Even before City Council members cast their votes, a euphoric Mayor Scott Singer hailed their approval of a deal that would allow construction of a Virgin Trains station and parking garage on city-owned land. “This will be a moment of triumph for Boca Raton,” he told residents at a jam-packed Dec. 10 council meeting. A unanimous council quickly made it official: The city will lease 1.8 acres east of the Downtown Library to Virgin Trains for the much-coveted station and garage, beating out other cities that badly wanted this prize. Even station critics expected no other outcome.

Standing minutes later with Virgin Trains President Patrick Goddard, Singer declared, “Tonight was a great win for Boca Raton.”

“I think it is phenomenal,” Goddard said. “Creating mobility is what we are all about.”

But before shovels hit the ground, the city and for-profit rail company have more work to do. Virgin Trains will submit a site plan for the station and garage that the council must approve. The plan will provide project specifics, such as the final designs of both buildings, which could spur new objections from station opponents.

By Mary Hladky

Louise Glover remembers when she and her friends would gather on what is now Yamato Rock for one of her childhood birthday parties. “It was lots of fun,” she said. “When the water would come in, the waves would shoot up like geysers at Yellowstone and splash all over us.”

Back then, in the late 1960s, the Highland Beach property just west of the large outcropping was owned by Glover’s grandmother, Grace.

By Rich Pollack

Joan Weir and her daughter, Louise Glover, stroll Highland Beach near Yamato Rock, a lime-stone outcropping slated to become part of Milani Park. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

By Larry Keller

It's a typical Sunday afternoon at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, and visitors cluster around the aquarium, stroll the boardwalk and explore the butterfly garden. It's the injured and ailing sea turtles in outdoor tanks, however, that inspire the most fervent reactions.

A little boy stands at one, gawking at a turtle named Cane swimming languidly. “That's so ginormous!” he exclaims.

 Veterinarian Maria Chadam raises her arms as sea turtle rehab coordinator Whitney Crowder hugs Gumbo Limbo manager Leanne Welch to celebrate the release of Yamato.

By Mary Hladky

By Rich Pollack

By Larry Keller

Boca Raton

Virgin Trains station hailed as victory for city

Highland Beach

Yamato Rock plan rouses memories of aquatic treasure

See STATION on page 10

MEET TEAM TURTLE

Inside the work of Gumbo Limbo crew that strives to be biggest ally of these at-risk sea creatures

See GUMBO LIMBO on page 18

Veterinarian Maria Chadam raises her arms as sea turtle rehab coordinator Whitney Crowder hugs Gumbo Limbo manager Leanne Welch to celebrate the release of Yamato.

Tabloid tattling

Local residents appear in film about National Enquirer.

Glass show comes to Boca

Exhibition, sale highlight rarities from across the Depression era.

Inside

Rembrandt

Four Arts show explores humor, humanity in Dutch master’s work.

2020 vision

Mindfulness guru Barb Schmidt offers tips for navigating a new year.

Tabloid tattling

Local residents appear in film about National Enquirer.

Glass show comes to Boca

Exhibition, sale highlight rarities from across the Depression era.
In writing about the turn of the year, the standard is to look back at the events of the past or to look forward, anticipating what the turn of the calendar page might bring. At the end of this year, I’m finding both options to be difficult. I’m even hung up on the word “should,” even though I dropped the word “should” from my vocabulary. All good advice. It’s hard to keep dropping the word “should” when trying to help us attain our goals, becoming more accepting, generous and empathic and removing the word “hate” from our vocabularies.

As I’ve tried to shed my inner Grinch and offer this toast: “To embracing my inner Grinch and embracing my inner Grinch,” Tom Kaiser ended up embracing truth and every written word on the large monument.

So, as I reluctantly wade into the new year the standard will be: “Happy New Year.”

Happy New Year.

Mary Kate Leming
Editor

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Coastal Star
January 2020

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

By Stephen Moore

Tom Kaiser’s handprints are all over the Boynton Beach Veterans Memorial Park. The park was his idea and he began working on it in 2008. He raised money through fundraisers and by selling recognition bricks, money through fundraisers and by selling recognition bricks, and every written word on the 25 monuments and 12 benches in the park.

He has even purchased or helped buy some of the monuments.

This year, a new monument will be added with a new name for the park — the Tom Kaiser, USN, Boynton Beach Veterans Memorial Park.

“I know every blade of grass in this place,” said the 91-year-old Kaiser, a WW II Navy veteran. “I love every one of the monuments and benches.”

Kaiser and Stan Gavlick, an 88-year-old Korean War veteran, have been the driving forces behind this park, which is a tribute to all who have protected, fought for and died for the United States.

“Stanley is the co-chairman, finance officer and brains of the unit,” Kaiser said. “He deserves as much credit as I do.”

Gavlick said it’s been a labor of love. “Tom is so generous. Sometimes he would pay for the monuments himself.”

State Rep. Joe Casello, was the first to suggest the renaming of the park at 411 N. Federal Highway when he made a proposal to City Manager Lori LaVerriere in May 2019. “He thought some of the guys on the City Council would OK this proposal,” Kaiser said. “But we ran into some opposition. It took three commission meetings before it was resolved.”

The first monuments went up in 2008, but there were some bumps along the way. When the city put up a flagpole, it was in the wrong place — in the middle, right in front of the large monument.

“You couldn’t take a picture without the flagpole being in the middle of the picture,” Kaiser said.

“It must have been about seven years ago,” LaVerriere said. “I went to meet Tom at the park, and I started looking at this flagpole and it is right in the middle of everything and I said ‘what is up with that?’ … I said ‘OK, we are not talking rocket science here, so let’s move the flagpole.’ It was a no-brainer to me.”

Two weeks later the flagpole was moved.

The two co-founders say the park is complete now.

“No more monuments are planned,” Kaiser said. “There is no room. The last one was the Purple Heart monument.”

The monuments include tributes to all of the branches of the armed forces, famous battles and groups that distinguished themselves. And for every granite monument, Kaiser has a story to tell.

A pigeon figure is perched atop the Lost Battalion monument, and Kaiser knows the history.

“Carrier pigeons were the most reliable means of communication during the First World War,” he said.

“Afro-American vets, the unknown soldiers and the Missiles of October 1962. Every monument has been made by Lake Worth Monument, Kaiser and Gavlick are quick to credit that company. “Through all these years, they never raised their prices,” Gavlick said. “We would still be building this park if they had.”

“We did all of those monuments (24 of them) at cost besides the (40-ton) centerpiece,” said Fred Menor, owner of the company. “I made money on the big monument but over the years I have taken them under my wing. I love to help veterans, it’s truly an honor.”

The new monument with the updated name of the park will be installed in early 2020 and replace the existing yellow sign with the heading of Recreation and Parks Department.

On each side of the monument will be a smaller plaque, one recognizing former Boynton Beach Mayor Jerry Taylor and late Vice Mayor Robert Ensler. The other will be a tribute to a woman.

“These are all my children,” Kaiser said of the monuments. “We raised each one of these kids, Stanley feels the same way.”
Highland Beach

No election needed for two newcomers, vice mayor to finish term

By Rich Pollack

Highland Beach will get a new mayor and a new commissioner come March along with a returning vice mayor, after three candidates for commission seats ran unopposed.

In what appears to be a calm in Highland Beach elections not seen for several years, political newcomer Doug Hillman was unopposed in his bid for mayor, as was newcomer John Shoemaker, who will fill an open commission seat.

Vice Mayor Greg Babij, who was appointed to the position last year, also ran unopposed and will keep his seat at least until the term expires next year.

Hillman will take the post currently held by retiring Mayor Rhoda Zelniker, who has served on the commission for five years, while Shoemaker will fill a seat vacated by Commissioner Barry Donaldson, who was appointed last January.

“I greatly enjoyed being a commissioner, but it wasn’t a good fit for me at this time,” Donaldson said. “As things evolved I discovered I didn’t have a passion for it.”

Because Hillman, Babij and Shoemaker were all unopposed when the deadline to file to run passed on Dec. 12, Highland Beach will not hold a municipal election.

There will, however, be a Democratic Party primary election on March 17.

Without the need for an election, an estimated $10,000 that had been budgeted to cover associated costs will be returned to the town’s general budget.

While Hillman has not run for town-wide office before, he has been a familiar face in town hall for several months, serving on the financial advisory board.

The president of the Boca Highland Beach Club and Marina umbrella organization for three years and president of his own Dalton Place community going on nine years, Hillman was a finalist — along with Babij — for an appointment to the vice mayor position last year.

He said he is looking forward to working with Babij as well as Shoemaker and remaining Commissioners Evalyn David and Peggy Gossett-Seidman.

