Hundreds of Catholics in southern, coastal Palm Beach County call St. Lucy Catholic Church in Highland Beach their home church. The small house of worship on A1A is wedged between towering condominiums that sprouted up around it since it was founded in 1968. This year, the church celebrates its golden jubilee, marking half a century of providing spiritual guidance, respite and comfort, in keeping with the parish mission statement: “Our community welcomes all, judges none, embraces and protects the vulnerable, and seeks to...”

The Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of Palm Beach, presided over the Rite of Installation of the Rev. Father D. Brian Horgan (far right) on June 10 as the fifth pastor in the history of St. Lucy Catholic Church. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

See ST. LUCY on page 12

By Janis Fontaine

St. Lucy Catholic Church marks 50 years

Carved from an overgrown tract of mangroves, church has grown into centerpiece of Highland Beach

By Cheryl Blackerby

Sargassum species perplexes but doesn’t worry experts, who see no threat to nesting turtles

Sargassum, the brown seaweed that is tossed onto South Florida’s beaches by Atlantic waves, has always been a mixed blessing: Environmentalists love it, beachgoers loathe it. But this year, the piles of seaweed have presented a mystery that has scientists baffled. It’s a new species of sargassum with larger leaves and heavier tangled mats than in years past. Where did this new sargassum come from and how did it get here? Scientists believe it didn’t take the usual path on the Gulf Stream. It doesn’t seem to be carrying as many tiny shrimp and crabs that made the old seaweed species sources of food for seabirds. And, most perplexing, this year there have been far fewer man-of-war...

See SARGASSUM on page 18

Mounds of sargassum, in places more than 30 feet wide and more than a foot deep, pile up on the beach in Ocean Ridge in mid-June. Since then some of the seaweed decomposed but then more arrived on the tide. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

See VALUES on page 19

Highland Beach

Slow approval process in Boca, rules are the same for small, large firms. Page 8

Irma lessons What we learned in hurricane’s aftermath. Page 10

The ArtsPaper Bamboo Room redux Lake Worth nightclub reincarnated as Phoenix Charity Bar. Page AT5

Surf’s up for kids Maui Goodbeer’s program helps kids build self-confidence. Page AT1

Property values hit new highs

Highland Beach tax roll up 3.63%, Boca rises 6.32%

By Mary Hladky

For the seventh year in a row, the taxable value of Palm Beach County properties has surged to a new high. After making up the losses last year from the Great Recession, countywide taxable property values jumped 6.3 percent to $187.8 billion this year, according to the county Property Appraiser’s Office. That’s well above the pre-recession taxable value record of $169.4 billion set in 2007.

The total market value of countywide properties now is $264.7 billion, up from $251.9 billion last year.

While property values continue their upward march, experts see no sign of a housing bubble. The $263,900 median value of a Palm Beach County home in April was 18.8 percent below the pre-recession peak of $325,100, according to the national real estate website Zillow.

And while values keep rising, the rate of growth has decreased in recent years. "Continued modest, sustainable..."
With anger everywhere, violence not a surprise

We lock our doors when there’s only one person in the office. We lock them when we’re working at night. There’s been times when we’ve asked local law enforcement to keep an eye on our office and our employees. We’ve been screamed at on the telephone and had hateful postings on the online and social media versions of our stories. And, of course, we’ve been threatened with lawsuits and sued over our reporting. That all sink in.

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So, as reports from the murderous attack at the Capital Gazette in Maryland unfolded, we were sickened but not completely surprised. There are a lot of angry people out there — even in a community that all sink in.

The last I spoke with Rob Hiaasen was a few years ago. He was curious about the origins and success of our little paper. We talked about community journalism and why it’s becoming increasingly important in an America where a journalist’s value is often measured in reweets and celebrity. We agreed that every community, no matter its size, is filled with interesting stories that should be told.

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CHRISTIE’S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
Detectives confirm Highland Beach widow’s death as homicide

By Rich Pollack

Neighbors west of Pompano Beach first noticed the 2013 Hyundai Sonata in a vacant field in April, shortly before the body of affable Highland Beach resident Elizabeth Cabral, 85, was found in her apartment across from the ocean.

Cabral’s car, recovered after someone called the Broward County Sheriff’s Office to report a suspicious vehicle, is just one piece of evidence Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office detectives have collected as they try meticulously to piece together what is thought to be only the second homicide in the history of the small coastal community.

Late last month, the Sheriff’s Office released a one-page, heavily redacted report that confirmed Cabral’s death was a homicide, something many in Highland Beach — including many of her neighbors — had long suspected.

Although the Sheriff’s Office has been unusually tight-lipped about the case, the report provides a glimpse into what may have happened to the woman known to friends and relatives as Betty.

The murder weapon, according to the report, was either a knife or a sharp cutting instrument and there were no signs of forced entry into the condominium. In fact, the door to the unit in the Penthouse Highlands condominium along State Road A1A was unlocked on the night of April 30 when a Highland Beach police officer went to check on Cabral after the car was found.

In addition to homicide, the report states the suspect or suspects committed armed robbery and auto theft.

The crime has left residents and relatives wondering why anyone would want to hurt Cabral.

“She was a wonderful woman,” said Alan Croce, president of the Penthouse Highlands Association and a retired high-ranking law enforcement official in New York. “She was the most outgoing person you’d ever meet.”

Croce said he saw Cabral, who used a walker to get around and was often helped by aides, about a week and a half before police discovered her body.

“She gave me a big hug and a kiss,” he said. “One of her aides was with her.”

Robert Cabral, a nephew of Betty Cabral’s late husband, William, said the couple were comfortable financially, but suspected there was nothing of great value in the apartment that would be taken in a robbery.

“They were not very extravagant,” he said.

The couple, who lived in Cambridge, Mass., before moving to Highland Beach 22 years ago, were together for about 50 years and had no children, Robert Cabral said.

William Cabral worked for the city of Cambridge, mostly with veterans, his nephew said, while Betty held administrative positions at a hospital in town.

After her husband, who suffered from dementia, died in 2017, relatives urged Betty to move into an assisted-living facility. But she chose to stay in her home and remain independent.

Croce said she was friendly with other residents in the building, but didn’t have many visitors other than her aides and a financial adviser who visited regularly.

In recent years, Croce said, Cabral stopped driving and relied heavily on her aides to get around. The aides, he said, would drive her car.

Robert Cabral, who lives on the west coast of the state, said he didn’t know his aunt had died — and didn’t know the circumstances of her death — until very recently.

“Months went by and we knew nothing, he said. “We don’t even know where the body is.”

He said he and other relatives hope to reach an out-of-state relative of Betty Cabral’s whom the Sheriff’s Office most likely notified of her death.

Deputies towed Cabral’s Hyundai Sonata from near Pompano Beach to the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office headquarters for processing. The keys were on the floorboard.

Like Robert Cabral, Croce is seeking more information about Cabral’s death, hoping to calm other residents in the usually quiet building.

Major crimes are rare in Highland Beach, a town that has a full Police Department with officers routinely on patrol. Highland Beach has repeatedly been rated among the top 10 safest cities in Florida by organizations that conduct ratings.

Highland Beach’s only other confirmed homicide occurred in 1994 when someone fatally stabbed Richard P. Ramaglia, 49, in his home in the 4000 block of South Ocean Boulevard.

Palm Beach County Sheriff’s deputies later arrested Mary Juhnke, 23. Juhnke told detectives an argument over whether she should have an abortion led to the stabbing.

Juhnke later pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 17 years in prison in December 1994.
Candidate for mayor has no record of help with Ocean Breeze costs

By Steve Plunkett

The Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District wants the city to pay the part of the cost of rebuilding the Ocean Breeze golf course.

District Chairman Robert Rollins calls it "Erin’s question."

"How much are they going to pay for the sale of the municipal course?" after Commissioner Erin Wright raised the issue first last Monday.

Wright and her colleagues are sure to answer the question at the Boca Raton City Council at the next joint meeting July 23.

At the May 9 joint meeting, two Boca Raton residents asked council members the same thing.

"I would encourage you to seriously consider not burdening the new golf course with so much debt when there is a substantial amount of proceeds coming from the sale of the Ocean Breeze golf course," resident Kevin Wrenne said.

Barry Tetlral said the $65 million the city will reap from the sale a "windfall."

"I haven’t seen or heard anyone on the City Council even acknowledge the fact that they’re going to put money into the [Ocean Breeze] golf course. That’s scary, really is," Tetlral said. "Are you going to chip in for the financing of this course?"

Mayor Scott Singer replied that the council has discussed how to spend the $65 million.

Rollins, at the next Beach & Park District meeting, summarize the reaction.

It was like watching a hot potato getting tossed toward one council member — nobody wanted to touch that. "Well, we’ll get back with you, we haven’t thought about that yet," Rollins said.

On the same day Korn registered to vote using the Marble Way address, he registered to vote in at least two franchise businesses he operates — Undiscovered Properties Inc. and Travel Lines Inc., which he owns along the Skyridge Circle address.

Campaign finance reports for May, the latest available, show Korn has reported no contributions from individuals or businesses. He has lent his campaign $2,602.72 so far.

Zucaro lent his campaign $3,500 during the nine days in May he was a candidate. Singer, who has been a resident of Boca Raton since October, has $84,345.

Singer and Zucaro both have voted regularly in past elections, records show.

The website Korn uses to solicit clients for Undiscovered Property Express also seeks support for his 2020 campaign to become president of the United States.

"I don’t want to lose revenue on any changes that we might make, but we need to simplify this for everyone involved," Mayotte said.

"We both have been actively involved in running for City Commission for 23 years. We both believe our member is an overview of the mishmash of fees people pay at parks depending on whether they live in Boca Raton, outside the city but in the district, or somewhere else.

For example, Boca Raton rents pavilions at Spanish River Park to nonresidents at a higher, nonresident rate. At the city’s tennis center the charges are $323 for resident families and $384 for nonresidents. At Patch Reef Park they are $123 for residents and $184 for nonresidents.

A family swimming membership at the district’s center is $127 for residents; at the city’s Meadows Park pool it’s $164.

"Trying to explain all that to our constituents over the phone is just too tough," Ahnell said.

"I don’t think we should foot the bill for everything," Korn said.

Their request to help pay for reconstructing Ocean Breeze raised alarms on the city side that the district may be running out of money.

"We’re hearing … that they’re wanting us to participate in (rebuilding Ocean Breeze) and we have no plans or anything in the budget or forecast for funding that sort of thing," City Manager Leil Annh told council members a week after the joint meeting.

"We have a number of other projects that are already on the books to be funded by the Beach & Park District that we’re having concerns they may not be stepping up to our partners to pay their fair share, in the millions and millions of dollars," Ahnell continued.

Councillor Monica Mayotte, at a candidate forum before she won her seat in May, said "We’re stepping up to our partners to pay their fair share, in the millions and millions of dollars," Ahnell told council members a week after the joint meeting.

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Along the Coast

Plans for luxury condos near Briny put busy developer in spotlight

By Jane Smith

Briny Breezes residents will soon be joined by luxury townhome owners living on the south side of the oceanfront town.

In early June, Gulf Stream Views LLC paid $5.4 million for the nearly 2-acre site, according to county property records. The new owner, a division of National Realty Investment Advisors of Secaucus, N.J., plans to buy the parcel and build 14 townhomes.

“We have a luxury product. There are no other oceanfront parcels available in the area,” said Glenn La Mattina, senior vice president of National Realty and its new division, NR Living. “We have location, location, location.”

The price paid was almost 22 percent below the asking price of $6.895 million.

“The buyers came in and negotiated very friendly terms to sell the listing,” broker Steve Presson said. “My clients came to a point and made a business decision it was time to move on.”

David Rinker, who purchased the property in 2018 when it still housed the Pelican Apartments, paid $3.2 million for the parcel. The Old Florida-style, 11-unit complex was soon demolished. Rinker and investors planned to build Tuscan-style townhomes. He did not return phone messages.

The purchase is National Realty’s eighth in coastal Gulf Stream and Delray Beach, according to its website. Its divisions spent $37.3 million in the past year, according to county property records. National Realty’s website also lists one property each in Ocean Ridge and Delray Beach with a status of closing.

“We are building luxury units for sale or rental on the sites owned in southern Palm Beach County,” La Mattina said. Most of the parcels have another local connection. Former Delray Beach Mayor Tom Carney’s law firm is listed as the registered agent for the limited liability corporations set up as the owner of each property. He declined to comment about his role, saying, “I don’t discuss my clients.”

National Realty also turned to a local lender for the bridge loan that covers acquisition and development of the townhomes near Briny Breezes. Trez Capital Group was formed two years ago by Boynton Beach-based Forman Capital and Vancouver-based Trez Capital Group.

“I’ve known the borrowers for a long time. I started Forman Capital in 2014,” said Rinker, of Delray Beach, “said Brett Forman, president and CEO. “His company is still optimistic about residential real estate in South Florida. “We look closely at the project and location,” Forman said. “People still want to move to South Florida.”

In mid-June, Trez Forman gave Sofia Partners a $20.6 million construction loan to build 111 First Delray, a boutique condo project in Delray Beach.

Ethics complaint against mayor dismissed

By Mary Thurwacker

The Florida Commission on Ethics in June dismissed one of two complaints filed by Lantana resident Catherine Padilla against Mayor David Stewart.

The complaint, filed on March 27, accused Stewart of using sexual innuendo during a Kiwanis Club dinner at the Whistle Stop Lounge on Oct. 24. Town Manager Deborah Manzo was also in attendance.

Padilla claimed she heard Manzo say she wasn’t happy with her choice of entrées and that Stewart remarked, “You haven’t tried my meat yet.”

According to a news release from the Ethics Commission, the complaint was dismissed “due to a lack of legal sufficiency.”

The commission said the only provision of the Code of Ethics that could have applied in this circumstance was misuse of public position. However, the commission maintained that Padilla’s allegation failed to show in a “factual, specific manner” that the alleged conduct was for the “purpose of securing a special private capacity benefit for the respondent or anyone else.”

For that reason, the complaint was dismissed without investigation.

“I’m surprised because there were witnesses,” Padilla said when she learned of the complaint’s dismissal. “I have a lot of support from residents and officials.”

Stewart declined comment. “It would be inappropriate for me to comment at this time until all the investigation is complete,” he said.

Padilla filed another complaint earlier in the year, on Jan. 2, and the Ethics Commission has not ruled on it. The case is still with the commission, stating that if she had sex with him, he would make sure her neighborhood would get the speed bumps she had asked the town to install for safety reasons.

After the state notified the mayor of that first complaint, he went to her home to talk about the complaint, according to a statement Stewart gave to the Lantana Police Department. Padilla didn’t let him in and called the police. They reported the visit as a “suspicious incident.”
Drainage issues straining town budget

By Dan Moffett

Problems caused by rising seas are forcing rising expenditures to seep into the Ocean Ridge budget.

During the last fiscal year, town commissioners are considering spending roughly $125,000 on new stormwater infrastructure for the flood-prone Inlet Cay neighborhood, $47,000 to maintain and repair existing drain pipes, another $30,000 to install new drains, and $20,000 for swale construction.

There's also $12,000 set aside in the proposed budget for Geographical Information Systems mapping that will help officials identify the areas in the town most vulnerable to future sea rise problems.

"The sea level and drainage problems will always be exacerbated," Town Manager Jamie Titcomb told commissioners during a budget workshop on July 3. "We live on a barrier island.

With a 3-2 vote, the commission approved setting the maximum millage rate for the next budget at $5.55 per $1,000 of taxable property value, a number that's significantly above the $5.05 rollback rate that would keep tax revenues flat and the current millage rate of $5.25.

The commission can decide on a final tax rate less than the $5.55 maximum in the weeks ahead but cannot go above it.

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Vice Mayor Don MaGruder and Commissioner Phil Besler and Kristine de Haseth approved the ceiling rate; Mayor James Bonfiglio and Commissioner Steve Coz voted no.

Preliminary numbers from the Palm Beach County Office of Inspector General during a routine audit of capital assets completed in June.

"We found generally adequate controls for the capital assets process," the IG report said, "and physical controls for safeguarding the capital assets."

The town accepted the auditors' recommendation that administrators conduct an annual review of assets to ensure that insurance records are accurate. Capital assets are defined as tangible or intangible items that cost $5,000 or more and benefit the town for more than a fiscal year.

Bonfiglio has submitted his resignation from the Town Commission, effective Nov. 6. The mayor is a Democratic candidate in the state House District 89 race and, under Florida's "resign-to-run" law, must give up his municipal seat in order to seek the higher office in the fall election.
Small businesses labor with same downtown rules as big developers

By Mary Hladky

As his passion for the practice of law waned, Rick Felberbaum wanted to pursue a new one. After years of studying and experimenting, he perfected a recipe that he thought might be the best ice cream he had tasted, with innovative flavors such as strawberry and toasted pistachio and passionfruit and salted caramel.

The next step was finding the right place for an ice cream shop. Felberbaum bought a building at 310 E. Palmetto Park Road, a potentially customer-rich location within walking distance of a number of restaurants, across the street from the Palmetto Promenade apartments and townhomes and a few blocks from the Market at CityScape apartments.

He then asked city officials to change the allowable use of the first floor of his building from office space to a 971-square-foot ice cream shop. It took him nearly two years to get approval from Boca Raton City Commissioners, sitting as Community Redevelopment Agency commissioners, on Jan. 8. Yet he still needed to jump through more hoops before he could launch his business.

Felberbaum threw in the towel. He opened Proper Ice Cream in June — in Delray Beach.

"The city took such a long time to approve my plans, I had to make other plans," he said in March. "I had no other choice."

Felberbaum isn’t alone in his frustration with the city’s time-consuming and costly process for approving plans in the downtown. He says the city makes it so difficult for small-business owners that they are shunning the downtown.

John Gore, president of Boca Beautiful, which advocates for responsible city growth, calls it a "small business unfriendly" atmosphere. The outcomes are stifling small-business growth in downtown.

"The property owners and business owners downtown are in the midst of a very, if not hostile, at least extremely bureaucratic business environment right now," said attorney Michael Liss, founder of the Downtown Business Alliance.

The city has strict ordinances governing downtown development that hold large developers and small-business owners to the same standards. The city’s most stringent ordinances are to guard against overdevelopment and to protect small-town charm in the downtown.

