Ocean Ridge studies limited plan; some say fix is up to residents
By Dan Moffett

Jimmy McAndrew says he has been tormented enough by the iguanas surrounding his Ocean Ridge home.

They have defecated on his patio. They have torn up his landscaping. And, worst, “They have scared my 98-year-old mother-in-law out of her wits.”

McAndrew’s frustration boiled over after he hired an animal removal company to set a trap in his backyard. When he went to check it, he found a 4-foot iguana sunning himself atop the cage, as if enjoying the Intracoastal view.

“They are disgusting creatures,” McAndrew said. During an April meeting of the Town

See IGUANAS on page 16

Lantana
Water work dragging on Hypoluxo Island
Slow progress on main angers residents
By Mary Thurwachter

Lantana officials have put the squeeze on Intercounty Engineering Inc., the firm hired to install water main pipes on South Atlantic Drive on Hypoluxo Island.

The contractor, they say, has fallen behind schedule and isn't doing a satisfactory job of cleanup after work each day.

Payments to the contractor are being withheld by Lantana’s engineering company, Mathews Consulting Inc. The contract is worth a little more than $1 million, and $671,000 is left to be paid, according to Rebecca Travis of Mathews Consulting.

In December, the town hired Intercounty Engineering, the lowest of three bidders, to install new 6- and 8-inch water mains along South Atlantic Drive and Southeast Atlantic Drive for additional fire protection, according to Linda Brien, Lantana’s director of operations. The project, along the island’s main street, begins at East Ocean Boulevard and South Atlantic Drive heading south to Lands End Road, where it turns east to the end of Southeast Atlantic Drive.

The original final completion date was July 3. However, “due to rain and unforeseen conditions, the town extended the completion date to July 23,” Brien said. That

See WATER on page 8

Along the Coast
Boca Regional Hospital aims to merge with Baptist Health
By Sallie James

A little more than a year after Boca Raton Regional Hospital celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017, the medical facility once known as the “Miracle on Meadows Road” has announced it will enter discussions to merge with health care giant Baptist Health South Florida.

The hospital said in a statement that the decision culminates an initiative that began more than a year ago to elevate the hospital’s position as an academic referral center in South Florida. Baptist is headquartered in Coral Gables.

“We are pleased with the board’s decision to move forward with Baptist,” said Jerry Fedele, president and CEO of Boca Raton Regional Hospital. “While this was a most difficult choice, one that was between two of the finest health care providers in the country, our trustees believe Baptist is the best fit for Boca Regional.”

The proposed merger is a huge marker of change for a community-minded hospital born out of tragedy in

See BAPTIST on page 7

Gulf Stream pro thrives
Kevin Anderson makes final at Wimbledon.
Page 14

Sargassum struggle
Seaweed surge a disaster for Caribbean islands.
Page 18

Publix set to open
Manalapan store stocks up for Aug. 16 opening.
Page 4

Learning about discrimination
Students tackle production of ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ at Maltz.
Page AT5

Along for the ride
Meet the folks behind Delray’s Downtowner.
Page AT1

Along the Coast
I’ve watched one tide turn since we started this newspaper almost 10 years ago. Where there once was a reluctance to utter the words “sea level rise” from the dais, the phrase now is part of the municipal vernacular during discussions on building regulations and comprehensive planning.

It’s about time. Our larger cities have begun to hire sustainability officers, and most of our barrier island municipalities have identified at least one official to participate in regional groups looking for solutions to the rising waters in our backyards. It’s heartbreaking to see this progress.

But planning for the inevitable will take time, so what can we do now? Simple: maintenance.

The first leaks in our current island drainage plans come when we don’t pay attention to our infrastructure. All municipalities between the ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway should build infrastructure maintenance into the budget plans they will discuss over the summer. Residents should demand it.

Local Realtors should demand it. Coastal businesses should demand it — especially builders.

We all know the value of property in this area. If we don’t act soon, we stand to watch those very attractive values sink as the water rises. Taxpayers expect roads, sea walls, outflow valves, swales and drainage systems to be regularly checked and maintained.

The fact that they often haven’t been is deeply concerning. Discovering that a neighborhood has a problem only when the streets flood is unacceptable.

Now is the time to budget for maintenance and repairs. Fix the existing problems. Enforce the building codes that are already on the books. Make sure that new construction doesn’t have a negative effect on existing drainage systems. And plan for the future.

I don’t think you’ll hear any complaints from the taxpayers.

— Mary Kate Leming, Editor

 Editor’s Note

Pay now for protection against rising seas

Lifting children who could use a helping hand is in Rich Mascolo’s DNA. When two successful educators who recognized the potential in every child, and uncle who worked as teachers, Mascolo strayed from the “family business” and found success in advertising and marketing in New York. Still, Mascolo, who lives in Ocean Ridge, couldn’t fully escape the calling that runs through the family bloodline.

Mascolo, who is on the board of the YMCA of South Palm Beach County, learned that a decade-long program that sends more than 80 children served by the Caridad Center — the largest free clinic in Florida — to the Y’s summer camp for free was in financial jeopardy. A major funder pulled out unexpectedly, leaving a gap of more than $25,000.

“Suddenly a significant number of kids were uncovered,” Mascolo said. Determined to ensure all the children got to camp, Mascolo reached out to friends, family and associates to ask for contributions.

In the end, enough money was raised to avoid disrupting the 10-week Caridad YMCA camp at the Boynton branch. “I just told the story,” Mascolo said. An important part of that story is that a few years ago half of the children who had come to the camp had gone on to college. “I was taken with how successful the program was,” Mascolo said.

Children from the Caridad Center who attend the camp, many from families living below or near the federal poverty line, get the typical summer camp experience plus tips for healthy living and exposure to an academic element that includes math, science and the arts.

Mascolo, who says most of the contributions were in the $1,000 or $2,000 range, raised the bulk of the needed money in less than two months. “It happened quickly because the cause is human, tangible and compelling ... and our pals have big hearts,” he said.

Mascolo’s devotion to the program for Caridad Center campers is the key to his success, says Barry Davis, executive director of the Y’s Boynton branch. “You could see the passion and how much the program meant to him,” Davis said. People just came up to him and said, ‘How can I help?’”

Mascolo, 63, and his wife, Bebe, became members of the YMCA in 2007, when they were still part-time residents, and saw firsthand the impact it had on the community. “We get to know the Y,” he said. “We got a close-up look at what they were doing and we were knocked out.”

Mascolo said he and Bebe had no idea that the YMCA was a nonprofit organization and they didn’t know that it’s the Y’s policy never to turn anyone away who can’t afford to join. “Once we understood that, we got involved,” he said. First stop for Mascolo was the YMCA of South Palm Beach County’s marketing committee, where he set about trying to get the word out about all the YMCA does.

“I want to do it,” he said. “We all know the value of their kids and the YMCA.”

By Rich Pollack

Board member’s dedication to YMCA helps kids in need attend summer camp

Send a note to news@thecoastalstar.com or call 337-1553

The Coastal Star — July 2018

August 2018

The Coastal Star

Rich Mascolo watches activities at the YMCA in Boynton Beach. He raised money so children from the Caridad Center could continue to attend a Y camp free. Tim Stepień/The Coastal Star
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The COASTAL STAR
August 2018
3
Mayor Keith Waters. "They've what's going on here," said Aug. 16.

Manalapan's Plaza del Mar on town and corporation, Publix persistent wrangling between those in Spotsylvania to get their residents are about as excited as fervor. But make no mistake, will be no iconic green and match that level of consumer at 7.

It's unlikely Manalapan will held its grand opening in. Electric doors parted up before 2:30 a.m. to be there month, shoppers started lining up early. Dzens of 25-foot areca palm trees line the backside of the plaza to hide delivery trucks and a water tank needed in a $10 million renovation of the plaza to hide delivery. "I've always just loved being around people," Rinderknecht said. "I'm looking forward to.

New Publix grocery to celebrate grand opening on Aug. 16

"We're very, very happy with it," said Vice Mayor Peter Isaac, who said Nicole Maristany Krauss, will open at 7 a.m. Aug. 16, and the Great Recession. "It was tired," said Vice Mayor Peter Isaac, who commended Kitson for giving the mall the makeover it needed. Publix has chosen Wade Rinderknecht, who currently manages the CityPlace store, to take over as manager in Manalapan. He said employees would begin stocking the shelves the first week in August. "I've always just loved being around people," Rinderknecht said. "I'm looking forward to being part of the community here and serving the residents." Will the Manalapan store offer the town's upscale consumers anything beyond the offerings of a typical Publix? Rinderknecht isn't saying. "We have some things in mind," he said. "We'll see.

Letters to the Editor

Free press more vital than ever

We read your column in the July issue of The Coastal Star ("With anger everywhere, violence not a surprise") and were saddened, but not surprised, to learn of the challenges you and your staff face in the execution of your duties at the paper. We are from the Annapolis area and we mourn the senseless loss of the five dedicated staff members at the Capital Gazette.

In the unfortunate era in which we now live, a free press is more vital than ever. We wanted to let you and your team know how much we appreciate and value the work that you do. We support you without question.

Matt Gaffney and Ned Rosamond
Delray Beach

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

Cites see ebb in overdose deaths

By Jane Smith

The Delray Beach mayor measures the drop in overdoses by the sound of silence.

“We no longer hear the sirens blaring from rescue vehicles racing to the next overdose,” said Mayor Shelly Petrolia. “It used to happen several times a day. … I always worried whether that person would make it.”

She also sees fewer addicts wandering on city streets wheeling suitcases behind them, indicating they were kicked out of sober homes. At the peak of the opioid epidemic in Delray Beach, police responded to 96 overdoses in October 2018. Eleven were fatal.

Since that time, South County coastal cities and the county have worked together to rid the area of rogue operators. The state attorney received state money in July 2016 to start a Sober Homes Task Force. More than 50 people have been arrested on patient brokering, marketing abuse and insurance fraud charges.

Delray Beach had eight fatal overdoses in the first six months of 2018 compared with 37 deaths in the same period in 2017. Boynton Beach recorded 20 deaths this year and 33 fatal overdoses in the same period last year.

Delray Beach also has a social worker on its police force. Ariana Ciancio visits overdose victims in the hospital and helps get them into treatment or tickets back to their home cities.

The city recorded no fatal overdoses in June, but seven people died from overdoses in July.

“The streets, I see the numbers ebb and flow,” Ciancio told the Sober Homes Task Force in late July.

Meanwhile, Lantana saw its fatal overdoses increase from one in the first six months of 2017 to four during the same period in 2018. Police Chief Scott Scheller said the numbers don’t present “a problem problem.” We had a collaborative effort with other police agencies to go after the drug dealers to stop the sale of drugs here.”

Scheller.

He also said that with drugstores selling Narcan, the name brand of naloxone, sober home operators might not call 911 for an overdose.

While Boca Raton does not track fatal overdoses, its Fire Rescue Department tracks naloxone it administers. Naxolone is given to overdose victims to counteract the symptoms.

For the first six months of 2018, the medication was given to 230 patients at a cost of $3,113, down from 79 patients receiving the medication during the first six months of 2017. The cost was down 3.5 percent from $3,226.20.

“The numbers speak for themselves,” said Chrisissy Gibson, Boca Raton spokeswoman.

In addition, Delray Beach and Boynton Beach have passed ordinances that cover sober homes. An operator has to apply annually for a reasonable accommodation that allows more than three unrelated people to live together in sobriety needed to have protection under federal disability laws.

Boynton Beach Mayor Stephen Grant credits that ordinance for making “a huge difference.”

Sober homes will have to be certified by the Florida Association of Recovery Residences to open in both cities.

Delray Beach city commissioners will take up their first exception case on Aug. 21. The city has a distance requirement for group homes to prevent clustering.

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At the July 16 Planning and Zoning Board meeting, Stepping Stones’ application to open in both cities.

The commission has the ultimate say.

The Palm Beach County Planning Commission has the ultimate say.

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The commission has the ultimate say.

Work on new I-95 interchange at Atlantic set to begin this month

By Jane Smith

To meet growing traffic demands, the state will do a $5.2 million construction project at the Atlantic Avenue I-95 interchange in Delray Beach.

The project is set to begin August and is expected to last slightly longer than one year, according to the Florida Department of Transportation.

The project will take place mainly along a 1-mile stretch of Atlantic Avenue from the I-4 Canal, just west of Congress Avenue, to Northwest/Southwest 10th Avenue. FDOT owns Atlantic Avenue in this area.

FDOT predicts the average annual daily traffic to increase from 47,000 vehicles in 2016 to 59,800 in 2040, growing at an annual rate of 1.39 percent. The department will showcase its proposal to the public between 4 and 6 p.m. Aug. 7 at the city’s Environmental Services building, 434 S. Swinton Ave.

While the state talks about traffic capacity and safety of drivers, Delray Beach city commissioners are focused on a multimodal transportation plan that includes walkers and bicyclists.

FDOT representatives said they first met with Delray Beach residents in July 2014. They also heard from Human Powered Delray, a nonprofit group dedicated to bike and pedestrian safety.

The department listened to the group’s suggestions, but FDOT did not incorporate most of them into the redesign because of cost constraints and lack of space, said Guillermo Canedo, FDOT spokesman.

Bill Bathurst, a new school commissioner who was designated as the FDOT point person at the July 10 commission meeting, said, “We are getting a little bit more of what we wanted. I’m still concerned that it’s dangerous for walkers and bike riders who live east of the interstate and walk west on Atlantic.”

When his son was in high school and wrestled on the Atlantic High School team, Bathurst picked up his son and teammates daily after practice to drive them home, east of I-95.

The high school sits on Atlantic Avenue, west of Congress.

The Palm Beach County School District usually does not provide bus service to students living within 2 miles of the school. But for Atlantic High students who live east of I-95, the district makes an exception and provides bus transportation, according to Shane Searchwell, general manager of transportation services.

Bathurst is trying to set

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1967. The horrific poisoning deaths of two young children and the absence of a local medical center became the impetus for its construction. The town had about 10,000 residents and a group of volunteers with a mission.

“The goal always is to be better,” said Joan Wargo, 88, who has logged more than 35,000 volunteer hours there over the past 50 years. “We have an expansion planned and the absence of a local hospital became the impetus of two young children deaths of two young children in 2015. Baptist Health South Florida is among the largest healthcare organizations in South Florida, with 10 hospitals, more than 40 physicians practices and 50 outpatient and urgent care facilities. The organization also has approximately 14,500 employees and more than 3,000 affiliated physicians.

Fedele, who had planned to retire in 2018, has agreed to stay on through August 2019 to assist with the transition. Fedele has served as CEO of Boca Raton Regional for the past 10 years. Baptist Health South Florida said in a statement that “Boca Raton Regional Hospital aligns strategically with our organization and our plans to improve access to quality health care in our region. We share not-for-profit values of exceptional quality and service for our patients, high physician and employee engagement and a commitment to the communities we serve. We look forward to continuing to work with Boca Raton Regional Hospital in this process.”

In May, Boca Regional officials, looking to form a partnership, narrowed down talks to two potential partners, Miami-based Baptist Health and Cleveland Clinic.

The hospital is growing, and a $260 million program will transform the main building and add a parking garage and power plants. Wargo can’t wait to see the results. “I am anxious to get to work,” she said. “Let’s go!”

Officials hope to complete the merger by the end of the year. USA Today, this hospital has grown into a regional treatment center with about 2,800 employees, 1,200 volunteers and approximately 800 doctors on staff. The Debbie-Rand Memorial Service League also has approximately 18,500 employees who have logged more than 331 million to the hospital since the League’s formation in 1962.

The proposed merger would place the 400-bed Boca Raton Regional Hospital in partnership with the neighboring 400-bed Bethesda Hospital East in Boynton Beach — once a rival of sorts. Bethesda Hospital, with medical centers in east and west Boynton Beach, merged with Baptist over a 24-month period after an agreement was signed in 2015.
WATER

Continued from page 1

goal hasn’t been met and those who live in the area aren’t happy about it — or about the quality of work.

The work continued into August. The Coastal Star reached out to Maurice Hynes, president of Intercounty Engineering, for comment, but he did not reply.

Dan Hiatt, who lives on the island and has 40 years’ experience in construction, appeared at the July 9 Town Council meeting. He said that when the workers were cutting a trench, they threw dirt all over the road and did not clean it up, as the contract required.

Hiatt said the work created a mess that is a safety issue.

“We’ve got a coalition of people that see me every day when I walk my dog that have been consistently calling and complaining about this,” said Hiatt. “We just want to figure out a remedy to this situation. How can we force his [the contractor’s] hand? What can we do to make this guy comply with the contract?”

Another resident, Erica Wald, complained about flagmen who “are always trying something or looking at their phone” when she tried to drive through the construction site. The mess left by workers has resulted in three flat tires for her car, she said. Manalapan commissioners who live on Point Manalapan and gain access to their construction site, also expressed concerns at last month’s meeting of their Town Council.

