raised.

"I'm not in the least bit interested in raising anyone's taxes, especially those in harm's way," said Mayor Susan Whelchel. "However, I need to know where we can get a million dollars or I need to know what we're not going to do next year." She and others also spoke out against dipping into reserves to cover expenses.

While council members said they had not reviewed the budget yet, Ahnell described it as "very plain," including no new programs, but with rising pension costs as well as rising health costs that will cost employees. There are opportunities to lower costs, but they include significant layoffs of employees, he said.

Faced with unknowns, including whether the town will assess the fire fee and where budget cuts or revenue will be found to bridge the current

deficit, council opted to go with no vote. The panel was divided on whether to submit a higher than anticipated tax rate — and then lower it as allowed by law when more information was available.

Council member Michael Mullaugh proposed a higher rate of \$3.31 to start to cover various possibilities, but with the intent of lowering it before budget adoption in October. "I would want to see us have some wiggle room," he said.

Council member Anthony Majhess' No.1 choice was a tax rate of \$3.25, which would balance the budget without the fire service assessment. Others argued that they didn't want to put the town's staff through the unnecessary work of setting up for a higher preliminary tax rate only to make changes come September.

Council member Connie Scott said she wanted exploration of alternative revenue generation options, such as sale of the executive golf course or annexation.

The budget discussion followed a lively meeting that welcomed both FAU dignitaries, celebrating their first medical school class of 64 students, and the magicJack professional women's soccer team. ★



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Along the Coast

New and old technologies contribute to storm readiness

By Steve Pike

The saying “Technology is great as long as it works,” couldn’t be more true than in the aftermath of a devastating storm or hurricane.

How do you spell relief? T-E-X-T. Indeed, texting might seem the bane of Western civilization to some people, but it could provide valuable information and even save lives in a post-hurricane environment.

The reason is as simple as stocking up on extra supplies during Florida hurricane season. That is, according to Kelly Layne Starling, spokesperson for AT&T’s south and west Florida markets, text messages go through faster than regular phone calls because they don’t take up as many network resources as a regular phone call.

“Texting has become such an important part of people’s lives, this is just one more example,” Starling said.

That includes citizens and emergency workers. The Ocean Ridge Police Department, for example, recently acquired cell phones that use text messaging.

“With text messaging you have a better chance of getting through the storm,” said Ocean Ridge Police Chief Chris Yannuzzi, who has worked through Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne in 2004 and Wilma in 2005. “I wouldn’t endorse any one product (his department uses Verizon), because a lot of it depends on how quickly the towers



Globalstar’s GSP-1700 satellite phone sells for around \$499.

can be repaired, even temporarily.”

While texting certainly is nothing new to most people, it ranks down on the list of post-storm communications alternatives. According to a Sachs/Mason Dixon poll released this past June, only 8 percent of Americans said they would rely on text messaging in a disaster. The poll, commissioned by Tallahassee-based National Hurricane Survival Initiative, reported more than half of Americans would rely on a cell phone or landline phone to communicate during and after a disaster.

The poll also said that 45 percent of Americans who currently belong to some kind of social network, such as Facebook or Twitter, would use it to communicate post-disaster. That sounds good, but again, one must remember that the electricity and cell towers needed to use the social networks might not be operational for days after a storm.

So what’s the next-best alternative? Although it’s more expensive than a smartphone or cell phone, a satellite phone is an effective way to communicate if all other lines of communication are down. Satellite phones could be particularly effective along the coastal areas of Palm Beach County that don’t have a lot of obstruction from high-rise buildings.

Satellite phones, such as Inmarsat’s handheld IsatPhone Pro, can be found for as low as \$549. Globalstar’s GSP-1700 satellite phone sells for around \$499, but the company says its network currently is operating at only 40 percent capacity.

The satellite phone of the future could be AT&T’s TerreStar Genus smartphone — touted as the world’s first integrated satellite and cellular smartphone. Selling for as low as \$799, service is available in the continental United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii and Alaska.

That’s the good news. The bad news is the TerreStar Genus smartphone currently is available only to government and business accounts.

The most interesting form of post-storm communication, however, might be among the oldest. That is, amateur radio — or ham radio, as it is best known.

Actually, when it comes to local ham radio operators and emergencies, there is nothing amateur about them. Members of the Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association (www.goldcoastrc.com/brara/home.htm) help at Red Cross shelters and hospitals.

Each member, according to BRARA President Nelson Winter of Hypoluxo, is trained in Amateur Radio Emergency Service by the Amateur Radio Relay League. ARES members also take courses taught by the Federal Emergency Management Administration, which teaches each one where he or she fits into the federal management system.

“What we do is coordinate with Palm Beach County,” Winter said. “The county is divided into four regions: North, Central, South and West. We have a coordinator who assigns people to various positions within the district. Our role is to be the link of communication of last resort. So when the telephones stop working and communications systems aren’t working, they [shelters and hospitals] can still communicate using an assigned amateur field operator.”

The field operator, Winter said, communicates directly to the county’s Emergency Operations Center. People who have radio scanners can listen in on the communications, but can’t communicate directly with the operator.

“When we get notice, we have all of our equipment ready to go,” Winter said. “We know what we’re supposed to do when we arrive and we know where we’re supposed to fit into the paradigm of the emergency management system.”



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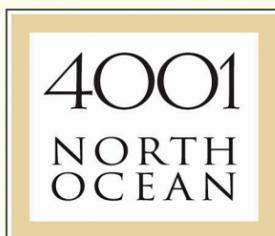
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Along the Coast

WATER:

Continued from page 1

by only a few drops.

Asher White and Jay Simpson, co-owners of Dolce Vita wine shop in Lake Worth, and Anne Marie Jeffrey, a Boynton Beach environmental science student specializing in water, judged the water.

Eight samples — one a “control” sample entered twice — were collected from each town hall in glass jars, labeled with a random three-digit code, and poured for the tasters into identical plastic cups.

Tasters sniffed, swirled, held the glasses up to the light and then tasted — swishing the water in their mouths before swallowing.

The results?

Boca Raton’s water was deemed most “easy to drink” with the highest score of 83 on a 100-point scale.

Deemed the worst, Delray Beach’s water scored only 46. Our water-collector was told to “let the water run” from the tap at Gulf Stream Town Hall, because it could be stale in the pipes.

Taster Simpson said it had a “rusty flavor” and smelled “musty” as well. White found the flavor “almost muddy,” but with a “nice minerality.” The aroma had “dirty undertones” that were off-putting, he said. Compared to all the others, Jeffrey called this water “horrible.” A “lot of chlorine” is used in it, she thought. “You can smell the chlorine,” too, she said.

Ocean Ridge’s water (which is purchased from Boynton Beach) “tastes of chlorine and plastic,” Simpson said. Scoring it only 57, tasters also noted the “cloudy” appearance. “It tastes like filtered water on a boat,” White said. Jeffrey guessed the city maybe used a “chemical” filtering process.

Manalapan’s water, given a 63 by the group, also was “not perfectly clear,” Simpson said, and it had a “mineral back finish.” White didn’t like it, and described it as “tastes like sand, but not dirty.” It had “more of an earthy smell — almost iron-like.” Jeffrey called it a “hard minerals smell.”

Lantana landed in the middle, with 69. All the judges detected a high chlorine smell in this water, and an “aftertaste of chlorine,” according to Simpson. White also noted a “little salty” taste. Jeffrey deemed it had “the worst smell” of all the waters.

The northernmost town, South Palm Beach, gets its water from West Palm Beach. It scored a 73, with the appearance weighing in heavy. Tasters liked the crystal clarity — White called it “nice, in the light.” The flavor, however had a “disinfected” taste, Jeffrey said. White

How we tested the waters

Samples were collected four hours before the tasting in clean glass jars from unfiltered taps at each town or city hall. Eight samples were collected. With the exception of Boca Raton Town Hall, all water was collected on the barrier island.

The first water tasted was entered again under a different number, poured from a different jar. Tasters were given identical cups and were not permitted to discuss their scores.

The sampled towns were not revealed until the tasting was concluded.

— Jan Norris



Asher White, one of the owners of Dolce Vita wine shop in Lake Worth, checks out water samples during a recent tasting. Photo by Tim Stepien

called it “metallic,” and Simpson found it had “a hint of plastic on the back end.”

Highland Beach, with a score of 82, was only one point away from tying with the winner. It was Simpson’s favorite; he said it had a “very clear appearance, with no smell. Maybe a tiny bit of plastic taste at the end. All in all, quite good.” White noted some “sediment, but clarity” in the

glass. He found this sample’s taste “very salty” with a “kind of manufactured aroma.” Jeffrey thought the clarity “good,” but the taste “mediocre.”

Boca Raton’s water, at 83, was Simpson’s favorite, though he noted “some particles” in the sample. “It has a bit of salt and savory flavor, and some minerality” and he found that pleasant.