The most stringent of these ordinances is to guard against overdevelopment and to protect small-town charm in the downtown. They limit building height and density, require developers to provide open space and working and parking areas, and press developers to use architectural designs in harmony with those of legendary architect Addison Mizner, among many other things.

Large developers have plenty of complaints about these rules and the length of time it takes to get approvals, too, but they have deep pockets and legal teams. Small-business owners can be hard-pressed to pay attorneys to help them navigate the process, and for costs imposed on them such as for a city consultant’s review of their projects.

Politics plays a role as well. The City Council has faced a backlash from vocal downtown residents who contend the downtown is overdeveloped, with too many large condo and apartment projects already built and too many more in the pipeline.

The most recently elected council members, Andrea O’Rourke and Monica Mayotte, ran as “resident-friendly” candidates who pledged not to ignore the wishes of their constituents.

Some observers say as a result, council members hold developers’ and business owners’ feet to the fire in strictly complying with the rules, and that city staff follows suit. That has translated into a very difficult environment for people like Felberbaum.

The ordinances are not tailored to address all the many different projects that can come before the CRA.

In the case of Proper Ice Cream, the main ordinance governing downtown development has no provision for an ice cream shop. So, it was classified as “retail high” — even though it wasn’t that at all — and subject to the same review as a large condo or hotel project.

City Council members are aware of some of these deficiencies and say they are streamlining the process. They all but apologized to Felberbaum at the Jan. 8 meeting just before they approved his shop.

"Thanks for staying the course," then-Mayor Susan Haynie told him. "This is a poster child for why we need small-scale IDA [individual development approval] processes so we don’t have to go through the full review process that we do for a larger, more extensive building."

"We are trying to come up with a more easier and faster way,” said Jeremy Rodgers, who was deputy mayor at the time.

"We can all scream for ice cream, but it shouldn’t have to take months of screaming to get there," said Mayor Scott Singer.

Process cost Luff’s ‘a fortune’

Restauranteur Arturo Gismondi faced similar difficulties as he tried to open Luff’s Fish House in a historic 1927 house at 390 E. Palmetto Park Road.

The architect, Derek Vander Ploeg, described the process as “a herculean effort” that consumed nearly four years and cost Gismondi “a fortune.”

The last hurdles presented themselves in December as Gismondi prepared to open. He sought permission to use a different roofing material than what was originally approved because the original was no longer available.

He also had painted a portion of the building sea foam green rather than a reddish brown that had been previously approved. The city cited him for using the wrong color, and he had to appear before a special master who told him he had 90 days to repaint, Vander Ploeg said.

Gismondi did so immediately, but also asked the city to allow him to use sea foam green, or what the city calls spring mint — a change that required an amendment to the IDA needing CRA approval.

But before that, he had to seek an OK from the Community Appearance Board. The city’s consultant also had to weigh in for a second time and streamline, they made it conflict with the city’s standards better than reddish brown.

"It has been painful," Vander Ploeg said in mid-March, while still awaiting a verdict from the city. "It is still unresolved for something that should be simple."

While the city has begun streamlining its procedures, none of the changes adopted so far would have helped Felberbaum and Gismondi, who could not be reached for comment.

The city, for example, has eliminated the Zoning Board of Adjustments, simplified the process for abandonment of rights of way and easements. City staff is working on proposals for additional changes.

The city has not acted on streamlining proposals submitted in 2012 and, after revisions, in 2014 and approved by the Downtown Boca Raton Advisory Committee.

Critics: ‘Streamlining’ isn’t

Vander Ploeg and Glenn Gromann, a former Planning and Zoning Board member who has considered running for mayor, headed up the streamlining proposals.

"They have streamlined nothing," Gromann said. "Wherever they tried to streamline, it has taken the rest of the process longer. Since they started to talk about streamlining, it now takes six to 12 months longer" to get approval for a project.

His recommendations included allowing city staff to review and approve site plans and the city manager to shorten the process. Similarly, in the case of a minor revision to an IDA, such as a change in paint color, city staff and the city manager could make the call.

"Vander Ploeg said the ordinance governing downtown development already allows city staff and the city manager to review small projects and, if they comply with city ordinances, to be placed on the CRA’s consent agenda so they could be approved quickly. If a CRA commissioner has questions or concerns, they should be able to pull the matter from the consent agenda for discussion or debate. But that provision is rarely used, he said, because CRA commissioners and city staff prefer a full review of every project to avoid criticism.

Liss said the main problem is how the CRA is structured. City Council members also comprise the CRA board, and City Manager Leil Ahnell also is the CRA executive director. He wants an independent CRA with its own executive director.

"Our elected officials have absolutely no vision for what to do about business or property ownership in the downtown," he said. "A CRA is supposed to represent property owners. Our engine. Ours just acts to get in the way of anybody conducting business or improving real estate."

An independent CRA could streamline the approval process just for the downtown, he said.

While the city grinds away at streamlining, Luff’s Fish House opened in February, the latest addition to Gismondi’s portfolio of restaurants that includes Trattoria Romana and La Nouvelle Maison.

Felberbaum, who still has a small law practice, is both making and selling his ice cream at 1445 N. Congress in Delray Beach.

But even before selling directly to the public, he launched a wholesale business providing ice cream to renowned chef Clay Conley’s Buccan and Imoto restaurants in Palm Beach and Grato in West Palm Beach, as well as 1000 North, which counts former NBA star Michael Jordan as an investor, in Jupiter. It also is sold at Joseph’s Classic Market in Boca Raton and Palm Beach Gardens and will soon be sold at a Joseph’s coming just west of Delray Beach.

Felberbaum hopes to go national soon; he signed a contract for a national marketing campaign.

"It is very exciting," he said in June. "The potential is amazing."

And his business space in Boca Raton? It’s on the market. Asking price: $2.3 million. ☑️
Tri-Rail has preferred second site, but not funds

By Mary Hladky

Tri-Rail officials have chosen their preferred location for a second station in Boca Raton, but can’t yet guarantee it will be built.

The preferred site is the former King’s Deli property along the CSX railroad tracks at Military Trail and Northwest 40th Street, officials said at a sparsely attended June 20 public meeting at the Spanish River Library.

A runner-up site is just to the south, but it is not as attractive to Tri-Rail officials because it is not directly on Military Trail and so is not as easily accessible.

But at least two obstacles must be cleared before the station becomes a reality.

Tri-Rail needs to get funding to build the station and acquire land. Officials peg the station’s cost at $17 million.

The commuter rail had about $8 million from the Florida Department of Transportation and the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency to evaluate potential station sites and to design the station. On June 5, the Federal Transit Administration approved the location, clearing the way for Tri-Rail to seek local, state and federal money.

Its ability to build on either of its preferred locations is uncertain. Developer and landowner Crocker Partners owns both parcels.

Crocker Partners managing partner Angelo Bianco, now in a legal dispute with the city over his proposed Midtown development, said he would not sell either one.

“We have a plan for a development,” he said in late June. The preferred station location “is smack in the midst of that.”

Bianco did not divulge details of his new plan for land his company owns, except to say it is an “extensive redevelopment.”

Tri-Rail spokeswoman Bonnie Arnold said she could not comment on what effect that will have on the plans.

“We have not even discussed it,” she said June 29.

Communication between Tri-Rail and Crocker has been scant. Tri-Rail officials said they could not contact Crocker about the land until the FTA approved its preferred location for a station, and had not done so as of the June 20 public meeting.

Bianco said he called Tri-Rail officials after they announced their preferred station site. He said they confirmed the location, but did not ask if he would be willing to sell the land.

Litigation between Crocker Partners and the city further muddies the waters.

Crocker Partners led a coalition of landowners proposing a “live, work, play” redevelopment of about 300 acres in Midtown, between Interstate 95 and the Town Center mall.

Crocker Partners originally supported the second Boca Raton station as a complement to its transit-oriented development where residents of up to 2,500 proposed apartments would walk or take shuttles to their jobs at nearby office buildings or retail stores, and to restaurants and nightlife.

Its representatives had hinted they might consider donating land for the station.

More recently, Crocker Partners said the station, while desirable, was not necessary to make Midtown a success.

But momentum for Midtown came to a halt in January, when the Boca Raton City Council turned down voting on two ordinances that spelled out how Midtown could be redeveloped and instead voted to create a “small area plan” for the area that would not be completed until the end of this year.

Crocker Partners sued the city in May, saying its actions created an impermissible building moratorium. By then, other Midtown landowners had started moving ahead with their own redevelopment plans.

If it’s ever built, the station would have two parking lots with 75 spaces, and a drop-off area for passengers getting rides to the station. Buses and shuttles could access the station and bicycle parking would be available. The current scheduled opening date is in 2023.

A 2016 Tri-Rail study found that about 1,000 riders were projected to use the new station on weekdays, enough to support construction. But Tri-Rail also expected that to rise if Midtown landowners built residential.

Several residents attending the public meeting voiced objections to the second station. Bobbie Miller questioned why Boca Raton needed two stations. “Everyone in my neighborhood is not for this,” she said.

Anthony Catalina, director of planning and capital development for Tri-Rail’s governing agency, said the Yamato Road station is Tri-Rail’s busiest, and rider surveys showed demand for a station in the Midtown area because it would be a more convenient location for them.

July 2018

By Mary Hladky

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**Along the Coast**

**Cities, towns prepare for hurricane season**

By Jane Smith

When Hurricane Irma swept through southern Palm Beach County last September, power poles were uprooted, live oaks fell, wind-driven debris blocked streets and residents sat powerless for days amid temperatures in the 90s.

Irma’s damage cost area municipalities more than $26 million in the days and weeks following the storm and for debris removal. Yet South County coastal residents felt relieved that the area avoided catastrophic hurricane winds.

In Florida, only an area of 15 miles surrounding Cudjoe Key felt Category 4 winds as the storm hit Sept. 10, according to the National Hurricane Center’s May report on Irma.

Along the Coast

Workers struggled to move 30 pounds of debris per person, the storm.

Once Irma was headed our way, people began cleaning out their garages and yards, waiting until a mandatory evacuation order was issued, and it all caused delays in debris removal earlier this year.

In addition, the city now will deploy its emergency management center in the conference room of the Fairfield Inn. The building carries a Category 5 wind rating, de Jesus said. The hotel is allowing the city to use its conference room and offering city staff rooms at the government rate.

Boynton Beach is increasing its hurricane communications and marketing efforts, said Eleanor Krussell, city spokeswoman. “We secured the website domain name of PrepareBoyntonBeach.com to simplify messaging,” she said. In addition, the city relies on hurricane reserves, utility inserts and Facebook Live videos on hurricane preparedness and tree trimming with a sign-language interpreter, Krussell said.

Smaller communities alert residents by sending police door-to-door and via the town website, said Greg Dunham, Gulf Stream town manager.

Barrier island residents were supposed to evacuate before Irma approached, but some residents apparently stayed because they did not want to leave their pets.

When Lee County was under a mandatory evacuation order for Irma, the county allowed residents to bring pets into its shelters, county Emergency Management Lee Mayfield said at the Governor’s Hurricane Conference in May.

Mayfield said the county’s 14 shelters, which were in schools, accepted pets. The shelters housed 35,000 people and 3,000 pets, which included dogs, cats and a goat.

Palm Beach County’s only pet-friendly shelter is in suburban Boynton Beach. The other shelters are in public schools, run by a combination of school and county employees. The schools allow only service animals.

“Now one was turned away from the pet-friendly shelter,” said Mary Blakeney, senior program manager in the county’s emergency management division. “We are looking for additional pet-friendly shelters in county facilities, but none will be ready for the 2018 season.”

Nearby, in Boca Raton, “curfews are a challenge to coordinate for us because we’re on the border of Broward County and have many residents that live in one county and work in another or vice versa,” Gibson said. “There needs to be better coordination on curfews.”

Florida Power & Light, the main electricity provider, said 95 percent of its customers had power restored within seven days following Irma, compared with 15 days after Hurricane Wilma in 2005.

Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach were able to open their libraries just after the storm to give their powerless residents a place to charge their electronics.

Shelters in the public schools were adequate; residents have to bring their own food and bedding. New for 2018, the county will hire two mental health counselors per shelter to help with anxiety issues.

The county has a special needs and pet shelters, which require advance registration.

Debris removal proved to be the bane for most municipalities.

Even though the cities and towns had contracts with debris haulers, it became a free-for-all with most of Florida’s 67 counties impacted by Irma.

Gov. Rick Scott allowed the Florida Department of Transportation to hire haulers without going through a bidding process, Neal de Jesus, interim city manager during Irma, told Delray Beach city commissioners in September. Scott wanted to quicken the pace of cleanup in the Keys and Miami-Dade County, which were hardest hit.

As a result, contractors left Palm Beach County cities where they were making $7 per cubic yard to earn as much as $18 per cubic yard hauling debris farther south.

Delray Beach commissioners and Boca Raton council members agreed to pay AshBritt haulers more per cubic yard, until Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi started to investigate AshBritt and other haulers for price gouging. AshBritt no longer sought the price increases.

Then, the problem became not enough truck drivers.

Boca Raton purchased a few more trucks this year to help with post-storm cleanup, Gibson said.

Many municipal representatives think the governor needs to set a pre-storm, standard rate for debris removal.

— Jane Smith

Debris removal was a huge headache along the coast.

2017 Coastal Star file photo

**Irma: What we learned**

Nearly a year after Hurricane Irma, South County coastal cities are honing lessons into actions to prepare their residents, businesses and workers for the next big storm.

Each of the 10 coastal cities and towns received the same list of questions from the Coastal Star, divided into five main categories: communications, curfews, power, shelters and debris removal.

Here are the highlights of their responses:

**For communications**, how did your city/ town inform residents of the approaching storm and areas to be evacuated? The three big cities used their websites and social media to alert residents. Boca Raton, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach also have AM radio stations to use.

Smaller locales don’t use social media. In Gulf Stream, its officers alerted residents by going door-to-door, said Town Manager Greg Dunham.

Manalapan sent emails about the approaching storm to its residents, said Linda Stumpf, town manager.

Lantana also used a PA system and personal contacts to alert its barrier island residents about evacuating, said Robert Hagerty, Lantana police commander.

Highland Beach found its CodeRED emergency platform most effective in alerting residents about Irma, said Police Chief Craig Hartmann. ”For this hurricane season, we will be activating CodeRED notifications sooner and more frequently,” he said.

South Palm Beach, which is primarily condo buildings, sent faxes and emails to condo managers about the mandatory evacuation, said Mo Thornton, town manager.

“Pet owners have throughout town with lights activated, encouraging residents to evacuate,” she said.

Ocean Ridge used its Twitter and NextDoor accounts, among other methods, to alert residents about the mandatory evacuation, Town Manager Jamie Titcomb said.

Briny Breezes Council President Sue Thaler said the town’s main goal after Irma wasn’t changing procedures but trying to improve communication with the corporation. The idea is to precisely define the roles of the government and corporation in dealing with storms.

How were post-storm communications handled? Most municipal representatives said this issue needs work.

Along with Highland Beach, Delray Beach is pushing residents to sign up for CodeRED now so the city has a way to communicate with its residents post-storm.

South Palm Beach will use Blackboard Connection, similar to CodeRED, to communicate with residents this year, Thornton said.

Out-of-state residents will be issued ID cards that can be used to enter the town at the checkpoints post-storm, Thornton said. As part-time residents, their government-issued IDs don’t have South Palm Beach addresses.

Most municipalities followed the countywide curfew that went into effect at 3 p.m. Sept. 9. Based on advice from its Police Department, Delray Beach asked residents to clear the streets even earlier that day — by 2 a.m. Boca Raton delayed its curfew by one day.

In Boca Raton, “curfews are a challenge to coordinate for us because we’re on the border of Broward County and have many residents that live in one county and work in another or vice versa,” Gibson said. “There needs to be better coordination on curfews.”
City moving toward ban on plastic straws

By Jane Smith

The Delray Beach City Commission likely will vote to phase in a ban on plastic straws at its July 10 meeting, when it considers an ordinance requiring restaurants, bars and other beverage purveyors to supply plastic straws only upon customer request.

In May, the city’s Green Implementation Advisory Board passed a resolution asking for the ban, said Ana Puszkin-Chevlin, sustainability officer and liaison with the board.

“I came from the recent Earth Day that had an international theme of plastics in the ocean,” she said.

In April, Delray Beach screened the film A Plastic Ocean in the Crest Theatre. The documentary showed marine animals and water birds affected by the plastics they had eaten.

Delray Beach joins a few cities nationally that are moving to ban plastic straws, including Fort Myers, Miami Beach and Seattle. All are coastal cities that want to prevent plastics from getting into the ocean.

The effort was helped in 2015 by a video showing researchers removing a plastic straw stuck in a sea turtle’s nostril.

Delray Beach also recently moved its sustainability officer to report directly to the city manager. That elevation, recommended by the city’s Rising Waters Task Force, should help the city receive grant money for its environmental projects, said Mayor Shelly Petrolia.

Puszkin-Chevlin hopes in 18 months that consumers will get used to drinking cold beverages without plastic straws and no longer ask for them. Then, the city can move to ban plastic straws from being served in restaurants and bars.

‘We’ll start with a public awareness campaign to get information to consumers,” said Hal Stern, new chairman of the green board. “We need to get the hospitality industry behind us.”

If the commission passes the first phase of a ban, an education event called Skip the Straw will be held at The OG, a relatively new bar in Delray Beach, from 5 to 8 p.m. Aug. 6. About 130 bars and restaurants will receive four tickets each, said Brian Rosen, OG partner.

One tip that will be offered is to move the straws to a different area so that the server doesn’t automatically put a plastic straw in a drink, said Melissa Wilkinson, a college intern who is working with Puszkin-Chevlin on the project.

For the past six months, wording on the menu at Caffe Luna Rosa has said plastic straws are given only by request, said founder Fran Marincola.

On July 1, the beachside restaurant began offering recyclable straws to customers who request straws, Marincola said. The restaurant purchased “corn-plastic” straws that are compostable and made by Eco-Products of Boulder, Colo.

Regular plastic straws are made from petroleum and don’t break down, he said.

“The movement is not about straws, but it starts with straws,” said Evan Orellana, education and animal care director at the Sandoway Discovery Center in Delray Beach.

“We’ve made plastic straws on the forefront of reducing single-use plastics in our lives. Instead of using a K-cup to brew coffee, maybe you’ll consider making coffee with a filter.”
ST. LUCY

Continued from page 1

make the stranger, the unloved and the unwanted feel at home.”