“I think we can accomplish a great deal together,” he said. A former president of London Fog and former vice president of sales and marketing for Burlington Hosery, Hillman, 73, and his wife were part-time residents for five years before becoming full-time residents in 2014.

“Of the goals is to keep Highland Beach a unique small town where residents feel and are safe and have excellent services,” he said. “We need to protect our paradise.”

Like Hillman, both Shoemaker and Babij have strong business backgrounds.

A Vietnam veteran who served as a paratrooper and infantry combat platoon leader, Shoemaker held executive leadership positions at high-tech companies for 45 years before retiring.

He came to Highland Beach as a part-time resident in 2006 and retired three years ago, although he still helps other companies as a paid consultant.

He became involved in the community during 2018 as a voice of opposition to three ballot issues that would have allowed the town to spend up to $45 million on projects in conjunction with Florida Department of Transportation improvements to State Road A1A. Those ballot initiatives were overwhelmingly defeated during the election.

Shoemaker, 73, said he decided to run for office following his involvement in the referendum.

“I’m at a point where I’m comfortable with my life and I just want to contribute to the community,” he said.

Like Hillman, Shoemaker believes the commission and the town will benefit from more community outreach by town leaders and more collaboration with residents and resident groups.

Babij, who also had not previously run for elected office, says he decided to run to complete the term he was appointed to a year ago.

“It’s only one year, so it made sense,” he said.

Considered by many to be a voice of reason on the commission, Babij, 47, brings a strong financial background to the position.

The CEO of an asset management firm, Bunkport Capital LLC, Babij got involved in the community while on the financial advisory board and was appointed to the commission in March following a structured selection process.

“I guess I’m doing OK since no one can run against me,” he said. “I think I’m contributing by helping the decision-making process.”

In his role as vice mayor, Babij often raises issues and says he enjoys having thoughtful discussions with others on the commission.

“I believe no one is smarter than all of us collectively,” he said.

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Need to plan for rising seas gains more urgency

Thank you for your excellent coverage of the septic-to-sewer issue in Ocean Ridge and surrounding coastal communities. We must, however, face the reality that during the estimated 10 years such a conversion would take, residents' lives will be significantly disrupted while we are paying millions of dollars, our roadways are constantly torn up and additional hookup costs and user fees lurk.

Further, transferring from septic to centralized sewer will not stop sea level rise now occurring due to the warming climate. In 10 years, some roads will need to be abandoned, due to the extraordinary expense of elevating them. This is already happening in the Florida Keys. Equally alarming, most of the processing facilities for coastal sewer systems are at the lowest elevation due to gravity flow.

Many such sewer sites are themselves at high risk of flooding, compromising the plant. These plants will need to be re-sited and upgraded, costing the public millions more to correct.

A more prudent expenditure of our funds would be to conduct a survey, as Monroe County/Key West has done, to determine which of our streets will have to be either abandoned or elevated and then issue a budget to cover such expenses.

It is urgent that Ocean Ridge, Hypoluxo Island (which on its own is particularly vulnerable), Manalapan and all the coastal and barrier island towns consider the upcoming costs associated with sea level rise.

The urgency arises because sea level increase is now known to be occurring much faster than previously predicted. All these communities are now experiencing periodic flooding cycles. Many of these roads are at near sea level most of the year.

Our failure to plan and budget for the inevitable would be irresponsible. We ignore it at our own peril. Property values will soon plummet, and insurance companies will no longer offer coverage for property in such high-risk areas.

Terry Brown,
Ocean Ridge
Letters to the Editor

Realtor not authorized to promote Briny sale

The week preceding the holidays, there was a bit of sensationalism going on concerning the community of Briny Breezes — none of it prompted by the board of directors of the corporation, members of the Town Council or the mayor or even a shareholder vote.

Another proposed “billion-dollar sale,” but this time to buyer President Trump to house his presidential library, build a hotel and rename our small community “Trump Town USA.”

Promulgated by real estate agent and shareholder James Arena, who had invited other shareholders to hear a yarn, the story suggested that the president might want to buy Briny Breezes for $1 billion and was supported by his son Donald Trump Jr. and a friend, rapper Vanilla Ice.

The following week on Fox & Friends — and later in tweets — we learned that Vanilla Ice and Donald Jr. were not involved. Tony Kovach of MHProNews.com blogged that “Arena is either being creatively pragmatic or is a con man who should have his real estate license revoked.”

Or perhaps this was all a figment of his imagination. The ethical standards of the National Association of Realtors do not permit Realtors to offer for sale/lease or advertise any property without authority. Arena has no such authority. He invited The Palm Beach Post to this shareholders-only event as he advertised this plan.

Regardless of the story and the unsubstantiated reports of Briny’s ills, Arena has no official capacity within our corporation or our town. Arena pitched the idea of selling Briny Breezes for a billion dollars several years ago and the corporation received no offers. This sensationalism, while it might be nice to dream about, serves not only to spotlight Arena but it also negatively impacts the residents of our community.

After 60-plus years Briny Breezes is still vibrant. We have many second- and third-generation families as well as newer ones. Many folks are startled and confused by the intimidation factors and untruths being told. This impacts general uncertainty in our community, all for a personal spotlight.

Briny Breezes is a corporation and would require a firm equipped to handle dissolution of such an entity. A local real estate agent would not be engaged to handle any such transaction.

Regardless of Arena’s efforts, the corporate board members of Briny Breezes will continue to serve their elected positions by always doing due diligence for all shareholders of the park.

Our hope is the publicity surrounding Arena will not cause stress to our residents and everyone can enjoy a fabulous 2020.

Susan J. Brannen, President, Briny Breezes Inc.
Crime rate remains low in coastal communities

Crimes reported in the first 6 months of 2019 vs. 2018

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<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Total crimes</th>
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<th>Rape</th>
<th>Robbery</th>
<th>Aggravated assault</th>
<th>Burglary</th>
<th>Larceny</th>
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* Crimes occurring in Briny Breezes were incorporated into Boynton Beach’s overall crime report. Source: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officials say increased awareness among residents is responsible for both the drop in some communities and the increase in others.

In Lantana, for example, Police Chief Sean Scheller says a number of factors could be responsible for the decrease, including an awareness among residents to report situations that don’t seem right.

“Our department has continued to increase community relations and educate our residents on reporting suspicious activity,” Scheller said. Also helping to keep crime down, he said, is an increased police presence in residential and commercial areas.

In Highland Beach, where the number of reported crimes increased from 17 during the first half of 2018 to 28 a year later, Police Chief Craig Hartmann says part of the increase is due to residents being more diligent in reporting crimes. He said residents are also more aware of the importance of locking their cars and removing wallets, jewelry and other items overnight.

“People are doing a much better job of not leaving valuables in their vehicles,” he said. Highland Beach reported five stolen vehicles in the first part of the year, and Hartmann said in most of those cases, keys were left in the ignition. Highland Beach residents also reported several thefts from homes, with police believing some of the missing pieces may have been taken by workers or others who were invited into the homes.

His advice to residents: “Be aware of the valuables that are in your home and secure them.” He also recommends remaining in your home while workers are present whenever possible. Hartmann said it appears the town would finish 2019 with close to the same number of crimes as reported the year before.

Overall, crime in Palm Beach County dropped about 15% during the first six months of 2019, according to the FDLE, which compiles the statistics. Statewide, crime dropped about 6% during that time period.

In Gulf Stream, Police Chief Edward Allen reported two cases of suspected “porch thieves” striking in November, compared to none the previous year.

By Rich Pollack

By Rich Pollack
Beach Club and Marina

those in the Boca Highland

would make it possible for

to begin the legwork that

the county's parks department

park for five years but instructed

postpone development of the

commissioners agreed to

the property.

either begin construction or sell

year extensions before having to

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park was delayed for 10 years

Beach, construction of a county

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D. Milani Park.

enough to put the brakes on

Beach residents can lobby hard

years. That is, unless Highland

come to an end in about five

extensions Yamato Rock — has

passed, the property — and by

Continued

YAMATO ROCK

Continued from page 1

Weir. Glover, her friends and

family members spent many

summer days having a good

time on and around the rock.

"When it was flat, it was

perfect," said Glover, who lives

in Delray Beach. "You could

jump off the rocks, swim around

and see a lot of little fish. It was

such a blast."

Glover said that her

grandmother owned the

property that faces the rock

from about 1955. It was sold

to Canadian developer Cam

Milani in the mid-1970s after

Weir's death.

When Milani died in 1986,

his family and Palm Beach

County began working on a sale

that would turn the property

into a county park.