White noted the clarity, but also the “dull” finish, “no sparkle,” he said.

This one is “easy to drink,” and “fresh” tasting, he said. He sniffed and said the nose had some “limestone; mild minerals” in it. He called it the “most balanced of all the waters.” Jeffrey called the clarity “pretty good,” with a “disinfected, acidic smell — almost like reverse osmosis.” She noted a slight “aftertaste.”

While the test was purely subjective, the tasters took their jobs seriously, giving time and thought to the samples before scoring. All commented on the differences that were, to them, easily discernable.

“You can definitely taste differences,” Simpson said. He was a student of cooking teacher Peter Kump at the James Beard Cooking School and co-owns Dolce Vita. White, a wine aficionado, frequently conducts wine tastings at Dolce Vita, following the same format as the water test.

Jeffrey has tasted hundreds of waters and continues to learn about it as part of her studies of the environment.

All said they drink filtered or bottled water — nothing directly from a municipal tap. ★

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Public water treatments can be a matter of taste

By Steve Plunkett

Town Commissioner Louis DeStefano has a one-word opinion of the water Manalapan's advanced reverse-osmosis plant produces: "undrinkable."

"If you care about your health, you can't drink this water," DeStefano said, noting he has a personal reverse-osmosis device in his home to re-treat the municipal water and make it more palatable.

Vice Mayor Robert Evans offered a totally opposite review at the commission's late June workshop.

"I notice a difference between 20 years ago and now," Evans said. "I think our water's better."

Mayor Pro Tem Donald Brennan wondered if the town's aging pipes contributed to the taste of the water reaching DeStefano's house, one of the farthest from the water plant on the mainland.

DeStefano tempered his remarks the following day, saying Manalapan's water is "safe," but not to his liking. Commissioners routinely drink bottled water at their meetings.



Photo by Tim Stepien

Manalapan and Highland Beach are two coastal communities with their own water plants. Coastal Boca Raton and Delray Beach draw from large municipal plants on the mainland. Smaller towns rely on contracts with nearby municipalities.

Boynton Beach, for instance, charges Ocean Ridge the same as in-city customers under a 1931 agreement that separated the coastal town from what was then the town of Boynton. The city also provides water, at a 25 percent outside-the-city surcharge, to

The costs of water, by municipality

What coastal residents pay each month for 7,000 gallons of water:

- Manalapan:** \$48.92
- South Palm Beach:** \$40.06 from West Palm Beach
- Highland Beach:** \$30.05
- Hypoluxo Island/Lantana:** \$27.15
- Gulf Stream annexed pocket:** \$26.05 from Boynton Beach
- Briny Breezes:** \$26.05 from Boynton Beach
- Delray Beach:** \$24.47
- Ocean Ridge:** \$20.84 from Boynton Beach
- Boca Raton:** \$17.12
- Gulf Stream:** * Town has more than 30 customer types based on lot size and impervious area, each type has four tiers based on gallons used. Gulf Stream buys water from Delray Beach.

Briny Breezes and the county pocket that Gulf Stream annexed this year. The rest of Gulf Stream gets its water from Delray Beach, redistributed under a complicated fee structure with more than 30 categories, each with four rate tiers.

South Palm Beach pays a 25 percent nonresidential surcharge as well for service from West Palm Beach. The town must also obey once-a-week lawn-watering restrictions West Palm Beach ordered in June to save dwindling water reserves and ward off saltwater intrusion.

Manalapan gives Hypoluxo, on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway, a relative nonresidential bargain, imposing only a 20 percent surcharge. Hypoluxo customers outnumber town water customers almost 2-to-1.

Highland Beach water is all the product of reverse osmosis, in which brackish water from the 1,200-foot-deep Floridan Aquifer is forced through membranes to remove the salt. Because the town uses no water from the shallower and more drought-sensitive Biscayne Aquifer, it is not subject to lawn-watering restrictions.

Manalapan, on the other hand, gives its customers a blend of roughly 60 percent reverse-osmosis water and 40 percent "fresh water" from its Biscayne Aquifer plant, partly to reduce corrosion of water pipes and also to cut the high electric bills of reverse osmosis.

A town having its own water supply is no guarantee of taste or reliability. Highland Beach, for example, had a pipe burst inside its plant on July 5, causing the town to shut its system and connect to Delray Beach's for 12 hours of repairs. A leaking pipe flange caused a similar disruption for a couple hours July 22.

"We were getting quite a few calls," Public Works Director Jack Lee told Highland Beach commissioners when the pipe burst. "The water that we get from Delray is perfectly safe, it's potable water. It does have a little yellow tint to it, and that's because they don't have a reverse-osmosis water plant like we do."

Earlier in that day's commission meeting, resident Lou Stern also commented on Highland Beach's water.

"Even though the water and the reports on the water are totally wonderful, most people that I know drink bottled water. They do not like the taste [of municipal water], they do not like the smell," Stern said. ★

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Paws Up for Pets

Doggie DNA files will help curb owners' bad behavior

As a pet behaviorist who travels all over North America to help people better understand why dogs and cats do what they do, the conversation invariably shifts toward what I refer to as the 3 Pet P's: pee, poop and puke.

Yes, I can arm you with medical and behavior facts and strategies to keep your pet's body functions humming harmoniously. I know the ins and outs of feline hairballs and can explain the best ways to get a young pup to potty on command. And, yes, I can offer you a mini-chemistry lesson on gobbling up protein

molecules found in pet poo by using the right protein enzymatic cleaning product.

But, I remain baffled by why some people choose to ignore, overlook and even justify why they do not dutifully bag their dog's doo-doo on walks. Well, pet poop perpetrators, your days are numbered. In what seems to be a spinoff of those popular CSI TV shows in which forensic investigators nab the bad guy (or gal) thanks to DNA evidence, multi-dwelling developments are also fighting back against those who refuse to bend down and pick up their dog's

"deposits" on walks.

Permit me to introduce you to Jim Simpson. He is president of Bio Pet Vet Labs in Knoxville, Tenn. Until recently, his lab gathered blood work for veterinary clinics and confirmed DNA on dogs for professional breeders. But because of the growing incidents of people's refusing to scoop the poop, his company has unleashed a thriving new division — called PooPrints (www.poopprints.com) — and established an international dog poop DNA database.

Since every dog has his own unique DNA, here's the new scoop on poop: Rules enforcers can now match the feces with the right Fido.

You can't argue with doggy DNA. That's good news for pet-welcoming condo and apartment property managers who have been waging a losing battle with poop piling up on lawns, sidewalks and even inside elevators.

A pioneer in this poop war is Debbie Logan, property manager at Twin Ponds in



More and more communities are taking action against owners who allow their dogs to leave deposits on lawns and walkways.

Nashua, N.H. A lifelong pet lover who brings her dog, Saphia, to work, Logan spent a year searching for an affordable strategy to nab poop violators at her complex that features 330 units and 250 dogs ranging from chihuahuas to Great Danes.

"We are one of the few places that do not have a breed restriction or a weight limit on dogs and we don't require a pet deposit," says Logan. "But in the past couple of years, the poop on our property has been piling up. It was becoming a health hazard."

A medium-sized dog compiles up to 276 pounds of poop per year, according to Simpson. Logan estimated about 5 percent of her residents with dogs were habitual violators. That equals more than 3,300 pounds of unclaimed poop in one year.

In addition, poop left lingering packs a health risk. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dog poop can easily become infected with parasites (such as hookworms, ringworms, tape worms and salmonella), causing serious kidney disorders, intestinal illness, cramps and diarrhea in people who come in contact with it.

So, her association revised its rules for residents, requiring dog owners to pay a one-time \$50 fee to cover the cost of having their dogs'

DNA on file. Surprisingly, only two residents "barked" in protest, but the overwhelming majority applauded the rule.

According to Logan, she has had to contend with only two repeat offenders who tried to blame their children who failed to bag the doo-doo on pet walks. Each paid \$100 fines per offense.

"Our place is now clean and our residents are happy," proclaims Logan. "We enjoy 100-percent occupancy and even have a waiting list. It's a shame we had to resort to this, but we had no other choice."

Matthew Brickman, president of the Village of Abacoa Condo Association in Jupiter, heard about Logan's success in curbing the poop problem. Starting in August, all residents with dogs at this 450-unit development must pay a one-time fee of \$200 to cover the cost of having their dogs' DNA analyzed and on file. Come Sept. 1, violators of this policy will be subjected to fines of \$100 a day up to \$1,000.

Brickman, who works as a professional court mediator, said his condo board was running out of viable options.

"We were spending \$15,000 to \$18,000 a year cleaning up dog messes on our sidewalks, lawns and even in hallways, inside elevators and stairwells," he said. "We considered banning all pets or spending \$1 million on surveillance cameras, but then we heard about this doggy DNA program."