Lantana Town Manager Deborah Manzo said the town didn’t red tag the construction site, but she tried to drive through the site any night that he’s required to do,” Mathews engineering consultant Travis told the Lantana council on July 9.

She said that the engineering firm was holding a monthly meeting with the contractor to bring these issues to light and that the town has had additional meetings with the contractor, or his project manager.

“[The contractor] was not responding in the manner he should have, we issued a notice of noncompliance letter on June 28 to rectify the situation, and this was specific to the asphalt patching at the end of every single day,” Travis said. “He says he’ll do better. He has done slightly better, still not to our standards.”

In order for the contractor to finish the water main work sometime this month, he needs to have a second crew, Travis said. “Because the contractor is not meeting his contract completion times, the town can charge him $500 a day for each day he is late.” Those fines are piling up.

Hiatt wanted to know why the town didn’t red tag the contractor and shut him down. Town Attorney Max Lohman said to do that would be “asinine in the extreme.”

“Then you’re going to have months more of what you don’t like now, because then we have to go through a process,” Lohman said. “Not to mention that you can’t collect liquidated damages on a project that we can’t go through a process,” Lohman bristled.

Lohman said the town was insensitive to it,” Lohman said. “More than this project not getting completed in a timely manner is to waste money not getting it done and have to spend more money.”

The town could go after the contractor’s bond.

“If he does not cure his breach then we can put a claim on his surety bond, which will hurt him more than a lawsuit because once a contractor gets a claim on his bond it becomes nearly impossible to get another one,” Lohman said.

“We do realize that it’s a problem for people who live there, and the town is not insensitive to it,” Lohman said. “But we have to follow the proper legal steps to solve the problem for you.”

Hiatt said one resident was responding that “they are taking it seriously, and just so you know, we’re trying to make sure we jump through all the legal hoops, which sometimes are slower and more laborious than we’d like them to be,” Lohman said. “Because the only thing worse than this project not getting completed in a timely manner is to waste money not getting it done and have to spend more money.”

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Hiatt said one resident was blowing you off,” Lohman said. “We’re addressing your concerns. You’re not satisfied with the answer and I understand that. But I take that as a fact that you’re going to stand here and ridicule this council and lecture us as if we don’t have backbone or don’t have the ability to enforce our contractual obligations on our contractors.”

After the July 9 council meeting, Mathews Consulting sent a second notice of noncompliance for the asphalt trench repair. Recommendations included constructing an asphalt cap over the trench and cleaning the road at the end of each workday.

Hiatt said the contractor responded that “they are taking steps to follow the contract patching requirements.”

In other news, the council:

• Set the first budget hearing for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 12 in the council chambers. The proposed tax rate is $3.50 per $1,000 of assessed property value, the same as last year.

• Recognized Officer Mathew Parks as the Police Department’s Officer of the 2nd Quarter for his investigation into a large-scale car theft operation in the county.
Proposed property tax almost a penny below the rollback rate

By Steve Plunkett

Gulf Stream will lower its property tax rate to just below the rollback rate for the second time in two years.

At their July 13 meeting, town commissioners set the tentative tax rate for the 2018-19 budget year at $4.05 per $1,000 of taxable value, down from $4.36 in the current year and 0.99 cents under the rollback rate — the rate that would produce the same revenue as the previous year, using current assessments.

The first public hearing on property taxes and the town’s budget will be at 5:01 p.m. Sept. 14.

Town Manager Greg Dunham’s proposed $5.58 million budget includes $531,383 for the first year of Gulf Stream’s 10-year capital improvement plan. The money will be spent on designing and getting permits for rebuilding roads and improving drainage in the worst part of town, the northern core area. Construction, which has an estimated price of $3.7 million, would follow in 2020.

The northern core includes Bermuda Lane from Sea Road to the south end, Gulf Stream Road from Sea Road to Banyan Road, Old School Road from Gulf Stream Road to the cul-de-sac, Oleander Way from Banyan to the north end, Polo Drive from Old School to Banyan, Wright Way from Old School to the cul-de-sac, Sea Road from Ocean Boulevard to Gulf Stream Road, North County Road from Ocean to Sea Road, and Banyan from Ocean to the cul-de-sac.

Projects in Place Au Soleil, the southern core, the water main on State Road A1A, and work in Hidden Harbour and Pelican Lane would come in later years.

Dunham also said he and town accountant Rebecca Tew expected to add at least $1 million to Gulf Stream’s reserves, pushing the total cushion to $4.8 million or more. The reserves dropped to $752,858 in the 2013 budget year as the town wrestled with requests and lawsuits over public records.

The tax rate topped out in fiscal 2016 at $5 per $1,000 as commissioners rebuilt the reserves.

Dunham also recommended that Gulf Stream pay 80 percent of health insurance premiums for the families of town employees. The Police Department recently lost a promising job applicant to Highland Beach, which pays the entire family premium, he said.

“Towns and cities really compete for the labor force,” Dunham said.

Gulf Stream pays all the health premiums for its 20 employees but nothing for family coverage. Only two employees pay extra to cover their dependents, Dunham said, an amount that in one case equals half of each paycheck.

The additional benefit would cost Gulf Stream $246,000 a year, Dunham said.

Commissioners noted that the town already gives employees a $3,000 flex benefit to offset health deductibles and co-pays and decided to discuss the idea further.

“I think there should be some give-and-take” between the flex benefit and family coverage, Commissioner Joan Orthwein said.

Dunham also said he will promote Tew from town accountant to chief finance officer. Tew started working for Gulf Stream in 2014. At the commission meeting the Government Finance Officers Association gave her its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for her work on the 2017-2018 budget.
Delray Beach

Commission agrees to lower tax rate slightly

By Jane Smith

Delray Beach commissioners agreed to lower the tax rate slightly, keeping a promise to their residents to reduce the tax rate each year for 10 years.

Delray Beach is lowering its tax rate, ‘I want to keep the promise to our taxpayers,’ said Mayor Shelly Petrolia. ‘I am challenging the city manager to find flexibility in the low-hanging fruit of outstanding parking tickets and from our reserves.’

Delray Beach has a lush reserve account of more than $34 million as of June. That amount represents about 28.9 percent of this year's operating budget. The commission wants to set aside 25 percent, or $29.6 million, for hurricane-related expenses and other emergencies. Florida does not have a law requiring municipalities to set aside a certain percentage for reserves, said Kurt Wenner, research vice president at Florida TaxWatch. "Most local governments have their own internal policies on reserves," he said. Florida TaxWatch is a nonprofit organization that researches and analyzes state and local government taxation issues.

Nearby Boynton Beach has a lower reserve goal of 10 percent set aside for emergencies, according to information presented in mid-July at its budget workshop. Boca Raton also has a 10 percent goal. When the current financial year started, Boca Raton had about 34 percent of its operating budget, or $53 million, in reserves.

In Delray Beach, City Manager Mark Lauzier said the lower rate would not allow the city to continue to increase the size of its public safety staff, which was reduced during the Recession. Another five police officers and eight fire-rescue employees are needed, he said. Deputy Vice Mayor Shirley Johnson was the lone no vote on the reduced tax rate. She wants to see more police on the streets. Lauzier also said the city’s rollback rate is $6.55 per $1,000 property value. The rollback rate is the rate that would generate the same tax revenue as the prior year with allowances for new construction. Even though the tax rate will be slightly lower, city property owners will pay about 3.2 percent more in property taxes. In addition, Lauzier talked about the looming budget amendment, where voters statewide will be asked in November whether they want another $25,000 reduction on top of their homestead exemption of $25,000 in property value. If that passes, the city’s property tax collection would be reduced by $1.3 million, he said.

Lauzier gave each commissioner a thick budget book to read before the Aug. 14 meeting when they will hear presentations by departments. He also planned to hold three budget town halls in August for residents. The dates and places were: Veterans Park on Aug. 2, Delray Beach Municipal Golf Course on Aug. 6 and Pompey Park Community Center on Aug. 8, all at 6 p.m.

The city’s proposed tax rate has two components. The operating tax rate is $6.76 per $1,000 value and the debt service rate is 21 cents per $1,000 value. The total tax rate for the current year is $7.09 per $1,000 value with an operating rate of $6.86 per $1,000 value and debt service rate of 23 cents per $1,000 value.

Lauzier had wanted to keep the next budget year’s operating tax rate the same as this year’s. The tax rates had to be set by the end of July in order for the county property appraiser to mail notices in mid-August to every property owner. The notices cover assessed values and proposed tax rates. The rates can be lowered but not raised during the city’s budget hearings in September.

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Along the Coast

Aug. 28 primaries will set party choices for District 89 race

By Steve Plunkett

Four of the five candidates hoping to become the next District 89 state representative in November will first duke it out in the Aug. 28 Democratic and Republican primaries.

On the GOP side, barrier island resident and Delray Beach accountant Mike Caruso faces Boca Raton lawyer Matt Spritz.

Registered Democrats in District 89, which leans Republican and stretches along the coast from Boca Raton to Singer Island, will choose either Ocean Ridge Mayor Jim Bonfiglio, a lawyer, or Boca Raton real estate agent Ryan Rossi, a former high school teacher.

Bonfiglio, 64, who promises to make life on the barrier island “easier, safer and better,” has won two terms on the Ocean Ridge Town Commission since 2014 after 14 years on the town’s Planning and Zoning Commission.

He had $29,497 in campaign contributions through July 20, the latest report available. He also lent his campaign $65,000. Contributors include the law firm of former Ocean Ridge Mayor Ken Kalcal ($1,000), numerous other lawyers and law firms and the Palm Beach Classroom Teachers Association political action committee ($500).

Rossi, 33, a Florida Atlantic University graduate who taught government and economics at Pope John Paul II High School in Boca Raton, offers himself as part of a “new generation” of Democratic leaders.

His supporters include JM Family Enterprises ($1,000), Palm Beach Kennel Club ($1,000), Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association ($1,000), Sunshine State Conservatives ($1,000), former Manalapan Mayor David Cheifetz ($1,000), Florida Bankers Association ($1,000) and Gulf Stream resident George Elmore ($250).

State Rep. Bill Hager, who first won the District 89 seat in 2012, cannot run because of term limits. The primary winners will also face Delray Beach business owner Deborah Wesson Gibson, who is not affiliated with a party, in November.

Caruso

His campaign has $210,000 in contributions and loaned himself $210,000. His donors include county Property Appraiser Dorothy Jacks ($100), Florida College Democrats ($100), Gulf Stream resident George Elmore ($150), the Economic Council of Palm Beach County PAC ($1,000) and Boca Raton activist Judith Kaye ($1,000).

Republicans also have a choice between generations.

Caruso, 59, a forensic CPA who qualified to run for the Florida House by collecting 1,241 petition signatures, says he will bring “real, experienced, community-based leadership” to Tallahassee. He has been a member of the Delray Beach Police Advisory Board and the West Atlantic Redevelopment Coalition Board and also president of the Villas of Ocean Crest homeowners association and Atlantic Grove condominium association.

As of July 20 he had $66,770 in contributions and loaned his campaign $20,000. Among the contributors are Cafe Luna Rosa restaurant owner Francis Marincola ($2,000), Palm Beach Kennel Club ($1,000), the nonprofit Florida Limousine Association ($1,000) and west Delray farmers Richard Bowman ($1,000) and Theresa Bowman ($1,000) and their Beefy Tree Farm ($1,000).

Spritz, 35, is no stranger to state politics, according to his LinkedIn biography. He was a campaign manager for Naples Republican Matt Hudson’s unsuccessful 2016 Florida Senate primary run, then managed the successful Florida House campaign of Sarasota businesswoman Alex Miller. After Miller was elected, Spritz became legislative aide to Naples businessman and state Rep. Bob Rommel for the 2017 legislative session. Rommel, Miller and Hudson all have endorsed Spritz’s candidacy.

Spritz gained brief media attention in 2012 in the New York Daily News — he graduated from New York University School of Law — when he and a friend sued celebrity fitness trainer Harley Pasternak after a squabble about a basketball court.

He has $35,485 in campaign contributions and gave himself a $40,000 loan. His supporters include JM Family Enterprises ($1,000), Sunshine State Conservatives ($1,000), former Manalapan Mayor David Cheifetz ($1,000), Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association ($1,000), Sunshine State Conservatives ($1,000), former Manalapan Mayor David Cheifetz ($1,000), Florida Bankers Association ($1,000) and Gulf Stream resident George Elmore ($250).

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The next edition of The Coastal Star will be distributed the weekend of Sept. 1

How to vote
When: Early voting is Aug. 13-26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Voting on Election Day, Aug. 28, is 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Where: Early voting sites include the Downtown Boca Raton Library, 200 NW Second Ave., and the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave. For other sites across Palm Beach County or to look up your precinct place, go to pbcelections.org

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By Steve Pike

Kevin Anderson has been on the doorstep of winning two of the past four professional tennis Grand Slam events — the 2017 U.S. Open and the 2018 Wimbledon Championships. But each time the door slammed shut.

Anderson, a 32-year-old resident of Gulf Stream, finished second to Rafael Nadal in New York and to Novak Djokovic last month at Wimbledon.

Back in Gulf Stream with his wife, Kelsey, following his Wimbledon run, Anderson discussed his plans to finally knock down the door.

He beat top seed Roger Federer in a five-set quarterfinal and outlasted John Isner in a historic six-hour, 36-minute semifinal, which ended 26-24 in the fifth set.

“I think my game is definitely there,” said Anderson, who planned to return to the court for the summer hard-court season at the Rogers Cup starting Aug. 3 in Toronto. “I’m on the right path and as I keep learning how to handle these big moments, I think I will become more comfortable as well. I am going to keep looking forward — winning one of the Slams is a huge goal of mine.”

Anderson’s Wimbledon run moved him to No. 5 in the ATP world rankings — the highest of his 11-year pro career and the highest of any South African-born player since Kevin Curren rose to No. 5 in 1985. Eric Sturgess and Cliff Drysdale were ranked No. 4 during their careers, but that was before the official ATP world rankings.

“Achieving a top-five ranking has been a big milestone for me,” said Anderson, who has dual U.S. and South African citizenship. “It makes me the highest ranked South African man in the open era of tennis, which means a great deal. I have a huge amount of respect and have always looked up to Wayne Ferreira, Johan Kriek and Kevin Curren, who were some of the best players in South African history. I’m honored to be in such great company in terms of my ranking and tennis achievements.”

Anderson’s defeat of Federer, in which Anderson was down two sets and faced a match point before winning 13-11 in the fifth, set up the semifinal vs. Isner. Each man was near exhaustion before Anderson became the first South African to reach a Wimbledon men’s final in 97 years.

Following the match, the second-longest in Wimbledon history, Anderson, Isner and three-time Wimbledon champion John McEnroe were among those who called for a rule change in the rules to prevent such long final sets. Isner also played the longest match, a 70-68 victory over Nicolas Mahut in 2010 in 11 hours, five minutes over three days.

Does Anderson believe Wimbledon will seriously consider their remarks?

“I think in some aspects, yes, because it happened in the semifinals as opposed to the first round,” Anderson said. “On the other hand, John’s previous marathon match lasted almost twice as long as this one and they didn’t consider a rule change.

“Obviously it’s been spoken about, but at the end of the day there’s a lot of history with playing the long fifth set. On the plus side, my match was something that will definitely go down in the history books.”

With the U.S. Open set to start Aug. 27, Anderson is primed for more history.

“My results at Wimbledon this year were further confirmation that my game is good enough to compete at the best level,” Anderson said. “I’ve had that belief already, but now it has come down to believing and performing against the best players on the biggest stages in the world.”
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Chris Warren

One of the eight contestants in Boca’s Ballroom Battle has two daughters enrolled at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Rachel is 20, and Grace is 19. The contestant’s 14-year-old son, Christopher, attends St. Andrew’s School.

Higher education comes at a high price, and that is one of the reasons Chris Warren, dad to all three, agreed to participate in the George Snow Scholarship Fund benefit.

“It’s a great cause,” said Warren, a founding partner of Lawless, Edwards & Warren Wealth Management. “I’m able to provide an education for my children, my parents provided an education for me, and if I can help some other kids get to school, wow, that’s awesome.”

Warren, a graduate of Michigan State University, does not like the spotlight. He would rather let his actions speak to who he is and what he is about — a financial planner helping clients reach their goals and discovering what is important to them.

“I said no last year, and Tim came back,” said Warren, referring to the nonprofit’s president, Tim Snow. “Saying no again would be me just chickening out.”

So in the spotlight he will be during the Dancing With the Stars-style fundraiser, set for Sept. 14 at the Boca Raton Resort and Club.

He will cut the rug with seven other contestants — Samir Changela, Nancy Dockerty, Matthew Maschler, Cristina Mata, Jamie Rosemurgy, Tracy Tilson and Joseph Vecchia — in the quest for the coveted Mirror Ball trophy.

“I do like to dance, but it’s not like I’ve done anything like this before,” Warren said. “I feel like I have two left feet.”

What is the 55-year-old’s game plan? 