In the decades that have since

passed, the property — and by

tension Yamato Rock — has

been at the center of controversy

and legal wrangling that could

come to an end in about five

years. That is, unless Highland

Beach residents can lobby hard

enough to put the brakes on

what is to be known as the Cam

D. Milani Park.

Under a 2010 agreement that

came as part of a settlement

with the town of Highland

Beach, construction of a county

park was delayed for 10 years

with the county given two five-

year extensions before having to

either begin construction or sell

the property.

In 2019, county

commissioners agreed to

postpone development of the

park for five years but instructed

the county's parks department

to begin the legwork that

would make it possible for

construction to begin in 2025.

Town residents, especially

those in the Boca Highland

Beach Club and Marina

Glover as a child at the rock. Kids would jump off the rock to

swim and see fish. "It was such a blast," she says. Family photo

community, have promised

to continue fighting the park,

which they fear will create

traffic and safety issues.

If and when a park is built,

Yamato Rock would be an

important part of the recreation

area, according to people who

know the area well.

"It's a unique feature of that

location," said Eric Call, the

county's parks and recreation

director. "People will enjoy it."

What makes Yamato Rock

special, Call said, is the marine

life that congregates around it.

"It's great for attracting fish," he

said, adding that snorkelers and

anglers both are attracted to the

area.

Call said that the property, in

part because of the outcropping,

is unique along Palm Beach

County's coast.

"I think the rock is what gives

it character," he said.

Albert Richwagen, a longtime

South Florida resident and

owner of Delray Beach Water

Sports, said Yamato Rock is one of

the best recreational spots in

the area for people who want to

surf, snorkel or fish, in large part

because of its geology.

"There's nothing like it

around," he said. "There's not

many spots where there's a rock

so close to the shoreline."

He said the rock holds the

sand on the north side while

the water is deeper on the south

side.

"On the big swells, it's one of

the better surfing spots," he said.

But, Richwagen said, "It's too

hard to get to and there's no

parking."

Highland Beach has no public

beach access. The only way for

non-boaters to get to Yamato

Rock now, he said, is to park at

Spanish River Park in Boca

Raton and walk a half-mile or

so up the beach, staying on the

public portion.

The outcropping once was

called Jap Rock. Several theories

exist about how it got that name,

with many believing it was
due to members of the Yamato

Colony of Japanese pineapple

farmers going there to fish in the

early 1900s.

"It's still kind of shrouded

in mystery. It's likely white

pioneers named it 'Jap Rock,'" he

said.

Glover said allowing Yamato

Rock to be more accessible for

public use makes sense and is a

concept her grandmother might

have supported.

Another parcel she owned on

Jupiter Island is now Blowing

Rocks Preserve, owned by the

Nature Conservancy. It includes

an educational center, native

plant nursery, boardwalk,

oceanside path and a butterfly


garden.
Virgin Trains also will submit a study on how the station and garage will affect traffic on nearby streets. The traffic analysis will be used to determine if any road changes or improvements are needed. If so, decisions will have to be made on how to pay for them.

The City Council must approve a temporary parking lot on city-owned land south of the Downtown Library that patrons can use while much of the existing library parking lot is blocked off for station and garage construction.

One significant matter remains unresolved. Virgin Trains didn’t list the construction of an elevated pedestrian bridge that would let people walk safely across busy Dixie and Federal highways to Mizner Park.

Deputy City Manager George Brown said at the Dec. 10 meeting that the bridge may not be feasible since it would need approvals from Florida East Coast Railway, the county, state and property owners. The bridge could cost between $7 million and $12 million. The potential price tag is high because the bridge likely would need to be enclosed and air-conditioned due to Florida’s climate. That has prompted concerns about vagrants camping out in the bridge.

An alternative is an enhanced pedestrian walkway at ground level that is less costly and easier to achieve, Brown said.

While Virgin Trains hasn’t crossed the finish line yet, the rail company is expected to move just as quickly to iron out final matters as it did to get the long-term lease. The city and company reached an agreement less than five months after Virgin Trains said it wanted to build a station in the city.

Virgin Trains hopes to break ground in February and open in March with the completed and operating by the end of 2020.

Residents filled every seat in the council chambers and spilled into an overflow room for the chance to speak for or against the project. The train station 60 voiced their opinions during the nearly six-hour meeting.

Key business groups, employers and many residents are thrilled to have a station, saying it will lure more companies to locate in the city, increase property values, draw visitors to cultural venues and provide an alternative to clogged Interstate 95 to reach West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, Lauderdale and Miami, where Virgin Trains already has stations.

"This is a game-changer for our city," said Troy McLellan, CEO of the Boca Chamber. "The overwhelming support throughout the city is loud and clear!"

Jorge Pesquera, CEO of Discovering Palm Beaches, said having a station in Boca Raton is like "winning the lottery."

But residents of the Library Commons neighborhood just north of the station site objected to a 4.5-story garage looming over their homes and fear Virgin Trains eventually will damage the character of the area by developing adjacent city-owned and privately owned land.

Supporters of the heavily used Downtown Library also worry about the potential for multiuse development and patrons losing easy access to the building.

Others expressed doubts that Virgin Trains is financially viable and sharply questioned city officials about their rationale for leasing land to the rail company for the nominal amount of $2 a year and paying most of the cost of the nearly 100-foot-wide road.

"It is basically a giveaway to a private company," said Manju Pendakur, a retired Florida Atlantic University professor.

Library Commons resident Charles Bennardi said Virgin Trains’ goal is to develop land near the station.

"They are interested in using your tax dollars to further their revenue interests," he said.

But opponents failed to sway council members.

"This is about an opportunity, a rare opportunity," Singer said, later adding, "This is an investment worth making."

Council member Andrea O’Rourke said 98% of the emails she received about the station came from people supporting it.

"To have the opportunity to have this train station is invaluable," said council member Monica Mayotte. "The economic value this station will bring is evident."

Virgin Trains will pay for the $25 million station and nearly $2 million for 64 garage spaces on the ground floor reserved for library patrons, who will park at no cost and will have their own garage entrance.

The city will pay the lion’s share — nearly $12 million — of the remaining cost of building the 45-space garage, which Virgin Trains will operate and maintain. Virgin Trains will give 50% of the garage revenues to the city. Drivers who don’t use the train or library also will be able to park in the garage.

The city’s share of garage cost will not result in a tax increase, Brown said. The money is coming from city reserves.

The city considers the lease a "significant economic benefit" to the city.

Virgin Trains provided an economic impact study that says the station will contribute $15.5 million annually in economic benefits, including $19.9 million in money spent by visitors using the train to come to Boca Raton.

In a concession to Library Commons residents, Virgin Trains agreed in November to push the garage 25 feet south. Adding in a 20-foot easement, there will be a 45-foot buffer between the neighborhood and the garage.

The rail company also will pay up to $300,000 to relocate the Junior League of Boca Raton’s Community Garden, which will be displaced by the station and garage. City officials have identified Meadows Park as a potential new location for it because it has ample parking, room for expansion and is pesticide-free.

While that doesn’t satisfy some of the avid gardeners, most Junior League members and city staff spoke at the Dec. 10 meeting supported the Meadows Park location.

Virgin Trains’ financial viability remains a concern for some residents. A consultant’s report to the city found that while ridership and revenues are increasing, they fall significantly below projections.

But Jose Gonzalez, executive vice president of Florida East Coast Industries, told council members that the projections cited by Colliers International are outdated because they are based on Virgin Trains’ having service to Orlando. FECI is a subsidiary of the private equity firm that operates Virgin Trains.

Although the Orlando station is built, the start of service was delayed by litigation and is not expected to begin in 2022, he said.

City code requires any sale or lease of city property to be done at fair market value. There is an exception, however, for the sale or lease of property that would be of "significant economic benefit" to the city.

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Virgin Trains was on track to have $934,000 passengers in 2019, which Gonzalez said nearly meets the company’s targets.

The company also has approvals to build stations at PortMiami and Aventura. Those and the Boca Raton station will increase ridership by 2 million passengers once they are operational, the company has said.

To protect the city against the possibility that Virgin Trains could go out of business, its deal with the rail company says it may terminate the lease for the station and garage land if the company discontinues service or service diminishes substantially.

In that worst-case scenario, the city would take over the parking garage and could repurpose the train station for other uses.

Virgin Trains, the rebranded name of Brightline, has drawn scrutiny for the number of people who have died on its tracks.

While all railroads in South Florida have struck people, Virgin Trains is responsible for the most deaths, according to an analysis by the Associated Press. None of the deaths was caused by crew error or faulty equipment, according to federal reports. The majority have been suicides, while others involved people who tried to beat the train or ignored gates and warnings.

In early December, Goddard said the company would contribute $150,000 to support the 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast Helpline, a service for people with mental health issues.