Brickman is bracing for a vocal protest, but believes the new policy will keep homeowners' dues from rising and will stave off a viable health threat to residents.

"We're not condo dictators. We don't want to have to make these types of rules," he said. "But when you don't be responsible for your actions, we do have to step in."

In this case, I guess it is far better to step in and take action, than to step in it and be forced to rid your shoes of the mess and smell. Your thoughts? Share them with me by emailing Arden@fourleggedlife.com.

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PETS:

Continued from page 1

neurologist to authorize her dog, Boots, as an ESA dog to help her contend with her seizure disorder for which she wears a medical bracelet. Although the rules of development permit dogs less than 30 pounds, Boots, a Labrador retriever-shepherd mix, weighs 47 pounds.

Despite spending \$800 on professional dog training, Valente says she went through a "living hell" from some neighbors and board members, who yelled and even cursed at her. She says she twice found dead rats left on her driveway. She and her husband, John, who requires kidney dialysis, no longer use the community's clubhouse, pool or other amenities because of backlash by some, but she feels grateful to have Boots.

"Boots is so sweet. When I walk into the house, she greets me, runs to her basket to bring me a stuffed toy and sits beside me," says Valente. "I could be having the worst day and Boots will come over, lean into me and I become relaxed."

Advocates sue condos

In 2010, Valente won a lawsuit filed against her by the condo association, which was ordered to pay court costs, according to her attorney, Marcy LaHart of Gainesville, who operates a website called www.floridaanimallawyer.com.

When *The Coastal Star* phoned West Lakes' property management for comment, an office employee said, "Because of the legal ramifications, I'm not allowed to respond. I have no comment." She then hung up the phone.

"In South Florida in particular, it seems that some condo boards have nothing better to worry about than determining if someone is faking an emotional or mental disability," says LaHart. "So far, I've won every case and my clients have been able to keep their animals in their homes. As lawyers like me are winning cases all over the country, homeowner associations are realizing that they need to be more understanding and accepting of people who have disabilities."

Attorney Cara Thomas represents condo associations in legal disputes with residents. Under the Florida and federal fair housing acts, Thomas says a person is entitled to an ESA dog to "ameliorate a physical or mental impairment," provided the need is stated in writing by the individual's physician.

"The difficulty we have is that we are not physicians and thus, cannot diagnose any owner," says Thomas. "If they can provide evidence to support that they do suffer from a disability and need that dog, we will work with the owner and the board. But a board will file a lawsuit if it



David Shapiro sits with his mixed lab Lexi II on the balcony of their condo. Lexi was deemed to be an Emotional Support Animal by Shapiro's doctor. **Photo by Tim Stepien**

feels it is not a legitimate claim and that the resident is abusing the situation."

Training not required of ESA dogs

Confusion about a dog's designation is on the rise. And misidentifying ESA dogs as service dogs angers Carol Roquemore, founder of Canine Support Teams, a nonprofit group based in Menifee, Calif., that trains and provides service dogs to people with all kinds of disabilities except blindness.

Roquemore, who was diagnosed with polio as a child, works to match service dogs with people with physical and emotional disabilities. She estimates that it takes about \$20,000 and 18 months of intensive training to prepare each service dog.

"These ESA dogs are untrained and some haven't even had basic obedience training," says Roquemore. "They are hurting those of us who provide genuine service dogs who perform remarkable things for individuals and help them have a quality of life. Unfortunately, people get confused and think these ESA dogs are service dogs, but there is no policing of these ESA dogs and the law is very loosely

written. All someone needs is a prescription from their doctor. Yes, that does upset me very much. Physicians need to be educated and ESA dogs need to be properly trained."

Under the law, an emotional support animal does not require any training, but also under the law, is not allowed in supermarkets, restaurants, other places of businesses that do not permit pets.

Only service dogs are able to accompany owners to businesses and on buses, trains and planes.

Shay Maimoni, a professional dog trainer and owner of Woof Dogs (www.woofdogs.com), who lives in Boca Raton, is happy that some people with ESA-designated dogs are enrolling them in his training classes.

"I would like to see a standardized form of training for these types of dogs to make sure these dogs are trained at the highest level," says Maimoni. "To me, an ESA dog, temperament-wise, must be confident and calm, good with all kinds of people, all kinds of dogs and able to adapt to different environments. I can tell you that some of these ESA pets are regarded as real treasures by their owners who are coping with some form of

emotional disability."

Dog fights can be expensive

When it comes to being able to live with a beloved pet, money isn't an obstacle for people like David Shapiro, who lives in the Palmsea condominium community in South Palm Beach.

Shapiro initially purchased a condo in 1992, when he was a full-time teacher in New York City. When he retired in 2005, he headed to Palmsea to live permanently — with his dog, Lexi.

At that time, the HOA rules enforced the no-pet policy and Shapiro said he spent \$20,000 in boarding and legal fees to keep his dog.

When Lexi passed away, the loss took an emotional toll on Shapiro. Someone informed him about the fair housing law and he obtained a pet prescription from his physician to adopt Lexi II, a Labrador retriever mix, as an ESA dog who now lives with him. "I invested about \$3,000 in her for training and she has definitely helped me deal with loneliness, sleeplessness and

anxiety," says Shapiro.

Palmsea board member Harvey Brown said his community still enforces the no-dog policy at the 121-unit property, but recognizes the exceptions in ESA dogs like Lexi II.

"What can we do? We don't have a choice but to allow these dogs — the law requires us," says Brown. "I will say that David's dog is very well-behaved and we don't have any problems with him or his dog."

Shapiro was so inspired by the benefits of ESA dogs that he did something he has never done before.

"I am not an activist or an advocate by nature, but this so took hold of me that I was willing to do anything and go anywhere to talk about the benefits of these emotional support animals," says Shapiro. "At one time, I even became vice president of a group called Citizens for Pets in Condos."

"With Lexi here, I feel much more relaxed and I don't have those periods of anxiety or depression as I used to have. She really has brought out the best in me." ★



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10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Karen Robinson

Back in the 1960s, Karen Robinson thought about joining the Peace Corps, but put the idea on the back burner. While considering retirement from her school counseling job in 2007, she saw an ad for the Peace Corps in the Doylestown, Pa., newspaper that brought the idea to the forefront.

"The tag line said '5 percent of our volunteers are 50 plus,' she recalled. "When I saw that I said, 'bingo.' Now that is a good reason to retire."

Robinson, 64, said she loved being a school counselor, especially for the primary grades. But it was time for a change.

"I was able to take my teaching and counseling experience and skills and use them in Vanuatu where I was a teacher trainer in the Peace Corps," she said. "I developed and facilitated workshops for primary teachers in the area of literacy."

She worked with a boy in Vanuatu, a volcanic island chain in the Pacific Ocean, between Fiji and Australia.

"When I met him as a third-grader he didn't even know what letter his name began with," she said. "He never completed a year of school."

Now he attends school every day, and the week she left Vanuatu, he called her and said, "Karen, *hemi aoraet sapos mi ridim wan buk long yu?* (Karen, is it OK if I read a story to you?)"

"I was so excited, because he now thinks of himself as a reader," she said from her Highland Beach condo. "I am looking forward to seeing him when I return in September."

She has memories of her days on the islands, including the time she stayed in a bamboo hut and watched the World Cup on a large TV powered by a generator.

Robinson, who is divorced, taught in several states before settling in Pennsylvania, where she started her school counseling career.

"My last assignment was at a school where I got to not only use my counseling skills, but also my dance background," she said. "I worked closely with the chorus director and choreographed both the winter and spring concerts each year."

— Mary Thurwachter



Karen Robinson wears a dress was made for her by the aunt of the boy she tutored. The pattern was made from the Vanuatu flag. The walking stick was a gift from teachers of SE Ambrym in appreciation for the five-day literacy workshop she ran. **Photo by Tim Stepien**

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school?

A. Rochester, N.Y. I went to the University of Arizona for two years and then transferred to the University of Michigan, where I earned my bachelor's and then a master's in guidance and counseling.

Q. What are some highlights of your professional life?

A. One of my most memorable professional highlights is having worked with a student from the time he was in kindergarten until I left for the Peace Corps. He is now going into 11th grade. He was the type of student that drove his teachers nuts and I understood that, but I also developed a relationship with him that was built on

trust. And so even after he graduated to middle school and then high school, I continued to meet with him once a week to help him stay organized and complete his work. I was also able to communicate with many of his teachers, some of whom were then able to see him as an individual, understanding both his positive qualities as well as the challenging behaviors. He is now one of the top football players, going into 11th grade and doing well in all areas. When he was in eighth grade, his English teacher discovered his ability to write amazing poetry. Three of his poems and his picture helped decorate my room during the time I was in Peace Corps. He was and is a constant reminder of how important it is to find the

good in each individual, even when it is challenging.