Maureen Mooney Stamper of Boca Raton has been attending St. Lucy for nearly 20 years, first as a tourist, then as a snowbird and now as a full-time resident. Early in the church’s history, 75 percent of parishioners were seasonal. Now the opposite is true — only 25 percent are snowbirds.

When Stamper lost both her son and her husband in 2014, she recalled, “It was because of my faith that I was able to get through it.”

Stamper found comfort in the arms of her church family and has blossomed again. “I thought I’d never be me again, but I became a better me,” she said.

That good feeling comes from the joy of giving back to the church that helped her through hard times. “I never realized what I could do,” Stamper said. “Father mentored me.”

She became a lector, then a eucharistic minister, honors she treasures. “I’ve gotten more out of it than I have given,” Stamper said. “I’m so proud of the work the congregation does.”

Michelle DeGennaro and Rosemarie Amato are co-presidents of the St. Lucy Council of Catholic Women, a charitable ministry of the church. The group has more than 130 members, making it one of the largest groups of its type.

“Lucky us!” DeGennaro said. “We are a very active group. We really want to help and there are plenty who need it.”

The group supports child-related charities, including Birthline, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Place of Hope and Boca Helping Hands. The council also gives an annual college scholarship to a young Catholic woman.

Amato is a former New Jersey snowbird, now a Boca Raton resident, who has attended St. Lucy since 1988.

She’s devoted to the church and the CCW, and enjoys planning its major annual fundraiser, a fashion show. Amato says, “Whenever we ask for help, we get it. No one ever tells us no.”

Parishioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman, who has attended St. Lucy since 1988, served as a polling place.

St. Lucy Catholic Church members representing the Parish Council attend the June installation of the Rev. Father D. Brian Horgan. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

— who also serves as a commissioner for the town of Highland Beach — has been attending St. Lucy for more than 25 years.

St. Lucy still holds up as the heart of the community and there’s also a great deal of “doing good deeds quietly,” Gossett-Seidman said. “It’s a beautiful reflection of the community, a great lift and a sparkle for everyone.”

For many years, the church has also served as a polling place.

Father Horgan’s influence

On June 10, the church held the official rite of installation of Father D. Brian Horgan as the fifth pastor in St. Lucy’s history. Horgan is known for his kindness, his work with children (he previously taught at Cardinal Newman High School), and his sense of humor.

Horgan has worked at St. Lucy since 2013, and his welcoming attitude is contagious, DeGennaro said. “He’s young, influential and appealing.”

Nearly everyone who speaks about Horgan, who turned 47 on July 4, mentions his youth, and many praise the bishop for sending a youthful priest to be viable, a church must attract new members, and that’s certainly part of Horgan’s plan. He welcomes families, encouraging them to sit in the front row. He says parents shouldn’t feel they need to remove a rambunctious tot from the sanctuary during Mass.

To him, a church’s youngest parishioner is just as important as its oldest. A children’s Mass on Friday is becoming one of the most popular services.

The church, which grew from 500 families in 1995 to 1,300 members today, is a multicultural fishbowl, with different cultures living in harmony, all following Horgan’s open-armed example.

Pastoring this new generation of Catholics means embracing the growing Spanish-speaking population. Dianne Barreneche spoke on behalf of the parish’s Hispanic community at Horgan’s installation, praising him for being “so devoted he learned Spanish so he could say Mass in Spanish to his Hispanic parishioners.”

The congregation laughed, imagining Father Brian’s Irish-accented Spanish.

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito spoke at the installation, as did Carl Feldman, the mayor of Highland Beach, and several other civic and church leaders. Hundreds of faithful showed up to take in the pageantry.

Horgan’s self-deprecating sense of humor and way with words set the tone. The young pastor is so agile with words, Barbarito said, he was adding Horgan’s name to his short list of potential eulogists.

The bishop spoke about how well St. Lucy serves its faithful and praised the “wonderful relationship” that the parish has cultivated with the town.

Before moving to the parish hall for a luncheon featuring Irish foods (corned beef, boiled potatoes and carrots), Horgan closed by quoting the Irish poet Keats and then said that the words of St. John Vianney best described his feelings about his parish: “A priest is not a priest for himself, but for others.”

Perhaps DeGennaro said it best: “This little church on A1A you can call home.”

No special events have been planned to mark the 50th anniversary.

LEFT: The Rev. Father D. Brian Horgan spends a moment in reflection during his installation service at St. Lucy Catholic Church.

BELOW: Following installation Mass, Horgan greets parishioners. He came to St. Lucy in 2013 to assist Father Gerald Grace, who has since retired.

Photos provided by Lashells Photography
St. Lucy timeline

Oct. 3, 1968: St. Lucy Church is officially established after the Diocese of Miami purchased a tract of land, overgrown and mostly mangrove swamp. Under the direction of the founding pastor, the late Rev. Michael Keller, a temporary chapel was erected for services.

1972: A temporary church is built under the direction of the Rev. Patrick Slevin, the second pastor, and dedicated by Archbishop Coleman Carroll of Miami.

1974: The Rev. Anthony J. Chepanis becomes the third pastor in May. The church buys the adjacent property to the south for a rectory.

1980s: Needing a larger church, St. Lucy plans to expand, but a lawsuit with Florida’s environmental agency stops the plans because of the protected mangroves. After an arduous, nearly three-year legal battle, the church loses and is forced to grant an easement of more than an acre to the state of Florida for the preservation of the mangroves.

1984: The property is transferred from the Diocese of Miami to the Diocese of Palm Beach.

1987: The new church is officially dedicated by the Most Rev. Thomas V. Daily, the first Bishop of the Palm Beach Diocese, on Dec. 5.


1997: Father Gerald Grace becomes the church's fourth pastor.

2013: Father D. Brian Horgan joins Father Grace midyear.

2016: Father Grace celebrates 50 years as a priest in June and retires soon after.

2018: Horgan is officially named St. Lucy’s fifth pastor on May 1 and formally installed June 10. In recognition of its 50 years, St. Lucy is honored on June 20 with this official statement: “The Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop of Palm Beach, joyfully extends his prayerful congratulations to the people of Saint Lucy Catholic Church in Highland Beach on their golden jubilee. We give thanks to God for the many priests and faithful who have tirelessly given of themselves to Highland Beach and the surrounding area. Thank you for 50 years of loving service to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through your faith and good works.”

Celebrating 50 years of St. Lucy Church

Above: On Feb. 12, 1986, Dr. Adelmo Dunghe received his ashes from Father Anthony Chepanis on Ash Wednesday at St. Lucy. Boca Raton News file photo by Tracey Trumbull.

Left: A statue of St. Lucy is visible from A1A south of Linton Boulevard. Photo provided by the Highland Beach Library.

Craftsmen create the artwork at the back of the altar.

Above: The parish budget in 1968 reveals the church's early expenses — and how much money collections raised.

Right: A Sun-Sentinel newspaper clipping discusses the legal turmoil in the community before the church was approved. Images provided by the Highland Beach Library.
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**MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR:** Betty Bingham

Betty Bingham, a former Ocean Ridge town commissioner, has been active in many community initiatives, from protecting sea turtles to saving sand dunes. She enjoys time with her fox terrier, Mindy. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

**W**hether you think of it as getting involved or, as she puts it, “sticking your nose in there,” Betty Bingham has always been a doer. After finishing college and before embarking on her career, Bingham noticed a nearby hospital for crippled children and noticed that the youngest kids had no activities until they were ready to start kindergarten at age 5. Her response? She took the initiative to start a nursery school for kids aged 1-4.

At least a part-time resident of Ocean Ridge since her father bought property back in the 1950s, Bingham has been an active participant in every facet of the beach community’s life, serving as a commissioner of Ocean Ridge for 12 years, spending another five on the Planning and Zoning Board, and even today, at 89, serving on the Board of Adjustments. She’s also been active in community initiatives, from protecting turtle nests to saving the sand dunes to improving the prospect of island waterways for the cultivation of shrimp and oyster beds.

One of her favorite causes has been working to defeat polio.

Global data show very few new confirmed cases of polio this year. “Along with that I’m very sensitive to the need in many foreign countries for wheelchairs. Travel to India and Africa and you see people dragging themselves around with their faces was worth a wheelchair and seeing the smiles on their faces was worth a wheelchair and seeing the smiles on their faces was worth a wheelchair, too,” she said Bingham, who is divorced. “After a while, I’d come to think that has influenced you?”

“I was interested in every cause there was for a while, said Bingham, who was a doer. “I’d come to my neighbor’s door and he’d say, ‘Which charity are you collecting for now?’ People need to be giving.”

Most of her recent charitable work has been for the garden club and the Rotary Club.

The next cause she sees herself working on in the Rotary Club is trafficking, both human and sexual. “People don’t realize how bad it is,” she said.

She owns 200 acres along the North Toe River in North Carolina and is developing ecotourism on it.

“We have lots of turkey and deer on the property, and we re-establishing a goat that had been the original goat of North America and had become extinct in this part of the world. The goats were found on an island off the coast of Australia. It’s true of any country.”

Q. What a quiet retreat this has been: manatees, owls, raccoons and all the rest. The dunes are both our pearls and our protection. Then you have the Briney Breeze project that was proposed, and the reef ball project, and transplanting oyster beds. So much goes into keeping nature working as it should.

Q. What book are you reading now?

A. I have dyslexia, which makes me a slow reader, so I read for information and not for enjoyment. I like historical novels and autobiographies. I picked up a biography of the Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin the other day.

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

A. I like a wide variety of music, from big bands to bagpipes to light opera to Tchaikovsky. I like to listen to marches when I want to feel energetic.

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

A. “Those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.”— Edmund Burke. That’s true of any country.

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

A. My grandparents and my parents were great mentors.

We used to have very animated conversations. I came from a family of debaters and I did debate at one time. I can defend my statements as a result of that, even if I know I’m wrong.

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

A. Shirley Temple. She was a good person, had very high principles, was hardworking and carried through on what she believed was right and wrong.

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This is an advertisement. If you feel you have a claim for a damaged property loss or injury and you are satisfied with the payment by your insurer, you may disregard this advertisement.
By Steve Plunkett

Police are hamstrung by state rules that limit what they can do in Lake Boca, where a man drowned this April during the hugely popular Boca Bash.

City Attorney Diana Grub Frieser calls the state preemptions “just so surprisingly restrictive” when it comes to boating and local governments.

“The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission assisted Boca police along with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, Boynton Beach police’s marine unit, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The FWC issued six boating under the influence citations, handled 16 other violations and made 15 public assists, Alexander reported. His officers issued seven citations, nine warnings and seven juvenile referrals. The Police Department created a “safety lane” on the lake for marine patrol boats to get through, but beyond that could do very little to control the crowd, Alexander said. The Wildflower site next to the boat launch at Silver Palm Park was closed, as was Pioneer Park in Deerfield Beach.

“Truly the most significant events that we’ve had don’t involve law enforcement,” Alexander said. “The drowning wasn’t a law enforcement-related event. We had a fractured neck at one point that was pretty significant but again, that wasn’t a function of enforcement.”

Police Department created a “safety lane” on the lake for marine patrol boats to get through, but beyond that could do very little to control the crowd, Alexander said.

S. Forrest Dodson, MD, FACS
Hayato-Biliary & Pancreatic Surgery

Next Haynie hearing set for July 26

By Emily J. Minor

The attorney for suspended Boca Raton Mayor Susan Haynie told a judge at a “status check” hearing last month that his team had just received discovery materials from prosecutors and needs more time to prepare.

Palm Beach Circuit Judge Glenn Kelley scheduled the next hearing for July 26, a trial date could be set then.

Haynie, 62, was arrested April 24 on charges of failing to disclose income she and her husband, Neil, received from developer James Batmasian, whose city projects she favored in several City Council votes. She has not resigned as mayor, although the governor suspended her from that position.

At the core of the charges from the Palm Beach County State Attorney’s Office? Haynie, a longtime city servant who has lived in Boca for almost 50 years, is accused of collecting $140,000 since 2014 from business deals with Batmasian, which Haynie failed to disclose. During that time, prosecutors allege she cast four favorable votes on Batmasian projects.

In May, Haynie switched attorneys, hiring former federal prosecutor Bruce Zimet, now a noted defense attorney, who a decade ago represented Batmasian — the developer at the center of the Haynie scandal. In 2008, Batmasian served eight months in federal prison for payroll tax evasion.

The two cases are unrelated, but again, that wasn’t a function of enforcement.”

Frieser suggested the city lobby the legislature to change Florida law.

“But the state has been very slow in trying to be flexible to allow local governments more control over these… events that cause real public harm,” she said.

Mayor Scott Singer said the city should remind organizers next year of this year’s drowning.

“There’s a very fine line between a fun afternoon boating and a very unsafe afternoon that has significant ramifications,” he said. ★

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At Boca Raton Regional Hospital’s Lynn Cancer Institute, you’ll find a host of the region’s most accomplished cancer specialists. Like S. Forrest Dodson, MD, FACS, a nationally recognized leader in the surgical treatment of complex diseases and cancers of the liver, pancreas, gallbladder and bile ducts.

It’s expertise like this that’s making us the leading network of specialists in the region. And all of those clinician’s practice at Boca Raton Regional Hospital — designated as a Top Ranked Regional Hospital by U.S. News & World Report.

If you’re in need of a specialist, talk to your doctor about BocaCare, our physician network. Visit BocaCare.com for more information or to schedule a consultation, call 1.844.BOCADOC.

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Lawsuit, zoning proposals add to city vs. Midtown battle

By By Mary Hlday

The battle between the city and Midtown developer Crocker Partners has intensified, with Crocker suing the city in May in an effort to keep its project alive and the city in June asking a judge to toss the lawsuit.

Another dispute arose in June, when Mayor Scott Singer proposed ordinances that would replace county zoning regulations — which remained in effect after the city annexed the Midtown area in 2003 — with city zoning regulations. The change would give the city more control over noisy bars and restaurants.

Singer described the ordinances at a June 11 council workshop as a "glitch bill" that would address residents’ concerns about loud music.

But at a City Council meeting the next day, city attorney Ben Handler said the disagreements between Crocker Partners, his client, and the city would "only be exacerbated" by the ordinances. "This will likely lead to disruptive piecemeal zoning regulations, which would drag the city and major Midtown landowners further apart and exacerbate existing disputes," he said.

Public hearings on the ordinances will be held July 24 and Aug. 21 before they could be adopted. The City Council is expected to discuss the litigation in a closed-door session July 24. The lawsuit, filed May 23, accues the city of treating Crocker Partners differently from other property owners and not following its normal procedures for project approval.

It seeks to have a judge compel the city to write land development regulations for Midtown. The lawsuit also asks a judge to rule that the council’s delay in adopting ordinances containing those regulations and its Jan. 23 vote to instead develop a "small area plan" for Midtown are illegal and invalid.

The lawsuit aims at rules imposed on Midtown, which Crocker Partners says are unconstitutional and create an impermissible building moratorium.

They include a mandate that a new Tri-Rail station be operational, all street infrastructure be done and improvements to Military Trail finalized before the proposed construction of as many as 3,500 housing units would be approved.

No similar requirements were put in place before the city established regulations for the Northwest planned mobility development in 2015, the lawsuit states. Midtown also is a proposed planned mobility development.

"The lawsuit amounts to asking the city "to do its job" by approving the regulations for Midtown that would allow Crocker Partners to submit development plans to the city, said Crocker Partners managing partner Angelo Bianco. "They were supposed to do this in 2011. We are asking a judge to get them to do it." Crocker Partners told the city in April that it planned to sue for $137 million because the approval delays left it unable to redevelop three properties it owns in Midtown: Boca Plaza, The Plaza and One Town Center. Bianco said if he wins on the most recent suit, he would abandon plans to seek damages. The last thing I want to do is hurt the taxpayer," he said.

In its June 14 motion to dismiss, the city argues that it is not required by law to enact land development regulations for Midtown and a judge cannot decide the validity of those regulations in ordinances that have not been enacted. "Plaintiffs are seeking relief in the wrong venues, have brought stale claims, have wholly failed to allege the basis for their claims and are seeking decisions on matters they are not ripe for adjudication," the city’s motion states.

Crocker Partners originally joined with other landowners in the Midtown area in an ambitious plan to redevelop about 300 acres between Interstate 95 and the Town Center mall. They envisioned a "live, work, play" transit-oriented development where people would live in new residential units and walk or take shuttles to their jobs, shopping and restaurants.

But delays in enacting ordinances that would allow the Midtown project to go forward caused the group to break up, and some are moving ahead with individual redevelopment plans. They include mall owner Simon Property Group, the now-closed Sears building owner Seritage Growth Properties and Glades Plaza owner Trademark Property Co.

Even so, Bianco thinks he can create a smaller version of Midtown, with fewer residential units, on about 40 acres that are currently under city controls, provided the city sets parameters for what can be built in that area. The city has hired two consultants, Community Marine and Water Resource Planning and Larch Design Plus, to help it create a smaller area plan. The contracts total more than $100,000.

The city now expects to have a small area plan crafted no later than December, which would then be formally adopted by the City Council, a city spokeswoman said.

The city last month invited the public May 23 to offer their vision about how Midtown could be redeveloped.

About 120 residents attended the session at the Spanish River Library. They split into groups and came up with general ideas on Midtown’s look.

Each group’s ideas shared similarities, such as low density, low- or mid-rise buildings, pedestrian-friendly, lots of green space and improvements to Military Trail.

Residential units would number no more than 1,250, and many people wanted fewer.

Jim Anastas Karas, principal of Community Marine and Water Resource Planning, said another public session is planned for September.

NOTE: Due to a production error, an earlier version of this story did not appear in the June edition of The Coastal Star.
SARGASSUM
Continued from page 1
that usually accompany
sargassum. Could the new
seaweed be keeping them away?
Sargassum started showing
up on beaches in May, when
it usually does. Beachgoers
have to stake their umbrellas
away from the mounds, which
many consider ugly and smelly.
Hotels worry about tourists’
reactions. Visitors
from other parts of the country
don’t know that seaweed is
a beneficial part of Florida’s
natural landscape.
Marine conservationists
see its many virtues: It protects
expensive replacement sand
on the beaches, it bolsters sand
dunes that help keep hurricane
surges away from houses and
roads, and it gives nourishment
to beach vegetation. But it
doesn’t always do that.