That would be added to $500,000 in state funding that State Rep. Mike Caruso, R-Deerfield Beach, is seeking in a bill intended to reduce the number of suicides by train.

The Florida Department of Transportation also has announced it will spend $60 million to make safety improvements to more than 4,000 rail crossings over the next two years.
Town manager, mayor find errors in census to blame for population drop

By Dan Moffett

Dozens of South Palm Beach residents seem to have disappeared over the past decade — gone missing with scarcely a trace or a clue.

Whole buildings appear to have been wiped off the town’s map, erased as if by some cosmic delete key.

What sounds like the script for a low-budget science fiction movie has been reality for Robert Kellogg, the town manager, who has spent much of the past year trying to unravel the enigma.

During the Town Council’s Dec. 10 meeting, Kellogg announced he has done just that.

“The mystery has been solved,” he said, “and what we discovered is what we suspected from the very beginning.”

Blame the U.S. Census Bureau.

It turns out the federal government’s people-counting agency made an unfortunate error when it conducted the 2010 census. The town’s two southernmost condo buildings — Imperial House and South Palm Villas — were counted as part of Lantana.

No one is quite sure how the error happened. But it cost the town about $130 condo units and perhaps as many as 200 residents in population. This helps explain why the 1990 census found 1,480 people in the town and the 2010 count came in at 1,171.

In between, there were major problems with the 2000 census, which first put the town’s population at 699 and then months later corrected it to 1,455. For some reason, the government has trouble counting South Palm Beachers.

The consequences of an inaccurate count can be far-reaching. Mail service to the two buildings has been affected. The Florida League of Cities says each person is worth about $1,600 when the state goes after inaccurate count can be far-reaching. Mail service to the two buildings has been affected. The Florida League of Cities says each person is worth about $1,600 when the state goes after funds each year. Municipal population is also a factor in state and county decision-making.

Mayor Bonnie Fischer said she noticed the error when looking at FEMA flood zone maps that excluded the two condo buildings. This was especially alarming to Fischer, who lives in Imperial House and doesn’t want to go down in history as the first Lantana resident to be elected mayor of South Palm Beach.

Kellogg said he is working with the Census Bureau to correct the mapping mistakes, and the town is hopeful the agency will perform better for the coming 2020 count.

In other business:

• Council members say they are looking at internet alert systems or other ways to get emergency information to residents after a water main break. Thanksgiving weekend exposed communication shortcomings.

The break occurred the evening of Nov. 29 outside The Mayfair condos, and part of the town lost water service for hours. Palmsea Condominiums reported damage to its pumps because of the interruption. A boil-water advisory went into effect soon after the break, but officials were hard-pressed to get the word to residents. Officials resorted to posting fliers in condo lobbies.

“What good is it to put notices up at 11 o’clock at night?” Fischer said.

The city of West Palm Beach supplies the town’s water, and Kellogg said the utility department insists on controlling messaging. Vice Mayor Robert Gottlieb said the council has to look at better use of the internet and social media to transmit essential information to residents.

• Three candidates have qualified for two open council seats in the March 17 election. Gottlieb is seeking another term. Former Councilwoman Elvadianne Culbertson, who ran unsuccessfully last March, and Ray McMillan, who ran unsuccessfully in 2018, also have filed.

Incumbent Councilwoman Stella Gaddy Jordan has decided not to seek another term.

Hundreds of South Palm Beach residents and Palm Beach County sheriff’s deputies gathered to get acquainted at a picnic event on the pool deck of the Barclay. A downpour and blustery winds canceled a planned boat and helicopter demonstration by the town’s new police presence.

ABOVE: Joan Pickford, a resident for more than 20 years, deals with the downpour. She was a member of the preservation committee that gathered signatures to make sure the town kept its building height limit.

RIGHT: Deputy Michael Canavan interacts with niece Amelia, who is the grandchild of resident Mike Cavanaugh.

Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star
Boca Raton

City will get $2.6 million for Irma cleanup

Boca Raton will receive $2.6 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to defray the costs of cleaning up after Hurricane Irma. The money will reimburse the city for collection and disposal of debris, FEMA said in a Dec. 23 release. The city collected more than 350,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris from roads and public and private property, FEMA said. The money is from FEMA’s Public Assistance grant program, which helps communities recover from a federally declared disaster or emergency. Irma struck the state on Sept. 10, 2017, making landfall in the Florida Keys as a Category 4 hurricane.

—Mary Hladky

Gulf Stream

Residents reminded not to overwater yards

By Steve Plunkett

Residents got a “friendly reminder” in their mail last month to check how often their sprinklers turn on. Town Manager Greg Dunham said a combination of tides, rain and the core area’s low geography was causing a slippery situation. “There’s water standing, you know, on the streets all the time,” Dunham told town commissioners at their Dec. 13 meeting.

He planned to send a mass mailing with a copy of Gulf Stream’s rules on landscape irrigation. “We’ll approach it, you know, in a friendly way,” he said.

Commissioner Joan Orthwein said some people are not even aware of how often their grass is watered. “Oh, my lawn people have taken care of it,” Orthwein said those residents say. And, said Dunham, “In some cases they’re being watered five days a week.”

Earlier in the meeting, commissioners were told excess water had slowed the underground connection of homes to Comcast’s new fiber-optic system. “We had the king tides, which caused some issues with some of the houses where we were digging. Now when you dig down a foot and you hit water, you need to stop and wait till the tide comes out,” Comcast subcontractor Steve Rosa said. Rosa said 35 out of 100 homes had been connected and he hoped to finish the job in late January or early February.

AT&T is connecting customers to underground phone lines after Comcast has finished a section. In other business:

• A decision on the Little Club’s request to install pickleball courts near the Hillside House and St. Andrews Club will not come until April. Mayor Scott Morgan and Dunham made a field trip to the Gulf Stream Bath and Tennis Club to hear the differences between tennis and pickleball and decided to hold another demonstration from inside a Hillside House condo.

• Outside attorney Jeffrey Hochman told commissioners that Martin O’Boyle filed a federal lawsuit similar to one by his former employee Denise DeMartini, claiming the town’s unsuccessful RICO action was unlawful retaliation against him. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued what Morgan hailed as “a very significant decision” in November that the town had good legal reason to pursue the RICO claim against DeMartini and others. Morgan and the town’s four other incumbent commissioners were re-elected Dec. 17 after no one filed to run against them in the coming election. The town’s registered Democrats still will vote in Florida’s March 17 presidential primary.

Looking for love!

The Coastal Star is looking for love stories for our February edition email to Maryt@thecoastalstar.com by January 10th

Visit avdaonline.org/heart-woman for tickets
Celebrating the Strength, Courage, and Determination of Women

AVDA’s 5th Annual Heart of a Woman Luncheon

Wednesday, February 26, 2020
10:30am-1:30pm
Royal Palm Yacht Club,
Boca Raton

Co-Chairs
Anne Vegso and Rosemary Krieger

COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOREE:
Max Therapy Dog and his owner
Vicki Ewerting

SPEAKER: Annette May Peterson
Survivor of domestic and sexual violence

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December 7, 2019 through February 2, 2020
Experience the American debut of this exhibition, which features 70 of the best known etchings from the most prominent artist of the Dutch Golden Age, and learn about Rembrandt’s printmaking process through interactive displays. Visit www.fourarts.org for more information on guided tours, special programs, and free admission days.

Rembrandt van Rijn. Dutch. No. 172. Self Portrait with Saskia. Wood Engraving. Rembrandt: The Sign and The Light developed by ASPM and distributed by ESQ.

FOUR ARTS. FOR EVERYONE.
Along the Coast
Cities, towns band together to adapt to climate change
By Mary Hladky

Seven municipalities and Palm Beach County have joined forces to determine how they are threatened by climate change and devise ways to protect residents from its effects.

Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Highland Beach, Lake Worth Beach, Lantana, Ocean Ridge and the county have approved an agreement to conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment. The County Commission was the last to sign on, voting Dec. 17.

Once the municipalities and county have data on the threats they face, they will take up the task of making the region more resilient.

“We have put a lot of work into the development of this interlocal agreement and are very proud to see it materialize,” said Rebecca Harvey, Boynton Beach’s sustainability coordinator.

“This collaborative approach will enable us to confront the challenge of climate change as a unified front, and we hope it will serve as a model for other communities nationwide.”

The municipalities and county set a Jan. 15 deadline for consultants to submit proposals on how they would conduct the vulnerability assessment, and will select one in February to do the work.

The consultant’s tasks will be completed in two phases, with two tasks to be completed by June 30. The remaining tasks will be finished and a final report issued by March 31, 2021.