Q. How did you choose to make your home in Highland Beach?

A. My parents bought here in the '70s and my sister and I have held on to it. This is the first time that I have spent more than a couple of weeks at a time here. When I was still a full-time counselor in Pennsylvania, I could only come here during school vacation time.

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

A. The ocean and the library.

Q. Where are you going next (with the Peace Corps)?

A. I have plans to visit my

family and friends in Vanuatu in September. In October I am traveling to Guanajuato, Mexico, to take a Spanish immersion course. After that I would like to volunteer again, I'm just not sure where or with which organization; perhaps the Peace Corps, United Nations or Save the Children.

Q. What is the last book you read?

A. *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett. I would recommend it. Now I am reading *Bel Canto*, by Ann Patchett.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. Anything that involves movement: dance, yoga, tai chi, swimming and walks on the beach.

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

A. I really like all types of music, anything I can move to, whether fast or slow. I like to listen to world music, whether from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean.

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

A. There are three sayings that I think of when making a decision. *The Serenity Prayer*: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

Barry Stevens: Don't push the river. It flows by itself.

Lao Tzu: The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

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

A. I am who I am today because of all my previous experiences and relationships. It is because of this combination of people who have crossed my path and the experiences that I have had that I continue and will continue to make the life decisions that I make.

What's next? Aside from my trip to Vanuatu and Spanish immersion course in Guanajuato, I really don't know what is next, the unknown can be very unsettling and yet exciting.



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Note: Events are current as of 7/29. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 6

Saturday - 8/6 - 5th Annual Juried Art Exhibition - Pictures of Paradise at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Exhibit continues through 8/18. Hours: M-F 8 am-10 pm, Sat. 8 am-5 pm, Sun./Holidays 10 am-5 pm. Free. 347-3900 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

8/6 - Art Exhibit: Boomtime Boca: Boca Raton in the 1920s - Presented by the Boca Raton Historical Society at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. This exhibit explores the impact of architect Addison Mizner, and how the era radically changed the character and reputation of Boca Raton. Exhibit continues through 8/18. Hours: M-F 8 am-10 pm, Sat. 8 am-5 pm, Sun./Holidays 10 am-5 pm. Free. 347-3900 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

8/6 - Art Exhibit: at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. The Thrill of Challenge of Photography by award winning fine art photographer Alan Feinberg. Exhibit runs through 10/25. M-Th: 10 am-8 pm, F: 10 am-4 pm, Sat.: 9 am-1 pm. Free. 278-5455 or www.highlandbeachlibrary.org.

8/6 - COBRA Youth Roller Hockey Registration at Sugar Sand Park Field House, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Learn the fundamentals of the game of roller hockey, sportsmanship, team play and make new friends. Ages 5-16 (age as of 2/28/12). Registration held again 8/20. 9 am-noon. \$95/resident, \$118.75/non-resident. 347-3908.

8/6 - COBRA Youth Basketball Registration at Sugar Sand Park Field House, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Learn the fundamentals of basketball and improving the personal growth of participants. Ages 5-8 (age as of 11/1 of year playing). Registration held again 8/20. 9 am-noon. \$75/resident, \$93.75/non-resident. 347-3916.

8/6 - Zumba Class - Saturdays at the Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., Boca Raton. 9:30-10:30 am. Per class: \$15/resident, \$18.75/non-resident; Per 4 weeks: \$50/residents, \$63/non-resident; Per 8 weeks: \$80/resident, \$100/non-resident. Contact Nicole Rosen (954) 471-6425 or www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us.

8/6 - Tiny Turtles - Parents and kids can spend some one-on-one time learning how sea turtles are similar to us at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. For ages 3-4 with an adult. 9:30-10:15 am. \$4/members, \$6/non-members, free for accompanying adults. Reservations required: 391-8110 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

8/6 - Exhibit: Brain Teasers 2 at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Runs through 9/5/11. M-F: 9 am-6 pm, Weekends/holidays: 10 am-5 pm. \$5. 347-3912.

8/6 - Exhibit: Newman Robot Collection at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. M-F: 9 am-6 pm, Weekends/holidays: 10 am-5 pm. \$5. 347-3912.

8/6 - Drop-In Story time - Music, stories, fun finger plays and action songs stimulate learning at this weekly program at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. For children of all ages accompanied by an adult. Held again 8/13, 20, 27 & 9/3. 10-10:30 am. Free. 393-7968 or www.bocalibrary.org.

8/6 - Judo Class - Saturdays at the Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., Boca Raton. For all ages. 10 am-noon. Per month: \$21.50/resident, \$27/non-resident. 393-7807 or www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us.

8/6 - Science Stories at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. For ages 5 and up. Held weekly on Saturday. 11:30 am. Free. 347-3912 or www.scienceexplorium.org.

8/6 - 60th Annual All Florida Juried Competition and Exhibition at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. As the state's oldest juried competition, over the years, the Museum's All Florida has introduced the work of thousands of Florida artists working in all media. Exhibit runs through 9/11. T-F 10 am-5 pm, Sat. & Sun. Noon-5 pm. First Wed. of every month 10 am-9 pm. \$8/

adults, \$6/seniors, \$4/students with ID, free/children 12 and under and museum members. 392-2500.

8/6 - Exhibition: Time Flies When You're Having Fun- Honoring Arthur Jaffe at FAU's Wimberly Library, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Features a timeline of Jaffe's life, photographs, ephemera, and artists' books and broadsides that artists have donated in honor of Jaffe's retirement. Exhibit runs through 8/10. Library hours: M-R 8 am-midnight; F: 8 am-6 pm; Sat.: Noon-6 pm; Sun.: Noon-midnight. Free. 297-0455 or www.jaffecollection.org.

8/6 - Hands-On Class: Let's Get Cheesy! at Whole Foods, 1400 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Instructors David Arnold, Specialty Cheese Expert & Buyer and Abigail Nagorski, Lifestyle Center culinary instructor & certified nutritionist. Create four great summer recipes, each highlighting a different cheese. RSVP required. 1-2 pm. \$10. Pre-register at 447-0000 or www.wholefoods.com.

8/6 - Joan Miro, Surreal Prints is presented as part of the Meet a Master, Create a Masterpiece series at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. For grades 3-5. 1-2:30 pm. \$5/non-members; free/members. Reservations required. 392-2500 Ext. 106 or www.bocamuseum.org.

8/6-7 - Yoga Workout at the Beach - Held every Saturday and Sunday at Red Reef Park West, 1221 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Classes are held on the grass overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway. 10-11 am. \$15/residents, \$19/non-residents per class, or 60 day membership (unlimited classes) for \$65/residents, \$81.25/non-residents. 393-7807.

8/6-7 - Science Demonstrations at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. For ages 5 and up. Held weekly 3:30 pm. Free. 347-3912.

AUGUST 7-13

Sunday - 8/7 - Yoga Wake-up at the Beach - Held every Sunday at Spanish River Park, 3001 N. State Road A1A, Boca Raton. 8-9 am. \$15/residents, \$19/non-residents per class, or 60 day membership (unlimited classes) for \$65/residents, \$81.25/non-residents. 393-7807.

8/7 - Kabbalah & Coffee at Chabad of East Boca Raton, 120 NE 1st Ave., Boca Raton. The best part of waking up is coffee in your cup and Kabbalah in your "kop" (head in Yiddish). The class can be viewed by logging on to <http://torahcafe.com/chassidic-heritage-series.pho>. Held every Sunday 10-11:30 am. Free. 417-7797.

8/7 - Circle Painting is presented as part of the ARTful Adventure Sunday series at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Features art workshops or live performances by talented actors, musicians or dancers. 2 pm. Free with paid museum admission. 392-2500.

Monday - 8/8 - Jazzercise/Body Sculpting at Sugar Sand Park Field House, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Sculpted arms, a strong core, tight glutes, and firm legs are the focus of this challenging 50-minute muscle toning workouts that feature a creative combination of weight training and stretching. Held every M, W & F. First class is free. 8 classes: \$56/residents, \$70/non-residents. 16 classes: \$96/residents, \$120/non-residents. 8:45-9:35 am. 347-3950.

8/8 - Jazzercise/Light at Sugar Sand Park Field House, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Held every M, W & F. First class is free. 8 classes: \$56/residents, \$70/non-residents. 16 classes: \$96/residents, \$120/non-residents. 9:40-10:30 am. 347-3950.

8/8 - Gap Program at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., Boca Raton. For children grades kindergarten to 5th grade. Days filled with "funtastic" activities during school holidays and teacher workdays. Program dates: 6/3, 9 & 10, 9/29, 10/28, 11/23 & 25, 12/23, 26-30, 1/2-6 & 9, 3/19-23 & 26, 4/6, 6/8, 14-15. Registration begins 2 weeks prior to program date for City/Beach & Park District Residents. 7:30 am-5:30 pm. \$30/day resident, \$43/day non-resident. 393-7888 or www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us.