“T’m going to try to have my routine down cold, but you know, prayer — practice and prayer,” said Warren, who bikes, runs, swims and practices yoga. “The physical part of this is not the issue — it’s more the repetition of learning my routine and then making it look good.”

— Amy Woods

If You Go
What: Boca’s Ballroom Battle
When: 6-10 p.m. Sept. 14
Where: Boca Raton Resort and Club, 501 E. Camino Real
Cost: $100 Information: 347-6799 or scholarship.org.

Q. What advice do you have for young adults selecting a career today?
A. Where you start is not where you will finish. Take a chance. Don’t be afraid of failing, and work to find your passion.
Q. How did you choose to make your home in Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club?
A. We had a growing family and needed a bigger home. Royal Palm is a great quality neighborhood.
Q. What is your favorite part about living in Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club?
A. My office is just across Federal Highway. I love being east — easy access to the beach. So many reasons.
Q. What books are you reading now?
A. Elon Musk: Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future. He’s a very impressive driven guy. The One Thing: The Surprisingly Simple Truth Behind Extraordinary Results. A great book about the importance of focus. Also He’s Not Lazy: Empowering Your Son to Believe in Himself.
Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration or want to relax?
A. I like all types of music. Classical helps me relax. Also I like rock ’n’ roll, blues, bluegrass, etc.
Q. Do you have a favorite quote that inspires you?
A. Two: Never give up. The Lord is my shepherd.
Q. Have you had mentors in your life — individuals who have inspired your decisions?
A. My mom and dad.
Q. If your life story were made into a movie, whom would you want to play you?
A. Matt Damon. Mark Wahlberg is pretty cool, too. Clint Eastwood.
IGUANAS

Continued from page 1

Commission, he pleaded for help.

“Very simply said, we need an efficient, effective and inexpensive way to eliminate this non-indigenous reptile,” he told commissioners. “There is an epidemic of iguanas in the town.”

McAndrew is one of dozens of residents who have pleaded with the town’s administration for anti-iguana assistance. Ocean Ridge commissioners are listening and are considering a plan to hire an iguana contractor. Only a few South Florida communities have dared to take on the reptiles directly, so expectations are measured.

“You can use the word ‘ eradication’ because by all accounts they can’t be eradicated,” said Town Manager Jamie Titcomb. “But they can be controlled.”

Beyond Ocean Ridge, concerns about iguanas are rising with their population. The reptiles relieve themselves on Manalapan’s boat docks, stop traffic on A1A in Gulf Stream and stalk power walkers in South Palm Beach.

According to the state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the first known sighting of a feral iguana in Florida occurred in Miami-Dade County in 1966. But the species was flourishing throughout Central America and the Caribbean for several centuries before.

Exactly when the critters migrated as far north as Palm Beach County is a matter of some dispute. Most wildlife officials believe it probably was the late 1990s.

Today, iguanas range at least as far north as Pasco County on the West Coast and St. Lucie County on the East. There is not even a guessestimate as to how many are here. The state has collected data on them but hasn’t tried to count them.

The collective opinion among the experts is that iguanas are here to stay and it’s up to the human population to adjust to them — like the other non-native predators like lionfish, pythons and discourteous motorists from the Northeast.

Some killed by the cold

“Every species has its pros and cons,” says Carol Lyn Parrish, a public information coordinator with the state commission. “They’re fully established now. The only real predator is another iguana, or a person.”

There is one other serious threat to iguana expansion: cold weather.

During the winter of 2009, an extended cold snap killed untold thousands, sending frozen lizards falling out of trees like autumn leaves. But temperatures have to fall into the 30s for days, and that hasn’t happened since.

Two decades ago, state officials and animal advocates were OK with disposing of iguanas by trapping and freezing them. But then research suggested that dying in a freezer was a painful death and animal ethicists protested.

Today, veterinary and wildlife organizations agree the accepted method for killing them is with blunt force trauma to the head. It could be a blow to the brain with a shovel, or a shot with pellet gun, or penetration with a captive bolt livestock pistol.

The preliminary plan in Ocean Ridge is to hire a contractor who will use pellet guns and trapping to at least put a dent in the population. Two contractors, Iguana Control Inc. of Fort Lauderdale and Wildlife Removal Services of Boca Raton, have submitted bids for the work.

Debate on what to do

The rapid growth of iguana populations across the state is putting local leaders in a conflicted place, testing the boundary of how far government should be expected to go to solve constituents’ problems.

In Ocean Ridge, commissioners have debated whether iguana control should be the town’s responsibility or that of individual residents and homeowners.

Commissioner Scott Zoan said during a June budget workshop that he worried the commission was becoming “a big HOA for the town.”

Coz said the town didn’t spend any money to remove whitetails from anyone’s property during infestations years ago. Why should it be different with iguanas?

He argued the town shouldn’t go forward with plans to hire contractors. Homeowners should step up.

“We’re like an HOA and taking personal responsibility away from everyone,” Coz said. “I find it peculiar because we’re such an independent community.”

Dozens of residents have petitioned the town to act, however — among them former Commissioner Zoanne Hennigan. She told the commission the problem is more than any one homeowner can handle.

“I have iguanas not only in my backyard but in two vacant houses next to me are not going to spend any money to do that.”

She said that, unlike whitetails or no see-ums, iguanas affect every property in town and raise public health concerns.

“It’s a townwide issue,” said Hennigan. “They bring salmonella bacteria when they poop. They poop all over your deck and lawn. They’re more than just a nuisance. They’re a health hazard.”

( Wildlife officials dispute that assertion, saying it’s no worse than pet feces.)

Commissioner Kristine de Haseth said if the town does nothing it runs the risk of costing homeowners down the road: “Eventually it’s going to be a property value issue.”

Mayor James Bonfiglio has proposed setting aside $16,000 to hire a contractor for a six-month period to remove iguanas from the town’s public areas and then evaluate the progress or lack of it.

A majority of commissioners agreed — but with reservations.

“You’re not going to get rid of them overall,” Vice Mayor Don MaGruder said.

Titcomb drew a parallel between the iguanas of Ocean Ridge and the pythons of the Everglades.

“They aren’t anybody’s problem,” he said, “until they were a problem that had grown exponentially.”

As if taunting a resident’s attempts to eliminate it, this iguana perches on a trap. Photo provided by Jimmy McAndrew

Iguana facts and curiosities

• State wildlife officials insist that the feces of the green iguana (binomial name Iguana iguana) are grotesque and messy but not particularly disease-ridden and generally no worse than your dog’s waste.

• Attempts to control them by hand or by any plans an iguana will nearly always choose flight over fight. Wildlife experts say they know of no reports of iguanas attacking humans or pets.

• Charges that they kill native lizards or other wildlife are unfounded. Iguanas are herbivores.

• Many animal experts claim iguanas have good memories. For example, if you scare one sufficiently with a blast from a water hose, it will remember the horror and is unlikely to return to your yard again.

• It is legal to kill and eat iguanas? Yes, if they’re killed humanely. Properly prepared, iguana meat tastes some-
South Palm Beach

Town budgeting money for beach groin project despite opposition

By Dan Moffett

Despite opposition from southern neighbors and second thoughts among some residents, South Palm Beach is setting aside more money to pay for a controversial groin project that would stabilize the town's eroding beaches.

In fact, South Palm Beach recently sent a check for $46,500 to Palm Beach County, its partner in the project, to cover some of the administrative costs of obtaining permits.

Town Manager Mo Thornton estimates the town will need roughly $2.1 million in construction costs over the next 10 years to pay its share of the project. This does not include costs of periodic replenishment with sand.

Thornton, during a budget workshop July 23, said about half the $2.1 million could come from the penny sales tax increase county voters passed in 2016. The town could take in between $80,000 and $90,000 a year from the tax, which is restricted by law to infrastructure spending only.

The state income tax, which the county had planned to use, was abolished by the Legislature.

Thornton said HRM north, as it is called, would have to look at other possible solutions to stem the town's beach erosion. But as that debate goes on, so does the county's effort to get federal and state construction permits for the groins. And the project, 12 years in the making, continues to move forward.

Fischer says South Palm Beach, which has no public access to the ocean, became part of the county's groin plan because its southern boundary borders Lantana Municipal Beach.

"Bottom line, the only reason this project was ever initiated was because of Lantana beach," the mayor said.

The county is very concerned about eroding that beach. We're lucky that we can tandem onto it," Thornton said.

Thornton's proposed budget, which will take over as town manager in January, calls for dropping the millage from $41,000 to $31,000. That rollback rate keeps tax revenue flat from last year. South Palm Beach property values are up about 5 percent, according to the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office.

"My recommendation is full rollback," Thornton said. "We'll still have excess revenue of $800,000. I feel very comfortable with that."

The 3550 S. Ocean Blvd. luxury condo project, on the site of the old Hawaiian Inn, doesn't come onto the tax roll for two years. The project, which has already been a significant revenue source. Last year, due to the project's construction costs, the county found $600,000 in new revenues. Town officials will now have several options to pay the $2.1 million cost the groin will need.

Delray Beach

Grant fuels talk of limits in CRA program

By Jane Smith

Illustrated Properties recently received a $37,122 grant from the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency to help build out its office space at 700 E. Atlantic Ave. The money — payable after the work is done — represents 40 percent of the allowable costs because of the office's location, said Elizabeth Burrows, CRA economic development manager.

"The real estate office sits across from the now underway Atlantic Crossing project," she said at the July 12 CRA meeting.

Illustrated Properties merged with the Keyes Co. real estate brokers in 2016. They want to combine their Delray Beach staffs at one location and triple the number of agents to 90 people who will work out of the 1,600-square-foot office, Burrows said.

The office sits on the ground floor of a building currently owned by a company headed by Lucille Handelman, the ex-wife of real estate mogul Burt Handelman, and their adult children.

The Handelmans were married for more than 67 years when Lucille, known as Lovey, died, filed for divorce in 2016. The corporate ownership record for 700 E. Atlantic was changed a few months after the divorce filing. A judge granted their divorce earlier this year. Now, the two — Burt, 90, and Lucille, 89 — must finish dividing their multimillion-dollar estate holdings.

"The board passed the grant unanimously," Shelly Petrolia, who is Delray Beach mayor and CRA chairwoman, said at the CRA meeting that she would like to reconsider whether the agency will pay to build out interiors.

"I thought we only paid for exterior improvements," Petrolia said.

Burrows said CRA board members would be able to comment on any grant changes they would like to see at an upcoming workshop meeting.

At that July 16 workshop, Petrolia said she wants to move away from remodeling spaces of wealthy businesses and "spend the CRA tax dollars to improve streets, connect sidewalks and cure blight."

Board member Ryan Boylston agreed.

He said when he first started Woo Creative, he was interested in a CRA buildout grant for the second-floor office at 135 E. Atlantic Ave. in another Handelman building. But he was told nothing was available.

Four years later — starting in April 2016 — the CRA began offering interior grants, Burrows said. The grants cover flooring, walls, doors, electrical and plumbing, among other things.

"The city clerk, who oversees the permits, told me there were about 50 people in this process," Boylston said.

"When they said they were in the process, I asked if they were in the process for Atlantic Avenue," Petrolia said.

"They said no, but that's when I realized they were in the process," Boylston said.

Burrows said CRA board members would have been able to comment on what the real estate company was awarded.

"The city does not include costs of periodic infrastructure spending only."

Whether the agency will pay to build out the spaces on Atlantic Avenue, Reeves said.

"Atlantic Avenue is too prime to be included," Lauzier said.

The commissioners agreed to exclude Atlantic but expressed support for a resident parking program.

"We are inviting our residents back to the downtown," Mayor Shelly Petrolia said.

Residents had asked for the program because they felt their taxes were used to purchase the meters and for repairing the side streets and city-owned parking lots and garages.

"It's another benefit to being a Delray resident," Commissioner Ryan Boylston said.

Residents may apply for special annual parking passes

By Jane Smith

The other type of parking passes will go to curing what was seen as an oversight. Both will be available around the end of September.

Tenants who live above the stores and offices along Atlantic Avenue used to park on the side streets or in the city-owned lots for free. Some even lost parking spaces to the city and county, which have been seeking revenue to pay for downtown Delray Beach.

About 50 people are in this category. They can now pay $96.30 for an annual parking pass that allows their vehicles to park all day and overnight in the city-owned lots and garages, west of the Intracoastal Waterway.

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Along the Coast

Sargassum surge viewed as disaster in Caribbean

By Cheryl Blackerby

A natural disaster has hit the Caribbean. Barbados has declared a national emergency, and the sprawling St. James Club resort in Antigua has been forced to temporarily close its doors and direct guests elsewhere. Marine experts are looking at damaged coral reefs and sea turtle mortalities.

And Puerto Rico has another emergency on top of last year’s cataclysmic hurricane damage.

In a region with its share of hurricanes, active volcanic zones and earthquakes, the Caribbean has a new problem, one never seen before 2011 — sargassum.

The seaweed is being dumped by ocean waves on some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, and it’s arriving faster than it can be removed. It’s clogging waterways, shading coral reefs and killing marine mammals that drown underneath its thick mats stretching for miles.

And this is happening in a region that generally has very little seaweed.

Sargassum has always been in Florida, the Bahamas and other islands. But scientists are alarmed at research that shows the seaweed piling up on shores since 2011 is not the same plant as that in the past, which arrived at predictable times of the year from the Sargasso Sea.

This new species is coming from the southern part of Brazil and is quickly spreading on ocean currents that are deviating from normal patterns.

The Caribbean islands worst hit are Barbados, Guadeloupe, Antigua and Martinique.

Mexico’s Riviera Maya is also seeing massive amounts of seaweed.

Residents, hotel employees and military personnel are being called on to clean the beaches by rake and wheelbarrow to preserve sea turtle nests and the area’s famous white sand.

Beyond the beaches, the bigger picture is even worse: Satellite imagery shows the seaweed growing and spreading over a swath of ocean from Brazil to West Africa and north to Florida, a new and troubling phenomenon.

“We saw it for the first time in 2011. It was really bad in 2014 and 2015. This year is the worst, with no end in sight,” Dr. Hazel Oxenford, professor of fisheries and marine ecology at the University of the West Indies in Barbados, said in late July.

“It’s essentially a natural disaster with long-term effects on fisheries, coral reefs and sea grasses. We’re looking at some significant problems,” she said.

Scientists were surprised by this seaweed, which hadn’t been seen in the Caribbean in almost 100 years.

Researchers at first assumed it had drifted south from the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic, where the open-ocean seaweed is generally found. But satellite imagery and ocean current data showed an unusual stretch of sargassum off the coast of Brazil.

Dr. Jeff Gower, a remote-sensing expert with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Institute of Ocean Sciences, tracked the sargassum and in 2013 he had reached a conclusion: Satellite observations showed the seaweed event of the summer of 2011 “had its origin north of the mouth of the Amazon in an area not previously associated with sargassum growth. … By July it had spread to the coast of Africa in the east and to the Lesser Antilles and the Caribbean in the west,” he said in a report published in The Journal of Remote Sensing Letters.

Dr. James Franks, a fisheries biologist, and his colleagues at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory came to the same conclusion about why a once seaweed-free part of the ocean is now filled with seaweed. Tracking the seaweed mass-blooming events back in time showed its path from the tropical Atlantic east of Brazil.

Invariably, in all of those instances, it tracked back to the tropical region (Brazil). None of it ever tracked northward into the Sargasso Sea,” Franks told Science Magazine in June 2018.

In the Caribbean, islanders were stunned and bewildered by the piles of sargassum as much as 6 feet high dumped on their beaches. They hoped it was a one-time event, but that wasn’t the case.

Sargassum, which is essential for sea turtle hatchlings that ride the ocean currents on the nutrient-rich mats in the first few years of their lives, is now a danger to turtle hatchlings on land, where the seaweed smothers nests and poses obstacles on their beach path to the ocean.

“The Barbados government declared an emergency and is using military personnel to help. Removing it requires a tremendous amount of manpower. They are using appropriate methods, not machinery but rakes, to remove turtle nests and sand,” Oxenford said.

In the ocean, turtles and marine mammals can’t survive and may drown under the thick seaweed, a new species that has larger blades than seaweed usually seen in the Sargasso Sea.

“We have had a few mortalities (of turtles) this year,” Oxenford said. “But we have very active conservation groups that are helping.”

She and other scientists are studying the sources and causes of this new sargassum, which has marine researchers scrambling to understand it.

“It’s a new source of sargassum. It’s not from the Sargasso Sea, but from Brazil and West Africa. It’s coming at the whim of the ocean currents and trade winds, which normally have a pattern,” she said.

Ocean currents are deviating from normal, another mystery that is alarming scientists.

“There’s been tremendous variation in the ocean current patterns,” Oxenford said.

No one knows with certainty what is causing the massive seaweed bloom, but there are educated guesses.

“The causes run a whole gamut, with a combination of higher water temperatures caused by climate change, higher nutrient levels, and pollution from deforestation and industrial development,” Oxenford said.