The consultant also will create a geographic information system-based interactive mapping tool that can be updated with new data and will allow users to zoom in on a specific neighborhood to see climate change impacts or zoom out to see regional impacts.

The assessment will evaluate the vulnerability of people, property, water and transportation infrastructures, critical facilities, the economy and natural resources.

The governments have budgeted $386,797 to do the work and will share its cost, supplemented by a $75,000 Florida Department of Environmental Protection grant to Boynton Beach.

Students at Harvard University Law School’s Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic determined how much each municipality and the county would pay, based on the size of the city or town, its property values and median resident income, Harvey said.

Boca Raton will pay the most, with the City Council approving the $85,000 expenditure on Nov. 26. The county will pay the least, $20,000, since only small pockets of unincorporated areas are located within the assessment region.

“It is hard to know what to do until you know where you are,” said Boca Raton City Council member Monica Mayotte, an advocate of environmental initiatives. “This assessment will hopefully be our baseline and tell us where we need to go.”

By working together, the cities and towns reason they can get more bang for the buck by avoiding duplicate spending and operating more efficiently.

The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, a collaboration of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties and many South Florida cities, calculated about seven years ago that the area could lose as much as $4 billion in taxable real estate with a 1-foot rise in sea level.

But the compact’s data, centered on sea level rise, is now dated, said Katelyn Cucinotta, environmental analyst with the Palm Beach County Office of Resilience. The vulnerability assessment will update the data and take into account additional threats, including storm surge, extreme heat and rain, hurricanes, saltwater intrusion and pest and disease outbreaks.

“What we are doing now is not sea level rise-centric,” she said. “We are looking at different threats. We are taking a much deeper dive.”

Although some cities, such as West Palm Beach, have done their own assessments, Cucinotta said this initiative differs because eight governments are working together and looking at a region.

“It is novel in that it is a collaborative micro-regional effort” that will not be limited to each city’s individual boundaries, she said.

Florida governments are beginning to grapple with how to pay for climate change adaptation.

Monroe County officials have concluded the county would need billions of dollars to remain a viable place to live in the near future, an amount the county would not be able to pay.

Delray Beach learned in February that it will have to pay more than $378 million to raise roads and seawalls to protect against rising waters.

The consultant is tasked with finding ways to pay for adaptation.

Possibilities, according to interlocal agreement documents, include state and federal funds, special taxing districts, revolving loan funds, public-private partnerships and new types of insurance programs.

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Possibilities, according to interlocal agreement documents, include state and federal funds, special taxing districts, revolving loan funds, public-private partnerships and new types of insurance programs.
Vice Mayor Don MaGruder’s decision not to run for a second term in the March 17 election left two seats open on the Ocean Ridge Town Commission with two candidates qualified and ready to claim them.

Incumbent Commissioner Susan Hurlburt returns for a full three-year term on the commission after serving out a partial one-year term that began last year.

Political newcomer Martin Wiescholek takes over the seat held by MaGruder, who announced in November plans to move to North Carolina after more than 30 years in Ocean Ridge.

Wiescholek, a frequent contributor during public comment periods at town meetings, says he looks forward to advancing MaGruder’s agenda.

“I will be filling his seat and hope to be able to make a smooth transition, carrying the torch of environmental responsibility and smart government he has held in town for so long,” Wiescholek, an ICT Group managing partner, said in an email to The Coastal Star. ICT Group is a private investment firm advising clients in wealth planning and international investment strategies.

On recent hot-button issues, Wiescholek has spoken in support of police body-worn cameras as a way to protect the town against lawsuits, and he supported letting voters decide whether to require supermajority commission votes to guard against excessive development.

A three-year resident of Ocean Ridge, Wiescholek says he wants to draw on the experience gained living in other Florida oceanfront communities to help guide his commission work. He has scheduled a meet and greet event for 6 p.m. on March 4 in Town Hall, to introduce himself to residents and discuss issues facing the commission.

Hurlburt was the choice of voters last March to fill the remainder of the term left by former Mayor James Bonfiglio, who resigned to run for the state Legislature. He was unsuccessful.
Lantana's new librarian is homegrown and never left town

By Ron Hayes

For nearly 23 years, Sid Patchett devoted himself to seeing the Lantana Public Library shine in quality where it couldn't compete in quantity.

Five days a week, from September 1996 when he became its director until shortly before his death last Sept. 18, Patchett drove from his home in Miami's Coconut Grove to 205 W. Ocean Ave., determined to honor the mission he’d placed on the library’s website.

“A Place For Serious Readers,”

“We don’t stock multiple copies of the bestsellers,” he would say without apology. “We use our limited budget to create the thinking person’s library. We’ll get just one copy of a new Stephen King, and then we’ll get…,”

Now the library Sid Patchett loved and led is evolving.

On Nov. 13, Kristine Kreidler began her first day as its new director. She didn’t have to drive from Miami.

Kreidler, 38, was born in Lantana. She attended Lantana Elementary School, Lantana Middle School and Santaluces High School. She still lives in town.

“I want a community library where people of all backgrounds and ages feel welcome,” she said recently. “Think about it. A library is still one of the few places you’re not expected to buy anything.”

Her first week at work, she was off to Tallahassee to attend the Florida library directors meeting. In early December she was back, but still settling in.

Waiting to be explored on her desk were the three large file boxes her predecessor had labeled “Urgent” and “Less Urgent.” On her computer, she found the letter she’d written back in 2010, applying for an internship here — Kreidler — and failing to receive that internship at the Broward County African American Cultural Center, internship at the Boca Raton Public Library from 2011 to 2019.

“She comes to Lantana from the Boca Raton Public Library, where she supervised 17 employees and saw 45,000 patrons attending youth programs in a single year.

“This is my dream job,” she said. “I get to be the boss, but the library’s small enough that I can also interact with the patrons on a daily basis. Most library directors don’t get to do that.”

“Yes, the library is small, but it’s growing. When Patchett was interviewed by The Coastal Star in February 2015, he counted about 23,000 volumes on the shelves. Kreidler arrived to find 24,194.

In 2015, the annual budget was $170,000. Today, it’s $217,000, including $20,000 for purchasing new books.

Now Kreidler is eager to bring a younger, more expansive vision to the library’s mission. Sid marketed us as a library for serious readers,” she said. “But are serious readers really coming here?”

To find out, she plans to sponsor community surveys and focus groups. She wants to ask the library’s patrons, “What do you want?”

What she wants is the best of all worlds.

“I see lots of kids and teens walking by here,” she said. “Our children’s collection needs work, and I’m going to create a young-adult collection.

“The library has only two computers for public use. Kreidler wants more.

“I’d like to create a digital studio for teens, where they could use Photoshop and be more content creators instead of just passive consumers.”

She envisions working with AmeriCorps volunteers and perhaps the Friends of the Library’s 175 members to offer free GED training, homework help and English language classes.

She wants to start a children’s story time.

And she plans to order books based on patrons’ requests and suggestions from the online Booklist, in which the American Library Association recommends upcoming titles.

“I think our strength lies in our size and our neighborhood library status,” she said. “We’re walkable for so many, our staff knows you by name and what you enjoy, so we can recommend books you might like and anticipate your needs.

“We’re a small municipal library so we have more flexibility in responding promptly to patron requests for materials or programs.”

In short, Kristine Kreidler wants the Lantana Public Library to be a place for all readers, young and old, serious and not so serious.

“I don’t know if I’ll follow Sid’s philosophy,” she said. “If there’s a new Stephen King novel, I might buy two or three copies.”

For more information, call 561-540-5740 or visit www.lantanaflibrary.org.
Pamela Goffman

Psychodrama therapist Pamela Goffman adorns her office in Delray Beach with colors and heart figures that help her bring comfort to clients. Goffman is a lover of the arts and an ardent supporter of the performing arts venue dedicated to providing arts experiences to the community — her favorite cause.

"First, because any community is enriched by the arts, and second, for the education," she said. "The reason we raise the money we do is to serve all people, but especially kids who can’t afford it. We want to be successful for everybody. And we succeed. Two summers ago we had two sessions of theater of summer camp that were completely funded by donations. This past summer we had theirs.

She will continue to support the Arts Garage and CEO Marjorie Waldo. "I'm a frequent audience member, give money when I can, get people to go," she said. "And now Marjorie is bringing theater back, too. There's a movement to actors teaching movement to actors and go to school … I studied acting and directing, so I worked in the theater and did some television work, mostly in soap operas, little stuff. Professional accomplishments start with the training institute, having trained other health professionals in this fabulous method. That's something I'm proud of, though I don't do much of it anymore. But I would say long-term sustainability for me is just the work I do every day with each individual client: working with couples, getting them to access their vulnerability so they can have truth between them, and also my individuals.