8/8 - Boca Beachcombing - Meet for an introductory talk about seashells and the animals the make them at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton, then caravan over to Red



NCCI Holdings employees Lindsay Kaye, Beth Miller and Irania Acevedo Montello and an adoptable pup pose during a Cutest Pet Contest in Boca Raton. The event raised \$1,000 for three shelters — The Tri-County Humane Society, the Humane Society of Broward County and Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League. Judges agonized over the photos employees submitted of their pets to find the cutest five critters in each category. Photo provided

Reef Park, 1400 N. State Road A1A, Boca Raton, to walk the beach in search of ocean treasures. Open to all ages. 9:30-11 am. \$5/ members, \$8/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required: 391-8110.

8/8 - Exhibition - IBM Boca Raton: A Centennial Celebration is presented by IBM Boca Raton and the Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum at Town Hall, 71 N. Federal Hwy., Boca Raton. Exhibit runs through 9/30. M-F, 10 am-4 pm. Free. 395-6766, Ext. 100 or www.bocahistory.org.

8/8 - Mah-Jongg at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Intermediate and advanced. Held again 8/15 & 22. 12:30-1:30 pm. Free. 278-5455 or www.ci.highland-beach.fl.us.

8/8 - Chair Massage at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. John Sampson, licensed therapist, offers 10-minute sessions. Held every Monday. 1 pm. \$10/session. 278-5455.

8/8 - Yoga Sunset at the Beach - Held every Monday at Spanish River Park, 3001 N. State Road A1A, Boca Raton. Cash will not be accepted on-site. 6:30-7:30 pm. \$15/residents, \$19/non-residents per class, or 60 day membership (unlimited classes) for \$65/residents, \$81.25/non-residents. 393-7807 or www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us.

8/8 - Meditation Mondays at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. 7 pm. Free. 278-5455.

8/8-12 - Singing on Stage "Masters" workshop at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. For ages 10-18. Students learn how the voice is used on stage without microphones in the Bel canto method of opera and classic musical theater. Five-day session held nightly through 8/12. 7-8:30 pm. \$120/resident; \$150/non-resident. 347-3900.

Tuesday - 8/9 - Seining the Lagoon at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Explore the grasses and flats of the Intracoastal Waterway behind Gumbo Limbo. Ages 10 to adult, children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5/members, \$8/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required: 391-8110 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

8/9 - Tai Chi Class at Lynn Regional Cancer Institute, 701 NW 13th St., Boca Raton. Held every Tuesday. 2-3 pm. Free. 955-5406 or www.brhh.com.

8/9 - Small Fry Storytime for ages 3 and up at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Held every Tuesday. Register one week in advance for each program. 4 pm. Free. 278-5455.

8/9 - Advanced Tai Chi Class - Tuesdays at the Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., Boca Raton. Sessions available as 8 or 12 classes. 5:45-6:45 pm. 8 classes: \$48/resident, \$60/non-resident; 12 classes: \$66/resident, \$82/non-resident. 393-7807.

8/9 - Count of Monte Cristo by Alex Dumas is presented as part of Teen Book Club at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. For ages 13-17. Receive a free copy of the book at the time of required registration. 6:30-8 pm. Free. 393-7968 or www.bocalibrary.org.

8/9 - Manhattan Harmony, from Disco

to Doo-Wop to R&B and Rock 'n' Roll, 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the Pavilion Grille, Stonegate Bank Building Atrium, 301 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. \$10 cover includes a house drink. 912-0000

Wednesday - 8/10 - Current events discussion group - Led by David Yarosh at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. 10:30 am. Free. 278-5455 or www.ci.highland-beach.fl.us.

8/10 - Scrabble at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. 12:30-4 pm. 278-5455.

8/10 - Art Film - The Battleship Potemkin (1925 - NR) at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Eighth annual series celebrating silent film from the early 20th century cinema. Held again 8/13. 2 pm. Free with paid museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, free for children 12 and under and members. 392-2500 or www.bocamuseum.org.

8/10 - Tony Vino & Company - Presented as part of the Jazz Bossa & Blues Live at the Top of the Bridge series at Carmen's Restaurant At the Top of the Bridge, 999 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. 7-10:30 pm. \$10/person. 886-4570.

8/10 - Judo Class - Wednesdays at the Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., Boca Raton. Mixed ages and ranks: 6:30-8 pm; Advanced: 8-9 pm. Per month: \$21.50/resident, \$27/non-resident. 393-7807.

8/10 - Community Cabaret - Calling all singers, dancers, musicians and stand-up comedians to the Willow Theatre at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Tr., Boca Raton. Performers must register in advance. Box office hours: T-F, 10 am-1 pm & 5-8 pm; Sat. 1-5 pm and 1 hour prior to shows. 7:30 pm. Admission: \$2. 347-3900.

8/10-12 - Registration & "Boutique Days" for the Fall 2011 semester at School of Boca Ballet Theatre, 7630 NW 6th Ave.,

Boca Raton. Representatives from the Shape Shop will be selling class uniforms, which are now mandatory. Fall semester begins 8/15. Class schedule and tuition information available at www.bocaballet.org or 995-0709.

8/10-14 - Six Years at the Caldwell Theatre, Count de Hoerle Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Show runs through 9/4. W-Sat. 8 pm; Wed. & Sun. 2 pm. Tickets \$38-\$50, depending upon seating and date of performance; Full time students \$10. 241-7432.

Thursday - 8/11 - Drop-In Story time - Music, stories, fun finger plays and action songs stimulate learning at this program at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. For children of all ages accompanied by an adult. Held again 8/18, 25, & 9/1. 10-10:30 am. Free. 393-7968.

8/11 - Lunch 'N Learn - Presented by Chabad of East Boca Raton at Cuisine by Silvia, Royal Palm Place, 141 Via Naranjas, Suite 45B, Boca Raton. Textual study of the weekly Torah portion with delicious dairy lunch. Noon-1 pm. 361-3939.

8/11 - Beginners Yoga at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Held every Thursday. 2:30 pm. \$10. 278-5455.

8/11 - COBRA Start Smart Football at Sugar Sand Park Field House, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Program teaches children the basic motor skills necessary to play organized football while they work one-on-one and spend quality time with their parents. Ages 4-5. Seven-week sessions held Thursday through 10/6 (No class 9/1 & 9/29). 3:30-4:15 pm. \$60/resident, \$75/non-resident. 347-3916.

8/11 - Craft Crew: Sundae, Sundaes & Games Galore at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 N.W. Boca Raton Blvd. For ages 9-14. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. 393-7968.

8/11 - Thursday Movie Classics: Alice

SCHOOL UNIFORM INITIATIVE

The School Uniform Initiative is a partner of the Community Back to School Bash, Inc. that provides school supplies and uniforms to needy school children in Palm Beach County. Please donate new or gently used uniforms at the businesses listed below:

Boca Raton
RBC Bank, 1401 N. Federal Highway
RBC Bank, 2255 Glades Road, Suite 138W

Boynton Beach
Jewish Community Center, 8500 Jog Road
RBC Bank, 600 North Congress Avenue

Jupiter
Jupiter Recreation Center, 200 Military Trail
RBC Bank, 620 West Indiantown Road

Lake Worth
Cricket Cleaners, 6346 Lantana Road
Cricket Cleaners, 5905 Highway 441
Canal Animal Hospital, 501 24th Avenue North

Palm Beach
Cricket Cleaners
361 South County Road

Palm Beach Gardens
Jewish Community Center, 4803 PGA Boulevard
Palm Beach Gardens Recreation Center,
4404 Burns Road
RBC Bank, 2875 PGA Boulevard, Suite 200
RBC Bank, 5070 PGA Boulevard, Suite 100

Riviera Beach
Police Department, City Hall, Blue Heron Boulevard

Town of Lake Clarke Shores
Town Hall, 1701 Barbados Road

Wellington Recreation- Wellington
Wellington Community Center,
12150 West Forest Hill Blvd.
Village Park, 11700 Pierson Road

West Palm Beach
Leapin'Lizards, 416 Clematis Street
Rock Camp at G-Star School, 2030 Congress Ave.
Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley Law Firm,
21139 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard
South Olive Park 325 Summa Street

Palm Beach County
Walgreens
Also collecting school supplies

For more information call
Karen Wilkerson at 561-478-4115
To donate or check locations go to
www.backtoschoolbashpb.org

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Adams at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. 7:30 pm. \$1 admission includes popcorn and a beverage. Tickets: 347-3948.

Friday - 8/12 - Sand Casting at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Collect shells on the beach in Red Reef Park and make a mold in the sand and make a sandy shell-covered wall hanging. Meet at Gumbo Limbo and caravan to Red Reef Park. Ages 7-14 with an adult. 10-11 am. \$7/members, \$10/non-members. Reservations: 391-8110.

8/12 - Movie Time at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Come and enjoy a new movie every week. Held every Friday. 1 pm. Free. 278-5455.