The one bit of good news is that the sargassum is piling up on the windward side of the islands, and most hotels in the Caribbean are on the calmer leeward side. Hotels have temporarily closed — this is the second time since 2011 that the St. James Club has closed (from July 1 to Oct. 1 this year) because of seaweed, but luckily the sargassum hit at a time when Caribbean hotels traditionally close for renovations.

To make matters worse for the big resorts on the windward side, most are located on bays and coves, which quickly get choked by the seaweed piling up in the waterways and blocking passage for boats.

No one can predict how long this seaweed event will last or how bad it will be in the future.

“We’re not going to get it stopped in a hurry. It’s a long-term problem. It would be like stopping hurricanes,” Oxenford said.

“We have to learn to adapt.”

Dealing with sargassum

The Antigua Hotels and Tourist Association and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association have released a guide for residents and tourists dealing with the sargassum crisis.

Some of the suggestions:

• Leave or bury the sargassum on the beach.

• Use rakes and wheelbarrows to gather and transport the sargassum, being careful not to disturb sea turtle nests.

• Incorporate sargassum into landscaping after it’s cleaned of sea salt. It provides a nutrient-rich source of compost, fertilizer and weed control.

• Eat it. After it is thoroughly cleaned, it can be cooked in lemon juice and coconut milk. “The most popular preparation is a quick fry, followed by simmering in water, soy sauce and other ingredients.”

ABOUT: Sargassum clogs a harbor along the shore of Guadeloupe. The windward sides of the islands are much harder hit than the leeward sides. BELOW: Crews work to rid the beaches of Cancun, Mexico, of seaweed. In Mexico, residents, hotel employees and military personnel have been called on to clean the beaches by rake and wheelbarrow to preserve sea turtle nests and the area’s white sand.

Photos provided by French America Climate Talks and Reuters.
South Palm Beach
Elevation issues may limit Town Hall renovation

By Dan Moffett

South Palm Beach council members considered some ambitious plans to renovate or replace Town Hall during the last year — but it may be that their options are more limited than first thought.

Town Manager Mo Thornton says an architect hired to review the condition of the aging building is concerned that it may not have sufficient elevation to comply with today’s flood plain standards. If the structure is sitting too low, in other words, renovation might not be feasible. The only option would be to demolish and replace it.

“We’re waiting to get the results of an elevation survey,” Thornton said. “Then we’ll know for sure whether the building is renovate-able or not.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has revised elevation building standards to improve resistance to storm surge and flooding.

If the Town Hall doesn’t meet the standard, renovation could require raising the entire structure to comply with building codes and insurance requirements.

“That would be too costly to do,” Thornton said.

The council hired North Palm Beach architect John Bellamy in June to review previous proposals for the building. Thornton gave Bellamy high marks after working with him in his last job as manager of Atlantis. She said she expects to have a report from Bellamy before September.

“I’m confident he can tell us what’s possible and what it will take to get it done,” she said.

The Town Hall was constructed 42 years ago originally as a public safety building and has undergone multiple repairs and additions. Last year the council unanimously rejected as too costly and extravagant a $6 million proposal from another architect to replace the hall with a five-story building.

In other business:
• Town Clerk Marie DeJesus resigned in July to take a position as deputy city clerk in West Palm Beach.

DeJesus came to South Palm Beach in January 2016 from Palm Springs, where she served eight years as assistant deputy clerk.

In 2017, DeJesus was named president of the Palm Beach County Municipal Clerks Association.

Thornton said the town has begun advertising for a new clerk and is looking for candidates with financial backgrounds. The job pays about $55,000 per year. The town also is continuing its search for a new police chief and has received several dozen responses from qualified applicants, Thornton said.

• After months of debate, the council unanimously agreed on how much to fine for illegal dogs on the beach. The job pays that prohibits dogs on the beach.

Mayor Bonnie Fischer had suggested his been drinking so heavily that he had doubled, in an effort to hide the abuses of power stemming from a 2016 shooting incident at his home.

MAYOR BONNIE FISCHER
FOUNDER OF THE COASTAL STAR

STAFF

August 2018
The COASTAL STAR
News 19

Ocean Ridge

Lucibella says August trial will show his innocence and police officer guilt

By Steve Plunkett

As his trial date nears on felony charges stemming from a 2016 shooting incident at his house, once Vice Mayor Richard Lucibella proclaimed his innocence and renewed his attacks on how Ocean Ridge police treated him.

“I look forward to a public airing of the facts, including the fact that I was not intoxicated, never fired a weapon and never assaulted either of the two able-bodied officers who broke three of my ribs AFTER slamming me, face-first, into the pavement,” Lucibella said in a written statement to The Coastal Star.

He and his defense attorney, Marc Shiner, went to court July 20 to renew Lucibella’s demand for a speedy trial, which they originally filed in March. The case was docketed for a calendar call Aug. 20.

“OK, so a demand for speedy trial was filed, this case is already set for trial, I believe it’s set within the window,” said Circuit Judge Dalash Weiss, who left the Aug. 20 court date as set.

Lucibella was charged with battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest with violence, both felonies, and firing a weapon while under the influence of alcohol, a misdemeanor. He pleaded not guilty.

After the hearing, Shiner said he refuted the demand for speedy trial to ensure that Weiss knew the timeline of the case. Judges at a calendar call hear the cases of people who are in jail first, then move to the oldest cases, he explained.

He said the trial might not begin for a week or two after the calendar call. “Nothing’s certain in the courthouse,” Shiner said.

Lucibella was arrested Oct. 22, 2016, after Ocean Ridge police went to his oceanfront home to answer neighbors’ reports of hearing gunfire. They confiscated a 40-caliber handgun and found five spent shell casings on the backyard patio.

And a police supervisor, Lt. Steven Wohlfiel, were both on the patio and “obviously intoxicated,” the officers said. Both men denied firing the gun. Officers later determined the seized gun was Wohlfiel’s.


His trial was first scheduled for April 2017 but was postponed to July 2017, then October, then this April and now August after Shiner and Assistant State Attorney Danielle Grundt needed more time to question witnesses and then Shiner hurt his leg. Weiss is the third judge on the case, following routine reassignments of Judges Charles Burton and Meenu Sasser.

“These charges were leveled, and then doubled, in an effort to hide the abuses by these officers and their Chief,” Lucibella said in his statement. “I look forward to demonstrating that the Chief of Police involved himself in this investigation after admitting he’d been drinking so heavily that night, his wife had to drive him to the police station.”

The State Attorney’s Office declined to comment on Lucibella’s remarks.

Chief Hal Hutchins said Lucibella’s statements mostly repeated claims he and Shiner have made all along.

“They’re entitled to say whatever they like,” Hutchins said. “We should let the criminal justice system do its job.”

Early on, the chief said he had some wine with dinner that Friday night and had his wife drive to avoid even a suggestion of DUI.

Nobu Peltz, one of the arresting officers, is privately suing Lucibella over injuries he says were a result of the incident.
Along the Coast

Three more months of I-95 work remain at Woolbright Road

By Jane Smith

Commuters will have to endure at least another three months of construction at the Woolbright Road/Interstate 95 interchange and another month at the Hypoluxo Road interchange.

The Woolbright interchange needs more work and is expected to be finished by the end of October, said Andrea Pacini, Florida Department of Transportation spokeswoman.

Construction started there in January 2016. The Hypoluxo/I-95 interchange should be finished by the end of August, Pacini said. Work started there in June 2015.

The two projects are part of a $32.5 million, five-interchange contract that also covers Donald Ross Road in Jupiter, 10th Avenue North in Lake Worth, and Hillsboro Boulevard to Southwest 10th Street in Deerfield Beach.

Community Asphalt Corp., a division of OHL North America, was supposed to finish construction in November. That means FDOT will fine the contractor $8,401 per day since Nov. 4, Pacini said.

"When a contractor has exceeded contract time, they are not eligible to receive weather days or holidays," she said.

"The contractor's past performance rating is also being penalized, which can affect their ability to bid and win future FDOT work."

The contractor has been working through challenging, unforeseen conditions and design issues on this project, said Fallen McCleughlin, OHL North America spokesman. "We are confident that these issues have been resolved and we plan to have construction completed by early fall."

At the Woolbright interchange, the contractor has "substantial work outstanding. The contractor needs to complete the widening of the I-95 northbound off-ramp, finish the south-side widening, construct the sidewalk, install drainage and add lights and traffic signals," she said.

That's why the FDOT contract administrator is estimating an end of October completion date. The Hypoluxo Road interchange is nearly done, Pacini said.

"The contractor needs to finish grading, sodding and striping there," she said.

Obituaries

GULF STREAM — William Scott Tiernan, who grew up in Delray Beach, died July 27 in Laramie, Wyo. He was 67.

Mr. Tiernan — who went by "Grand Dude" when with his grandchildren and by "Wild Bill" when on his Wyoming ranch — was born in West Orange, N.J., on May 18, 1951. The second of four kids, he grew up on the ocean in Delray Beach and spent his childhood summers surfing on Cape Cod and in East Hampton.

He attended high school at Avon Old Farms in Connecticut where he lettered in football, wrestling and lacrosse. After graduation, he served on the school’s board and donated a wrestling room in honor of his late father, John W. Tiernan.

After a series of adventures and surf trips around the world, Mr. Tiernan moved to Gulf Stream — just down the road from the home he grew up in — where he became a partner in the real estate brokerage Kim Allmon Tiernan. He also served on the board of his family’s company, Mark, Fore & Strike. After his retirement, he bought a property just outside Laramie, where he built a ranch and enjoyed making huge metal sculptures — much to his kids’ and grandkids’ delight.

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Devinder ‘Dave’ Maraj

Mr. Tiernan is survived by his mother, Lynda Scheerer Stokes of Gulf Stream; the mother of his four children, Kim Allmon Tiernan of Guana Cay, Bahamas; his three sons: Scott Durand Tiernan of Newport Beach, Calif.; Parker Knight Tiernan of Delray Beach and John Sears Tiernan of Great Falls, Mont.; a daughter, Cary Tiernan Butterfield of Bermuda; Cary’s three children: Ava, Cruz and Elle Butterfield; three siblings: Michael Whitaker Tiernan and Ann Purell Tiernan of Delray Beach and Martha Tiernan Ely of Gulf Stream. Scores of family and friends will remember fondly his bright blue eyes, surfer dude hair, and thirst for adventure. A celebration of Mr. Tiernan’s life will take place at a later date.

Obituary submitted by the family

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Mr. Tiernan was known as a no-nonsense, no-nonsense kind of owner, both with the team and the dealership.

“Dave was a great man to deal with,” said Cliff Ray, auto show coordinator for the South Florida Automobile Dealers Association, of which Mr. Maraj was a member for about 20 years. “He was always cordial and kind.”

In recent years, Mr. Maraj had traded his love for auto racing into a passion for sailing, according to Atherton. Still he linked the two together, naming his racing sailboat 24 Hours, or 24 Hours in French.

Atherton said there was a common denominator between Mr. Maraj’s success in auto racing and success in business. “Dave’s greatest strength was his ability to surround himself with outstanding people who knew how to get things done,” he said.

While the 24 Hours of Le Mans may have been Champion Racing’s greatest accomplishment, it was just one of many victories for the team, which raced for more than a decade. Champion Racing won the American Le Mans series championship in 2003, 2004 and 2005, racing as an independent team, frequently competing against teams run by manufacturers, which had greater resources. The team, later racing under the Audi Sport North America name, won two more times.

“Dave’s team was always the one to beat on the global scale,” Atherton said. “Champion was the one everyone measured against.”

Very detail oriented, Mr. Maraj was known as a no-nonsense kind of owner, both with the team and the dealership.

“With Dave, nothing was left to chance,” Atherton said. “He was the most intense — and quietest — competitor I ever dealt with.”

Atherton said his organization and decals paid tribute to Mr. Maraj with his name and favorite saying, “One Last One,” for teams to place on their cars during a recent race.

“Dave was held in the highest regard possible,” he said. “He passed way too soon.”

Memorial services were held July 27 at Glick Family Funeral Home in Boca Raton.

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Changes in water services included in new Boynton budget

By Jane Smith

Boynton Beach residents and others using city services will have to be patient for the next two years while the city builds out its Town Square complex.

Civic buildings, including the City Hall, Public Library and Fire Station 1, will be demolished and staff will work out of different locations around town.

“We are closed and will reopen 9 a.m. Aug. 13 in a shared space with the Congregational United Church of Christ at 115 N. Federal Highway. The city’s Community Redevelopment Agency purchased the church building and will work out of different locations around town,” said Colin Groff, assistant city manager in charge of Town Square.

People will have to be patient and pay attention where they are going,” said Colin Groff, assistant city manager in charge of Town Square. "We will put out notices wherever we can — social media, in utility bills, signs at the site."

The city held a plant giveaway at its already closed Civic Center on July 19. The cuttings came from plants around the City Hall, Civic Center and the library.

"About 150 people came to the plant giveaway, said Eleanor Krussel, city spokeswoman. The remaining plants around city buildings will be replanted elsewhere around Boynton Beach — medians and parks, said Krussel.

With its private development partner E2L Real Estate Solutions, Boynton Beach hopes to create a new downtown in the 16-acre area, bordered by Boynton Beach Boulevard on the north, Northeast and Southeast First Streets on the east, Southeast Second Avenue on the south and Seacrest Boulevard on the west.

Private development will include apartments, restaurants and a hotel in the $250 million project. The city’s share is about $18 million.

The historic high school renovations will be complete in March, Groff said. But it won’t be able to hold city recreation programs until the City Center complex is finished in early 2020, he said.

"There won’t be more than 40 parking spaces available until the new garage, part of the City Center complex, is ready," Groff said. People can still rent out the second floor for banquets and weddings, he said, but they must provide offsite parking.

City Hall move: September

City Hall staff will move over two weeks in mid-September to Quantum Park, Groff said.

City Hall will reopen Sept. 24 at 3301 Quantum Blvd.

The City Commission, CRA meetings and other city advisory board meetings will be held at the City Hall Commission Chambers during August. In September, they will move to the Intracoastal Park Clubhouse at 2240 N. Federal Highway.

Fire Station 1, which also serves Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes, will divide its staff and vehicles between Fire Station 4 on South Federal Highway and Fire Station 5 on High Ridge Road.

"We will be the last to leave," said Fire Chief Glenn Joseph. The departure time will be in mid-September. One lieutenant and two firefighter/paramedics with a rescue vehicle will work out of the South Federal Highway station, he said.

About 70 percent of the emergency calls are medical, Joseph said. "The fire truck and three staff members (lieutenant and two firefighter paramedics) will work out of Fire Station 5. Joseph expects the response times to increase by 30 seconds. His team will monitor them and if they rise over 1 minute, the team will look for space east of Interstate 95. Joseph knows it won’t be easy to find a building big enough to house the fire truck."

Boynton Beach asks for patience as it moves essential services

By Jane Smith

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Boynton Beach also is proposing a 2.2 percent rate increase for its water customers in Ocean Ridge, Briny Breezes and the County Pocket. That increase also will take effect in October.
Business Spotlight

Hotel developer Kolter Hospitality to bring headquarters — and jobs — to Delray

Kolter Hospitality, the company developing the new Courtyard by Marriott, will move its headquarters from West Palm Beach to Delray’s Pineapple Grove District next summer. That news, announced by Kolter President Scott Webb after ground was broken for the hotel in July, is expected to bring 50 jobs, along with another 60 needed to run the Courtyard by Marriott, in addition to the 75 to 125 construction workers needed to build the hotel.

The Courtyard by Marriott, at 135 SE Sixth Ave., will be Kolter’s second hotel in town, joining Hyatt Place. It is scheduled to be completed by September 2019.

“We see the value of investing in Delray’s economy and we are once again demonstrating this commitment,” Webb said.

“The interesting thing about the hotel business is, we are not competitive with the local economy, but rather more symbiotic in nature. This hotel will put, on average, about 25 people every day out into the community looking to eat and shop, and this, in turn, will create even more jobs for the community looking to eat and shop,” Webb said.

According to Kolter’s website, the hotel will have 150 guestrooms, 2,000 square feet of meeting space, a rooftop pool and parking.

Jeb A. Conrad started work as the new president and CEO of the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce in May. Previously, he was the president of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce in Indiana.

During the second annual Downtown Delray Beach Summer Sidewalk Sale, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 25-26, shops and galleries will offer savings and a chance to win a “Summer Fun Delray Beach” prize package. For details, visit DowntownDelrayBeach.com/SidewalksSale.

As it does each August, the Boca Chamber is facilitating community-building events during Boca Chamber Festival Days 2018. Events pair the chamber’s for-profit members with nonprofit members. Held at various locations in South Palm Beach County, wine tastings, museum visits, cocktail parties, pizza tossing, bowling, and a karaoke contest will raise money and awareness for nonprofit members. To partake, visit bocachamber.com.

The Boca Chamber Education Foundation’s Young Entrepreneurs Academy is enrolling students in grades 6-12 from Sept. 14. During the 25-week curriculum, students will work with leaders of industry, community members and educators to develop life skills, generate business ideas, conduct market research, write business plans and launch their own companies. The program culminates with a shark tank-style event where students will pitch their ideas to a panel of investors and ask for funds to support their business ventures. For more information, go to bocachamber.com/yea.