Q: What professional have you worked in? What professional accomplishments are you most proud of?
A: My first career was teaching movement to actors in New York City. And when I decided to go back to graduate school … I studied acting and directing, so I worked in the theater and did some television work, mostly in soap operas, little stuff. Professional accomplishments start with the training institute, having trained other health professionals in this fabulous method. That’s something I’m proud of, though I don’t do much of it anymore. But I would say long-term sustainability for me is just the work I do every day with each individual client: working with couples, getting them to access their vulnerability so they can have truth between them, and also my individuals.

Q: What advice do you have for a young person seeking a career?
A: Try a lot of things. Like taking new roles. Don’t be afraid to fail, and don’t be afraid to try all kinds of things. We don’t really find out who we are for a long time. And until our dying day we need to give ourselves permission to try new things. So just don’t be afraid.

Q: How did you choose to make your home in Delray Beach?
A: When I moved to Delray 21 years ago, the reason I chose it is for what I knew of Florida — which wasn’t a lot — it was the one place I saw that had a soul. And to me the soul comes from art. There was art here. Arts Garage wasn’t here yet, but there were performing arts venues, music venues, stuff like that. They maintain the older buildings, and it didn’t feel like it was something along a highway, brand new. And it was anchored by the ocean, which to me is a very spiritual kind of feeling. So I just fell in love with Delray, and I’ve been in love with Delray ever since.

Q: What is your favorite book you read now?
A: I just finished reading American Snake Pit, written by Dan Tomastulo, a psychodramatist, and it’s both horrifying and hysterical at the same time. It’s kind of fictional autobiography, about the time he was getting his Ph.D., and it was written during the deinstitutionalization movement in the late ’60s, early ’70s. A great read.

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Q: What music do you listen to when you want to relax?
A: When I want to relax, standards, like the Great American Songbook. And when I want to be inspired it’s usually either R&B & Motown, if I want to clean the house, or Stephen Sondheim, for pathos. He’s one of my favorite composers.

Q: Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?
A: I’ve had some incredible teachers who are role models and mentors. And in my field, they’re mentors as therapists, as teachers, but also as human beings. Nina Garcia, Jackie Siroka and Dale Buchanan. Nina and Dale have published a lot, while Jackie is well-known. They’ve influenced me with their compassion, undying passion, brilliance, spontaneity and creativity. And huge hearts.

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Q: If your life story were made into a movie, who would you play?
A: I asked my family and we came up with Sally Field. There’s a physical resemblance, I think, and because she expresses great joy and pathos. She’s spunky. And I think I’m spunky.

Q: Who or what makes you laugh?
A: My husband, Sam Sroder, has an adorable sense of humor. A turn of a phrase, a clever wordplay, physical humor, like I did during康赛斯特. And Kevin Hart, his movies make me laugh. He’s very self-deprecating. I like that.

Q: What is your favorite part about living in Delray Beach?
A: Has to be the Arts Garage. When it came on the scene, I was like, "Wow, finally, this is fantastic." And I felt that when I came on the board what my interest was and I said arts education for kids, because they’ve taken it out of the schools.

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Beach-goers encouraged to use city’s buckets to gather debris

By Mary Hladky

Many Boca Raton beach-goers make it a point to help keep the beaches clean by picking up trash and plastics on the sand and disposing of them.

But now the city has made it easier to do so. They no longer need to bring trash bags with them when visiting the beaches for a stroll or swim.

The new Community Coastal Clean Up program provides metal buckets next to signs explaining the program at Red Reef, Spanish River and South Beach parks.

Simply pick up a bucket, put debris inside, dump it in green trash cans along the beach and return the bucket.

“It’s more about education and awareness,” said City Council member Monica Mayotte, who has long brought compostable bags with her on her beach visits.

“You can pick up stuff around where you are sitting. Every little bit helps.”

Ocean pollution, especially by plastics, has gained a lot of attention in recent years.

A report from the World Economic Forum and Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimated that 165 million tons of plastics are in the oceans. By 2050, the oceans will contain more plastics than fish by weight if nothing changes.

Much of the plastic ends up in gigantic garbage patches floating in the oceans, including one the size of Texas.

Sea birds, fish, turtles and other marine life ingest it and die. Or they get tangled up in the plastics, leaving them unable to eat or swim.

Boca Raton provided a recent example. On Oct. 1, the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center posted a photo on Facebook that went viral of a baby turtle that had washed ashore. A necropsy found that the hatchling had ingested 104 small pieces of plastic.

This incident isn’t unusual. A Gumbo Limbo staff member told Live Science that staffers see this every day.

Gumbo Limbo, along with the city’s Recreation Services Department and Ocean Rescue, created the cleanup program and the city began promoting it on its website in November.

The buckets are located by lifeguard tower 4 in South Beach Park, lifeguard tower 9 in Red Reef Park and lifeguard tower 16 in Spanish River Park.
to protect and heal turtles, and inform the public about them, or the specifics of what they do. "They are the go-to place for the south end of Palm Beach County and south of that. These are very important nesting beaches," says Larry Wood, a biologist affiliated with the National Save the Turtle Foundation.

There are a few members of Gumbo Limbo’s sea turtle team:

**Sea Turtle Conservation & Research Program**

“Absolutely love what I do,” says David Anderson, sea turtle conservation coordinator. “Being on the beach every morning at sunrise — that’s my office. You encounter something different every day.”

Plus, people thank him for what he’s doing, tell him how lucky he is to be doing it and snap photos of him at work. “It must be a pretty cool job,” Anderson says with a laugh. “I feel very fortunate.”

Anderson and his team count and record data during sea turtle nesting season, and a whole lot more. He and marine conservationist Kirt Rusenko are the only full-time staffers in this unit of Gumbo Limbo. Rusenko has a doctorate in zoology from Clemson University and has been Boca Raton’s marine conservationist since 1995. He was recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association in 2013 for his work in protecting sea turtles.

Five part-time staffers assist him during nesting season, March through October, each one more experienced than the last. They have degrees or are pursuing degrees in marine sciences, and each has spent two or three years with the team.

Anderson was a middle school and high school science teacher, and an adjunct professor at Broward College, when he began volunteering at Gumbo Limbo in 2006, then worked part-time there in summers.

“All teachers need a second job,” he admits. “When the job Anderson now holds became vacant in 2015, he applied and got it. He’s been doing this every season, Anderson’s team meets at Gumbo Limbo about 30 minutes before sunrise. Then, equipped with tablet computers, water bottles and rain jackets, they head to the 5-mile section of beach called the Bluff. Once there, they record information on the types of species that came ashore in darkness — they can tell by the pattern of their tracks — as well as geographic data, whether they found nests, the condition of them and other information. Then they return to Gumbo Limbo to input the 1,300 data points.

“It’s very data-intensive work,” Anderson says. He also supervises guided nighttime viewings of wayward hatchlings being released in the ocean, and group outings to search for adult females laying eggs. He estimates a 70% success rate at this — while being vigilant that nobody disturbs the turtles with lights from cameras, cellphones and the like.

In the offseason, Anderson remains busy fine-tuning data for submission to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, attending workshops and conferences and making presentations to civic groups.

One highlight of his job occurred when a high school girl from North Dakota, who wanted to be a turtle biologist for a day, visited courtesy of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. It wasn’t a banner year for green turtle nests, so when Anderson took her to the beach, they got a surprise. “One of the biggest green sea turtles I’ve seen was finishing her nest on the beach,” he recalls. “It was like it was purposefully for her.

**Florida Atlantic University Research Gallery**

In one corner of Gumbo Limbo’s complex is an FAU research laboratory. Visitors can look down from the second floor upon tubs of turtles, and usually a professor or a student is on hand to answer questions about the work underway.

“Our lab is in many ways unique in the world,” says Jeannette Wyneken, an FAU professor of biological sciences and researcher who oversees the facility. “We’re not only doing the science, but we talk about it in real time.

FAU researchers once had to lug jugs of saltwater from the ocean to the lab for their work. “It limits what you can do,” Wyneken says. Nowadays, ocean water is pumped directly there via underground pipes and into a storage tank.

Wyneken’s doctorate in biology is from the University of Illinois, far from any oceans. But she had small pet turtles as a child (after her mother explained that a pet dinosaur wasn’t an option) and eventually a box turtle that she kept for more than 50 years. It was more than 100 years old when it died, she says.

Her research at the Gumbo Limbo lab includes an ongoing study into how temperatures affect the gender ratios of sea turtles. Gender isn’t established until after eggs are laid. She has found that warmer the climate, the more likely hatchlings will be females. In seven of the past 10 years, loggerhead hatchlings have all been females, she says.