8/12 - Eyes to the Skies with the professional-grade 16-inch Meade LX Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope at the Children's Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. This informal event is held in the parking lot (weather permitting). Telescope will be out for at least one hour after the scheduled start time. Note: Stars must be visible for the telescope to align. 7 pm. Free. 347-3912.

8/12-28 - The Marvelous Land of Oz - Sol Children Theatre Performing Arts Camp presentation at Olympic Heights Fine Arts Theatre, 20101 Lyons Road, Boca Raton. F-Sat.: 7 pm; Sat.-Sun.: 2 pm. Opening night (8/12) private premiere, \$15/adults, \$10/age 11 and younger; Other performances \$12/adults, \$8/age 11 and younger. 447-8829.

Saturday - 8/13 - Little Wonders at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Introduce children to plants and animals around them with a hike, crafts and stories. For children ages 3 & 4, accompanied by an adult. 9:30-10:15 am. \$5/members, \$8/non-members - per child. Reservations: 391-8110.

8/13 - Shrek Forever After (PG) - Presented as part of Tween Movie Mania at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 N.W. Boca Raton Blvd. For ages 9-12. Includes free pizza and drinks. Noon-2 pm. Free. 393-7968 or www.bocalibrary.org.

8/13 - 2011 Bon Festival - Celebrate this uplifting festival at The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. Event is inspired by Obon, Japan's traditional three-day holiday honoring ancestors and thanking them for the quality of life enjoyed by the living. The evening features taiko drum performances, traditional Japanese folk dancing and a street fair with games and vendor booths. Admission: \$15/adults, \$6/children 4-17, free/museum members and children 3 and under. 495-0233 or www.morikami.org.

8/13 - Concert: Ken Medema - Presented as part of the Summer Concert Series at First Congregational Church UCC of Fort Lauderdale, 2501 NE 30th St., Fort Lauderdale. Nationally known singer, songwriter, pianist, synthesist, storyteller and performer, Ken Medema will present an outstanding inspirational event, using piano and percussion. 7:30 pm. \$10. 954-563-4271 or www.uccftl.org.

AUGUST 14-20

Sunday - 8/14 - Weekend Movie Madness: Nanny McPhee (PG) at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Rated G. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. 11 am. \$1 admission includes popcorn and a beverage. Ticket box office: 347-3948.

8/16 - FAU Fanfest - Florida Atlantic University Football Head Coach Howard Schnellenberger and his defending Sun Belt Conference and New Orleans Bowl Champion team will host FAU's 8th annual Fanfest beginning at noon. Meet and receive autographs from FAU football players and coaches, as well as members of the FAU volleyball team, and men's and women's soccer teams. The first preseason scrimmage for the FAU football team will begin at 2 p.m. Free. Bring the family for a day of football and fun at the FAU Track and Field Complex, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton Campus. 1-866-FAU-OWLS.

8/16 - FAU Astronomical Observatory - Public viewing day observations at FAU's Boca Raton Campus, Science & Engineering Building, #43, 4th floor, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Night viewings will be held on the 1st Friday (8 pm) and 3rd Tuesday

(11 am-1 pm) of each month. 11 am. Free. 297-STAR or http://physics.fau.edu/observatory/observatory.html.

Wednesday - 8/17 - Art Film - Speedy (1928 - NR) at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Eighth annual series celebrating silent film from the early twentieth century cinema. Held again 8/20. 2 pm. Free with paid museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, free for children 12 and under and museum members. 392-2500 or www.bocamuseum.org.

8/17 - Concert: Randi Fishenfeld - "Tornado on the Violin" at the Highland Beach Library Community Room, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach. 5 pm. Free. 278-5455, www.highlandbeachlibrary.org

8/17 - Davis & Dow - Presented as part of the Jazz Bossa & Blues Live at the Top of the Bridge series at Carmen's Restaurant At the Top of the Bridge, 999 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. 7-10:30 pm. \$10/person. 886-4570 or www.bocaratonbridgehotel.com.

Thursday - 8/18 - Craft Time: Paint and Shake a Picture for ages 4-9 at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Held the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month. 4 pm. Free. 278-5455.

8/18 - Wine Dinner at Carmen's Restaurant At the Top of the Bridge, 999 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. Hosted by Wine Connoisseur Frank Reider, Author of "Wines of Passion: The Best of South America". 7-9 pm. \$69/person. 368-9500 or www.bocaratonbridgehotel.com.

Saturday - 8/13 - Middle School Dance Party at the Sugar Sand Field House, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Features a live DJ and free raffles. Presented by the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District & The City of Boca Raton Recreational Services Department. Once students have entered, they must stay in the building until the dance is over. School ID, report card, or other proof of attending a middle school is required. 7:30-10 pm. Admission \$5. 347-3908 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

8/20 - Concert: Let It Be - A Tribute to the Beatles - Presented as part of the Music @ Mizner: A Summer Tribute to the Legends Series at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 8 pm. Free. 393-7703.

AUGUST 21-27

Sunday - 8/21 - COBRA Start Smart Basketball at Sugar Sand Park Field House, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Program teaches children the basic motor skills necessary to play organized basketball while they work one-on-one and spend quality time with their parents. Ages 3-5. Seven-week sessions held Sundays through 10/9 (No class 9/4). 10-10:45 am. \$60/resident, \$75/non-resident. 347-3916 or www.sugarsandpark.org.

8/21 - Open House at the Boca Raton Museum Art School, 801 W. Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton. Visit the school, meet the teachers and find that perfect class that will ignite your desire to create. 12:30 pm. Free. 392-2500 or www.bocamuseum.org.

Tuesday - 8/23 - Toddler Tales at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. Delightful stories, songs and puppets that teach the love of books to children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For ages up to 3 years. Registration required. 10-10:30 am. Free. 393-7968 or www.bocalibrary.org.

8/23 - The Weight of Silence by Heather Gudenkauf presented as part of the Book Club discussion by the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. Held 4th Tuesday of each month. 10:30 am. Free. 393-7968.

Wednesday - 8/24 - Super Tales for 3-5's at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 N.W. Boca Raton Blvd. Stories, songs and crafts for children 3-5 years old. Child attends independently - parents remain in the YS area. Registration required. Held again 8/31. 10-10:30 am. Free. 393-7968.

8/24 - Art Film - Cyrano de Bergerac (1925 - NR) at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Eighth annual series celebrating silent film from the early twentieth century cinema. Held again 8/27. 2 pm. Free with paid Museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, free for children 12 and under and museum members. 392-2500 or www.bocamuseum.org.

8/24 - The Steve Ahern Band -

Municipal Meetings

8/2 & 9/6 - Highland Beach - First Tuesday of each month at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 S. Ocean Blvd. 1:30 pm. Agenda available at www.ci.highland-beach.fl.us.

8/23 - Boca Raton - Second & fourth Tuesday of each month at Boca Raton City Hall, 201 W. Palmetto Park Road. 6 pm. Agenda available at www.ci.boca-raton.fl.us. Meeting scheduled for 8/9 has been canceled (summer).

Presented as part of the Jazz Bossa & Blues Live at the Top of the Bridge series at Carmen's Restaurant At the Top of the Bridge, 999 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. 7-10:30 pm. \$10/person. 886-4570.

Friday - 8/26 - Wine Tastings at Carmen's Restaurant at the Top of the Bridge, 999 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. Hosted by Wine Connoisseur Frank Reider, Author of "Wines of Passion: The Best of South America". 6-8 pm. \$30/person. 368-9500 or www.bocaratonbridgehotel.com.

8/26 - An Unforgettable Evening for the Red Cross at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, 225 NE Mizner Blvd., Suite 100, Boca Raton. An evening of exceptional food and award winning wine to benefit the Red Cross. Proceeds benefit the Red Cross Chapter in Boca Raton. 7-9 pm. \$130/person (not including tax & gratuity). 392-6746 or www.ruthschris.com

8/27 - Playground Playdate Splash at

Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Come cool off on a hot summer day with your friends! Enjoy games, activities, scavenger hunts, and a drawing for prizes! (Kids may get wet). 11 am-12:30 pm. Free. 347-3900 or www.SugarSandPark.org.

8/27 - Concert: UV - A Tribute to U2 - Presented as part of the Music @ Mizner: A Summer Tribute to the Legends Series at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 8 pm. Free. 393-7703.

AUGUST 28-SEPT. 3

Monday - 8/29 - Boca Beachcombing - Meet for an introductory talk about seashells and the animals the make them at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton, then caravan over to Red Reef Park, 1400 N. State Road A1A, Boca Raton, to walk the beach in search of ocean treasures. Open to all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult. 3:30-5 pm. \$5/

members, \$8/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required: 391-8110 or www.gumbolimbo.org.