Ranked from nearly 14,000 U.S. real estate sales associates, a handful of local agents made the “Thousand” list, which is compiled by Real Trends, an online real estate research and consulting firm, done in partnership with The Wall Street Journal. For individual agents to be ranked, they must have closed 50 sides of a transaction or $20 million in closed sales volume in 2017.

Paul Saperstein of Re/Max Advantage Plus of Boynton Beach closed 137 sides, and was ranked 198. For volume, David Roberts of Royal Palm Properties, Boca Raton, was ranked 34, with a volume of almost $189 million in closed sales. Pascal Liguori, an agent with Premier Estate Properties, Delray Beach, was ranked 45, with a closed sales volume of $167.759 million.

For team rankings, the team must have closed 75 sides of a transaction or $30 million in closed sales volume in 2017. Boca Raton’s Premier Estate Properties team, D’Angelo/Liguori, with Carmen D’Angelo, Gerard Liguori and Joseph Liguori, ranked 241 with a closed sales volume of $126.11 million.

Gail Adams Aaskov, broker of Ocean Ridge Realty, has moved her office to 326 W. Boynton Beach Blvd., Boynton Beach. Her real estate office, which had been a fixture in Ocean Ridge since 1981. Agents Maria Carrasco, Christiane Francois, Carmen Delano, Joseph Liguori, ranked 241 with a closed sales volume of $126.11 million.

Hotel groundbreaking
135 SE Sixth Ave., Delray Beach — July 19
Al Fries, Albert Medina, Denise Medina and Sandy Wolforth and Administrative Assistant Sonia Wexler will continue their real estate work from this new location. Contact them at 276-3220.

Next month, Lang Realty will launch a lifestyle real estate channel, Lang TV to stream worldwide online (at langrealtytv.com), featuring South Florida agents, real estate, lifestyle activities, interior design and travel.

“As marketing platforms continue to evolve, this innovative format is designed to provide our agents with a competitive advantage in connecting with potential home buyers, sellers, other agents and local businesses throughout South Florida,” said Scott Agran, president of Lang Realty.

Produced by BYL Network, Lang TV will stream on smart TVs and will broadcast throughout Lang's 11 offices and online at langrealty.com. For more information, call 998-0100.

More than 300 guests attended the opening of the new Movie Bistro Restaurant and Bar in May. Following complimentary cocktails and appetizers, guests attended a complimentary movie on Cinemark Palace 20 and XD’s Premier level. Movie Bistro, a full-service restaurant at Cinemark Palace 20 and XD, 3200 Airport Road, Boca Raton, offers lunch, dinner, happy hour and dessert, whether diners plan on going to movies or not.

The second annual Culinary Job Fair is set for 2 p.m. Aug. 7 at Benvenuto Restaurant in Boynton Beach. It’s the brainchild of Sherry Johnson of the Secret Garden, a culinary business development center. Sponsored by the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, the city of Boynton Beach, Palm Beach County, PNC Bank, Community Action and PBC Career Resource Center, it’s meant to help anyone looking for a job in hospitality. That includes chefs, front- and back-of-house workers, prep cooks, stockers, deli specialists, nutritionists, bartenders and dishwashers.

The list of vendors participating is available online at cccgbbb.org/culinary-job-fair.

Send business news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com.

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COASTAL STAR 24
August 2018
Apparently, these millennials didn’t get the memo. Aren’t 30-somethings supposed to be living in basements somewhere — well, rooms in Florida, maybe — tallying college debt, asking for Mom’s meatloaf?

Not this group. Instead, these surfer-dudes-turned-entrepreneurs, who six years ago started the Delray Downtowner, a free electric-car taxi service that shuttles riders around downtown and slightly beyond, are all about business models and out-of-state pitches and cash-flow charts.

And, yes, they still surf.

“Everyone’s using us,” says CEO Stephen Murray, who helped launch Delray Downtowner after getting a degree in psychology from the University of Tampa.

“Kids are using us. Babysitters are using us. Parents are using us.”

The company includes (l-r) Stephen Murray, co-founder and CEO; Chairman Bill McCauley, who gave financing and advice; and Mike Monaco, chief technology officer.
Chairman Bill Mc Cauley displays the Downtowner motto in the company’s Delray Beach office. The company, which includes Mike Monaco (left) and Stephen Murray, has offered rides in the city for six years. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

DELRAY

Continued from page A1

The brains — and the muscle — behind the business, which many people explained to Utah, Colorado and other Florida cities, are these high school friends who for years hung out surfing behind Bill Mc Cauley’s Delray Beach oceanfront home.

“They grew up here,” says Mc Cauley, who ran a Boca Raton hedge fund company for 17 years. “They were all like my sons. They kept their surfboards at my house.”

So, when the guys went off to college and came back all educated, Mc Cauley made them an offer. “I’m happy to help you and mentor you,” he told them, “if you come up with a good idea.”

Next thing Mc Cauley knew, bam. Electric vehicles it was. Mc Cauley’s son, Morgan, part of that initial surf club, opted for another career route.

Let’s say it’s hot and your feet hurt and you’re headed for another career route. “It was pretty intense,” Murray said.

In Colorado, the company uses electric cars — Teslas and Chevy Volts. In Aspen, Colo., the company uses electric carts. “They call them buggies out there,” Mc Cauley says. For the fleet in Park City, Utah, the team has invested in more spacious buggies.

And in Kimball Junction, Utah, the city is simply using Monaco’s app to run its own fleet of municipal vehicles.

“In each of those cities, we have a manager, a bunch of cars and a bunch of drivers,” Mc Cauley says. In Colorado, they might have to make room for snow skis. In Delray, there has to be room for beach coolers.

Stephanie Immelman, executive director of the Delray Beach Marketing Cooperative, says the ride system boosts Delray’s already groovy image.

“We love them,” she says. “We’ve worked with them from the very beginning and they’re a massive help to us.”

Immelman says she uses the Downtowner to show off her city. “So when we have 10 people from the U.K. who are tour operators and are here looking, they’ve never let us down,” she said. “We can rely on them a moment’s notice.”

Murray, 31, says a lot of people warned him against starting a business with a batch of good friends. But he said it’s one of the company’s greatest attributes.

“There’s kind of a general feeling that you don’t do business with your friends, but I’ve found it to be quite the opposite,” Murray said. “If you’re good enough friends with someone, that brings it to a heightened level of honesty. ‘We’re like brothers, and we’re having a lot of fun.’”

Himmelreich LaTour

Food Bank names board members, officers

The newest members of the Palm Beach County Food Bank’s board are Shelly Himmelreich, Shandra Stringer and the Rev. Glycy Ticombe.

Officers for the 2018-19 season are Chairwoman Marti LaTour, Vice Chairman and Secretary Mark Busse and Treasurer Bill Kramer.

LaTour said she is pleased to lead the board and congratulated the newly elected members.

“We have an important mission to alleviate hunger in Palm Beach County,” she said. “Working with a dedicated board and staff, we will continue the high level of service provided by the agency, as well as to fulfill other areas of unmet needs related to hunger in Palm Beach County.”

Homebound seniors receive emergency kits

Volunteers from Florida Power & Light Co. joined forces with Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches and Eastpointe Community Center to provide hurricane emergency kits to 520 homebound seniors.

The kits contain three days’ worth of food and one gallon of water.

“These hurricane emergency kits are particularly important to our clients since homebound seniors should have supplies without adequate food supplies in the aftermath of a storm,” said Pamela Calzadilla, president and CEO of Meals on Wheels of the Palm Beaches.

“Thanks to the support of our partners, we are able to ensure there is food in each of our clients’ homes in the event of an emergency.”

Himmelreich LaTour

Junior League of Boca Raton names coordinators for volunteer luncheon

Pat Thomas has been named host chairwoman, with Nikki Stelzer as event chairwoman, of the Junior League of Boca Raton’s Volunteer of the Year Luncheon set for Nov. 16 at the Boca Raton Resort and Club.

Thomas has a long story with the league and was named Volunteer of the Year in 1999. This year’s luncheon marks the event’s 31st anniversary.

“Our Volunteer of the Year Luncheon spotlights not only the Junior League of Boca but the entire nonprofit community,” league President Renata Sans de Negri said. “It is our way of saying thank you to those who are making real differences in our community.”

Dollars 4 Tic Scholars’ program raises $5,400

Comedy, magic and mind reading by illusionist Gary Goodman comprised a trifecta of entertainment during Triple Threat!, the annual scholarship fundraiser for Dollars 4 Tic Scholars.

Dollars 4 Tic Scholars is a nonprofit dedicated to supporting college students and summer campers who have Tourette syndrome. The event took place at the South County Civic Center in Delray Beach and included an educational component called Tourette Syndrome Mythbusters, plus dinner, raffles, video messages from scholarship recipients and a silent auction. More than $5,400 was raised.

“I love being able to come up with fun events, such as our choice of Gary Goodman, to not only entertain but to raise awareness of Tourette syndrome in a fun way,” Dollars 4 Tic Scholars co-founder Kelsey Diamantis said.

FAU launches program for student activism

Florida Atlantic University’s Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters launched a program for high school students titled “The Barb Schmidt Fellowship: Cultivating Community Involvement, Activism and Social Change.”

Students will earn six college credits through weekend workshops during the 2018-19 school year. There also is a $3,000 stipend for students who successfully complete both semesters. The goal of the program is to provide future leaders with a platform to develop the skills and knowledge needed to initiate, execute and sustain a social movement.

“We have all been inspired by what youth leaders are doing to make our world a better place,” said Michael Horwells, dean of the College of Arts and Letters. “We want to support the work being done by facilitating students’ growth in community engagement and social-change efforts.”

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

Philanthropy Notes
Celebrations

Women Build
Delray Beach — May 10-12

More than 125 women teamed up to raise $208,000 for the Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach County’s initiative. Many of the volunteers went above and beyond their personal fundraising goals of $1,000 to underwrite the cost of construction materials for the home being built for the partner family. Those who raised the most money were recognized with gifts at the Pink Hammer Awards Reception. Mary Sol Gonzalez, the top fundraiser with more than $20,000, received a pair of pink sapphire-and-diamond earrings. TOP: Terry Fedele is part of the crew painting the exterior. INSET: (l-r) Bonnie Kaye, Kari Oeltjen and Alisa Cohen are part of the team. Photos provided by Carlos Aristizabal

Make-A-Wish
Boca Beach Club, Boca Raton — July 21

Naomi Hied, 8, of Homestead, was granted her wish at the Boca Beach Club by Make-A-Wish Southern Florida to meet and swim with mermaids. Naomi has been in and out of hospitals because of a blood disorder. Friends and family joined in the festivities. ABOVE: Mermaids Caroline Simmel (left) and Kaelyn Tharp join Naomi in the pool. Photo provided

Literacy Coalition reception
Blume Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach, Boynton Beach — June 20

The Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County, celebrating the fifth anniversary of its Blume Literacy Center for Education, Training and Outreach on the Brenda and C.P. Medore Campus in Boynton Beach, welcomed donors to the 12,000-square-foot building. The center has enabled the coalition to expand education, training and outreach programs for children and adults and bring leaders together to share resources, exchange ideas and support literacy initiatives. We are grateful to the many supporters who helped make the dream of a permanent home for literacy in Palm Beach County become a reality, coalition CEO Kristin Calder said. ABOVE: (l-r) Bettina Young, Brenda Medore, Ann Hammer, Laurie Gildan, Gale Howden, Bernadette O’Grady, Margaret Blume, Maggie Dickenson and Calder. Photo provided
George Patti is on the move—literally. Bouncing between M.E.A.T. in Boca Raton and the one in the Keys, he now has a third spot in Boca Raton he’s in as of press time, but several things out and get ready for the September. “September is the work in progress in the former 13 American Table on Palmetto Park Road. A lot of people on the street are already asking about it,” he said. “It’s been a year coming. There are all these high-rises going up around us. There’s going to be an extra 20,000 people here. I don’t know where they’ll park, but you really don’t need a parking lot for a 2-mile radius here. You’ve got everything right here.”

Patti is executive chef and the “hyper” in the newly partnered restaurant, which has been gutted and completely redesigned.

He describes the cuisine on the new menu as seasonal and artisanal: “We’ll try to do as much as possible from the area, but we know the limits of what’s available realistically.”

He has a menu worked up — subject to change and modification — that includes starters of shrimp with jalapeno cream and grits with pancetta, sauce and lemon (tonato, tuna, anchovies, mayonnaise). It’s a sharing kind of place: A mozzarella bar has choices of six cheeses and seven spreads; a salumeria has a list from which to choose three for a plate to share. There are four paellas, 11 pastas, shrimp saganaki, a bocarestaurantmonth.com. and menus, go to www.

Another choice is Sardinia, making waves with critics. Not technically in Boca Raton, it has become a local favorite for its sizable menu of Mediterranean dishes with Old World flair. What to look for? Foods you don’t see elsewhere: ammeline (real sweetbeards with pancetta, sage and Brussels (sprouts) and voluto (tatoes, tuna, anchovies, mayo and capers). It’s a sharing kind of place: A mozzarella bar has choices of six cheeses and seven spreads; a salumeria has a list from which to choose three for a plate to share. There are four paellas, 11 pastas, shrimp saganaki, a

Uncle Tai’s has opened near Max’s Grille. “I’m a Philly guy, and we want to focus on what we’re doing and improve it. I can’t believe Max’s Grille has been here 27 years!” he said.

In brief: You can still get in on Delray Restaurant Week, which runs through Aug. 7. A number of restaurants in the downtown area are participating in the dine-out plan. Go to www.downtowndelraybeach.com/restaurantweek.

MIA Kitchen and Bar in west Delray has closed. Owners Blake and Anna Malatesta said it was time to let the restaurant, he said, and after a 17-year run, it’s time to let it go. “I could do that much more to build sales. I got it to a point where it kind of reached a plateau,” he said. Rapoport is well known in the area for collaborations with Dennis Max, as well as his own restaurants, including Deck 84 in Delray Beach and Burt and Max’s in Delray Marketplace and Max’s Grille.

It’s his latest project that brought him to sell Henry’s. “I was about to start getting people in Max’s Grille. I recently took it over. Someone made me a nice offer on Henry’s. I accepted.”

The tag line behind the Kee Grill will now run Henry’s — and they’re keeping it pretty much intact, Rapoport said. “The guys who bought it are keeping the entire staff, keeping the menu like it is. I don’t think there are going to be any major changes. I’m going to keep the name — everything will be seamless just as when they bought the Kee Grill.”

“I’d never say no, but I just want to focus on what we’re doing and improve it. I can’t believe Max’s Grille has been here 27 years!” he said.

It’s a keeper, he thinks.
Aria-filled summer nights await in West Palm Beach

By Dale King
ArtsPaper Contributing Writer

Summers are usually fairly quiet for the Palm Beach Opera, much less hectic than the regular season that will launch in December with a rising-stars concert followed by three mainstage productions of works by Verdi, Mozart and Johann Strauss II. But this summer, the company is making its presence felt with a new series called Summer Opera Nights in an unusual venue: the Elizabeth Avenue Station in the developing West Palm Beach Warehouse District. “As part of our ongoing commitment to engage our community and reach new audiences, particularly in our off-season, we’re introducing this series to share the experience of live opera in a relaxed, accessible environment,” said Managing Director David Walker.

The first show of three took place July 27. It starred bass-baritone Neil Nelson, and included operatic selections as well as games, refreshments and the camaraderie of other opera-friendly folks. Similar events, also featuring Nelson, will be held Aug. 24 and Sept. 28, both Fridays, and at the same boutique venue.

The four-hour window will allow time for music and games by alternating the two genres. The four-hour window will allow time for music and games by alternating the two genres. Nelson, a Jamaican-born singer who grew up in New York and has a degree from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, performed selections from Mozart’s ‘The Marriage of Figaro,’ Bizet’s ‘Carmen’ and Gershwin’s ‘Porgy and Bess.’

In the upcoming season, Nelson will sing the role of Porgy during appearances with the South Florida Symphony at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale and at the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami. In addition to appearing with Palm Beach Opera, Nelson has

Bass-baritone Neil Nelson will sing during Summer Opera Nights. Courtesy of Palm Beach Opera

Play's themes resonate with young actors at Maltz

By Janis Fontaine
ArtsPaper Contributing Writer

It’s not much easier to talk about race today than it was in 1960 when Harper Lee’s acclaimed novel ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ was published — let alone in 1930s rural Alabama, where the story is set. But conversations must be had.

To jump-start those dialogues, a group of young professionals at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre are producing the play based on Lee’s book as their summer production.

Called the Youth Artists’ Chair, the free summer mentorship program matches teens and young adults, ages 12 to 28, with industry professionals for one-on-one training at the state’s largest regional theater. Some also are enrolled in the theater’s two-year Professional Training Program, a combination of arts education and stage experience that prepares young adults for a career in theater.