“If we have too much of one sex and not the other, we have a problem because we’re dealing with endangered or threatened species,” Wyneken says. A gender imbalance greatly affects reproduction and the survival of those species.

“Never in my wildest dreams did I think I’d be documenting the effects of climate change,” Wyneken says. “The turtles tell the story clearly and non-threateningly.”

Hotter temperatures not only affect the hatchlings’ gender, but their very survival. Some 79% to 82% of loggerhead sea turtles eggs on the Boca Raton beach used to hatch, but that was down to 58%, and then 38%, in the particularly hot years of 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Wyneken says. “This is serious. They can’t dig themselves away from the heat. They can’t get out. They die.”

Green turtle successful hatch rates are on a similar track.

Wyneken adds. (Leatherbacks nest in far smaller numbers in Florida and are harder to study for various reasons.)

The 2017 and 2018 nesting seasons rebounded somewhat, and 64% and 70% of clutches successfully hatched respectively, still lower than what used to be typical.

Other turtle research at the lab has long been conducted by Wyneken’s fellow professor Michael Salman. He has shown, for example, that sea turtles can see color, and perceive some colors more clearly than others. One of Salman’s clever students devised a turtle maze and reward system for the study.

“We now know another piece of the biology of these animals,” Wyneken says.

And the information has potential practical uses. Long-line fishing operators bait thousands of hooks on gear that contains lights. Using a lighting color that doesn’t attract turtles to the baits could help save them from being inadvertently killed.

Gumbo Limbo lab research isn’t exclusively devoted to sea turtles. Professor Stephen Kajiura and his students have been studying sharks, including their senses of smell and sight. And Professor Marguerite Koch is studying the effects of ocean acidification — caused by absorption of increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere — on seagrasses.

**Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Facility**

The rehabilitation team could very well be renamed the creative team. They have made a brace from zip ties and epoxy. Learned to apply honey as a top antimicrobial. Used medicinal leeches to reduce swelling from fishing-line entanglements. Applied medical maggots to remove dead tissue from infections.

“You definitely get creative,” says Caitlin Bovery, an assistant sea turtle rehabilitation coordinator.

Perhaps never more so than last summer when a heavily entangled adult, eggs-carrying females were admitted to the rehab center with serious boat strike injuries. The turtles were placed in a quiet environment in tanks for them and, several times, administered a labor-inducing drug. The tanks were drained and the turtles were elevated on a large tire so their eggs could drip down; gravity helped. But when staff buried the eggs on the beach to incubate, no hatchlings emerged. Still, both mothers recovered from their injuries sufficiently to be released and perhaps nest again.

Not only do they receive medical care. A porcupine fish in the nature center’s aquarium was sedated and kept damp with seawater-soaked towels while staff veterinarian Maria Chadam surgically removed a fishhook from its stomach. The fish made a quick recovery.

Bovery is one of three full-time staffers in the rehab unit. She has a master’s degree from FAU in environmental studies. Before joining the rehab team, she was a volunteer.

“I fell in love with sea turtles when I was a little kid,” Bovery says. “I loved the idea of helping the turtles. But I thought that would have been around since the dinosaurs. They’re so charismatic.”

Emily Mirowski has the same title as Bovery. She was quoted in media globally in October after she removed 104 pieces of plastic that had been ingested by a sick baby turtle that died after being taken to the rehab unit.

Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Coordinator Whitney Crawford has worked in sea turtle biology since 2002, including managing the Turtle Hospital in Marathon Key for two years. She was invited by Greenpeace to speak with ocean activistsheading Jane Fonda and Ted Danson at a rally in October at the U.S. Capital.

Chadam, the veterinarian, is on site two days a week. Turtles whose injuries prevent them from ever being released are usually given to other facilities, such as aquariums. Two are permanent residents at Gumbo Limbo.

The turtle hospital was designed for 30 patients a year, but that crept from 50 to 100. Bovery says. Helping them all is a challenge.

“We find the space,” she says. “We make the time.”
Obituary

Thomas M. Roland

By Sallie James

OCEAN RIDGE — Faith, family and friends are the values that defined the life of Ocean Ridge resident Thomas M. Roland, a proud World War II veteran, husband and father who also served his country with stints in the U.S. Border Patrol and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He died on Dec. 15 after a brief illness at age 92. His four grandchildren were pallbearers at his funeral.

The former New Yorker married Eleanor Hakkerup on May 2, 1954, in New Hyde Park, New York. The couple were together 65 years and had three daughters. A son preceded him in death.

“We had a lovely life together,” Eleanor Roland said. “They lived most of their married life together in Baldwin, New York, traveling to Florida for nearly 30 years as snowbirds before moving here permanently about 12 years ago. His biggest thing was family. My dad grew up without a father and his most important thing was to be a good father,” said his daughter Jean Callaghan, of Delray Beach, and his most important thing to himself and he taught all of us.

Mr. Roland assisted foreigners with the paperwork they needed to move to the United States, she said. His assignments included being a refugee officer in Indochina and Africa, and working with the Haitian Migration Interdiction Operation with the U.S. Coast Guard, and Northern Ireland’s Project Children Operation.

Most recently, the former U.S. Marine participated in the Southwest Florida Chapter of Honor Flight and traveled to Washington, D.C., in 2018. Relatives saw him off in Florida and more relatives greeted him when he landed in the nation’s capital, his daughter said.

His military service was a source of pride: Mr. Roland enlisted in the Marines shortly after the two-year anniversary of the invasion of Pearl Harbor, becoming a member of the Marine Corps 5th Marine Division “Spearhead” on Dec. 14, 1943. Two years later, he was shot three times during the invasion of Iwo Jima. He was evacuated to Guam, becoming one of 6,218 Spearhead Marines wounded in action.

Upon his return to the States, Mr. Roland attended Seton Hall College. He joined the Border Patrol in 1951 and served in Texas and New York. He eventually transferred to the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Montreal.

Mr. Roland was not one to sit still so when he retired, he took another job helping guide couriers with fine art cargo through JFK Airport in New York. He subsequently escorted the couriers to their New York City museum destinations, his daughter said.

“He knew his way all around JFK,” she recalled. Burial was Dec. 23 at the South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth Beach.

“He is going to be missed. He loved my mother very much. Everybody should be loved like that in their lifetime,” his daughter said.

FREE Demo of Tai Chi

with Howard Varsov

Mr. Varsov, a West Palm Beach resident, studied the “T’ien” form of Tai Chi Chuan for more than 20 years and was certified to teach by the Artistic Foundation of the New York Chapter in 1993. Instructed students in Tai Chi at Hofstra University as well as teaching privately.

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District asks out of Mizner payments to city to free money for parks

By Mary Hladky

The Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District wants to stop making payments to the city to pay off a Mizner Park bond debt, and instead wants the money to go toward park improvement projects.

The district asked the city’s Community Redevelopment Agency to relieve it of its payment obligations in a Sept. 20 letter, but did not receive a response, district attorney Jacob Florowitc said at a Dec. 16 meeting. While district commissioners voted 4-0, with Commissioner Robert Rollins absent, to make a $1.4 million payment to the CRA for the 2019-20 fiscal year, they also agreed to send a second letter renewing their request to be exempted from making any more payments. That letter was delivered to the city on Dec. 23.

The City Council, whose members also sit as CRA commissioners, has the authority to exempt the district from making the payments, the most recent letter states.

If the City Council refuses, the district would seek legal advice on how to end the obligation, Executive Director Briann Harms said in an email. The issue could become another bone of contention between the district and the city, which are now at odds over how to build the Boca National golf course.

The CRA was created in 1986 to help create a downtown destination. The first major project was the development of Mizner Park, which replaced a failing mall and became an attractive downtown area.

A 1986 interlocal agreement between the district and the city obligated the district to make payments for acquiring, operating and maintaining park and recreational facilities in the downtown.

The agreement was amended in 1989 to allow the CRA to use the district payments to pay off $68 million in bonds that financed the Mizner Park project. Mizner Park opened in 1991. Since those bonds were paid off in March, it is an appropriate time to seek a new arrangement, the district said in the September and December letters.

The December letter includes two other reasons why the district should not have to make further payments:

- Thirteen percent of the district’s tax revenue comes from residents living outside the city’s boundaries, but they have received no benefit from the payments to the CRA because they pay higher non-resident rates at recreation facilities located within the CRA, which encompasses Boca Raton’s downtown area.
- The district is strapped for money because, under pressure from the City Council, commissioners voted against raising the tax rate last year.

Exempting the district from making additional payments "will allow the district to utilize these funds in other ways that will continue to benefit the citizens and residents that we both serve," the letter states.

City spokeswoman Chrissy Gibson said that the district’s request will be discussed at a Jan. 23 joint meeting between City Council members and district commissioners. The matter also could come up at the Jan. 13 City Council meeting.