"If the currents are doing
what they normally would do,
it would be almost impossible
for a floating plant to come
here (from Brazil)," says Dr. Kirt
Rusenko, marine conservationist
at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center
in Boca Raton.
If the currents are doing
what they normally would do,
it would be almost impossible
for a floating plant to come
here (from Brazil), So I would
imagine it would have to be
the winds. Possibly the mats
are so thick that they would rise
out of the water so they would
be more affected by the wind."
The lack of man-of-war
normally associated with
sargassum is a welcome
surprise, but puzzling.
"We have no theories at all," says
Rusenko. "I don’t know if
the sargassum is not allowing
them to feed or it may be just
too thick. I haven’t seen a man-
of-war this entire summer."
Not a threat to turtles
Even though the new
sargassum has a larger leaf
structure and makes bigger
masses, Rusenko doesn’t think
the seaweed is a threat to turtle
nesting, which started in April.
We scrape it away if it gets
on a nest. Fortunately, there
have been only a handful of
hatchlings so far and the nests
we’ve had didn’t have a lot of
seaweed around," he says. A
days ago, it would have
been a problem. There were
10- or 15-foot-wide mats they
would have to climb over.
Turtle monitors have been
busy making sure the seaweed
is not in a problem that needs
which are often roped off.
Cleanup of beaches must
follow strict rules spelled out in
permits issued by the Florida
Department of Environmental
Protection. Regulations call
for mechanized equipment to stay
in the high-tide water line and
to give turtle nests and beach
vegetation a wide berth. Clayton
Pearl, president of Universal Beach
Services Corp., says he has seen a lot of
sargassum this year. "It’s almost
floating in on islands. It’s
worrisome,“ he says. He and his
family have been doing beach
cleanup since 1973 from Palm
Beach to south Boca Raton.
Clayton Pearl buries the sargassum
in the waterline following the rules
of his permits. "We level
escarpments when requested, put
seaweed in spots where
there’s erosion when it’s not
turtle season, and pick up trash.
"We’ve picked up everything
from cigarette butts to boats,
and a 9,000-pound net."
Dave Bowland, owner
of Beach Keeper, has been
maintaining beaches for
municipalities, including the
beach behind the Eau Palm
Beach Resort and Spa, for 23
years. He, too, has seen an
upswing in seaweed.
"Three weeks of winds from
the east brought in a lot of
seaweed. This year has been
in the top two for seaweed. A
couple of years ago, he said, “seaweed was a foot thick from
the beach to the end of the Lake
Worth Pier.""Joan Lorne of Delray
Beach does turtle patrol
with the nonprofit Sea Turtle
Adventures on a 3-mile stretch
of beach in Gulf Stream, Briny
Breezes and Ocean Ridge
withe her daughter, Jacqueline
Kingston. Kingston has been
monitoring sea turtles for 18
years, and her master’s degree
research has been incorporated
into the FWC’s Marine Turtle
Conservation Handbook.
"It’s hard to concern about
the sargassum. It’s beginning to
dissipate,“ says Kingston. "We
usually see this. It’s nothing
that’s alarming to me. The
hatchlings can crawl over it. It’s
part of our environment and
plays an important role in our ecosystems."
Betti Bingham has been
watching sea turtles and
sargassum in Ocean Ridge
since her family bought a beach
house here in 1959. Bingham,
a former town commissioner,
moved permanently to the
house in 1985.
"In the old days, we would
take the sargassum to the
waterfront and make it harder for the
sand to wash out and to give
nutrition to the dune plants.
Sargassum is erroneously
nutritious,“ she says.
Many towns are beginning
to bury the sargassum on the
beaches for the same reason
—to stabilize replacement sand.
For people who don’t like
the seaweed piled on the beaches,
she tells them to tear off a piece
and shake it into a snorkel
mask, then look at the tiny
shrimps and crabs that come out.
The seaweed feeds seabirds
and is a nursery for sea creatures.
And to those who complain
about it, she says: " Tough."
The sargassum is dissipating,
but as Rusenko says, "Who
knows, it may come back."
Michael Staht, deputy
director of Environmental
Resources Management for Palm Beach County, says
the seaweed “ebbs and flows,
although it’s an upward
trend. We’re seeing more.
It depends on the shore winds
and currents and it tends to get
concentrated on some beaches."
"I don’t have speculation on
the causes of the larger
amounts of seaweed."
"Warmer water would
increase the growth rate," says
Rusenko. "We’re definitely
concerned. Agricultural runoff,
and pesticide and fertilizer
pollution coming from the
inlets are not helpful.
As for the turtles, county
officials are pleased with nest
numbers, although they ‘won’t
break any records,” says Staht.
"The green turtles are
definitely taking this year off.
We’ve got five nests in Boca,
Rusenko says. "We haven’t been
that low for a long, long time,
and it’s going to be statewide.
For some reason, the turtles
decided to nest every other
year, which doesn’t mean they’re
in trouble. This is just an
off year. Leatherbacks had 18
nests, loggerheads 396. That’s
better than it was, but not
great. It’s a respectable number."

Boyon Beach
City hires new police chief
from Fort Lauderdale PD
By Jane Smith
The new Boynton Beach
police chief, Michael G.
Gregory, will start July 9.
Gregory, assistant police
chief in Fort Lauderdale, was
selected by the Boynton Beach
city manager in mid-June
from 83 applicants.
He is negotiating the
contract details with the city.
Gregory is a detective. Over
the years, he moved through its ranks.
He most recently led the Support
Services Bureau.
Gregory had entered Fort Lauderdale’s
Deferred Retirement Option Plan,
forcing him to retire in 2019.
He has a master’s degree in public administration
from Florida International
University, a bachelor’s degree
in criminal justice from Florida
Atlantic University, and an
associate degree in criminal
justice from Broward College.
Gregory is a member of the following
organizations of Chiefs of Police, Police
Executive Research Forum, National
Organization of Black
Law Enforcement Executives,
Florida Police Chiefs
Association, American Society
of Public Administrators, and
the National Organization of Black
Public Administrators.
The Boynton Beach Police
Department has about 155
officers and 53 nonsworn
employees. Its budget is
approximately $54 million, and
it protects about 73,000
residents. 🌟
Delray Beach
City adds two from public to CRA board after outcry over commission's takeover

Before deciding whether to expand the board, "we haven't put it out to the public," Boylston said. He wanted to wait a week to give the public an opportunity to apply to be on the board. 

But the city clerk has been taking applications since the election, but no one has run. "The city clerk has been taking applications," the mayor said.

By Jane Smith


Racial undertones.

Several black community members have spoken those words at Delray Beach City Commission meetings since the beginning of April when commissioners voted to take over the city's redevelopment board.

A few hours before the June 5 meeting, where Community Redevelopment Agency board expansion was on the commission agenda, the politics ramped up a notch.

Reggie Cox, a former agency board member, and Shelly Petrolia, the most divisive mayor in the last 30 years on his Facebook page. He also shared his post to the Concerned Delray Citizens group page on Facebook, a social media platform.

In addition, he wrote, "The Mayor destroyed a black board. The old CRA board had four black and three white members.

"But the city clerk has been taking applications since the election, but no one has run. "The city clerk has been taking applications," the mayor said.

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach city commissioners approved changes to the old lifeguard towers that will add more than $20,000 to some what have called "mini condominiums" that now sit on the beach.

One change order on June 19 included seven items: extra 30 days to pressure-treat the lumber in a more environmentally friendly manner; extra 20 days to pick the correct color schemes; extra 14 days to comply with state regulations to protect nesting sea turtles; $9,600 for roof material change from cedar shakes to metal; $8,700 for roof color so that the lifeguard towers now match the roofs of the piggy bank that is on the pavilion and gazebos; $9,600 for roof shakes to metal; $8,700 for roof color so that the lifeguard towers now match the roofs of the piggy bank that is on the pavilion and gazebos; $9,600 for roof shakes to metal.

Vice Mayor Adam Frankel then offered Brinson to serve a two-year term. Brinson had run against Gray in 2014 when Gray lost her election bid to hernd the city clerk.

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One change order on June 19 included seven items: extra 30 days to pressure-treat the lumber in a more environmentally friendly manner; extra 20 days to pick the correct color schemes; extra 14 days to comply with state regulations to protect nesting sea turtles; $9,600 for roof material change from cedar shakes to metal; $8,700 for roof color so that the lifeguard towers now match the roofs of the piggy bank that is on the pavilion and gazebos; $9,600 for roof shakes to metal; $8,700 for roof color so that the lifeguard towers now match the roofs of the piggy bank that is on the pavilion and gazebos; $9,600 for roof shakes to metal.

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By Jane Smith
**State attorney assumes funding of Sober Homes Task Force**

By Jane Smith

Two years, $575,000, 54 arrests, and several lawsuits later, the county Sober Homes Task Force will continue. Since July 1, the start of the state’s financial year, the Palm Beach County State Attorney’s Office is absorbing the cost. The state money given to the Task Force initially was seed money to get the program going. That funding is no longer part of the state budget.

“Our Sober Homes Task Force has helped cause a dramatic drop in opioid overdose deaths locally, but there’s still more work to be done,” said Dave Arentgen, state attorney. “The opioid epidemic is the No. 1 public health and criminal justice issue facing Palm Beach County and all of Florida.”

For the first four months of 2018, the co-counsel for the state confirmed 80 fatal opioid overdoses, compared with 233 for the same period in 2017, falling about 65 percent. Thirty staffers, hired specifically for the task force, remain at the State Attorney’s Office as assistant state attorney, an insurance fraud investigator and an analyst. Chief Assistant Attorney Al Johnson has added his role on the task force to his other standard duties.

The task force has retained its law enforcement team, and a single public advisory group has been formed by 21 industry leaders and local representatives.

South east counties representatives are Richard Casey, Caron Renaissance of West Palm Beach, Boca Raton; Ariana Ciancio, Delray Beach Police Department; Karen Dodge, Florida Atlantic University; Boca Raton; Jeffrey S. Green, lawyer, Boca Raton; and Terrill Pyburn, special counsel who helped craft the Delray Beach group homes ordinance.

The task force has concentrated on two things: closing down operators and toughening industry regulations. Members focused on cleaning up "the Florida model," where addicts spend weeks in centers only to certified recovery residences.

In 2018, Florida’s governor backed a bill limiting opioid prescriptions to a three-day supply after surgeries and up to seven days, if warranted. It became law July 1.

But the legislature did not act on a bill the task force proposed, so the group’s lobbying efforts felt less successful this time around. “We were assured that our bill would be brought up on the last day,” Johnson said. “It wasn’t.”

The bill would have required a criminal background check for anyone who has contact with a substance abuser at a sober home. It would also allow the state attorney to require that operators of sober homes list all clients. Operators would then be prohibited from even helping them apply to other sober homes.

The fee for service payment plan encourages relapses, Johnson said. “We want them to see and treat substance use disorder, such as diabetes, that needs a continuum of care,” he said.

**Municipalities scramble to make live-streamed events ADA compliant**

By Emily J. Minor

HIGHLAND BEACH — Jack Lanthier, 87, a widower who retired to Highland Beach with the second love of his life and spent 23 happy years here exploring, volunteering and traveling, died June 21 from complications of Parkinson’s disease.

Of some comfort to the family was that Mr. Lanthier died on the day his mother had died in 1977. “I think she thought he’d suffered enough and it was time for him to come home,” said Marge Lanthier, who married Mr. Lanthier 23 years ago after she took a new job in Florida and he followed.

Born in Toronto on June 2, 1931, Mr. Lanthier was plucked by corporate giant Dow Chemical upon his graduation from the University of Guelph in Ontario. Within years, though, he began to recognize the adverse environmental impacts of traditional pesticides.

There were safer farming chemicals around his wife, Marge, says now. But they were expensive to manufacture.

“Jack and his buddy broke away and started (AgroSpray),” she said. “The company took off and today is still run by our grandson.”

Mr. Lanthier was married to Joan Lanthier for 38 years, and the couple raised their seven children in Ontario. After Joan’s death, Marge and Jack Lanthier lived a train was a thrill for him, she said. The engineer was the Brightline to Miami. “He loved it,” Marge Lanthier said. “Of course, he would have liked it to have gone faster.”

Mr. Lanthier wanted only a party to remember his life, so the family held a week after his death and is planning another in Canada for late summer.

Donations in his name go to the charity of one’s choice, and the Highland Beach Library is planning to buy books Mr. Lanthier favored, his wife said.

When Highland Beach residents tuned into their local public access channel or logged on to the town’s website late last month expecting to see live video streaming of the Town Commission workshop, they discovered they were no longer able to watch the meetings in progress.

A technical glitch maybe? Not quite. Instead, the decision by the town to temporarily stop live-streaming meetings turned out to be a precautionary move to avert legal action for not complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Other affected South Palm Beach County cities include Lake Worth and Delray Beach.

The act, it turns out, requires governments to ensure that website content and other content provided to the public be accessible to people with disabilities, including those who have trouble hearing.

“The goal is to make sure there is accessibility to audio and video content for people who are hard of hearing or deaf,” said Miami attorney J. Courtney Cunningham, who has filed more than 30 lawsuits against state, county and local governments in hopes of bringing them into compliance.

On July 1, Cunningham filed on behalf of a hearing-impaired client was against the city of West Palm Beach. Soon after he filed the suit in April, the attorney said, the city began offering closed captioning on its live stream of meetings as well as archived recordings.

That suit, and others like it, including one in St. Lucie County, came about after Attorney Glen Torcivia and attorneys in his firm, which represents Highland Beach, Ocean Ridge, South Palm Beach and several other South Florida communities, warned the town it was not complying with the act.

Torcivia said his firm then sent a notice to clients advising of the possibility of lawsuit if they did not have closed captioning available.

That led Highland Beach officials, as well as those in Lake Worth, to stop real-time broadcasts of meetings until closed captioning can be added.

During a recent commission meeting, interim Town Manager William Thraher said the town is working with its information technology firm to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Live video of meetings could be available as soon as next month or early September.

Highland Beach residents can view recorded versions of meetings, with closed captioning, on the town’s website usually within two or three days of a meeting.

Torcivia said he agrees with the reasoning behind making sure everyone has access to public meetings.

“It’s the right thing to do as long as it’s reasonable to make the accommodations,” he said.

In South Palm Beach County, some of the municipalities with streaming or video recordings of public meetings are already in compliance with the ADA requirements.

Small towns, including South Palm Beach, Manalapan, Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes, do not video-record or live-stream their meetings. Gulf Stream, like Boynton Beach, does not live-stream but does offer video-recorded meetings through its YouTube channel, which is closed captioning available. Lantana posts audio-only recordings of its meetings.

Delray Beach officials said they are exploring their options after learning about the ADA requirements. Boca Raton recently began offering closed captioning during live streams of its meetings and on recorded meetings.

Cunningham, who filed his lawsuit against West Palm Beach on behalf of disability rights activist Edie Sinatra and the National Association of the Deaf, said the U.S. Department of Justice notified local and state governments in 2003 about the ADA requirement to make online content accessible to hearing-impaired people.

For whatever reason, compliance was sporadic at best. Torcivia speculated that perhaps the ADA’s daunting task force planning was prohibiting 15 years ago and is now more affordable.

Cunningham, who has a son with a disability, said he notifies municipalities by mail if it is discovered they are not in compliance before filing a lawsuit.

Any attorney seeking the attorney is suing on behalf of the National Association of the Deaf is the state of Florida, which Sierra and Cunningham have done to provide closed captioning of legislative activity and therefore is violating the ADA.
Boca Raton

Mural artists sought for empty Red Reef wall

By Steve Plunkett

Armed with $20,000 from the City Council, Boca Raton’s fledging Art in Public Places advisory board is tackling an ambitious first project — finding artists to paint cutting-edge murals on the walls of a maintenance yard at oceanfront Red Reef Park.

“It’s a good place to start, you know. It’s not a place where anyone can really worry about. It’s the right place for it,” Boca Raton council member Andrea O’Rourke said.

The advisory panel has set a tight timetable — it must put out a call for proposals, review them and choose up to 10 artists, dwyv up the council grant among them and have them spray-paint their creations by Labor Day.

“The more professional muralists will probably receive a little bit more funds than necessarily the amateur artists,” city resident and volunteer Milan De Vito told Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District commissioners.

The maintenance area is at the northeast corner of the parking lot at a Red Reef’s executive golf course.

A boardwalk near the maintenance area connects the parking lot to the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.

“I’ve been fascinated by art. When I moved here, I said, ‘You guys have some great parks. Why don’t we combine the two?’” said resident David Sergi, who helped pick the maintenance area for the murals and also the three tunnels under State Road A1A that lead from Spanish River Park’s parking lots to the ocean.

The town wall around the rectangular maintenance area is 6 feet high and 300 feet long.

About 100 artists responded to the call for proposals. The advisory board is expected to announce its top three picks this week. The town’s $20,000 grant is the first of several oil-and-water payments.

“The Art in Public Places board hopes to attract a combination of recognized muralists (‘people that we know and recognize their work and talent,’ De Vito said); artists from Florida Atlantic and Lynn universities and the Boca Museum of Art; and the public at large, a category that includes high school art students.

“Everything has to be family-friendly,” De Vito said. “I expect some of the art to be different and to challenge people’s thoughts and ideas, but that doesn’t necessarily mean in a bad way or negative way.”

At least one high school student was enthusiastic: June 12 when the City Council approved the $20,000 grant.

“I’m just so appreciative,” said Luke Lynch, a junior and honors student at Boca Raton High School.

“I feel we can get the youth involvement for this project to create more of an engaged society.”

The advisory panel picked its target date to coincide with a new Friends of Gumbo Limbo fundraiser, the Red Reef Gumbo Cook-off, which will include restaurant tastings, food trucks and craft beers.

The board expects the murals to be comparable to those in Miami’s Wynwood art district, Fort Lauderdale’s FAT Village, Lake Worth and Palm Beach.

“The artwork would stay up for one or two years, then need to be redone, perhaps by new artists, De Vito said.

O’Rourke has promoted art in public places ever since she ran for her council seat in 2017.

“This is a passion project for me,” she told Beach & Park District commissioners. Commissioners told O’Rourke to come back for a contribution once she learns how much the effort will cost.

Zelniker said she hoped the town could find a manager with Thrasher’s experience.