These young thespians are juggling rehearsals with extra academics, family commitments, and part-time jobs, but some gathered on a cloudy Wednesday afternoon for a roundtable discussion about ‘To Kill a Mockingbird.’

“The story is simple enough: In 1932 in Maycomb, a small, worn-out (fictional) town in Alabama, a white attorney and widowed father of two young children is drawn into the middle of a racial feud when the court assigns him to defend a black man accused of raping a white woman. The mild-mannered father/ lawyer (Atticus Finch), a staunch believer in justice, makes a valiant stand against racism when he argues in court that Tom Robinson has been falsely accused.

The story has become a minor classic of American literature, in part because of its film version, which was released at Christmas in 1962 and subsequently won three Academy Awards, including best actor for Gregory Peck, who played the principled Finch. It routinely makes best-of-cinema lists, including at the American Film Institute, where it tops the list of great courtroom dramas.

The Maltz players hope the performance will inspire people to have conversations about race — whether around the dinner table, at bridge club, or after church. They believe now is a time ripe for change.

Alexander Goodwin-Etam, 14, of Jupiter, who plays Jem, Finch’s young son, is one thoughtful young man playing another. He says today’s youths are more racially enlightened than earlier generations.

“We as youths see differently. We’re more evolved,” he said. “The youths are calling out the older generation.”

One purpose of art is to open doors for discussions, and ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ specifically provides the impetus for a discussion about race. “We in the theater always say we need to have the uncomfortable conversations,” said co-producer Madeline Gilbert, 20, of Jupiter.

But conversations about race certainly make people uncomfortable, “so no one is having these conversations,” said Léandre Thivierge, 16, of West Palm Beach, who portrays patriarch Atticus Finch.

Léandre has given the demanding role some thought. He said the way society talks about race is still “closeted” — people have some thought. He said the way society talks about race is still “closeted” — people have feelings about race that “they don’t say out loud. Their fear to speak makes it hard. But
21-year-old Jawan Hayes of Mayella Ewell, is played by Thomas Roberts. "In the 1930s, it was very hard for a black African-American, male or female, to be a free citizen if they were accused of something they didn’t do. Tom Robinson was a great man and model citizen and didn’t deserve to die," Hayes wrote in an email. His character is a personification of Atticus Finch's mockingbird — a harmless creature that does only good. But racism isn’t just classifying people based on ethnicity; it’s also believing there is an inherent superiority of one race over another.

"We need to just stop judging people as a whole," said Jem’s portrayer, Goodwin-Elam. "I don’t want to have my looks define me." The youngest cast member, Melanie McDonald, a 12-year-old who plays Scout, Finch’s daughter, said, “We should not discriminate against other people because of what they look like. I think we should have conversations about all races being equal.”

Léandre said society has made steps forward, but “the progress is largely illusion.”

Director Weissler says the group has been given a privilege to tell this story, but people have to listen. She looks forward to the day when people truly get the message, though in many places they haven’t yet. "If that were true, we wouldn’t need to do the play anymore," she said.

To Kill a Mockingbird

If You Go
To Kill a Mockingbird plays at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 11 at Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indiantown Road. Tickets: $52 adults, $52 students. Info: jupitertheatre.org or 575-2223.

MOCKINGBIRD

In our society — and that is ignorance and jealousy, we are ready to fight.

"Injustice for one is injustice for all," and sounded Aydın said. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," she said, quoting the Rev. Martin Luther King’s quote that "The only way to have a more accepting and compassionate world is to listen and educate," 17. The production offers its members a lesson in cooperation. They’re also learning that there is value in the diversity of the team — that you don’t want 10 people just like you — and to embrace, not denigrate our differences.

What surprised me most about the play is how much its themes and messages resonate with our modern-day society, and how many lessons it can teach to those who pay attention," Aviv said. Gilbert agreed: “The problems of almost 100 years ago are still in the world today. Racism, human rights, gender equality.” Paraphrasing the Rev. Martin Luther King’s quote that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” she said, “Injustice for one is injustice for all,” and sounded ready to fight.

“By fighting our common ignorance and jealousy, we push for equality and honesty in our society — and that is worth fighting for,” Aviv said. The role of Tom Robinson, unjustly accused of the rape of Mayella Ewell, is played by 21-year-old Jawan Hayes of Jupiter.

"If that were true, we wouldn’t need to do the play anymore," she said.
实施他们的努力，同时准备好参与者在棕榈滩县的历史学会，马尔茨县和德沃斯学院。文化基金会，棕榈滩县的 Loggerhead 海龟保护协会，博卡拉顿艺术博物馆，以及在一年内启动的全国性培训和咨询项目，由马里兰大学培养和领导的阿什维尔艺术管理学院。科学中心和水族馆，棕榈滩县和德沃斯学院的 Palm Beach County and the DeVos Institute for Arts Leadership.

棕榈滩县文化机构和合作伙伴

LAKE WORTH — The Cultural Council of Palm Beach County and the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland have launched a year-long training and consulting program for 10 cultural nonprofits in Palm Beach County. Called the Palm Beach Cultural Accelerator, the program will focus on 10 institutions preparing to undertake major fundraising efforts: Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, Boca Ballet Theatre, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Center for Creative Education, Historical Society of Palm Beach County, Loggerhead Marinelife Center, Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Jupiter Theatre, South Florida Science Center and Aquarium and the Young Singers of the Palm Beach Youth Symphony.

A mix of in-person training and one-on-one consultation will be provided to implement their efforts while maintaining organizational stability. The free program is underwritten by a grant from the Donald M. Ephraim Cultural Leadership Fund and Suzanne L. Nedland.

Plumosa pupil receives gift of cello, lessons

BOCA RATON — Ten-year-old Aidan Lucero, a cello student at Plumosa School of the Arts in Delray Beach, has received a Carlo Lamberti Sonata cello in three-quarter size, along with free, monthly private instruction from Manuel Capote, music education and community outreach coordinator at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton. The Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition, in partnership with SHAR Music and Plumosa, surprised Aidan with the donation during a special presentation in June at the Nat King Cole Generation Hope Summer Strings program at Lynn’s Wold Performing Arts Center.

Originally from Hollywood, Aidan has been a student at Plumosa’s six years. This month he began studying the cello in third grade. This fall, he will attend Bak Middle School of the Arts with the goal of attending the Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach.

FGO director Danis bound for California

DORAL — Susan T. Danis, general director of Florida Grand Opera for the past six years, is leaving the company Oct. 12 to become CEO of the La Jolla Music Society and The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center in San Diego. Outreach director Justin Mosley will take over for the balance of the company, will serve as interim general director.

“This was not a decision I took lightly,” Danis said. “I am very proud of the opera we created and the impact FGO has had on the community.”

Reviews

Here are edited reviews of current performances. For the full reviews, please visit palmbeacharts.org.

Woods Guthrie’s American Song

July 15 through Aug. 4

Woodrow Wilson Guthrie, champion of the underclass and the union movement, was a great poet, and his art was never comfortable with that label. He wrote simple, unforgettable songs that celebrated this nation, but as the Great Depression consumed the country and exposed economic inequities, his tunes took on a tone of angry protest and confrontation.

The journey to his political awakening is well captured in Woody Guthrie’s American Song, an occasional biographical revue cheek-full of his folk tunes, familiar and not.

The show, originally conceived and adapted by Peter Simon, has been kicking around since 1988 and was first produced locally by Florida Stage in 1994.

With its themes of hates and have-nots, the Palm Beach Dramaworks revival certainly seems to speak directly and pointedly to the Trump era.

But it is appealing even to the apolitical, because of the extraordinary musicianship and vocal skills of the five-member ensemble, which is accomplished on a variety of instruments, from guitars to banjos, mandolins to fiddles, and the occasional harmonica and bass.

Tying the musical numbers together is a sketchy narrative of Guthrie’s life, his roots in Oklahoma and his migration westward in search of the illusory promise of prosperity in California, then back across the country to his final years as a troubadour in New York.

The men in the cast share the title role, with Portman’s strident, essayistic approach to Guthrie’s character, while her co-star, Sullivan, is a more sympathetic and sensitive Guthrie. The movie is endlessly persuasive.

But will Animals teach anyone else than the converted? Skeptical carnivores are unlikely to respond to Portman’s strident, essayistic narration, which belongs in another movie. If he really wanted to appeal to the nation of meat and dairy’s most prized consumers, Quinn would have made it a motion picture with a commentary aside, and just let his wounded subjects do the talking, instead of a member of the cast — a moving freight train, a migrant camp, a Bowery bar — that help the narrative along.

The second act largely gives up on the Guthrie biography, settling instead for a jam session in that Bowery bar. But when the songs themselves have so much drama, little theatrical construct is needed. And when the audience is captivated by singing and clapping along, it’s further proof that Guthrie’s musical output from a bygone era still lives with vitality today.

— Hap Erstein

Eating Animals (opened July 27, Lake Worth Playhouse)

Based on Jonathan Safran Foer’s 2009 best-seller about factory farming, this activist doc is check-a-block with sobering facts and righteous indignation.

The show begins by morphing animal advocacy talking heads armed with trailer-rendezvous about our “mercenary” relationship to animal suffering. This is certainly the objective of Eating Animals — to reduce the number of people doing what the title says. To support its campaign, delivered in part by its narrator, Natalie Portman, and in part by its well-curated interviewees, each of them a microcosm for the countless victims of agribusiness.

Director Christopher Dillon Quinn intersperses these conversations with animal-advocacy talking heads armed with trailer-ready pronouncements about the “mercenary” relationship to animal suffering. This is certainly the objective of Eating Animals — to reduce the number of people doing what the title says. To support its campaign, delivered in part by its narrator, Natalie Portman, and in part by its well-curated interviewees, each of them a microcosm for the countless victims of agribusiness.

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Art Gallery

Arts Calendar

Events are listed through Aug. 31 and were current as of July 28. Please check with the presenter for any changes. Ticket prices are subject to change.

ART EXHIBITS

Ann Norton Sculpture Park. Said Reis. Mead gardens are open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. M-Sa. 501-1400 or annorton.org. Free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri-Sat. 501-1400 or annorton.org. Free.


Palm Beach Photographic Centre: Opens Aug. 25. 22nd Annual Members’ Show, featuring the work of 70 photographers, judged by Sarah Nicks, director of photography of the Zuma press agency. Through Aug. 27. Free admission. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. M-Th; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. F-Sa; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. 801-7400 or workshop.org. Free. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. M-Th; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. F-Sa; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. 801-7400 or workshop.org. Free.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Sunday, Aug. 9

Mei Mei Luo and Paul Cinneman: The Pianist and violinist sent the most recent message of music from Delray Beach’s St. Paul’s Episcopal Church launched the 21st season of St. Paul’s concerts with a violin and harpsichord concert featuring sonatas by Bach and Handel, as well as works by Alan Hovhaness and the contemporary American composer Karl Henson. Mead gardens. Free. Suggested donation: $20. 278-6003 or music@spchurch.com.

Saturday, Aug. 25


JAZZ

Friday, Aug. 4

Sarana: The young leading lady on the scene is one of the most promising performers. Wiz Khalifa: The cannabis-loving rapper, who moved to Australia as a teenager. 8 pm, Vans Warped Tour.

Saturday, Aug. 5


Sunday, Aug. 6


Monday, Aug. 7

Norah Jones: The incredibly talented Norah Jones is hard to get a ticket for. 8 pm, Tower Theatre. 575-5575. Coral Sky Amphitheatre. jupitercinemas.com.

THEATER

Opera

Friday, Aug. 24

Summer Opera Nights: Palm Beach Opera’s new summer series of concerts and games at the Elizabeth Avenue Station in West Palm Beach features sass-toliente for the third time. 7 pm, livenation.com.
Religion Notes

St. Joseph’s Episcopal plans session on centering prayer

The Rev. Wendy Tobias, associate priest at St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church in Boynton Beach, will present an Introduction to Centering Prayer at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 18.

“We may think of prayer as though it were something external, outside ourselves, but this is only one expression,” Tobias explains. “In centering prayer we rest in the presence of God beyond thoughts and words.”

Tobias said the prayer methodology is more like meditation than active prayer. Its goal is to quiet the mind so God’s voice may be heard, according to Tobias. Rather than asking for what we want, the prayer asks what God wants for and from us. “Our only intention in centering prayer is to consent to God’s presence and action within us,” Tobias said.

The workshop will offer time for conversation and lunch. Bring your own bag lunch. Drinks and fruit will be provided. Cost: $10 suggested donation. St. Joe’s is at 3300 S. Seacrest Blvd. Call 732-3060 or visit stjoesweb.org.

Advent Lutheran offers opportunities for growth

When a church is accepting reservations for a Women’s Sea Side Retreat Sept. 28-29, it’s easy to imagine rollin’ and rollin’ on Hilton at the Deerfield Beach Resort and Spa. Registration is open through Aug. 26 after church services and online at www.adventboca.org.

Also registering at Advent Lutheran is Andy Hagen’s Irish Adventure 2019. Travel with the pastor and his wife, Susan, on a trip to Ireland from April 25 to May 4. The trip includes visits to Belfast, Dublin and the Dingle Peninsula. Kiss the Blarney stone, see the Book of Kells, sip Guinness, dine in a castle and play golf. For details, visit adventboca.org.

St. Vincent programs registering now

St. Vincent Ferrer is offering two multiple-week programs beginning in August, as well as a one-night marriage seminar. For more information about programs at St. Vincent, call 665-8566 or visit stvincentferrer.com.

A 14-week Grief Share support group begins Aug. 4 and meets from 10 a.m. to noon each Saturday in the conference room. The group will offer compassion and comfort to those grieving the death of a loved one. Call 921-5693 or visit stvincentferrer.com/griefshare.

Faith and Fire programs help parishioners connect with their faith. The next program is Course 1: Introduction to the Bible, and it meets from 7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 20, 27, Sept. 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1 in Kellanagh Hall. The registration fee is $10. Course textbooks are additional. Contact Deacon Bob Laquerre for more information and to register at 276-6892 or email associate@stvincentferrer.com.

Family Life Ministries and An Empowered Life Inc. present the Empowered Marriage, a seminar set for 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 26, to help strengthen faith-based marriages. Jeanine Mannweiler, a Delray Beach-based licensed counselor and therapist, will teach. A $25 donation per couple is suggested. RSVP to 702-8271.

St. Paul’s music programs

Music at St. Paul’s returns in August and continues with programs throughout 2018.

Concerts take place at 3 p.m. Sundays at the church, located at 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Many shows include pre-concert discussions at 2:30 p.m. A $20 donation is asked, but shows are free for those 18 and younger. The announced August and September programs are:

Chopin and the Americans — Sept. 16. The Delray String Quartet performs with pianist Jure Rozman with a pre-concert lecture with Cintiwna. For future programs and more information, visit stpaulsdelray.org.

St. Mark Parish Picnic

The annual St. Mark Parish Family Picnic takes place 1-4 p.m. Aug. 12, after the noon Mass. Tickets are $15. Children 5 and younger are admitted free. A cash bar, music and activities are planned. Tickets are on sale in the Parish office and will be for sale after Mass Aug. 4 and 5. For more information, call 734-9330.

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

Religion Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 4
Saturday - 8/4 - Catholic Grandparents Meet at Ascension Church, 7230 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. All welcome. 1st Sat 9:15-11 a.m. Free. 209-1640; diocesepbc.org
AUGUST 5-11
Monday Morning Women’s Bible Study at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 33 Granada St. Every M 11:30-1 a.m. Free. 276-6316; firstdaytoby@gmail.com
Tuesday - 8/7 - Women’s Bible Study Group at St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church Youth House, 666 N.W. 20th Rd., Boca Raton. Every T 9:15 a.m. Free. 395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org
Wednesday - 8/8 - Couple’s Bible Study at First United Methodist Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd. Childcare available upon request. Every W 9:30 a.m. Free. 395-1244; fumcbc.org
Friday - 8/10 - Women’s Bible Study Group at St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church Youth House, 666 N.W. 20th Rd., Boca Raton. Every F 9:15 a.m. Free. 395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org
AUGUST 12-18
THURSDAY - 8/16 - First United Methodist Church of Boca Raton Pub Theology at Barnell of Monkeys, 1145 S. Roger’s Circle #8. Conversation, fellowship, open discussion. 3rd Thu 9:30-11 a.m. Free. 395-1244; fumcbc.org
FRIDAY - 8/17 - Parents of St. Gregory at St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church, 100 NE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Potluck dinner, topic discussion targeted to young parents with children age 2-13, group feedback, childcare available. 3rd Fri 6-8 p.m. Free. 395-8285; stgregorysepiscopal.org
Saturday - 8/18 - An Introduction to Centering Prayer at St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church, 3500A S Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks provided. 30 am-4 pm. $10 suggested donation. 732-3060; stjoesweb.org
AUGUST 19-25
Saturday - 8/25 - Faith Share on Introduction to the Bible at St. Vincent Ferrer Cathedral Hall, 840 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. 6th Course, 1st of Faith on Fire series, 6 classes per course. 8:20 a.m. 276-9710; 17 & 24, 10/1 & 17/2 p.m. $5/registration fee. 510-5200; textbook each course. Register: 276-4692; stvincentferrer.com
AUG. 26-SEPT. 1
Friday - 8/26 - The Empowered Marriage at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, 404 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Faith-based marriage workshop presented by Jeanine Mannweiler, LMHC, NCC. 6:30-9:30 p.m. $25/couple. Suggested donation. RSVP: 702-8271; empowermentatlifetherapy.com
More folks finding out strolls at Morikami can lift spirits

I f you were lucky enough, the best way to stroll the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens would be with Wendy Lo. She is such a good advocate for the gardens’ Stroll for Well-Being program that she was awarded one of the Heroes in Medicine awards by the Palm Beach County Medical Society earlier this summer.