Tuesday - 8/30 - Seining the Lagoon at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Explore the grasses and flats of the Intracoastal Waterway behind Gumbo Limbo. Ages 10 to adult, children must be accompanied by an adult. 3:30-5 pm. \$5/members, \$8/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required: 391-8110.

8/30 - Wine Tasting Gala - at The Fresh Market, 100 W. Camino Real, Boca Raton. More than 50 wines will be available for sampling. Hors d'oeuvres including prime rib, shrimp cocktail and distinctive cheese will be served. Donations will directly benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Greater Palm Beach County Chapter. 7-9 pm. \$30. 686-7701.

Wednesday - 8/31 - Art Film - City Lights (1931 - NR) at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Eighth annual series celebrating silent film from the early 20th century cinema. Free with paid museum admission: \$8 adults, \$6 seniors, free for children 12 and under and museum members. 392-2500.

8/31 - Jazz Bossa & Blues Live at the Top of the Bridge series at Carmen's Restaurant At the Top of the Bridge, 999 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton. 7-10:30 pm. \$10/person. 886-4570.

Obituaries

Ann Matlack Greene

By Liz Best

BOCA RATON — All of Ann Greene's friends knew that her favorite color was pink, but this "The Lady in Pink" was also known and loved for her warmth, generosity and gentle demeanor.

Mrs. Greene, of Boca Raton, died July 14 at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. A native of Lake Worth, Mrs. Greene was a charter member of the Debbie Rand Memorial Service League and chaired its very first Charity Ball in 1963. Her old friend and fellow member of the service league, Joan Wargo, remembers it well.

The theme of the ball was "April Showers Polo Ball" and it was held at the Boca Raton Resort and Club. Mrs. Greene brought it all together with her quiet flair for the dramatic.

"When she walked into the room you knew she was there," said Wargo. "She was very eloquent, very good-looking, a great dramatic ...



but she was also very, very quiet."

She and her first husband, the late Robert Matlack, were among the original residents at Royal Palm Yacht and County Club in Boca Raton. Not surprisingly, their home was affectionately known as the "Pink Palace."

An avid golfer, Mrs. Greene could hit the ball a mile, according to unofficial reports. While the distance might be embellished, Wargo can testify to her friend's skill on the links.

"Oh, she was good."

In addition to Matlack, Mrs. Greene is preceded in death by her husband, Paul Greene. She is survived by a daughter, Terry Warren of Columbus, Ohio.

A funeral service was held on July 19 at Kraeer Funeral Home in Boca Raton. She was interred at Boca Raton Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in her memory be made to the Debbie Rand Memorial Service League at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, 800 Meadows Road, Boca Raton, FL 33486.

Dr. Seymour R. Strauss

By Mary Thurwachter

HIGHLAND BEACH — Dubbed "The Cultural Ambassador of Highland Beach," Dr. Seymour R. Strauss was well known and admired. He was a frequent visitor to the town's library, a regular at town council meetings and a passionate promoter of the Lyric Chamber Orchestra.

Dr. Strauss, 94, died July 27 in Oceanside, N.Y., after a battle with brain cancer.

Ruth Stevens, a friend of 40 years who founded the Lyric Chamber Orchestra, said Dr. Strauss fought hard for the orchestra and was responsible for bringing the organization to Highland Beach.

"This is a tremendous loss to the orchestra and to Highland Beach," Stevens said. "He was a dentist by trade and a talented sculptor. He played the viola when he was young."

Mari Suarez, director of the Highland Beach Library, said Dr. Strauss came to the library

two or three times a week, always wearing his trademark beret.

"He donated several of his sculptures to the library," she said.

"He had a never-ending optimism," Suarez said. "When he wanted something, he wouldn't give up until he got it."

He also had a very good sense of humor, she said.

"He was Jewish, but would go to Catholic Church (St. Lucy's) every week," Suarez said. "He said the Jesuits paid for his education, after all. He went to Loyola University."

Dr. Strauss was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and was a veteran of World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and received a Purple Heart.

He practiced dentistry in Oceanside, N.Y., for many years before he and his wife retired to Florida.

Dr. Strauss is survived by his wife, Dorothy, who has played in the Lyric Chamber since it began; two children, Richard

Strauss, a dentist and patent attorney in Oceanside, N.Y., and Barbara Neuerman of Chicago; three grandchildren; one great grandson; and two brothers, Jack Strauss of Berea, Ky., and Col. Raymond Strauss of Chapel Hill, N.C.

His brother, Michael Strauss, a long-time sports writer at *The New York Times* and *The Palm Beach Daily News*, preceded him in death.

A gathering of family and friends was held in Dr. Strauss's honor on July 30 in Oceanside, N.Y.

The first performance of the Lyric in the upcoming season will be a memorial to Dr. Strauss, although the date has not yet been announced.

Donations in Dr. Strauss's name may be made to the Lyric Chamber Orchestra (www.lcobh.org) or to St. Lucy's Catholic Church in Highland Beach, where the Lyric Chamber Orchestra played.

Summer Arts

Morikami exhibition highlights contributions of women to Japanese ceramics

The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens is one of Palm Beach County's most interesting cultural outposts, and it's playing host through October to an exhibit that tells us something exceptional about that country's skill in artistic creation.

More importantly, it tells us something about who is doing the creating.

"Japanese contemporary ceramics are the best and most advanced in the world, at least in my opinion," said Veljko Dujin, the Morikami's curator of collections. "The state of ceramics in Japan is really spectacular. You have thousands of really good potters, and among them are hundreds of women who are doing as good a job as the men, if not better."

Through Oct. 2, the Morikami is hosting *Soaring Voices: Recent Ceramics by Women From Japan*, a traveling show of 87 works by 25 women, running the gamut from practical to pure flights of imagination.

"It's all over the map. The exhibit is divided into five sections, and in the first one, you actually see functional objects that you could possibly use," Dujin said. "And then there are sheer sculptures."

Dujin said many of the artists featured in the exhibit are well-known at home, and production by female ceramicists is highly sought-after by collectors. Much of this upsurge in work by women artists came starting in the 1950s, after Japan's economy had finally begun to recover from the devastation of World War II.

Help from the Japanese government, which was interested in preserving the nation's living cultural heritage, was crucial, he said. So was foreign interest, which had revived as well in the years after the war's end. And although women had been part of family pottery-making concerns for generations, it wasn't until the 1950s that women began to step out on their own as artists in clay.



ABOVE: *Cornucopia 04-Y'IV* (2004), by Etsuko Tashima



LEFT: *Bible of the White Sand* (1989), by Takako Araki

"Several of these artists use very innovative techniques," Dujin said, which only adds to the breadth of what he called a "first-class exhibit." *Soaring Voices* has been on an American tour since August 2009, and travels next to the Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Soaring Voices is showing at the Morikami along with *Catching Air: Kites of Japan*, a collection of varied kites from the Morikami's permanent collection (also through Oct. 2), as well as an exhibit of rabbit-related artwork for 2011, the Year of the Rabbit in the Japanese calendar, which uses the Chinese zodiac.

The museum in Delray Beach is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors and \$7 for students. Call 495-0233 or visit www.morikami.org.

The Caldwell Theatre has been exploring the first half of the 20th century this summer, with the world premiere in July of Michael McKeever's play *Stuff*, the true story of the Collyer brothers, privileged New Yorkers who became recluses in the 1920s and died in 1947 in their Harlem

are familiar South Florida acting faces Gregg Weiner, Natasha Sherritt and David Perez-Ribada.

Six Years opens Aug. 10 and runs through Sept. 4 at the Caldwell at 7901 N. Federal Highway in Boca Raton. Shows are 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, with 2 p.m. matinees Wednesday and Sunday. Tickets range from \$38-\$50, or just \$10 for students with ID. Call 241-7432 or visit www.caldwelltheatre.com.

Also this month: Keith Paulson-Thorp's music series at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Delray Beach wraps its 2010-11 season on Aug. 21, with a concert

by Camerata del Re, the church's resident Baroque music ensemble. It's an all-German program featuring 17th- and 18th-century music by J.C.F. Fischer, Ernst Eichner, Heinrich Schütz, Samuel Scheidt, Karl Toeschi, Johann Adolf Hasse, Friedrich Wilhelm Rust and Johann Rosenmüller. Tickets for the 4 p.m. concert are \$18 and \$15. Call 278-6003 or visit www.stpaulsdelray.org.



Greg Stepanich is the editor/founder of the *Palm Beach ArtsPaper*, available online www.palmbeachartspaper.com.

mansion, which was filled with more than 100 tons of junk the two men had hoarded over the decades. This month, the Boca Raton playhouse moves to the next 25 years with a production of *Six Years*, a play by Sharr White whose five scenes take a look at American history through the device of a marriage, seen first in 1949, and continuing in six-year intervals through 1973. *Six Years* premiered in March 2006 at the Humana Festival of New American Plays in Louisville, Ky.