“What we need is a Bill Thrasher who’s not going to retire,” she said.

Another benefit of having Thrasher come aboard has been the reduction of a spike in legal bills from April and May, commissioners said.

They added that one reason the bills grew so large was the town was without a manager between the first part of May when Oakes was hired, and May 21, when Thrasher was hired.

Legal services for April reached $16,376, a little over $10,000 more than the $6,211 legal bill for March. The bill from the outside law firm of Torcova, Donlon, Goddeau & Ansary, P.A. for services in May was $24,297.

The total of $40,673 for the two months is a little less than half of the $90,000 budget for general legal services for the entire fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

“The billing is too high,” Feldman said during a Town Commission workshop meeting late last month. “If we go forward, we could hire our own attorney.”

The mayor said part of the problem was a change in policy that gave commissioners free rein to contact Town Attorney Pam Ryan regarding legal issues.

Feldman said in May there were more than 40 phone conversations between commissioners and the town attorney’s office, which bills at a rate of about $220 an hour.

Ryan said since Thrasher’s hiring, she has had fewer calls from commissioners.

“You will see a difference,” she said.

Thrasher said he appreciated the opportunity to serve as interim manager but was a bit embarrassed by the praise.

“What I’m doing is my job and nothing more,” he said.

Your next town manager will do the same.”
A new Boca Raton house at 899 Enfield St., exclusively listed for sale by Kathryn Gillespie, an agent with Illustrated Properties, has been selected as a finalist in HGTV’s international Ultimate House Hunt 2018. The $11.5 million home, developed by Mary Widmer of JMW Florida Properties, is one of 12 worldwide properties to be chosen for the ‘Waterfront Homes’ category.

This new 10,000-square-foot home on Enfield Street in Boca Raton takes advantage of the view of the Intracoastal and is a finalist in HGTV’s online Ultimate House Hunt 2018. Photo provided

At $19.88 million, the estate at 6161 N. Ocean Blvd. sets a sales record for Ocean Ridge. Photo provided

At $23.68 million sale of 900 Broken Sound Parkway, a 115,986-square-foot, Class A office building in Boca Raton. The Hollanday team represented the buyer, a partnership between Mainstreet Capital Partners and an investment fund managed by the Davis Cos., a Boston-based commercial real estate development and investment firm. Hollanday also represented the buyer, a partnership between local investors and a national investment fund that has selected NAU/NNX, Hunter Codman to provide management and leasing services.

In 1989, the five-story building was most recently renovated in 2015 and is 79.4 percent leased to tenants that include CSL Plasma and Geosyntec. The Hollanday investment advisory team representing the seller included Herman Rodriguez, the Ojala and Tracey Goo.

SoFa Partners and Manuel Vergara secured a $22.6 million construction loan for 111 First Delray, a 70-unit, five-story apartment building, which is currently under construction in Delray Beach. The five-story apartment building is expected to open in April 2018. The 111 First Delray project team includes Steven Reibel, president of sales for global Trez Forman Capital, and the firm’s talented team of mortgage professionals.

Based on a report from the Palm Beach County Realty Group of Boynton Beach on June 13. The deal adds 23 agents to Keys’ Manalapan office at 230 S. Ocean Blvd. The Boynton Beach firm, led by Robert Lauer Jr. and Mary Prince, was founded in 2011. It closed more than $20 million in sales last year. After meeting with Keys CEO Mike Pappas and Senior Vice President Steven Reibel, it became clear to us that Keys would be a good fit for our family, their support, dedication and vision they need to grow their business,” said Sauer.

The Festival Management Group announced that the South Florida Garlic Fest will be featured on the Cooking Channel’s Carnival Eats Season 6 premiere, Garlic Angels, at 9 p.m. July 15. Wellington’s Bacon & Bourbon Fest will be featured in the program’s 2018 fall season.

The Delray Beach Marketing Cooperative’s new app at VisitDelrayBeach.org, designed with input from Visit Delray Beach, offers an interactive way to explore Delray Beach events, restaurants, attractions, hotels and points of interest. The app can plan trips on their computers, then download the app and go mobile with the plan. "See a beach activity you don’t want to miss? Click ‘join’ and the event will be added to your plan,” said Stephanie Immelman, executive director. "Want to invite other beach friends? Share your plan with them directly or via social media, email or SMS. Finally, an app going to be added by going to VisitDelrayBeach.org and clicking ‘Plan Your Visit.’"
Delray Beach Marriott offers 20 percent off for Florida residents or 10 percent off all suites. Delray Sands is offering up to 20 percent off, plus breakfast for two. Fairfield Inn & Suites is giving a free $20 gas card earned per night, plus a Florida resident rate. Hyatt Place is offering 15 percent off. Parliament Inn is giving the seventh night free. Residence Inn is giving Florida residents 20 percent off. All deluxe room bookings at The Seagate Hotel & Spa include a hot stone massage and Wright by the Sea is giving 15 percent off all oceanview apartments.

For more information on hotel summer specials, go to VisitDelrayBeach.org/summer. To see restaurant summer specials, go to VisitDelrayBeach.org/eats.

Crane’s Beach House Boutique Hotel and Luxury Villas was named to the TripAdvisor Hall of Fame, an accolade granted to businesses that have won the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for five years in a row. Based on guest reviews, it also won the #Lovedbyguests Award from Hotels.com and it made the Expedia Insiders Select List as judged by Expedia travelers’ experiences.

Crane’s is a repeat recipient of the Florida Superior Small Lodging Association’s Donald A. Dermody White Glove Award for housekeeping excellence and exceptional service.

After a well-received pilot program last year, the Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority has revived the Downtown Safety Ambassador Program, with two ambassadors providing security and hospitality services from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

They are patrolling downtown, the Pineapple Grove Arts District and south of Atlantic one block. Partner organizations include the Police Department Clean and Safe Unit, Fire Department, Community Improvement and Downtown Clean and Safe Unit, and the Homeless Task Force.

The DDA is managing and overseeing the program.
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A wave of change

Program teaches kids to swim, surf, instilling confidence and self-esteem

By Lona O’Connor

Jeremiah Decius had just joined Streetwaves, a nonprofit group that teaches kids how to
swim and surf, and already he was in trouble.

He was accused of hitting a girl in the group and was asked to leave. But his return after an
18-week absence and progress since then mark one of the group’s success stories.

“It was heartbreaking for me to do that,” Streetwaves founder Maurice “Maui” Goodbeer said of the dismissal. “But it was my hope and prayer that he would return.”

Goodbeer started Streetwaves as an answer to the murder of his younger brother, Melvyn Patterson, in San Diego in 2003. Patterson, 21, was shot to death by a 16-year-old gang member.

Goodbeer couldn’t bring back his brother, but he made a promise when he delivered his brother’s eulogy that he would do something to save inner-city youths from getting involved in gun violence.

Goodbeer, who lives in Delray Beach with his wife and two young daughters, began surfing as a boy. He is convinced that the ocean can change the way youngsters interact with their environment.

Ten years ago, while surfing, he decided that he would honor his promise by sharing his love of the ocean with children.

In Miami, he added a surfing program at Alonzo Mourning’s Overtown Youth Center and learned how to start a nonprofit. In Broward County, Deerfield Beach Middle School students learn to swim and surf in a daily program supported by private donors, grants and the city of Deerfield Beach. The Streetwaves kids have

See WAVE on page AT9
Philanthropy Notes

Cultural Council receives gift to support arts growth

Donald Ephraim and Maxine Marks, on behalf of the Donald M. Ephraim Family Foundation, have made a $250,000 gift to the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County to support the nonprofit’s mission to grow the arts in the community.

The donation will pay for planning, advocacy, and community relations, as well as a five-year capacity-building program that includes training for cultural organizations and their leaders.

“Don and Maxine are philanthropists who care about this community and its future,” said Nathan Slack, the council’s board chairman.

In other council news, David Lawrence, who has spent nearly two decades at the Arts Council of Indianapolis, will become the new president and CEO in August.

Lawrence’s arts-management background includes working with the Indianapolis Opera, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and the Indiana Repertory Theatre. For the last nine years, he served as president and CEO of the Arts Council of Indianapolis.

“He brings a passion for arts and culture, a strong strategic perspective and an infectious enthusiasm for the role he will be taking on with the cultural council,” said Bill Parmelee, the council’s board vice chairman.

Boyonnt Beach CRA awards two more grants

The Community Caring Center of Greater Boynton Beach and Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach County are the newest beneficiaries of a Boynton Beach CRA grant through the Nonprofit Organization Grant Program, or NOGP.

NOGP is a new initiative that allocates money to assist organizations with economic and business development and affordable housing. The Community Caring Center of Greater Boynton Beach was awarded $57,681 for its Secret Garden Café Culinary Incubator, which offers training in all aspects of the culinary arts. Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach County was awarded $40,000 for The Door to Sustainability Project, which consists of the construction of four new homes, the repair and maintenance of six homes, a neighborhood cleanup project and educational workshops.

Earlier this year, an NOGP grant of $32,077 was awarded to Pathways to Prosperity’s Community Caring Center of Greater Boynton Beach County Program.

Palm Beach boat show donates $35,000

The Palm Beach County Fishing Foundation and Sheriff’s House Family Ministries were the recipients of $35,000 from the Palm Beach International Boat Show thanks to a charitable campaign with Bennett Auto Supply, Informa Exhibitions and the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County.

Attendees who purchased a $24 ticket at any local Bennett Auto Supply store received a second ticket free, with all proceeds divided between the two charities.

“Knowing that the Palm Beach International Boat Show is successful thanks to the support of our local community, it’s important to us that we serve as community stewards and do our part to make South Florida a better place,” said Mary Bender, vice president of marketing at Informa Exhibitions, the company that manages and produces the show.

Local travel professionals form new nonprofit

Palm Beach Travel, a Manalapan-based agency, along with partners British Virgin Island Tourism, Crystal Cruise Lines, Etihad, Lamborghini and The Moorings, have formed a nonprofit called TravelCares.

TravelCares presented its first donation of more than $30,000 to the British Virgin Islands Recovery Fund.

“Our goals for our inaugural event were to raise funds to support hurricane recovery, provide insight into the devastating impact of Hurricane Irma on the people and economy of the BVI, give updates from BVI Tourism and encourage attendees to contribute to recovery efforts through the event, through the official BVI Tourism Board donation site and through visiting hotels and resorts as they resume operations,” said Annie Davis, president of Palm Beach Travel.

Palm Beach Poetry Festival scores NEA grant

The National Endowment for the Arts has approved more than $80 million in grants as part of the organization’s second major funding announcement for this year.

Included in the announcement was an Art Works grant of $10,000 to the Palm Beach Poetry Festival. The grant will promote the writing, reading and performance of poetry at the 15th annual festival set for Jan. 21-26, 2019, in Delray Beach.

“Through the work of organizations such as Palm Beach Poetry Festival … NEA funding invests in local communities, helping people celebrate the arts wherever they are,” departing NEA Chairwoman Jane Chu said.

Send news and notes to Amy Woods at amywoods@belloouth.net.
Celebrations

**Literacy Links Golf Tournament**
Palm Beach Par 3 Golf Course — May 22

The event was a big success thanks to generous sponsors, good players, a gorgeous golf course and cooperation from the weather. Lunch and a silent auction followed. The benefit brought in $20,000 for the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Dr. Peter Bonutti, Iain Calder, Harrison Calder and Glen Calder. Photo provided

**Check presentation**
Boca Helping Hands, Boca Raton — May 2

Karen Swedenborg, development manager at Boca Helping Hands, accepted a $1,000 donation from the Highland Beach chapter of UNICO National. The funds were made possible by the Ralph J. Torraco Food Bank/Shelter Fund Grant. **ABOVE:** Swedenborg with Frank LoRe Jr., the chapter’s district governor. Photo provided

**Soroptimist International breakfast**
Babione-Kraeer Funeral Home, Boca Raton — May 23

Soroptimist International of Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach, which focuses on improving the lives of girls and women, honored 16 local nonprofits that do the same. Breakfast Chairwoman Lisa Jensen, with Co-Presidents Marybeth Keenan and Dr. Heidi Schaefler, greeted 60-plus members and handed out awards. **LEFT:** (l-r) Helen Babione, Suzy Broad, Sandy Gerstein and Karen Hanson. Photo provided by Barbara McCormick

**Women of Grace reception**
Bethesda Hospital East, Boynton Beach – May 17

At an evening event, the chairwomen of the Women of Grace Luncheon announced the 2018 honorees. More than 75 guests attended, including hospital administrators, committee members and family and friends of the six distinguished women. **ABOVE:** (l-r) honorees Debralyn Belleteri, Deborah Dowd, Gail Oliver, Isabella Diefendorf, 16, Beth Schatman and Patricia Tormey. Photo provided by Downtown Photo

**Summer Camp Paint Party**
Vino Van Gogh, Delray Beach – June 10

Every year, Dollars 4 Tic Scholars brightens the summer for two children by sponsoring their attendance fees for a special summer camp. At the organization’s fourth annual event, a group of supporters gathered to enjoy drinks and hors d’oeuvres — and to paint blue lions, which represent the courage children with Tourette syndrome need to have — to raise money to cover the $900-per-child cost. Photo: (l-r) Elaine Koehler, Denise Alman, Joanne Scheller and Maria Jula. Photo provided

**UNICO National meeting**
Arturo’s Ristorante, Boca Raton — May 7

The Highland Beach chapter of UNICO National gathered for its May meeting, attended by special guests Dr. Frank and Linda DeFrank. Dr. DeFrank addressed members and presented Frank LoRe Jr., the chapter’s district governor, with a 25-year pin. Keynote speaker was Rita Thrasher, founder of Boca Raton’s Promise, a mental health nonprofit that received a $1,090 donation. **ABOVE:** (l-r) Frank Todaro, Clevy Guy, Rosaria Gismondi, the DeFranks, Charles Maikish, Madeline LoRe and Ralph Gengo. Photo provided
Dining

Dine Out Downtown Delray highlights summer events at eateries

Locals finally get relief on the roads, in shops and at restaurants now that the snowbirds have flown. They’re the beneficiaries of a city’s or region’s Restaurant Week (or month) — when programs all around South Florida showcase the new eats in town, as well as old favorites dusting things off with new menus or other changes. Such as it is with Dine Out Downtown Delray, set for Aug. 1-7. More than 25 restaurants or food shops are scheduled to participate.

“That’s the ultimate reason and purpose for this event,” said Laura Simon, executive director of Delray Beach’s Downtown Development Authority. “It gives everybody time to explore and see what’s new. I think we’re going to get to many of these places, Simon says, that the avenue is saturated with dining spots, Simon says. “We’ve had, really,” she said. “Not any more restaurants than changes and shifts. There are new restaurants coming in and others moving out.”

Delray Beach’s restaurant base continues to grow, but more slowly than it may appear, Simon said.

“Within the 24- to 28-block radius, there are approximately 120 restaurant deals or special drink deals meant to give locals a chance to check out what’s new on a menu, or new restaurants such as Ramen Lab Eatery and Che. This program offers preset menus — Pineapple Grove among them — and three blocks south included. The program provides new eateries Doughtnuts and Ramen Lab Eatery. Others participating for the first time include Avanti, Buddha Sky Bar, The Original Popcorn House, the Grove and Craft Food Tours, a culinary tour company.

“The house of Sam had been there 12 years. The owners moved on and retired, and Ramen Lab moved in. On the beach, there’s Caffe Luna Rosa, 50 Ocean and Boston’s on the beach — all are longtime restaurants, then you have Che, an Argentinian steakhouse new to the area,” Simon said. Simon plans to get on the list during the Dine Out Delray week, she said, though she wouldn’t name a favorite.

“I do try to get out there and explore and see what’s new. I love how creative they get.”

The program includes new eateries Doughtnuts and Ramen Lab Eatery. Others participating for the first time include Avanti, Buddha Sky Bar, The Original Popcorn House, the Grove and Craft Food Tours, a culinary tour company.

The list of returning favorites as of late June included Dada, 50 Ocean, Brule Bistro, Banyan Restaurant & Bar, Caffe Luna Rosa, Che, Death or Glory, Lemongrass Asian Bistro, Max’s Harvest, Mellow Mushroom, Salt 7, Vic ’n Angelo’s and Prime Steakhouse.

This year, culinary experiences for all ages offer something different for the diners other than just discounted meals. Mellow Mushroom again offers its pizza-making class, two scheduled this year, a popular event for families.

Adults will want to get in on the Death or Glory cocktail class, where live music and great drinks will be created by the mixologist and students, with recipes to take home. It will be finished by a lunch, with the bar’s featured cocktail: a fresh mango shaken daquiri.

Tours behind the scenes at the Original Popcorn House are given six times during the week. Those attending get free popcorn.

At the Ramen Lab Eatery, a demo and hands-on lessons for both soba and ramen noodle making are scheduled, with details still in the works.

Diners can learn to roll sushi at Lemongrass Asian Bistro. Other classes on nutrition and juicing, tasting and food pairing dinners are being put together for Dine Out week.

Dine Out Downtown Delray benefits the Delray Beach Initiative’s Living Hungry campaign. “Not One Hungry Homeless Student Delray Beach.” Its purpose is to make people aware of the student homeless population in Delray and showcase solutions and programs designed to help.

To find out which restaurants are participating and get the details on menus, events and classes offered, go to downtowndelraybeach.com/restaurantweek.

New restaurants are on the scene around Delray Beach as the summer shuffle begins. One that attracts many younger diners, and puzzles some older ones, is Ramen Lab Eatery, in the old House of Siam space on Northeast Second Avenue. It opened in mid-June.

“People who come in and ask, ‘What is ramen?’ is shocking,” I know, said owner Louis Grayson. “Some people ask about udon and soba.”

Others wonder if the noodles are like thin rice noodles served in pho.

“We hope to educate them,” he said.

All of the restaurant’s wheat-based noodles are made from scratch, and the soup broth simmered for hours as is tradition. “We make all our own spices, and marinate our own meats,” Grayson said. “We try to do as much as possible from scratch.”

The upscale fast-casual spot is set up as counter-service, with a bar for local craft beers, boutique red and white wines and cold sake.

“We have a traditional Japanese influence,” Grayson said. “And a couple of traditional noodle dishes, but I like to add a little Thai and Korean to the menu; other bits and bombs. That’s the lab — experimental part of the restaurant.”