She’s the first to point out that she is not a doctor but the Morikami’s curator of education.

It was the medical professionals at Florida Atlantic University’s Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing who designed a 2006-2007 study that showed that walking in a garden — in this case, the Morikami’s gardens — helped relieve mild to moderate depression in older adults who had experienced bereavement or trauma.

Then, when Lo joined the Morikami nine years ago, she started spreading the word about the stroll, not only in Palm Beach County and South Florida but among her colleagues at museums and gardens all over the country, several of which have started similar programs.

Participants in the Stroll for Well-Being are asked to stroll in the 16-acre Japanese gardens at least twice a week and participate in three support groups during a six-week term. They receive a free one-year Morikami membership and an illustrated guide to using the gardens — helped relieve mild to moderate depression in older adults who had experienced bereavement or trauma.

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“The stroll has touched and transformed many lives over the years,” said Lo, who says she still can get teary-eyed when she sees how people respond, especially combat veterans.

In addition to her role as project director of the Stroll for Well-Being Program, she oversees the docent program and manages classes, lectures, workshops, programs and adult outreach.

On a recent afternoon, she folded a large kimono after a long day of children’s programs and admitted that she could use a quiet stroll herself.

Asked by a family to take their photo, she made sure that the museum building was properly framed in the background and told the family, “Say sushi!”

Then she moved into her role as interpreter of the gardens’ charms, pointing out that they were designed with local plants wherever possible, carefully manicured in classic Japanese style.

Although it is not immediately obvious to the casual eye, she said, every turn, every branch, every rock, every gate or bridge in the garden was placed to allow people to feel a part of the larger world around them.

At key points, there is even a calculated addition of nothingness.

“You can see how the trees have been trimmed to emphasize ma, or empty space,” said Lo, stopping at a sculpted royal poinciana.

One of the stroll’s most enthusiastic proponents is Pat Liehr, associate dean for nursing research and scholarship at FAU. She says the Stroll for Well-Being has medical benefits in easing trauma. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

She emphasizes that whatever healing properties a stroll through the Morikami or any other beauty spot may have, they are supplementary.

“Everyone who joins the six-week stroll was channeled there though counseling programs. We tend to get a lot of Vietnam veterans who are still struggling,” said Liehr. “The walk isn’t the only thing they’re doing, but on the stroll we let nature take its course, literally.”

Like Lo, Liehr has spent time in Japan. She describes what is called “forest bathing,” using a natural environment to cleanse the spirit and help heal trauma.

One of her doctoral students is using a small farm in Battery Park in New York City to study nature immersion in an urban setting.

FAU’s Nursing College is known for integrative approaches to health and medicine, so the collaboration with Morikami came naturally. However, although the idea of using a public garden or a museum to improve physical and mental health may seem obvious, it has only recently caught on, in part because of Lo’s efforts, said Liehr.

“There is a real interest in broadening the meaningfulness of museums,” said Liehr. “It makes them more relevant when they can contribute to community life. Morikami has stepped up in that way. It’s a really special place.”

For more information about the Stroll for Well-Being program, call 495-0233 or visit www.morikami.org/stroll-for-well-being. Sign-up details for the fall (October-December) and winter (January-March 2019) sessions were posted there in July.

Lona O’Connor has a lifelong interest in health and healthy living. Send column ideas to Lona13@bellsouth.net.
Clinical trial uses engineered polio virus to treat brain tumors

Researchers at Boca Raton Regional Hospital’s Marcus Neuroscience Institute are investigating the effectiveness of using an engineered polio virus, PVSRIPO, in the treatment of patients with aggressive brain tumors. “When induced at the tumor site, it directly kills tumor cells and elicits inflammatory events that engage the immune system,” said Dr. Frank Vrionis, chairman of the Neuroscience Institute’s director of neuro-oncology and sub-investigator for the study. In the past, therapy for patients with brain tumors was impeded by the blood-brain barrier, which blocks chemotherapy agents from reaching tumor sites. Breaching that barrier through neurosurgical technique is a turning point.

“Through the use of micro catheters under MRI guidance and using a technique called convection-enhanced delivery, we can now bypass the blood-brain barrier and deliver the therapeutic agent, such as PVSRIPO, to the tumor site,” said Dr. Franck Vrionis, director of the institute and principal investigator for the trial there. The procedure is minimally invasive and usually requires a one- to two-day hospitalization. Cancer patients interested in participating in the trials can contact Boca Raton Regional Hospital’s Clinical Research Center at 955-4800 or the Marcus Neuroscience Institute Research Office at 955-5784.

Dr. John Roberts was appointed to the medical staff of the Eugene M. & Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute and BocaCare Physician Network at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. A board-certified thoracic surgeon, he earned his medical degree with honors from Yale University and his master’s of business degree at Auburn University. His postgraduate training included an internship and residency program in surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, and he completed an additional residency in cardiothoracic surgery at Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston. Roberts served as the chief of general thoracic surgery at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He was also an instructor of surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital and an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Vanderbilt School of Medicine.

Roberts was selected by his peers to the “Best Doctors in America” list from 2003 through 2018.

Delray Medical Center now offers patients with coronary artery disease the newest-generation Abbott XIENCE Sierra heart stent. It is specifically developed for complex cases such as patients with multiple or totally blocked vessels, which now account for up to 70 percent of cases. “This new, less-invasive technology could offer hope for improved quality of life for patients who have very limited options today,” said Mark Bryan, medical center CEO. “This procedure can help extend lives and improve outcomes for those who are suffering from heart disease.”

New features of the stent include a thinner profile, increased flexiblity, bigger lengths and small diameters.

Bethesda Hospital East was recently granted American Association of Blood Banks accreditation for transfusion services. Accreditation follows an intensive on-site assessment by specially trained assessors and establishes that the level of technical and administrative performance within the facility meets or exceeds the standards set by AABB.

This accreditation program contributes to the quality and safety of collecting, processing, testing, distributing and administering blood and cellular therapy products. It assesses the quality and operational systems in place within a facility. The basis for assessment is compliance with AABB standards, Code of Federal Regulations and other federal guidance documents.

Send health news to Christine Davis at cdavis9797@gmail.com.
AUGUST 4
- Thursday - 8/9 - Chair Yoga Class. 427 SE 2nd St, Boynton Beach. Every Thu 4-5 pm. $54-8889; southpalmbeach.com

AUGUST 5
- Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West. 1100 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Register/paramount pass at Community Center, 151 Crawford Blvd. Classes held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. 7th & 9th Sat at 10 am. $20/class; 60-day membership (unlimited classes) $60/resident, $82/non-resident. 393-7807; myboca.us
- Yoga Class at St Mark Catholic Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd. Every Thu 10-11 am. $5/session. 393-7807; myboca.us

AUGUST 6
- Tai Chi Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 200 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Every Mon 6:30-7:30 pm; Wed 1-2:30 pm. $12/class; 8 classes $96/resident, $125/non-resident. 393-7807; myboca.us
- Judo Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 200 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Every M 6-7 pm. $20/class; 6 classes $100/resident, $115/non-resident. 393-7807; myboca.us
- Yoga Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 200 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Every M 5:30-6:30 pm. $10/class; 6 classes $55/resident, $60/non-resident. 393-7807; myboca.us
- Yoga Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 200 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Every W 5:30-6:30 pm. $10/class; 6 classes $55/resident, $60/non-resident. 393-7807; myboca.us
- Tai Chi Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 200 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Every W 12-1 pm. $10/class; 6 classes $55/resident, $60/non-resident. 393-7807; myboca.us
- Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West. 1100 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Register/paramount pass at Community Center, 151 Crawford Blvd. Classes held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. No cash accepted on-site. 7th & 9th Sat at 10 am. $20/class; 60-day membership (unlimited classes) $60/resident, $82/non-resident. 393-7807; myboca.us
- Yoga Class at St Mark Catholic Church Boca Raton, 625 NE Mizner Blvd. Every Thu 10-11 am. $5/session. 393-7807; myboca.us
Launch for kayakers with disabilities
Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, Boynton Beach — July 13

Boynton Beach showed off its latest effort to help people with disabilities with its EZ Kayak Launch at Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park on the Intracoastal Waterway. The EZ Kayak Launch, which provides a lift in and out of the water, cost $58,870 to purchase and install. Boynton Beach received $28,500 through a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Grant. The balance was paid through the city’s Park Impact Fund. ABOVE: Wayne Carrels, Parks and Recreation crew leader, demonstrates how to use the launch. Photo provided

On Vacation
The Coastal Star fishing and boating columnist Willie Howard is taking the month off. His column will resume in September.

Willie Howard is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Reach him at tiowillie@bellsouth.net.

Outdoor Calendar
Note: Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 4
Saturday - 8/4 - Boardwalk Tours at Green Cay Nature Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Disguised-tour of wetlands. All ages. Times vary, call for details. Free. 966-7000; pbcnature.com
8/4 - Sand Sifters Beach Clean Up at Oceanfront Park, 6475 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Meet at pavilion in lower parking lot. Held again 9/1-8/18. Free. jeffjee@gmail.com
8/4 - Team Tours of the Marsh at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, 102/34 Lee Rd, Boynton Beach. 86/W/Th 1:30-3:30 pm. ($W) ($11-13 pm. ($5) automobile; $1 pedestrian. Reservations: 733-0192; loxahatcheefriends.com/events/events.shtml
8/4 - Outdoor Marine Aquarium Feeding at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 12:30 pm. Free. 544-6605; gumbolimbo.org
8/4 - Sea Turtle Talk at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 2 pm. Free. 544-6605; gumbolimbo.org
8/4-5 - 8th Annual Palm Beach County Lionfish Derby & Festival presented by Whole Foods Market at Loggerhead Marinelife Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Coffee, refreshments, 3-hour walking tour w/ a naturalist. Age 9-93. Reservations required: 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
8/7 - Boynton Beach Fishing Club at Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 10100 W Federal Hwy. Join other fishermen, discuss hot topics, learn new tricks of the trade. 1st T 7-9 pm. Free. 750-5610; bbf.com
8/7-8 - Guided Nature Walk at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Guided walk along the Ashley Trail. 4-mile nature trail winds through the butterfly garden, coastal hammock, mangrove, to a sandy beach by the Intracoastal. All ages; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. T/Th 10 am. Free. 544-6605; gumbolimbo.org
8/7 - Sea Turtle Talk at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 2 pm. Free. 544-6605; gumbolimbo.org
8/7 - Lantana Beach Cleanup at 100 N Ocean Blvd. Geese bags provided. 2nd W 9-10 am. 545-8664; rshawah@lantana.org
8/7 - Sea Turtle Talk at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. Daily 2 pm. Free. 544-6605; gumbolimbo.org
8/8 - Lantana Beach Cleanup at 100 N Ocean Blvd. Geese bags provided. 2nd W 9-10 am. 545-8664; rshawah@lantana.org
8/8-9 - Birds & Breakfast at Green Cay Nature Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Coffee, refreshments, 3-hour walking tour w/ a naturalist. Age 9-93. Reservations required: 546-7000; pbcnature.com
8/8-9 - 8th Annual Lionfish Derby & Festival presented by Whole Foods Market at Loggerhead Marinelife Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Coffee, refreshments, 3-hour walking tour w/ a naturalist. Age 9-93. Reservations required: 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
8/9 - Inlet Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 9-10 am. 369-5501; sanfpcs.org
AUG. 6-7, 13-14
Saturday - 8/4-5 - 8th Annual Palm Beach County Lionfish Derby & Festival presented by Whole Foods Market at Loggerhead Marinelife Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Coffee, refreshments, 3-hour walking tour w/ a naturalist. Age 9-93. Reservations required: 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
8/11-12 - Birds & Breakfast at Green Cay Nature Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Coffee, refreshments, 3-hour walking tour w/ a naturalist. Age 9-93. Reservations required: 546-7000; pbcnature.com
8/11 - Intracoastal Adventures: Canoeing at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida’s unique animals/ecosystems. Age 6-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 10:30 am-noon. $15/member, $22/non-member. 544-6605; gumbolimbo.org
8/12-13 - 8th Annual Palm Beach County Lionfish Derby & Festival presented by Whole Foods Market at Loggerhead Marinelife Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Coffee, refreshments, 3-hour walking tour w/ a naturalist. Age 9-93. Reservations required: 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
8/15-16 - 8th Annual Palm Beach County Lionfish Derby & Festival presented by Whole Foods Market at Loggerhead Marinelife Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Coffee, refreshments, 3-hour walking tour w/ a naturalist. Age 9-93. Reservations required: 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org
AUG. 18-19
Saturday - 8/18 - Inlet Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 9-10 am. 369-5501; sanfpcs.org
AUG. 23-24
Friday - 8/23-24 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 9-10 am. 369-5501; sanfpcs.org
AUG. 25-26
Sunday - 8/25 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 9-10 am. 369-5501; sanfpcs.org
AUG. 26-27
Saturday - 8/26-27 - Inlet Beach Cleanup at Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Last Sat 9-10 am. 369-5501; sanfpcs.org

On Vacation
The Coastal Star fishing and boating columnist Willie Howard is taking the month off. His column will resume in September.

Willie Howard is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Reach him at tiowillie@bellsouth.net.

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- 7/3 Monday: 12 Noon Bingo & Lunch $20
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- 7/24 Monday: 12 Noon Bingo & Lunch $20

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On Vacation
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Tots & Teens

Samaritans365 clubs teach children to be kind, giving

By Janis Fontaine

The adage “Children learn what they live” is at the core of the Boca Raton-based nonprofit Samaritans365, a group that introduces kids to community service.

“I wanted my children to live in a community where people are kind to each other,” founder Laura Reiss said. Instead of simply wishing and hoping, she decided to help build it.

In 2007, the mother of three young daughters, then 4, 5 and 7, was asked to join the PTA at Sunrise Park Elementary, the school her girls were attending. She agreed, with the condition she could start a free, after-school club that would bring in a group of local philanthropic teens to teach the kids about helping others and supporting the No. 1 tenant: Kindness matters.

The ultimate goal? A new generation of kind-minded humans who would understand and inspire others to do what they were doing: To be Samaritans365 clubs today.

There were 35 kids in that first club.

“The children were thirsty for it,” Reiss said. “The transformation reached beyond those kids, to their parents, the teachers and staff — and the other parents as well.”

To Reiss, the kindness contagion proved “the community was wanting.”

The program works like this: Ambassadors are trained to lead and help clubs. They arrange for speakers to come in and talk to kids about programs on which they’re working. The kids who are inspired are invited to help, which is great because nonprofits can always use extra, enthusiastic hands and hearts.

For some kids, it might be an animal charity that needs help cleaning kennels. For others, it might be feeding homeless people.

“We can provide a plethora of opportunities,” Reiss said. But the kids who started Reiss started Samaritans365, she built it from one group in one school in western Boca Raton to now 35 kids in 14 kindy clubs in eight states, with more than 35 trained ambassadors, and thousands of Samaritans members. The groups are mostly independent, but they do get training and some support from Samaritans365.