Six Years opens with the return of Phil Granger, a World War II veteran, to his Missouri hometown, six years after he left for the war. His wife Meredith and family have not heard from him since 1944, but she has waited for him, and they try to pick up where they left off. The following scenes explore the rise of suburbia, the Kennedy years, the turmoil of the late 1960s, and the return of POWs from the Vietnam War.

Cast in the show are Margery Lowe as Meredith and Todd Allen Durkin as Phil. Durkin, a Carbone Award winner in 2010 for GableStage's *Blasted*, is making his debut at the Caldwell. Also in the show, directed by Clive Cholerton,

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 YOUR GUIDE TO SOUTH FLORIDA CULTURE OCTOBER 2010

Theater! Music! Art! Books! Dance! And Film! Our critics pick the best of the best for the coming months. Pages 4-33

INSIDE THE SEASON IN JAZZ: If you know where to look, the art form. Page 12

THE SEASON IN BOOKS: Games who's coming to Miami's book list? Page 25

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InterFaith21

WXEL documentary focuses on Women's Circles

Our own Women's Circle's sisters are about to become TV celebrities.

Yes, in living color. Sister Lorraine Ryan and Sister Joan Carusillo, co-founders of the Boynton Beach nonprofit that serves low-income women, are "starring" in a new documentary with imminent WXEL public-TV air dates. There are possibilities too for Miami-based WPBT public television and the global Catholic Television Network EWTN.

Women's Circle — A Spiritual Life of Giving, is succinctly described at the Palm Beach County Film and Television Commission website: "30-minute documentary on Women's Circle, a group of nuns who provide help to the

unemployed, uneducated and often underfed of Boynton Beach."

The feature kicks off with a compelling look at the host city's history, and "its new vibrancy after years of dormancy." Soon it segues to a fascinating interview of the sisters by Father John D'Mello, the distinguished parochial vicar of St. Ann's Church in West Palm Beach.

With him the ladies share their amazing personal and professional stories, such as Sister Lorraine's 15-year ministry with the poor in India. "We have a very big goal," she says of her Medical Mission Sisters, "of trying in fact to be the presence of Christ the Healer wherever we are, as well as to bring joy into this world, as Mary did by



Sisters Joan Carusillo (left) and Lorraine Ryan star in a WXEL documentary about Women's Circles. Photo by C.B. Hanif

birthing Jesus."

The sisters tell of their journey from the duplex shared with the Community Caring Center, to the Women's Circle's own 912 SE Fourth St. duplex, thanks largely to farsighted city leaders' interest-free mortgage. Contrasted with the students gathered around the sole computer in an early computer

class is the current roomful of donated computers.

Sister Joan, of the Sisters of Holy Cross, shares success stories such as Haitian-American Marie Desir, who got her start at Women's Circle, and who despite limited English skills and many trials along the way, is realizing her desire to become a licensed practical

nurse, evidenced by her recent scholarship from the Soroptimist Club of Boca Raton. To help impoverished women "help not only themselves and their families, but to raise the level of the community while doing that," is one of the Women's Circle's goals, the Holy Cross sister says.

Shot in WXEL's Boynton Beach studios, *Women's Circle — A Spiritual Life of Giving* is the kind of local programming of which the station and its viewers would like to see more. It's also the kind of story that appeals to the Catholic network's international following, suggesting to others worldwide: "We, too, can do that!"

Masterfully guiding it all is Paul Gionfriddo, a veteran public TV documentary producer who has worked in Hollywood and New York City. His latest project is a musical with students at nearby Toussaint L'Overture High School.

The sisters' dedication is legend, along with that of the staff and other volunteers. Thus the 2011 Circle of Hope Gala benefit drew 250 to Benvenuto's Restaurant last February and raised \$104,790 for the Women's Circle.

As volunteers look forward to another season-highlight gala, Feb. 20, 2012, it's great to see the good work get broader recognition. Seeing the sisters in the bright studio lights will be more than a big treat for the Women's Circle beneficiaries and fans. It also will introduce the program to an even bigger audience.

Already, a local newscast of the Women's Circle's move to its new digs has become a popular YouTube video. *Women's Circle — A Spiritual Life of Giving* not only is must-see TV. It's a fitting tribute to two ladies, and a ton of volunteers, who avoid the spotlight except to champion the women the Women's Circle serves.



C.B. Hanif is a writer and inter-religious affairs consultant. Find him at www.interfaith21.com.

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RIGHT: The 6,900-square-foot unit is a raw space and the new owners (from Belgium) already have engaged the building's architect to finish the interior.

BELOW: The average terrace at One Thousand Ocean is 1,000 square feet.



Boca Raton's \$10.4 million ocean view

Photography by Tim Stepien



CONDO:

Continued from page 1

this April, they were ready.”

Because of a confidentiality agreement, Adžem couldn't release the names of the buyers.

“For five days, they looked at all the luxury condos in Boca and when we walked in here, she and her husband were enthralled,” Adžem said.

The penthouse has ocean vistas to the east and overlooks the Boca Inlet, and also it offers views to the south all the way to Lighthouse Point. Western views are also water views of the Inlet as well as views that go past Boca Raton.

Following her clients' decision to buy came a week of negotiations. The unit was listed for \$11.75 million, Adžem said.

The owners have three other homes outside the United States, and this unit with 6,900 square feet of interior space will be their holiday getaway, she said.

“They are attracted to the Boca lifestyle, Adžem said. “It's high end, but casual. Boca is more kid friendly; it's safe and less formal. The penthouse is private and has a wide exposure to the ocean and the city. It just spoke to them.”

The 52-unit condominium on the premises of the Boca Raton Resort and Club is on



The 52-unit One Thousand Ocean is on the premises of the Boca Raton Resort and Club.

the beach and just north of the Inlet. It has lots going for it, Adžem said, noting the sales to prove it. The actual dates that the units sold are confidential, Adžem said, but she was a member of the building's original sales team for pre-development units for Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group through August 2010, and estimates the following timetable: Pre-construction sales were launched in December 2006, with 40 percent sold in 2007. Sales slowed in 2008 and 2009, but picked up in 2010.

“My team closed on 32 units through the end of August 2010,” she said. “The cheapest unit was \$2.75 million. The most expensive was a sale that included three units totaling \$12 million.”

The location, amenities and design have been hugely attractive to all One Thousand

Ocean residents, she said. “Also, people are tired of (competing condominiums') heavy Mediterranean design because those units tend to be darker and have lower ceilings — the maximum is nine feet.”

In contrast, the penthouse unit has 14-foot ceilings; it is wide open, sunny and bright. “No other building has terraces like these. Most other condominium units have terraces that are, at most, 100 square feet. At One Thousand Ocean, the average terrace is 1,000 square feet.”

Since the One Thousand Ocean penthouse unit is raw, the new owners are working with Boca Raton-based Peter Stromberg, the architect of One Thousand Ocean, to complete the interiors.

Although penthouses in general are attractive, the fact that they are often unfinished can overwhelm prospective owners, Adžem said. But

that does not appear to be a problem at One Thousand Ocean. “I have two great prospects for the \$15 million (neighboring) Sky penthouse. I'm working on it!”

Resold units on lower floors are holding their values, too, she said. “I did three resales in the building and they all came out higher than what their owners originally paid for them. Presently, there are no resales and I get many calls for them.”

(A down payment of \$1.3 million on a \$6.5 million unit was a forfeiture, a unit connected to a Bernard Madoff employee, Annette Bongiorno.)

Jamie Telchin, president of development for Luxury Resorts & Hotels, said that in 2004, the Boca resort implemented a major overhaul, with \$100 million put into the main campus. The beach club was also a major project — a \$115 million investment.

Although the real estate boom was coming to an end at that time, and his company put on hold a dozen or so other projects, it was decided to proceed with One Thousand Ocean. “It was the right decision. Since March, we've closed on seven units for more than \$35 million, with approximately \$3 million to close soon — they all closed very quickly and with the exception of one, they

were all cash sales.”

Seventy-five percent of the 52 residences are sold and closed as of June, he adds.

“There's a lot of pent-up demand. It's a great building in a great location, just adjacent to the beautifully renovated beach club, with services that have allowed us to be the success that we are.”

The project was more than \$200 million including the land. A \$137 million construction loan on One Thousand Ocean with Wells Fargo was paid off last August. “It was a big loan with enough sales to pay it off,” Telchin said.

The seven-story One Thousand Ocean condominium includes the penthouses, a collection of residences, and one- and two-story beach villas. The residences and beach villas average 4,000 square feet under air; the penthouse collection provides an average of approximately 7,220 air-conditioned square feet. Prices range from about \$3 million to \$15 million.

Another of his company's projects, which will be across the street on Ocean, includes a 36-unit condominium with boat slips averaging \$2 million. “People who didn't buy at One Thousand Ocean will open up potential buyers already in our database,” Telchin said. ★



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