The brand opened in Boca Raton, where fast-casual isn’t as popular yet, he said. It also has two stalls in the Grandview Market food hall in West Palm Beach, a Ramen Lab and a Poke Lab.

Grayson will step out of the traditional noodle shop format with Asian influences, where a pan-Asian spin will be introduced.

“We’re not going to serve till after 2 p.m.; chicken and waffles Japanese style, or a Korean-style dish with Spam.”

His version of a hangover cure — something like the Eggplant sandwich, a honey roll with two slices of spam and the aisle — may be on the menu.

He has other plans, but right now is just tweaking the formula. It’s proven to be a late-night spot and he’s adjusting to that, as well. It rocks till 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

In brief

The Driftwood restaurant, which opened this summer, is making waves in Boynton Beach. It’s in the old Scalby’s location on Federal Highway. It’s a Polynesian casual atmosphere, with modern cuisine, craft cocktails and a good brunch in the mix.

Some say the area is saturated and not-so-much closures lately: Junior’s Restaurant and Cheesecake Factory both closed in Boca’s downtown area. …

Down in Fort Lauderdale, Sublime’s exit is making waves. The vegetarian full-service restaurant, a fixture on Federal Highway for 15 years, closed its doors suddenly in May. It hosted the likes of Sir Paul McCartney and other celeb vegetarians over the years.

Jon Norris is a food writer who can be reached at nativegirl@gmail.com, Thom Smith is an editor and can be reached at thomsmith@gmail.com.
Music

Lake Worth’s Bamboo Room gets yet another new life

By Bill Meredith
ArtPaper Music Writer

Risen from the ashes, the Bamboo Room opened for the fourth time in Lake Worth on June 8 as the Phoenix Charity Bar at the Bamboo Room. The reason for the new name is based more on benevolence than the mythical bird’s revival, though. More on that later.

The iconic venue, in the 1920s-era Paradise Building, has featured international blues, rock, and jazz/fusion artists (Bo Diddley, Elvin Bishop, Hubert Sumlin, Dan Hicks, Garaj Mahal, Col. Bruce Hampton, Joe Bonamassa, NRBQ) intermittently since first opening in 1999. Closures in the late 2000s and mid-2010s led to the site’s third installment, in which the only recurring activities were Sunday services under management by Mike Olive, pastor for Common Grounds Church.

Patrons once poured in for the club’s initial blues-heavy, decade-long run with something bordering on religious fervor, but any of those in attendance for the Phoenix Charity Bar’s maiden voyage quickly realized that this was not their father’s Bamboo Room.

“We don’t want to focus on just one musical genre,” said general manager Stephen Werkle, who has leased the bar for three years with partners Dan Popejoy and Michael LaMorte. “We want to be open five nights a week and feature all different kinds of music, primarily by area acts, and also have some karaoke, comedy shows and movie nights here.”

An hour into its existence, the bar’s first presentation was the metallic reggae sounds, and ample dreadlocked hair, of the shirtless Lake Worth band Space Coast Ghosts. Next up was West Palm Beach retro 1980s quartet Static Momentum, followed by area country trio the Tom Blake Band.

Things got more pop-centric later in the evening through local group Lava and singer/songwriter Lindsay Mills, who’s also bassist/vocalist for the international, Wellington-sprung band Surfer Blood. But no blues was served.

The trend continued the following night via another esoteric locals lineup including Broot McCoy, Stinky Gringos, Vibes Farm, and Yardji. The turn away from a blues-heavy format had actually started during the second incarnation of the Bamboo Room, when it was run by the Paradise Building’s owners, area real estate agent Ryan Mueller and finance industry veteran Blaine Minton. They eventually closed the club, but continue to own the building.

As attendance reached near-maximum capacity around 10 p.m. June 8, mostly new faces mixed with occasional Bamboo Room veterans like Marlon Foster, visitor services and music manager at the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County. Mueller made an appearance, as did his Paradise Building co-owner’s father, David Minton.

A former Bamboo Room

See BAMBOO on AT6

Art

‘Nomadic’ tapestries weave their way into our minds, hearts

By Gretel Sarmiento
ArtPaper Art Writer

Picasso, Miró, Dalí, Chagall, Raphël and Rubens experimented with it, but tapestry is still not the sexiest medium in the world of art. Given the right time, space and lighting, however, this ancient practice — once held in higher esteem than sculpture and painting — blows away the most skeptical art fan. Trust me. I’m one of them.

But the engagement ring you have been hinting at and the question you know to be imminent but pretend not to see coming, Nomadic Murals: Contemporary Tapestries and Carpets is a truly unexpected surprise. One that triggers an entirely different question: Where have you been all my life?

More than 40 large-scale carpets and tapestries are on view at the Boca Raton Museum of Art through Oct. 21. All are original concepts by contemporary artists.

A lion and a man share the same body in Sometimes, a semi-autobiographical work by Miami-based artist Carlos Luna, which features his characteristic bold style and energy. The lower portion of the body ascends into the red sky where it splits into two heads: animal and human. Ghostly shadows mimicking the same pose as the beast haunt it along the way.

Luna exhibited works on paper in a solo show at the Boca Raton Museum last summer. This jacquard tapestry, created in 2015, shares more than the common subject of animals with those pieces; it retains the same impetuousness.

The jacquard method, invented by Joseph Marie Jacquard in 1804, uses perforated cards — much like the first computers — that dictate the colored thread to be used. Each punched hole corresponds to an individual warp thread. Eventually, the practice evolved and faster methods emerged but the basics are the same. Colored welt threads are woven into fixed warp threads, creating a thick textile fabric.

Florida will instantly relate to the bad weather developing in April Gornik’s Rain, Storm and Light (2017), which treats us to a picture of dexterity and realistic-dreamlike quality, for which the New York-based artist is known, but the loose ends seem in constant motion, this is a picture of dexterity and control. It lacks the sharpness of Gornik’s oil paintings, but certainly preserves her voice: “I am an artist that values, above all, the ability of art to move me emotionally and psychically,” reads her online statement. Favorited in ancient times

See NOMADIC on AT7

Lake Worth band Space Coast Ghosts plays the opening set during the grand opening of the Phoenix Charity Bar at the Bamboo Room on June 8. Photo by Regina Campbell

By Faisal Abdu’Allah, at the Boca Museum of Art. Magnolia Editions

Duppy Conqueror II (2017), as did his Paradise Building co-owner’s father, David Minton. A former Bamboo Room

See BAMBOO on AT6

Duppy Conqueror II (2017), as did his Paradise Building co-owner’s father, David Minton. A former Bamboo Room

See BAMBOO on AT6
managing partner, the elder Minton has run his own clothing company, Action Sportwear, since 1988. "I still do a few things with the Paradise Building, but not with the club anymore," Minton said. "Stephen, Dan and Michael are good guys with good ideas, and I’ve always enjoyed coming here. My wife, Virginia, used to hostess here, and we had some great times. I’m glad to see it back open, and the building has some good tenants downstairs as well. The pub Revelry has a nice atmosphere and selection of brews, and Rudy’s, where the Bamboo office used to be, has been doing well since opening here in February."

Werkle, who runs his own area information technology business, was talked into partnership at the Phoenix Charity Bar by Popejoy — a senior corporate executive who founded the Lake Worth-based nonprofit The Phoenix Mission in 2017. As its CEO and chairman of the board, Popejoy oversees programs to collect clothing for needy people, and particularly otherwise-wasted food from grocery stores, restaurants and farms to distribute to food banks, pantries and homeless shelters.

"Dan moved an impressive 40,000 pounds of food to hungry people through the Phoenix Mission last year," Werkle said. "When he said he wanted to continue its mission by opening a bar, I told him he was crazy. Then I walked into this place for the first time, and said, ‘Where do I sign?’ After we cover our expenses, we donate 30 percent directly to the Phoenix Mission. We’re using the rest to save up for a food bank."

The room bears many similarities to the one that initially opened in 1999. There are the same leopard-skin stairs leading up to its hardwood floors, some of the same art and memorabilia on the walls, and cocktail mixers behind the original stately bar. Look up, and you’ll see the same vaulted wood ceiling and unique, tubular air-conditioning ducts. The outdoor patio, where patrons can go to smoke and/or enjoy lesser volume, remains the same, with food trucks beneath it in the back parking lot. And the stage features the same PA system and house Yamaha drum kit.

On opening night, the tardy sound engineer wasn’t around to help when Space Coast Ghosts drummer Alex Mandel had trouble with both the house kit’s kick and snare drums.

If You Go
Misfits Mondays, Phat Taco Tuesdays and Karaoke Thursdays start at 7 p.m. at the Phoenix Charity Bar at the Bamboo Room, 25 S. J St., Lake Worth. At press time, the following acts were scheduled: Lindsey Mills & Friends at 8 p.m. July 6; The Ricca Project at 8 p.m. July 11; Kelly Blanx Reggae Night at 9 p.m. July 16; SoleMark at 9 p.m. July 22; Spred the Dub at 9 p.m. Aug. 4; and Unlimited Devotion at 8 p.m. Aug. 17. See the bar’s Facebook page for updated listings.
NOMADIC
Continued from page 5

for its ease of transportation, the art of tapestry lacks the sensationalism that comes from associations with notoriously temperamental stars, drugs, alcoholism and suicides. It is a long-distance runner; not a sprinter. Its pace is methodical, requires focus and consumes lower but continuous bursts of energy. Luckily, neither the hard work that goes into it nor its susceptibility to bugs and climate is deterring modern artists from exploring it.

Some of the works included here are hand-woven by the artists themselves, while others are the product of collaborations with art galleries, production companies and rug manufacturers.

Color patches in pale blues and rosy pinks blend to give shape to the gigantic male nude in *Reclining Youth*, which spans 82 by 169 inches. Slowly, out of the chaos, and thanks to a carefully calculated use of color, emerges the man’s flesh, muscles and head. The piece has a raw, distressed quality and reflects Leon Golub’s fascination with Greek mythology.

Although it looks as if the figure has been beaten up (he is covered in bruises and fluids are gushing out of wounds), this is still a cheerier take from the controversial artist/political activist who portrayed dictators, war victims, hangings and torture chambers. The Met exhibited many of his darker works in May.

The Chicago-born artist, who died in 2004, borrowed inspiration from his 1959 painting of the Great Altar of Zeus at Berlin’s Pergamon Museum. This 2003 tapestry was done in collaboration with Magnolia Editions, an art studio that employs a computerized system to preserve the essence of an artist’s design with “no alteration from the weaver” and has the tapestries woven at a family-owned mill in Belgium.

That blending effect distorting one’s perception of a hue depending on adjacent colors can be attributed to a French chemist by the name of Eugène Chevreul. He concluded that the perceived color of a particular thread was driven by its neighboring threads. The law of “simultaneous contrast” is evident in Margo Wolowiec’s *Two Centuries*, where the interaction of colors results in hues fading in and out; in reality, they are not.

The Detroit-based artist is known for tackling the pervasive effect of the digital age and its nonstop visual messaging. For this 2017 piece made of hand-woven polyester, linen and acrylic dye, Wolowiec gradually blurs images of flowers collected from the internet and now arranged like a checkerboard. Transmission of the image is fading worst at the top of the frame. White lines have taken over and look to propagate downward, as if it were a virus or technical glitch.

Nomadic Murals makes a strong point in favor of an art form traditionally judged as folk art, asking us to reconsider it as an equally invigorating force. The show is a turn in the right direction, or, at the very least, a reset button in textile appreciation.

If You Go
Nomadic Murals: Contemporary Tapestries and Carpets runs through Oct. 21 at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real, Boca Raton.
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri.; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thurs.; noon-5 p.m. Sat. and Sun.
Admission: $12; $10 for seniors; free for museum members, students and children 12 and younger
Info: 392-2500 or bocamuseum.org

BAMBOO
Continued from page 6

Wine and beer selections were limited to predictable brands, including no draft beers—a stark contrast to the initial Bamboo Room’s high-end bottled and draft imports and craft brews. And because of a thin wait staff, the bar got backed up as the crowd grew later in the evening. All, perhaps, growing pains that will improve, or have already.

“We’re in the process of getting the phone number changed,” Werkle said, “so for now, the best way to contact us is on Facebook through the Bamboo Room or Phoenix Charity Bar pages.”

At press time, those pages advertised weekly music events on Fridays at 7 p.m., plus a trickle of ongoing additions, as the fledgling club was firming up its calendar.

“A few technical hiccups aside, the grand opening was a HUGE success,” Werkle wrote on the venue’s Facebook site June 9. “Thank you to everybody who came out, and to our awesome staff!”
Reviews

Here are edited reviews of current performances. For the full reviews, visit palmbeachartscorp.com.

Mr. Parker (through July 15, Island Stage, Wilton Manors)

Acclaimed photographer Jeffrey McCabe and so-so newcomers Terry Parker and Irene Hackett inseparable companions for 30 years — and married for six of those years. The characters, like one word, and fully expected to grow old together. But Jeff died seven months ago in a car crash and 56-year-old Terry is still grieving over his loss.

He relates this to the audience in a touching manner of a superb new play by the prolific Michael McKeever called Mr. Parker. Terry is28-year-old named Justin is a little awed by Terry, who must OK the show, and welcomes him to dip his toes in the trough of footage the character was like one word, and fully expected to grow old together. But Jeff died seven months ago in a car crash and 56-year-old Terry is still grieving over his loss.

He relates this to the audience in a touching manner of a superb new play by the prolific Michael McKeever called Mr. Parker. Terry is still grieving over his death. The result of his outing is so soon apparent, as a nake28-year-old named Justin is a little awed by Terry, who must OK the show, and welcomes him to dip his toes in the trough of footage the character was like one word, and fully expected to grow old together. But Jeff died seven months ago in a car crash and 56-year-old Terry is still grieving over his loss.

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WAVE
Continued from page AT1
also visited the International
Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort
Lauderdale.
“Because it’s daily, they are
excelling really fast,” Goodbeer,
44, said. “Now they’re
swimming 1,000 yards a day.”
They’re keeping up their skills
during a Streetwaves summer
camp that runs through Aug.
10. The program is supported
by private donors and the city
de Deerfield Beach. Over 10 years,
Streetwaves has taught more
than 3,000 children to swim and
surf, and now has a staff of 15.

Next stop: Delray Beach,
where Goodbeer plans to start a
free Saturday surfing program
starting Sept. 1, on the heels of
Streetwaves’ 10th birthday celebration Aug. 31 in Delray.
He is seeking financial support
from community groups and the
city.
Goodbeer and his brother
were both born on Aug. 31. “We
were extremely close,” recalled
Goodbeer. “He was mine, as far as I was concerned. I took
him to the beach with me all the
time. We were each other’s
guardian angels.”

Novices learning fast
Many of his students have
never been to a beach before.
“At first they have some
apprehensions about the water,”
said Goodbeer.
Apprehensions are gone
now, as the kids pile out of the
Streetwaves van, zip into
downwinds, dash into the surf
and paddle out to find waves.
The van is a converted
SWAT vehicle now filled with
youngsters and surfboards
instead of police and automatic
weapons.
Like the others in
Streetwaves, Guerdy Laurent,
12, a seventh-grader at Deerfield
Beach Middle School, learned
swimming first, then practiced
surfing techniques on the sand
before he was ready for the
water.
“Just watching Coach Maui
helps me a lot,” he said.

Jeremiah Decius catches a wave.

The Coastal Star

The students have to prove
they are strong swimmers before
they start surfing, and 10 of
the current group learned well
enough to be invited to join
swim teams.
What if they had to choose
among swim team and
surfing? “Surfing” they all shouted in
a chorus.
Maya Hodges, 12, of
Pompano Beach, is working on
popups, going from prone on
the board to standing up.
“She has a great popup,” said
Goodbeer. “She’s growing into a
style that works for her.”
Every time one of his students
pops up and rides a wave to
shore, Goodbeer is exhilarated.
“I don’t know right away if a kid is going to be good until
they have built up their strength
— arms, legs, lungs — and
learned the strokes,” Goodbeer
said. “But I’ve been unbelievably
impressed.”
Besides learning how to
swim and enjoy the ocean,
Streetwaves participants become
more environmentally aware,
including learning to recycle
and clean up beaches.
“There’s something special
about befriending people in
the water,” said Goodbeer. “It
happens so organically and
beautifully. You have each other’s
back. I watch the surfers show
so much respect for these new
surfers. And I think wow, these
kids are learning a lot.”

Banished boy back
Jeremiah Decius’ absence
seemed like an eternity. Then
he and Goodbeer worked out a
plan for his return.
A wiry 12-year-old, Decius
showed promise. From being a
novice swimmer at best, he had
learned to swim 1,000 yards.
He had learned how to pop
up onto a surfboard from the water,
turn, paddle, walk and stand on
the board. But “he had a little bit
of an attitude,” Goodbeer said.
Later Goodbeer learned
where that attitude may have
come from. Because of school
schedules, many of the kids had
not eaten since their lunch at
9:45 a.m. After that, he made
sure to bring fruit and snacks
for them to eat before surfing.
He also found out that
Decius’ alternative for the
afternoon was to walk home to
an empty house.
“I thought, why not come
back, because I was bored and
alone when I got home,” said
Decius, who lives in Pompano
Beach. So Decius returned in
time for the last nine-week
after-school surfing session and
joined the summer program.
“I see a great change in
him,” Goodbeer said. “He’s
surfing great, he’s happy, he’s
like a different person. I am so
proud of him, I’m in tears right
now.”
Streetwaves is looking for
a venue to show a short film
about the group. It also needs
surfers and others to volunteer.
For more info on its planned
Delray Beach program and
anniversary celebration, visit the
Streetwaves page on Facebook
or contact maui@streetwaves.org.

Dining
Something that’s better than just desserts

The Plate: Banana cake
The Place: Tin Muffin Café, 364 E.
Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton; 392-
9446
The Price: $8; cash only.
The Skinny: For those who like to skip
dessert, here’s some advice: You don’t
want to skip dessert at the Tin Muffin
Café.
This downtown Boca Raton lunch spot
delivers on its promise that “Happiness
is Homemade.”
The plate is tiny, with 10 tables. It specializes in soups,
salads and sandwiches, but the banana
cake caught my eye.
This waxy yellow cake was rich, but not
cloyingly sweet. It’s a dense cake, with a
fine crumb, and plenty of banana goodness,
with spice — I think I detected more than a
touch of cinnamon and nutmeg. The cream cheese
frosting was decadent, and I happily would have
skipped the whipped cream my server added.
I stopped in late on a Saturday afternoon, after
I’d eaten lunch.
Next time, I want to get to the restaurant
early enough to try some of the tasty-looking salads I
saw other patrons nibbling. And, yes, there will
be a next time.
— Scott Simmons

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Boynton church pleased with prospect of sharing space with city library

It's the end of an era for the Congregational United Church of Christ of Boynton Beach, but it isn't the end.