Children in Samaritans365 help local charities and encourage kindness. Photo provided

For Byline:
By Janis Fontaine

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AUGUST 12-18
Sunday - 6/12 - Sunday Family Movie: Lego Ninjago Movie at Sandalwood Park Community Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Child entry under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. 11 am - 3 pm. Free. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Monday - 6/13 - Open House & Studio Tours at Sugar Sand Park Museum & Learning Center, 129 Schoolhouse Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Illustrate at each class; children create their own masterpiece. 10:30 am - 1 pm. $35. 9 am - 3:30 pm. Free admission. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Tuesday - 6/14 - Family Day at Sugar Sand Park Rec, 4000 NW 2nd Ave. 4-7 pm. Free admittance. 742-6780; sugar sandpark.org
Wednesday - 6/15 - Key West Dance Ball at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atl Ave. Age: 5 - must be accompanied by an adult. Every Thu. 6 pm. Free admittance. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Thursday - 6/16 - Special Guest Drop-In: Ocean Lifeguards Visit at Sugar Sand Park Museum & Learning Center, 129 Schoolhouse Center, 12800 Hagen Ranch Rd, Boynton Beach. Learn about the crops, how to set them up, move them, and where they will live in! 1st - 3rd grade. Thursday 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Free. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Friday - 6/17 - Coffee with Kids at Boca Raton Museum of Art's Children's Museum & Learning Center, 21618 St. Andrews Blvd, Boca Raton. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. 11 am - 3 pm. Free admission. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Saturday - 6/18 - First Day of School: Palm Beach County Schools

AUGUST 19-25
Sunday - 6/19 - Back to School Bash at First United Methodist Church of Boca Raton, 251 NW 1st St, Boca Raton. Age 4-5. Every Thu. 4:30 pm. Free. Registration: 467-0800; churchinfo@fumcbocaraton.org
Sunday - 6/19 - Baby Bookworms at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Registration for infants accompanied by an adult. Every Thu through 9/19 4:30 - 5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 467-0800; library@broward.org
Sunday - 6/19 - Group Swim Lessons at John Dunsmuir, 2025 NW 11th Ave, Boca Raton. Young children must be accompanied by an adult. Age 4-7. Every Thu through 9/19 4:30 - 5:30 pm. $40/member; $50/non-member. 742-6439; swimlessons@broward.org
Monday - 6/20 - Random Reading Room at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Meet live animals that can be found right here in Florida! Join us as we explore the many habitats found in our home state. Age 5 +. 10 am. Reservations: 629-0980; phoenix@broward.org

AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 1
Sunday - 7/9 - Religious Education Registration at St. Vincent Ferrer Recracy Conference Room, 70 George Bush Blvd, Delray Beach. Grades 9-12. 10 am - 1 pm. Free. 561-894-7000; bchs@bchs.org
Tuesday - 7/12 - GEMS Club: Digging for GEOS at South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, 4000 Drinker Rd, West Palm Beach. Empower young girls to explore STEM fields. Grades 5-8. 6:30 - 8 pm. Registration: 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Wednesday - 7/13 - Black Panther (PG-13) part of Teen Movie Night at Boca Raton Public Library, 4000 NW 2nd Ave. 2 pm - 4 pm. $5. 742-6780; library@broward.org
Friday - 7/15 - Surf Party at the Library at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Literacy enrichment: stories, music, movement. Age 8-12. 10 am. Free. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Saturday - 7/16 - Teen Dance Party at the Library at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Games, live music, special WeekWaves music, trivia, refreshments. Program followed by dart sessions on wheels for ages 12 and older. Age 12-15. 6:30-10 pm. Free. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

SEPTEMBER 2-8
Sunday - 9/4 - Reading & Rhythm for 2-3 at Boca Raton Public Library, 4000 NW 2nd Ave. 10 am - 12 noon. Free. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Monday - 9/5 - Black Panther (PG-13) part of Teen Movie Night at Boca Raton Public Library, 4000 NW 2nd Ave. 10 am - 12 noon. Free. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Sunday - 9/11 - Surf Party at the Library at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Literacy enrichment: stories, music, movement. Age 8-12. 10 am. Free. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org
Monday - 9/12 - Group Swim Lessons at John Dunsmuir, 2025 NW 11th Ave, Boca Raton. Young children must be accompanied by an adult. Every Thu through 9/19 4:30 - 5:30 pm. Free. Registration: 467-0800; churchinfo@fumcbocaraton.org
Wednesday - 9/14 - Family Fun: Chickee Indian Museum at Chickee Indian Museum, 4000 Parkland Park, Delray Beach. Noon - 3 pm. Free admittance. 467-0800; chickee-indianmuseum.org
Thursday - 9/15 - 3D Printer Club at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atl Ave. Age Range: 7 +. 3:30 - 4:10 pm. Free. Registration: 266-0780; delraylibrary.org
Friday - 9/16 - Group Swim Lessons at John Dunsmuir, 2025 NW 11th Ave, Boca Raton. Young children must be accompanied by an adult. Age 4-7. Every Thu through 9/19 4:30 - 5:30 pm. $40/member; $50/non-member. 742-6439; swimlessons@broward.org
Monday - 9/19 - Literature Club for Middle Readers at Children’s Science Explorium, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Free. Registration: 393-7968; myboca.us/5957/Literary club
Wednesday - 9/21 - Stroller Ride and Stroll at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atl Ave. Age Range: 7 +. 3:30 - 4:10 pm. Free. Registration: 266-0780; delraylibrary.org
Wednesday - 9/21 - Group Swim Lessons at John Dunsmuir, 2025 NW 11th Ave, Boca Raton. Young children must be accompanied by an adult. Age 4-7. Every Thu through 9/19 4:30 - 5:30 pm. $40/member; $50/non-member. 742-6439; swimlessons@broward.org
Sunday - 9/25 - Florida Animals at Daggerwing Nature Center, 13453 Park Access Rd, Boca Raton. Meet live animals that can be found right here in Florida! Join us as we explore the many habitats found in our home state. Age 5 +. 10 am. Reservations: 629-0980; phoenix@broward.org

Comprehensive Athletic Program All students participate in athletics as their physical education.
Veterinarian's house calls relieve stress on pets, owners

Is there a veterinarian in the house? That question is asked by more and more pet owners for a variety of reasons. And it is why Dr. Steve Teisch left a steady gig as a veterinarian in a clinic to make house calls full-time to dogs, cats, birds, lizards, pot-bellied pigs and, yes, even a couple of camels in Palm Beach County.

"I started part-time making house calls about 10 years ago for additional income," says Teisch, who operates All About Town Pet House Calls. "Now, it is beyond full-time and I need to hire another veterinarian."

Each morning, Teisch and Chris Griffin, his head veterinary technician, hop in Teisch's blue Mini Cooper and go to houses, apartments, condos and even assisted living areas to treat pets on their own turf.

He represents a new breed of veterinarians in Palm Beach County and across the nation who recognize the need to provide care for far too many pets that never get a paw inside a veterinary clinic. Especially frightened felines. "We see a number of cats whose owners can't get their cats into carriers or the car to take them to a veterinary clinic," Teisch says. "And we make house call visits for some dogs who get car sick every time they get into a car. We see all age groups from all socioeconomic levels. The more people hear about house call veterinary care, the more people want it."

Elizabeth Ackerly of Ocean Ridge first met Teisch years ago at a dance class. In between dance steps, she discovered he was a house call veterinarian. "My cat, Lily, hates to go in the car, so having Dr. Steve come to my home is just the best," says Ackerly, a retired commercial airline pilot. "He was just here a few days ago to treat Lily for an allergy. He comes in wheeling a big toolbox full of instruments and medications and then places a towel on the dining room table and does his examination on Lily."

Ackerly guesses Lily is about 15 or 16 years old. Lily may not rush up to greet Teisch when he arrives, but she maintains her composure during examinations and treatments. "Most animals do not like going to the vet, and many people do not want to have their pets go through the trauma of the car ride, the lobby and the exam room," says Ackerly. "Dr. Steve has a very good tableside manner with Lily. He is very sweet to her, scratches her ears and makes her feel loved during the house call visit."

One of Teisch's clients is Pippi, the resident cat that roams inside The Coastal Star office. "I just was there at the newspaper office to give Pippi her annual visit and she is all healthy," Teisch says. "She is a good kitty and a real news queen."

Teisch maximizes space in his car to bring his veterinary supplies, including a portable X-ray machine. Tapping into the client's home Wi-Fi, he can retrieve the pet's cloud-stored medical records quickly on his laptop. He is in the process of obtaining an ultrasound machine and plans to perform therapeutic laser treatments in homes. On rare occasions, he performs the dental procedure, awakens the pet slowly and cleans and, if necessary, treats dental pockets. "Waking up after the procedure, Lily wakes up the pet slowly and safely with a reversible sedation medication."

He recently cleaned the teeth of a 10-year-old rescued breed dog named Pixie who had a very unhappy experience with a dental clinic. "The idea of booking multiple trips to the veterinary clinic. The multiple pet household — that's where a house call practice really shines," says Teisch. "Instead of making multiple trips to the vet office, I come to you and give you and the care of all the pets in one appointment."

The majority of pets he treats are cats and dogs, but he provides medical care for a number of pot-bellied pigs as well as rabbits, lizards, birds and snakes. A recent house call request came from a person who owns a pair of camels.

"Fortunately, I have some knowledge of camels, as one of my professors at Colorado State had camels and I got to work with him," says Teisch, whose service covers Palm Beach County and northern Broward. "Camels are similar to llamas. They are good-natured."

To learn more about Teisch, visit www.allabouttownpethousecalls.com.

Arden Moore, founder of Four-Legged Life, 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.
## Community Calendar

**Note:** Events are current as of 7/27. Please check with venues for accurate dates and times.

### AUGUST 4

- **Saturday & Sunday** - Pickleball at Delray Beach Tennis Center, 210 W Atlantic Ave. 8-11 am & 9 pm Sat; 6-8 pm Sun. $3/resident, $5/non-resident. 243-7156; mydelraybeach.org

### AUGUST 8

- **at Veterans Park, 902 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Takes skill/practice. Age 18 & up. $5/MO/Out 5 pm. Noon. 243-7150; mydelraybeach.org

### AUGUST 9

- **Susan Sarandon Saves at Palm Beach Zoo, 1301 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach. Buy any full daytime admission, get Susan Sarandon Saves for cardholders through 9/10. Cards are non-transferable, adults must show ID matching the name on the card. Open daily 9 am-5 pm. $22.95/adult, $20.95/senior or $16.95/child (3-12); free/child under 2; $49.94; palmzoo.org

### AUGUST 10

- **Workshop: Writing: It’s a Business** part of Hands Authors Workshop Academy. 9 am-2 pm. Delray Beach. The Writers Bookstore, 273 NE Aave, Delray Beach. 10 am registration. 352. 279-7290; mumpublishing.com

- **at Delray Beach Library, 100 Atlantic Ave. Every Sat at 10 am. Free. 631-0721; delraylibrary.org

### AUGUST 11

- **Saturday & Sunday** - Soda Tea Ceremony Beginners Class at Honkaku Museum and Japanese Gardners Shoshin-So Teahouse, 4000 Monikari Rd, Delray Beach. Study the traditional art of Sado, The Way of Tea. Tea Ceremony Workshop required for those who have never taken a Tea Ceremony Class but wish to start studying Sado. 2 hours/month ($85 & 19); individual appointments begin at 10 am. 150 minutes; $115/student. Registration: 605-9253 x270; monikars.org

- **at Rutherford Community Center, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Saturnian Iris Days: E.B.L. duplicate game for the experienced player. Light lunch served. Partners available for singles. Every Sun noon-12:30 pm. $17/stay at the door. Reservations or partners: 338-2995; myboca.us

- **at The Pavilion Grille, 2995 Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. 50% of all food/drink sales + 100% of tip will benefit the Kimmels’ commitment, “Service Above Self.” Money raised will go to Boca Raton nonprofits. August 4-10. 5 pm. 561-732-1850; www.rsvpglb.com • support@rsvpglb.com

### AUGUST 12

- **at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 243-7000; delraylibrary.org

### AUGUST 13

- **at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Every Sat 10 am. Free. 243-7000; delraylibrary.org

- **at Veterans Park, 902 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Enhance your ability to provide arts and education programs to at-risk children. Age 18 & up. Monthly passes available. 243-7356; mydelraybeach.org

### AUGUST 14

- **at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. 2 pm. 561-393-2060; myboca.us

### Municipal Meetings

**8/6** - Ocean Ridge - First Monday at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 4630 O’Brien Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda: oceanridgeflorida.com

**8/7** - Highland Beach - First Tuesday at Highland Beach Town Hall, 3614 5th Blvd. 7 pm. Agenda: highlandbeach.org

**8/7 - 21st** - Boynton Beach - First and third Tuesdays at Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 E Boynton Beach Blvd. 6:30 pm. Agenda: boynton-beach.org

**8/7 - Gulf Stream** - Second and fourth Friday at Gulf Stream Fire Hall, 500 Sea Rd. 9 pm. Agenda: gulf-stream.org

**8/13 & 27 - Lantana - Second & fourth Mondays at Lantana Town Hall, 500 Gerywoods Gr. 7 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

**8/14 - Delray Beach - First & third Tuesdays at Delray Beach City Hall, 100 NW 1st Ave. 1 pm. Agenda: mydelraybeach.org

**8/14 - South Palm Beach - Second Tuesday at the South Palm Beach Town Hall, 3575 SW Ocean Blvd. 7 pm. Agenda: southpalmbeach.com

**8/15 - Briny Breezes - Fourth Thursday at Briny Breezes Fire Hall, 4822 N Ocean Blvd. 7 pm. Agenda: townofbrinybreezes-bc.com

**8/20 - Boca Raton - Second & fourth Tuesdays at Boca Raton City Hall, 221 W Palmetto Rd. 6 pm. Agenda: myboca.us

**8/21 - at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd due to election. Free. 393-7682; myboca.us

**8/23 - Modern Line Dance Class at Veterans Park, 802 NE 3rd St, Delray Beach. Enhance quality of life through modern music/dance. Ages 50 & up. Every Tue 1:30-2:30 pm. Free class (resident); $10 non-resident; 243-7350; mydelraybeach.org

**8/26 - The Writer’s Studio at Delray Beach Library, 100 Atlantic Ave. Every Sat at 10 am. Free. 631-0721; delraylibrary.org

### Community Meeting

**8/6 - Improv Drop In** at Improv U, 105 SW 15th St, Boca Raton. 8 pm. 561-393-2060; myboca.us

**8/7** - Improv U - First and third Tuesdays at Boca Raton City Hall, 100 E Boynton Beach Blvd. 6:30 pm. Agenda: improvuboca.org

**8/7** - Take Two at The Pavillon Grille, 301 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Held again 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th, 30th. 11:00 includes first house drink. 912-0000; pavillongrille.com

**8/7** - Open Play Basketball & 10-over at Delray Beach Community Center, 50 NW 1st Ave. Every Thu 7-7:30 pm. Free. 243-7000; delraylibrary.org

**8/7** - Soul Line Dancing at Ezel Hexter, Jr. Community Center, 1001 NE 2nd St, Boca Raton. Boynton Beach. Hosted by Famous Frank Ward. Every Thu 8:30-11:30 pm. 278-3934; bocanettonehbc.org

**8/8 - Blue Tuesdays at Boynton’s on the Beach, 45-65 Island Blvd, Delray Beach. Hosted by Famous Frank Ward. Every Thu 8:30-11:30 pm. 278-3934; bocanettonehbc.org

**8/8 - Lawn Bowling at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Takes skill and practice. Age 18 & up. Wed 6-9 pm. Annual fee: $45/resident, $54/non-resident; 243-7350; mydelraybeach.org

**8/8 - Gold Coast Tiger Ball at City Fish Market, 7940 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Speaker: Jeffrey Klang. 11:30 am-1 pm. $55 member or first-time guest, 55 slapped member - 628-8888. Goldcoasttygertball@gmail.com

**8/8 - Socrates Cafe at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 Atlantic Ave. Philosophical conversations on Wed 11 am-12 noon. Free. 264-0914; delraylibrary.org

**8/8 - Adult Coloring Club at Highland Manor, 560 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. Coloring sheets or bring your own. Every Wed 1 pm. 278-5555; highlandbeachus.com

**8/8 - Class: Witch, iPhone and Siri at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 Atlantic Ave. Part of App Hour class series. 2-3:30 pm. Free registration. 266-0914; delraylibrary.org

**8/8** - 11th Annual Coastal Cues -4-Care at Florida Atlantic University Student Dreyfoos
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319/322 N Atlantic Drive, Hypoluxo Island
This gorgeous residence is the meeting point of the two smaller bays giving a 360-degree view of the Intracoastal waterway. Built in 2005, the residence is a fine example of Dutch influence and a layout filled with symmetry, repetition of architectural elements, and the concept of Maestro. The remarkable floor plan guides you throughout the home from one ambiance to another. Private pathways lead to the two guest houses on the main property totaling a 150' x 425' lot. Across the street is an additional guest house boasting 2 beds, 2 baths on a 100' x 320' waterfront lot, $19,900,000.

1555 S Ocean Boulevard, Manalapan
Modern Mediterranean meets classic architecture in this spectacular oceanfront estate. A 6 bedroom, 9.5 bath oceanfront home with balconies to take in the panoramic water views. A new private dock will accommodate up to a 75' boat plus a second boat. $17,000,000.

1405 Lands End Road, Point Manalapan
Perched on a point, this magnificent 6 bedroom, 6.5 bath home offers stunning ocean views from every room. The home includes an elevator, master suite with his and her closets, media room, and a detached 1,500 sqft cabana. $25,000,000.

409 N Atlantic Drive, Hypoluxo Island
Translucent awning with retractable roof leads to the main living area of this custom designed and built contemporary 6 bedroom, 6 bath waterfront estate. Enjoy entertain wile indoor or outdoor with private guest suites, a heated lap pool, poolside cabana and private dock. $19,900,000.

125 Park Lane East, Hypoluxo
Enjoy waterfront living at its finest! This picturesque Intracoastal 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has over 105' of Intracoastal water frontage allowing you to enjoy water views from almost every room. The spacious and open split floor plan is perfect for hosting family or friends. $19,900,000.

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