The church, better known as Boynton UCC, is working on an agreement to lease back part of the building it recently sold to the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency. The church would pay $10 a month until Dec. 31, 2020.

The congregation will have a much smaller space — about one-quarter of the building — but enough to continue services for the time being. A former agreement had the church, which has been a fixture in Boynton Beach since it opened in 1976, vacating in mid-December. Now the city library will occupy most of the building beginning in mid-August.

It will move into the space temporarily while the city's Town Square project is under construction. The church hopes to stay until the library moves into its new building.

The 1.3-acre tract on the west side of Federal Highway between Boynton Beach Boulevard and Ocean Avenue downtown is worth $3 million to the city, which owns an adjacent parcel of land. It's a good investment for the city, Mayor Steven Grant said, considering its prime location and potential uses.

For one thing, it would help solve the parking issues resulting from the blooming revitalization of this neighborhood.

The new 560 Ocean, a retail and residential development that's nearly finished, will have about 340 one- to three-bedroom apartments plus 20,000 square feet of retail space. Other planned projects include Ocean One (more apartments and retail), Town Square (about 16 acres off Boynton Beach Boulevard that includes City Hall, the historic high school, the library and the police station, which all will be rebuilt) and The Villages at East Ocean Avenue (more homes and commercial space).

The site is also important to the planned Tri-Rail Coastal Link station just across the FEC tracks. The commuter train service would run on the Florida East Coast Railway in Palm Beach County, and a station is planned for Boynton on the west side of Northeast Fourth Street.

One sticking point in negotiations had been what to do with the church's cross and the stained-glass windows.

Under the new agreement, the cross will be moved inside, and the windows will stay in place until the church moves.

The windows were designed by renowned artist Conrad Pickel, whose work is found in more than 700 churches throughout the world. The window tours hosted by the Boynton Beach Historical Society featured Pickel's work, including pieces at other city landmarks — Boynton Beach Memorial Park and Mausoleum, Ascension Lutheran Church and St. Joseph's Episcopal Church — so the city plans to preserve the windows for the benefit of the citizens of Boynton Beach.

But the church won't be able to keep its thrift shop. Volunteers packed up the goods and donated them to charity.

Fred Birdall, a moderator at the church and a former inspector for Boynton Beach, called the deal "a win-win for us and the city. It's been a pleasure working with the city on this. They've been very good to us."

Birdall and his wife, Jean, are well-known in Boynton, which no doubt smoothed negotiations.

Jean Birdall clerked for the city manager and the police chief and is active with the Friends of the Library, according to her husband.

The church, just blocks from the Intracoastal Waterway, once boasted 250 active members and now has fewer than 50.

Just shy of his 83rd birthday, Fred Birdsall said he worries about the dwindling membership, but he's prepared to leave that, too, in God's hands. "The good Lord has been looking down on us. We're doing very well."

Between the time the library closes at 8:30 p.m. July 12 and re-opening at the church building at 9 a.m. Aug. 13, there will be no physical location for the library. Materials will be due on Aug. 20. Library card holders will have access to electronic resources (audio and electronic books and databases) at www.boynton-beach.org/city-library.

Jenis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and events. Contact her at janisfontaine@outlook.com.
Religion Calendar

July 7-14

Monday - 7/9 - Rupert of Huy and St Mark Catholic Church, 645 S Mark Pl, Boynton Beach. Follows 8 am Mass every M. Free. 734-9190, stmarkboynton.com

7/9 - Monday Morning Women's Bible Study at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Glaciers St. Every M 10-11:30 am. Free. 276-6345, firstpresdelray.org

7/9 - Women's Bible Study at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 2780 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Every M 10 am. Free. 276-5612, susanstruthers.com

7/9 - Rosary for Peace at St. Vincent Ferrer Adventist Church, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Every M 7 pm. Free. 276-4892, stvphilanthropy.com

Tuesday - 7/10 - Lectio Divina at St Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1005 Swinton Blvd, Delray Beach. Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation, prayer. Every T 9-10 am. Free. 276-4541, stpaulsdelray.org

7/10 - Lunch and Learn: Jewish Short Films and Their Meanings and Insight with Rabbi Jessica Spitalnic Brockman at Temple Beth El (Schafter Family Campus), 153 S SW 4th Ave, Boca Raton. Bring lunch, drinks provided. Held again 7/12, 10-11 noon. Free. 391-1800; theraba.com

7/10 - Bible Study at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1005 Swinton Blvd, Delray Beach. Every T 10 am-noon. Free. 276-4541, stpaulsdelray.org

7/10 - St Mark Bible Study at St Mark Catholic Church, 645 S Mark Pl, Boynton Beach. Every T 7-8 pm. Nominal fee/fee-will offering for study guide. Register: 734-9190, stmarkboynton.com

Wednesday - 7/11 - Prayer Circle at St Gregory’s Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every W 6 pm supper (soup & salad, donation requested); 7 pm Bible study (free). 395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

7/11 - Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God at Trinity Lutheran Church, 101 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Every M 9:30 am-noon. Free. 391-8900; trinitydelray.org

Thursday - 7/12 - Prayer Circle at St Gregory’s Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every W 6 pm supper (soup & salad, donation requested); 7 pm Bible study (free). 395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org

7/12 - Women’s Bible Study Group at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every T 8-9 am. Free. 276-6338; firstdelray.com

7/12 - Men’s Fellowship at Trinity Lutheran Church, 400 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Every M 7 pm. Free. 391-8285; stvphilanthropy.com

7/12 - Lunch and Learn: Israeli Short Films and Their Meanings and Insight with Rabbi Jessica Spitalnic Brockman at Temple Beth El (Schafter Family Campus), 153 S SW 4th Ave, Boca Raton. Bring lunch, drinks provided. Held again 7/12, 10-11 noon. Free. 391-1800; theraba.com

7/12 - Women’s Bible Study Group at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach, 33 Gleason St. Every Th 8-9 am. Free. 276-6338; firstdelray.com

7/12 - Morning Women’s Bible Study at Temple Beth El (Schafter Family Campus), 153 S SW 4th Ave, Boca Raton. Bring lunch, drinks provided. Held again 7/12, 10-11 noon. Free. 391-1800; theraba.com

Note: Events are current as of 6/29. Please check with organizers for any changes.
Inpatient tower’s name honors Boca Raton hospital’s founder

Boca Raton Regional Hospital is paying homage to its founder by naming its existing inpatient facility the Gloria Drummond Patient Tower. The action was taken in response to a $2.5 million gift from philanthropist Elaine J. Wold and the Bay Foundation in April. Wold is the daughter of a new seven-story patient tower, which is part of the hospital’s proposed $280 million expansion and renovation. The move reflects the name of Drummond, Boca Regional’s founder and Wold’s lifelong friend.

While the structure, when completed, will reflect that name, it was thought that Wold’s largesse should be immediately recognized.

“With the magnitude of Elaine’s gift and her material and long-standing support of our hospital in other areas such as our Wold Family Center for Emergency Medicine and the Gloria Drummond Physical Rehabilitation Institute, we thought it most fitting to have her request realized now and affix Gloria’s name to the present-day hospital as well,” said Mark Larkin, president of Boca Regional’s Foundation.

Boca Raton Regional Hospital has begun offering regenerative medicine therapy for orthopedic patients undergoing rehabilitation for osteoarthritis of the knee.

Joshua Rothenberg, D.O. and director of regenerative medicine at the hospital, notes that the therapies often help patients recover quicker and return to normal function in the affected areas.

“I employ regenerative medicine as part of a comprehensive rehabilitation program that is focused on the strengthening of the musculoskeletal system,” he said. “While the field is still relatively new, we know that the body has an inherent ability to heal itself from injury.”

The mainstays of the therapy include the use of platelet-rich plasma as well as new regenerative cellular treatments, which contain a patient’s own mesenchymal stem cells.

The Kathy Krickstein Press Mammovan Arrived at Boca Raton Regional Hospital in June, showing off a new design.

The van, which travels to South Florida community events, businesses and health fair, has customized mammography and exam suites, a waiting area, new awning and wheelchair lift. It also offers the more comfortable Xenographie Pristina 3-D Mammography.

The Kathy Krickstein Press Mammovan is financed with contributions from Boca Raton resident Morgan Pressel Bush, the Morgan Pressel Foundation and the St. Andrews Country Club.

The Christine E. Lynn Women’s Health & Wellness Institute at Boca Raton Regional Hospital has begun to offer Saturday appointments for mammograms, breast ultrasounds and bone density on the first Saturday of each month.

Major insurers are accepted and financial assistance is available for those without coverage who qualify. Appointments can be made by calling 955-4700.

Florida Atlantic University’s Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing received a $2.8 million grant from the Florida Department of Health Resources & Services Administration for a four-year, $2.0 million program in support of Academic Partnerships in Excellence, RNs in Primary Care. It is designed to recruit and prepare their nursing students registered nurses to practice in community-based primary care teams. The program is the first of its kind in the state of Florida.

The overarching goal of our project is to create healthier communities in rural and underserved populations,” said Karen A. Edwards, project director. The program will be focused on three areas of academic programs and a professor in FAU’s College of Nursing. “With this latest grant, we will educate and provide clinical training to establish a primary care workforce of students with a bachelor degree of science in nursing who are practice-ready and willing to serve our veterans and patients in rural and underserved communities.”

Some good news in the fight against strokes: Delray Medical Center is offering a new procedure, transcatheter artery recanalization, to treat carotid artery disease and prevent strokes. It’s clinically proven, minimally invasive and a safe approach for high-surgical-risk patients who need carotid artery treatment.

“Interventional neuroradiology is an important new option in the fight against stroke and is particularly suited for the large portion of patients we see who are at high risk of complications from carotid surgery due to age, anatomy or other medical conditions,” said Dr. Joseph R. Blumenthal, medical director of vascular surgery and endovascular therapy at Tenet Healthcare, who performed the procedure at Delray Medical Center.

“This new procedure is unique in that blood flow is temporarily reversed so that any small bits of plaque that may break off are diverted away from the brain, preventing a stroke from happening. A stent is then placed inside an artery to stabilize the plaque, minimizing the risk of a future stroke. For more information or for a free physician referral, call 800-897-9789 or visit delraymedicalcr.com.

Summer mornings are looking brighter for many people who are food-deprived. Delray Medical Center, Good Samaritan Medical Center, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, St. Mary’s Medical Center and West Boca Medical Center donated more than 73,000 servings of cereal to local food banks in Palm Beach County during their third annual Over Hungry Cereal Drive, which ran in the first week of June.

“The donations collected will help provide local children and adults struggling with hunger with a healthy breakfast during the summer,” said Mark Bryan, chief executive officer of the Town of Delray Beach hospitals. “Good nutrition is essential to good health, and we wanted to help lead the fight against hunger in Palm Beach County.”

The hospitals partnered and donated to the following local organizations: 7,000 servings from Delray Medical Center to CROS Ministries Food Pantry; 2,749 servings from Good Samaritan Medical Center to Feeding South Florida; 8,432 servings from Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center to Feeding South Florida; 4,721 servings from St. Mary’s Medical Center to Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County; and 8,190 servings from West Boca Medical Center to Boca Helping Hands.

Wendy Lo, the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens’ curator of education, has received the Health Care Innovation Award for her work on the Stroll for Well-being Program at the gardens.

The award was presented at the Palm Beach County Medical Society Services’ annual luncheon and awards ceremony at the Kravis Center.

The Stroll for Wellness benefits include the enhancement of mental and physical wellness, and mitigating symptoms of depression. Lo has represented the program for nine years at national garden conferences, inspiring others to launch similar walking initiatives, including San Diego’s Japanese Friendship Garden and the Yume Japanese Gardens of Tucson. For more information, call 495-0233 or visit morikami.org/or-adults/special-programs/stroll-for-well-being/.

The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens is at 4000 N. Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach.

Abbey Delray South senior living community has a new executive director, Rachel Blumberg.

“Rachel has the background, experience and leadership skills necessary to lead Delray South to continued growth and success,” said Sloan Bentley, president and CEO of LifeRise, which owns and operates affiliated properties including Delray South.

Blumberg has a bachelor’s degree in social work from Florida State University as well as a master’s degree in health service administration from Florida International University. She’s also a Florida State Humanitarian of the Year award winner, recognizing her hospice-related volunteer efforts.

Nominations are open for the Susan G. Komen South Florida Race for the Cure 2019 Florida Warriors in Pink breast cancer survivors. Each year, eight Warriors are selected and recognized for their fight against breast cancer to share a light on advancements in breast cancer survival and to help others through their journeys. Tell a breast cancer survivor about this nomination form or video about your story through their mothers, sister, best friend or yourself. Send nominations to info@komenflorida.org. To download the nomination form, visit komensouthflorida.org/2019-warriors-in-pink/.

Send health news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com.
**July 7**

**7/7 - Freedom Meditation at Delray Beach Community Center, 501 NW 22nd St. Free.**

**7/7 - Baby Class with OceanCare at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 10 am. Free. 276-3892; stvincentferrer.com**

**July 8-14**

**Sunday - 7/8 - Yoga in the Park at Oak School. 7:30 am.**

**Monday - 7/9 - Tai Chi at City of Delray Beach Community Center, 101 NW 22nd St. 7:30 am.**

**Tuesday - 7/10 - Tai Chi at City of Delray Beach Community Center, 101 NW 22nd St. 7:30 am.**

**Wednesday - 7/11 - Zumba Gold at City of Delray Beach Community Center, 101 NW 22nd St. 7:30 am.**

**Friday - 7/13 - Zumba Gold at City of Delray Beach Community Center, 101 NW 22nd St. 7:30 am.**

**July 15-21**

**Sunday - 7/15 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am.**

**Tuesday - 7/17 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am.**

**July 22-28**

**Wednesday - 7/22 - with Dr. Lorna and the Luma at City of Delray Beach Community Center, 501 NW 22nd St. 7:30 am. Free.**

**Thursday - 7/23 - Inbreathing: Mindful Meditation at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St. Delray Beach. 3 pm. Free. 243-7350, mydelraybeach.com**

**July 29-August 4**

**Friday - 7/27 - West Coast Swing Dance Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 201 Crawford Blvd. Course teaches connection, timing, and framework of the basic patterns. No partners needed. 7:30 - 8:30 pm. Free. 562-8040, resident: 398-7867; myboicap.com**

**July 30**

**Wednesday - 7/30 - Yoga and Lunch at City of Delray Beach Community Center, 501 NW 22nd St. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Free. 561-272-8290, cell 561-424-1660; sfsciencecenter.org**

**August 1**


**August 7**

**Wednesday - 8/7 - July 4th in Delray and Dunas at City of Delray Beach Community Center, 501 NW 22nd St. 11:30 am - 4 pm. Free. 561-272-8290, cell 561-424-1660; sfsciencecenter.org**

**August 8**

**Wednesday - 8/8 - Meditation at First United Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd. Every M/W/F 7:30-8:30 am. $10/class. 502-523-3350; fumcbocaraton.org**

**August 9-15**

**Monday - 8/8 - Meditation at First United Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd. Every T 7:30-8:30 am. Free. 715-3523; fumcbocaraton.org**

**August 16**

**Monday - 8/15 - Yoga in the Park at Oak School. 7:30 am.**

**Tuesday - 8/16 - Tai Chi with OceanCare at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 276-3892; stvincentferrer.com**

**August 17-23**

**Sunday - 8/17 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**August 24-30**

**Monday - 8/25 - Lunch and Learn at City of Delray Beach Community Center, 501 NW 22nd St. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Free. 561-272-8290, cell 561-424-1660; sfsciencecenter.org**

**August 31**

**Wednesday - 8/31 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**September 1**

**Wednesday - 9/1 - Meditation at First United Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd. Every M/W/F 7:30-8:30 am. $10/class. 502-523-3350; fumcbocaraton.org**

**September 8**

**Wednesday - 9/8 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**September 15**

**Wednesday - 9/15 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**September 22**

**Wednesday - 9/22 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**September 29**

**Wednesday - 9/29 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**October 6**

**Wednesday - 10/6 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**October 13**

**Wednesday - 10/13 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**October 20**

**Wednesday - 10/20 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**October 27**

**Wednesday - 10/27 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**November 3**

**Wednesday - 11/3 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**November 10**

**Wednesday - 11/10 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**November 17**

**Wednesday - 11/17 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**November 24**

**Wednesday - 11/24 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**December 1**

**Wednesday - 12/1 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**December 8**

**Wednesday - 12/8 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**December 15**

**Wednesday - 12/15 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**December 22**

**Wednesday - 12/22 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**December 29**

**Wednesday - 12/29 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**

**January 5**

**Wednesday - 1/5 - Zumba Gold at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd. 7:30 am. Free. 243-7350; mydelraybeach.com**
Warnings against E-15 use in boats gain steam

Most South Florida marinas offer non-ethanol fuel because of problems associated with ethanol use in boats. Boaters who trailer their vessels to gas stations can find “Rec 90” or similar non-ethanol fuel at many gas stations in Palm Beach County.

Although problematic, the E-10 gasoline blend that contains 10 percent ethanol can be used in most modern boat engines.

But boating organizations are warning boat owners against using E-15, the 15 percent gasoline/ethanol blend available at some Florida gas stations.

President Donald Trump recently allowed year-round sales of E-15, previously banned during the summer because of concerns that it contributes to smog in hot weather.

BoatUS, the nation’s largest recreational boating organization, says gasoline containing up to 10 percent ethanol (E-10) can be used in pleasure boats. But gasoline with a larger percentage of ethanol, such as E-15, voids many boat engine warranties, BoatUS says.

Labeling of E-15 at the pump has become a concern in the marine industry.

In May, U.S. Reps. Lois Frankel of Florida and Austin Scott of Georgia, members of the Congressional Boating Caucus, introduced the Consumer Protection and Fuel Transparency Act of 2018, which would require clear labeling of E-15 at the pumps.

“Many consumers assume that all products sold at gas stations are safe, which is not the case when it comes to fueling marine engines with Florida, recreational boating is more than just a way of life. It’s an $11 billion industry supporting more than 56,000 jobs.”

Google mapping waterways by boat Google Maps, which uses cars fitted with cameras to offer “street views” of landmarks, is going nautical with its first mapping boat to cruise South Florida waterways. Google Waterway View mapping began in March in Broward County. Google plans to map the Intracoastal Waterway from Pompano Beach to Lake Worth and from Lake Worth to Jupiter Inlet.

Members of the team on Chips Ahoy led by Capt. Chip Sheehan of Boynton Beach (back row, second from left) celebrate their win in the June 9 Sail Inn KDW Charity Fishing Tournament. The 21-pound kingfish they caught in the final few minutes was the largest fish of the 31-boat tournament, which raised $12,000 for Hospice of Palm Beach County. Photo provided by Chip Sheehan

The mapping boat, a 35-foot Boston Whaler, also will head south along the Intracoastal Waterway to the Miami River and to Ocean Reef near Key Largo.

Chips Ahoy wins Sail Inn tournament Capt. Chip Sheehan of Boynton Beach and his fishing team on Chips Ahoy caught a 21-pound kingfish to win largest fish in the Sail Inn KDW Charity Fishing Tournament, held June 9 at Palm Beach Yacht Center in Hypoluxo.

Sheehan said fishing was tough that day because of stormy weather. His team caught the winning kingfish on a live cigar minnow in 110 feet just south of Boynton Inlet with only eight minutes left to fish.

Mike Bone and his team on MoJo won top dolphin with a 12.8-pound mahi mahi. Team Fish Nix weighed in the only wahoo, at 12 pounds.

The 31-boat tournament, organized by the Sail Inn Tavern in Delray Beach, raised $12,000 for Hospice of Palm Beach County.

Florida boating accidents killed 67 last year Sixty-seven people died and 437 were injured in Florida boating accidents last year, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
at least 3 inches. Lobster must be measured in the water and landed whole. A Florida saltwater fishing license and lobster permit are required, unless you are exempt. Call 625-5122 or go to myfwc.com.

July 25–30: Full-moon wahoo Tournament organized by the West Palm Beach Fishing Club. Also Aug. 25. Entry fee $60 per team. (Each fishing team must include at least one West Palm Beach Fishing Club member.) Cash and merchandise prizes. Call 305-1397 or see westpalmbeachfishingclub.org.

July 28: Basic boating safety class offered by Coast Guard Auxiliary Auxiliary. A 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the classroom and building to the boat ramps, Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 2010 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. Fee $25. Register at the door. Call 704-7440.

Aug. 1: Early-entry deadline for Mark Gonzalez Memorial Fishing Tournament, which benefits youth causes in Delray Beach. Captain’s meeting 6 p.m. Aug. 9 at Delray Beach Lodge, 265 NE Fourth Ave., Delray Beach. Fishing day: Aug. 11. Entry fee $220 per boat by Aug. 1, or $225 thereafter. Call 436-0622 or visit mgmtf.com.

Aug. 6: Regular spiny lobster season opens and remains open through March 31. Details: myfwc.com (click on saltwater fishing regulations).

Tip of the month

Driving for spiny lobster this summer? Don’t forget the underwater measuring gauges and dive flag downers. Use gap gauges to measure spiny lobster in the water. If the lobster’s carapace, or head section, doesn’t exceed 3 inches, release it. Also release all egg-bearing lobsters.

Boats supporting divers should display red-and-white dive flag (or similar siren-downed warning device) measuring at least 12 inches square. Boat operators who spot divers down flags should stay at least 300 feet away on open water — and at least 100 feet away in rivers, inlets and navigation channels. Those approaching closer should do so at idle speed. Will Hobbs is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Reach him at twillows@bellsouth.net.

Outdoor Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 6/29. Please check with organizers for any changes.

SUNDAY - JULY 9 - BoardWalk Tours at Green Cay Wetlands, 12800 Hwy A1A, Boynton Beach. 9 a.m. Free. Info: 775-8383; green-cay.com

SUNDAY - JULY 22 - Bird Fest at Juno Pier, 5430 N. Ocean Blvd, Juno Beach. 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. $5. Info: 474-8434; juno-beach.com

SUNDAY - JULY 29 - Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 468-6186; gumbolimbo.org

WEDNESDAY - JULY 2 - 11-11:30 am, Free. 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

July 22-28

Saturday - 7/14 - Full-moon wahoo Tournament organized by the West Palm Beach Fishing Club. Also Aug. 25. Entry fee $60 per team. (Each fishing team must include at least one West Palm Beach Fishing Club member.) Cash and merchandise prizes. Call 305-1397 or see westpalmbeachfishingclub.org.

July 7-14

Big Dog Fish Cast RSW

Shoal Shootout Fishing Tournament at South Beach Marina. 911 Lake Dr, West Palm Beach. Benefits two local animal organizations. Fri 8:30-10 p.m. Captain’s meeting, Sat 8:30-10 a.m. Fishing; 1:30 p.m. weigh-in, 4-8 p.m. awards ceremony and party. Entry fee $250 includes 2 dinner tickets: 853-456-1434; legolagroup.com

Saturday - 7/14 - Birds & Breakfast at Green Cay Wetlands, 12800 Hwy A1A, Boynton Beach. Coffee, refreshments, 1 hour walking tour w/ a naturalist. Age 9+; 7 a.m. Reservations: 964-7000; putnamcom.com

July 9-15

Saturday - 7/9 - 2 pm - Fishing Checklist Workshop at Green Cay Wetlands, 12800 Hwy A1A, Boynton Beach. Forest-Based program provides education, skills, training. Preregister, needed to be signed into their classrooms. Education only. 8:30-11 a.m. Free. Reservations: 964-7000; putnamcom.com

July 22-28

Saturday - 7/22 - Intracoastal Adventures: Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Age 6-adult; children must be accompanied by an adult. 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Reservations: 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

July 29-August 4

Saturday - 7/29 - Watch the Full-moon wahoo Tournament organized by the West Palm Beach Fishing Club. Also Aug. 25. Entry fee $60 per team. (Each fishing team must include at least one West Palm Beach Fishing Club member.) Cash and merchandise prizes. Call 305-1397 or see westpalmbeachfishingclub.org.

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Two writing challenges and a backpack drive

Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton invites budding writers to submit stories about Boca's sea turtle ambassador, who returns to the beach at the center each year.

What has she been doing all year? That's up to the budding writers.

Prizes will be awarded for the top winner in each age category: 6-9, 10-13, and 14-17.

Story submissions are due July 27. Winners will be announced at Luna's birthday party on Aug. 11. Fill out an application, available at gumbolimbo.org/luna, and email it with your story to lchimienti@myboca.us.

Luna's story, and email it with your name and address so the campers can write back to you, and send your cards by July 8. For more information, call 274-9578. Mail postcards to: Snail Mail Campers, Delray Beach Historical Society, 3 NE 1st St, Delray Beach, FL 33444.

School supply and backpack drive

Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County is hosting its annual school supply and backpack drive.

Help send disadvantaged children to school prepared with the supplies they need to succeed. Through July 27, donate school supplies or host a supply and backpack drive. Donations of gift cards to office supply and backpack drive. Donations of gift cards to office supply and backpack drive.
7/18-7/24: Group Swim Lessons at Parkland Pool, 225 NW 12th Ave, Boynton Beach. Young children can learn to swim in a safe and comfortable environment. Age 3-5, 3:45-4:30 pm; age 2-4, 4:30-5:15 pm (some sessions). Free. Registration: 393-7968; myboca.us/957/Library

July 19-25: Homeschool Expo at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 501 Plaza Real, Palm Beach Gardens. A variety of vendors and workshops for families/intergenerational groups focus on artistic family fun to learn, create, enjoy the visual arts. 11 am-3 pm. Free. 347-2500 x106; sugarsandpark.org

July 20-26: First-time Archery at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. High-quality instruction for ages 12 & under. 9 am. $35/does not include permit. 447-8829; solchildren.org

July 21-7/27: Talent Showcase for Parks & Recreation Month at Catherine Strong Park, 1300 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Every W, 10:30 am-1:30 pm. $25/does not include permit. 347-2500 x106; sugarsandpark.org

July 21-7/28: English Language Club for Kids at Catherine Strong Park, 1300 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Students all levels. 3-5, 9 am-11 am. $35/does not include permit. 447-8829; solchildren.org

July 21-7/28: Spanish for Kids: Mommy & Me at John Denson Park, 501 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Learn Spanish through interactive games. 3-5 years old. $62.50/membership. 859-9703, 347-2500 x106; sugarsandpark.org

July 22-7/28: Sensational Science Saturdays at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 501 Plaza Real, Palm Beach Gardens. Weekly presentations and hands-on experiments for children. 9 am-11 am. $35/does not include permit. 347-2500 x106; sugarsandpark.org

July 22-7/28: Summer of Studio Ghibli Films: 80’s Delirium at Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach. Held every Sat 11 am-1 pm. 347-7251; morikami.org

July 23-7/29: 4th of July at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Every T/Th through 8/9. 8:45, 9:45, 10:45 am. $5/student; $10/resident. 742-4641; boyntonbeach.org

July 23-7/30: Field Trip: Children’s Science Explorium, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Explore, develop important mindsets. 8-10 am. Held every Sat through 12/31. $30/resident; $40/non-resident. 742-4641; boyntonbeach.org

July 23-7/29: Story Time with Nature at Green Cay Nature Center, 1380 Hogan Road, Boynton Beach. Discover the natural world together, stories about animals, other nature-related themes. 4-5 pm. 347-7251; morikami.org

July 28-8/4: Family Date Afternoon: Movie Time: The Little Mermaid at Palm Beach County Convention Hall, 301 West一致性 verified, 2000 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Ages 12 & under. 9:30 am-11:30 am. $35/does not include permit. 447-8829; solchildren.org

August 9-8/15: Homeschool Expo at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 501 Plaza Real, Palm Beach Gardens. A variety of vendors and workshops for families/intergenerational groups focus on artistic family fun to learn, create, enjoy the visual arts. 11 am-3 pm. Free. 347-2500 x106; sugarsandpark.org

Tots & Teens Calendar AT17

July 15-21: Monday - Friday: Tall-Wagon Tutor with Locust at Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW 2nd Ave. Elementary school children are tutored in reading, writing, math, and science. Age 5-12, 10 am-2 pm. Held every M through 7/19. 347-7251; myboca.us/Library

July 18-7/24: The Knitting Club at Boca Raton Children’s Museum, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Beginner 2 Tuesdays, 10-11 am. $30/does not include materials. 347-3900; sugarsandpark.org


July 19-7/25: Art & Dazzling Design at South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, 4001 D Dreher Tr, West Palm Beach. Learn how to design and dazzle with computers. Space is limited. 3:30-4:30 pm. $30/student; $45/resident. 742-4641; schoolhousemuseum.org

July 20-7/26: Family Field Trip: Lego Museum at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Registration: 393-7968; myboca.us/Library

July 20-7/26: Family Fun Day at Children’s Science Explorium, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Open Saturdays 10-3 pm or 1:30-3:30 pm. $25 does not include permit. 347-7251; morikami.org

July 22-7/28: Natural History: Calligraphy: Children’s Mini-Workshop at Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach. Ages 7-12. 10-12 pm. $5/family. 347-7251; morikami.org

July 22-7/28: Sensational Science Saturdays at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, 501 Plaza Real, Palm Beach Gardens. Weekly presentations and hands-on experiments for children. 9 am-11 am. $35/does not include permit. 347-2500 x106; sugarsandpark.org
Pet owners turn to bufo buster to rid yards of toxic toads

By day, Jeannine Tilford teaches high school biology and environmental science. By night, she hunts for dangerous toads to protect dogs, in coastal cities from Fort Pierce down to Miami.

She is fast becoming a hero among dog lovers because she is on a mission to rid backyards, lakes, canals and shorelines of highly toxic and lethal bufo toads, also known as cane toads.

Among the grateful are Judy and Bob McDonough of Delray Beach, who own a pair of Pembroke Welsh corgi brothers named Sherman and Morgan.

"I knew nothing about these toads when we moved here a few years ago, and these toads are all over the place," says Judy McDonough. "The manmade lakes behind our house are perfect breeding grounds for these toads, and when it rains, it seems they come out in numbers."

So the McDonoughs, like many others in recent months, turned to Tilford, known as the bufo buster.

"Many people moving to Florida are not aware of the danger of the bufo toad to their pets, and I’ve spent my whole life looking for something unique to do," says Tilford, who launched Toad Busters in March 2017. "I love animals, and I worked as a veterinary technician and my background is science education. I needed extra money as I am on a teacher salary, and this bufo busters business has just taken off."

Buto toads are nocturnal, meaning they are most active at night when they feed and breed. By day, these toads typically bury themselves under bushes or concrete slabs. In order to capture these dog-dangerous toads — and to avoid being mistaken for a flashlight-wielding burglar prowling in dark backyards — Tilford purposely dons a blinking LED vest.

"I look like a walking Christmas tree, which keeps people from calling the police, and it has gotten me more business," says Tilford, who is registered as a nuisance wildlife trapper with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. "I wear a head lamp to keep my hands free. I catch the toads by hand, wearing gloves and safety glasses."

Judy McDonough schedules Tilford to round up bufo toads on her property every two weeks. In addition, Tilford taught her how to humanely capture these toxic toads using a net.

McDonough also reinforces the "back off" training cue in her corgis and is grateful that a 24-hour veterinary hospital is near her home.

"Fortunately, my dogs seem to be more interested in going after chameleons than these toads," she says. "I always go out with them in the backyard at night."

Tilford is on a one-woman mission to educate pet owners and protect pets from encounters with bufo toads. She has conditioned her dogs, a dachshund named Squacky and a Yorkshire terrier-poodle mix named Lilly, to stay clear of any trespassing toad.

"One of my former dogs, a Pembroke Welsh corgi brother named Sherman, could not tolerate the impact the bufo toads were having on my dog’s health," says Tilford. "To stop the bufo busters business has just taken off.”

Jeannine Tilford of Palm Beach Gardens is on a mission to stop pets from encountering bufo toads. She captures the nocturnal creatures by hand, one yard at a time. Photos provided by Jeannine Tilford.

About bufo toads

- Bufo toads are not native to Florida. They were imported in the 1930s to help farmers rid sugar-cane fields of white grubs.
- Bufo toads come in these color combinations: olive-brown, reddish brown or grayish yellow.
- Bufo toads sport big, flattened heads, large, stocked bodies and short limbs. Each can be up to 6 inches in length and weigh up to 4.4 pounds.
- These toads can live up to 15 years in the wild and up to 35 years in captivity.
- Their diet consists of insects, snails, mice and lizards, but they are attracted to dog or cat food left unattended in bowls in porches.
- Bufo toads release a milky-white toxin known as bufotin which is capable of disrupting normal functioning of the heart.
- Pets who bite or eat a Bufo toad can become sick and die within 15 minutes if not medically treated.
- Pets who "play" by pawing or licking these toads can also be exposed to this rapid-acting toxin.
- Bufo toxin can develop within a few seconds of exposure. Symptoms include crying, pawing at the mouth, excessive drooling, head-shaking, difficulty breathing, stumbling, convulsions and collapse.
- Immediately flush your pet’s mouth with water for 10 minutes to prevent further venom absorption. Wipe the dog’s mouth with a rag and immediately call the nearest veterinary clinic to say you are en route. There is no specific anti-venom for this toxin, so veterinary treatment calls for providing intravenous fluids, oxygen and medications to control the affected pet's body temperature and heart rate until it recovers.
- To reach Toad Busters, visit www.bufobusters.com or call 202-8192.

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Jack Russell terrier, got hold of a toad in my patio and almost died,” says Tilford. "People need to know just how dangerous these toads are."

Arden Moore, founder of FourLeggedLife.com, is an animal behavior consultant, editor, author, professional speaker and master certified pet first-aid instructor. She hosts the Oh Behave! show on PetLifeRadio.com. Learn more by visiting www.ardenmoore.com.
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Club, 700 Florida Mango Rd, West Palm Beach. 279-7790; murderonthebeach.com
273 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Instructor Elaine
7/7 - The Writer's Studio
fee $40/resident; $50/non-resident. 243-7350; [36x493] 
Center, 1901 N Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. at Ezell Hester, Jr. Community
7/7 - Pickleball
7/7 - Quilt Sale
at Boynton Beach City Library, 9453; palmbeachzoo.org
for free unlimited return daytime visits through
at Palm Beach Tennis Center, 201 W Atlantic Ave. 9 am-noon. $3/resident; $4/non-
with organizers for any changes.
Note: Events are current as of 6/29. Please check
Community Calendar
at Sandoway House Nature Center,
[36x491] 
Tuesday - 7/10 – Pickleball: Advanced Play
at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Adults age 50 &
7/9 - Downtown Lake Worth Food Truck
7/10 - Photo Salon
7/10 – Socrates Café
Train Depot, 747 S Dixie Hwy. Improve public
necessary. Age 18 & up. Every T/F noon-4:30
required: 478-2300 x1; nationalcroquetclub.
Tickets start at $56. 800-745-3000; myboca.
7/10 – How to be Certified as a
7/9 & 23- Lantana
- Second & fourth Mondays at Lantana Town Hall, 501 Clematis
required: 478-2300 x1; nationalcroquetclub.
World Beach. Every Sat 10 am. Registration
7/10 - Rockin’ Movies & Docs:
at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Every Sat 1-2:30 pm. $5
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**Appetizers**

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**NOT VALID ON DINNER**

- Discount does not apply to dinner

**Not Valid on Picnic Package**

- Discount does not apply to Picnic Package

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- Discount does not apply to Lunch

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Jack Elkins sells the best of Manalapan & Hypoluxo Island

1555 S Ocean Boulevard  Manalapan
Modern Mediterranean masterpiece perched above the Intracoastal waterway and Atlantic Ocean. An 8 bedroom, 9.2 bath three-level home with balconies to take in the panoramic water views. This estate has the best of both worlds...beach and boating! A new private dock will accommodate up to a 75' boat plus a second boat. On the ocean, you and your guest will take in the sun and the ocean breezes as you relax at your private beach cabana. Newly priced at $17,000,000

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