In other business:

- Commissioners voted 4-0 to approve an employment agreement with Harms, who became executive director in October after serving as interim executive director since February.

Harms replaces veteran district official Art Koski, who was reassigned to be construction manager of the Boca National public golf course one year ago. He also served as a consultant until the commission ended his contract in October.

Harms’ annual base salary is $105,000, with a 3% cost-of-living adjustment following the effective date on Jan. 1. Her monthly car allowance is $500. Her salary cannot exceed $150,000.

Her compensation is below the $120,000 Koski earned as executive director at the time he was reassigned.

"I want to thank you all for your support over the last year," Harms said as she was applauded by commissioners and the audience.

"I think she has done a very good job," District Chair Susan Vogelgesang said after the meeting. "She is very thorough."

- Commissioners also voted 4-0 to approve rules governing how district meetings are conducted, similar to rules other elected bodies have.

The rules include a public decorum policy, first proposed by Commissioner Steven Engel in October, that govern conduct by commissioners and members of the public attending district meetings.

Engel said he decided rules were needed after a heated conversation between District Vice Chair Erin Wright and Koski in July, but the discussion was reinforced by behavior of an audience member during and after a November meeting in which a commissioner felt threatened.

That incident has prompted commissioners to have a police presence at some of their meetings.

The policy states that members of the public and commissioners shall treat each other with courtesy and refrain from “rude and derogatory remarks, reflection as to integrity, abusive comments, and statements as to motives and personalities in anyone who disrupts a meeting and does not heed a warning to stop will be removed by a police officer and is subject to arrest. ★
Delray Beach

Seven candidates to pursue two commission seats in March election

By Jane Smith

Seven candidates are vying for two City Commission seats in Delray Beach.

The incumbents for each seat met the city’s qualifying deadline of noon Dec. 19, along with their challengers.

Bill Bathurst, who last time ran unopposed to fill the remaining two years of Jim Chard’s seat, now has three challengers. They are Juli Casale, a community activist; Jennifer Jones, a self-employed businesswoman; and Debra Tendrich, a nonprofit founder.

Shirley Johnson, the other incumbent, has two challengers for her commission seat: Angela Burns, an educator, and Chris Davey, a commercial real estate broker.

Bathurst, a residential Realtor and previous member of the city’s Historic Preservation Board, has raised the most money of the seven candidates by collecting $65,685, as of Nov. 30.

His donors include developers with projects proposed or under construction in Delray Beach.

Hudson Holdings, which sold its share in the Midtown Delray project in early 2019, donated $3,000 through four related businesses, to the City Commission through his City Commission role.

Another Delray Beach developer, Menin, donated $2,350 through six related entities. Menin has two projects underway near downtown: The Ray hotel on Northeast Second Avenue and Delray Beach Market, a four-story food hall on Southeast Third Avenue.

A few weeks after the City Commission gave valet operators a six-month reprieve to remove their stands from East Atlantic Avenue, eight restaurants donated $1,000 each to the Bathurst re-election campaign.

He also received three $1,000 donations from the Walsh family, whose hotel holdings include the recently rebranded Delray Beach Marriott, now called Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa.

In contrast, Casale is running more of a grass-roots campaign. As of Nov. 30, she raised $11,660, including a $5,000 self-donation. She also serves on the city’s Planning and Zoning Board.

Her donor list includes associates from the Delray Beach Preservation Trust. Co-presidents Carolyn Patton donated $500 while Joy Howell gave $200.

Linda Oxford, a longtime resident and trust board member, gave $100. Gayle Clarke, also a trust board member and a residential real estate agent, donated $250. Allen “Sandy” Zeller, trust treasurer and Johnson’s campaign treasurer, gave $300.

Price Patton, Carolyn Patton’s husband and a member of the city’s Site Plan Review and Appearance Board, donated $500 to Casale.

The two remaining challenges have raised less than $10,000 each.

Tendrich, founder of the Eat Better Live Better nonprofit, raised $8,976, including a $100 self-loan.

Her donors include former CRA board Chairman Reggie Cox, who gave $100.

Cox has promised to campaign against Bathurst for going along with Johnson to have the commission take over the CRA board.

Jones raised $200 in two $100 self-donations.

In the other race, Johnson has raised $31,809, including two self-donations of $100 each and a $400 self-loan.

As with Bathurst, most of Johnson’s campaign donations are connected to developers, hoteliers and restaurant owners.

She received three $1,000 donations from Hudson Holdings-related firms. Johnson also received $1,000 from Pebble Capital, the new owner of the Midtown Delray project on Swinton Avenue, renamed Sunny Village.

Johnson collected four $250 donations from the Walsh family, which owns and manages more than 125 hotels on the eastern seaboard.

Two months after the approval of Joe Carosella’s plans for Delray Place South over the objections of Tropic Isle residents, the developer donated two $1,000 amounts from different entities in November.

His land use attorney, Bonnie Miskel, also donated $1,000 to Johnson’s campaign.

In addition, her law firm held a November fundraiser for Johnson at the Harvest Restaurant in Delray Place, a Carosella holding. The cost was $726.52.

Johnson joined Bathurst in giving the six-month reprieve to the valet stands’ having to move off Atlantic Avenue.

A few weeks later in October, eight restaurant owners donated $1,000 each.

Challenger Burns has raised $3,575, as of Nov. 30. The amount includes two self-donations, one for $50 and the other for $200.

Burns’ donors include Reggie Cox, who donated $500, and Charles Ridley, president of the West Atlantic Redevelopment Coalition, who donated $250.

They both have criticized Johnson, whose actions led to the City Commission’s taking over the CRA.

Johnson’s latest challenger, Davey, entered the race on Dec. 13. His civic experience includes former vice chair of the city’s Planning and Zoning Board, current chairman of the city’s Board of Adjustment and current member of the city’s Comprehensive Plan Update Committee.

He also is a member of the nonprofit Delray Beach Preservation Trust and of the Friends of the Delray Beach Public Library.

Davey lost a 2014 City Commission bid to Al Jacquet. Davey was ahead at the polls by 429 votes, but he lost by 265 votes when absentee ballots (now called mail-in ballots) were counted.

Because of his late entry, Davey has not reported any campaign contributions.

The seats are not restricted. All Delray Beach voters can pick a candidate for each seat on March 17. City voters also will decide on a charter amendment that changes the date for commissioners’ and mayor’s salary increases:

“Commissioner/mayor salaries currently, any ordinance proposing to increase the annual salaries of the mayor and commissioners is not effective unless adopted at least six (6) months prior to the next regular city election. The charter amendment eliminates the six (6) month requirement and proposes that mayor and commissioner salary increases become effective at the next organizational meeting held on or after the last Thursday in March.”

The Pattons are founding partners in The Coastal Star.
Children’s Museum expects city takeover to be boost

By Sallie James

The beloved Boca Raton Children’s Museum temporarily closed its doors on Dec. 19 to make way for changes that will take place under a new boss: the city’s Recreation Services Department.

Boca Raton is taking over the popular, but cash-strapped, kids’ destination in hopes of keeping the facility open for a long, long time. A reopening date had not been scheduled.

Florence Fuller Child Development Centers handed over the keys last month after taking charge on Oct. 20, 2014, when the museum nearly closed because of dire financial straits. The museum has been on life support for years.

Museum officials are hopeful the new arrangement will give the museum a new lease on life.

“The city has the resources and the ability to really enhance the museum and bring it to the level it should be,” said Ellyn Okrent, president and CEO of Florence Fuller. “A lot is going on with the city with the (Brightline) and the revitalization of the downtown. It was just a good time.

“It's a great story. There are no secrets. The city is going to make the investments to reopen it and make it better and an even more exciting place for our families.”

No one from the city could be reached for comment during the holidays.

A Dec. 13 memo on the museum website noted that the city will “communicate with residents and visitors about the status of the assessment, programming and reopening dates.” The memo says questions and comments can be sent to ChildrensMuseum@myboca.us.

Mary Sol Gonzalez, chair of the museum’s board, told City Council members in September that 25,858 people visited over the past year. The council gave the nonprofit a $20,000 general grant in its 2020 budget.

Boca Raton also gave the museum $100,000 two years ago to renovate its cottage.

Okrent said the takeover is good news for the museum.

“They want to make it a destination place for children and families for our community,” Okrent said. “We gave it a lifeline for over five years.”

Okrent said the buildings have been refurbished with new roofs, new air conditioning and that they were tented for termites. Sidewalks were also installed.

“I think it has a really bright future and we’re very excited about it,” she said.

Any outstanding museum memberships will be paid back on a pro-rated basis.

Boca Raton
Crosswalks likely to get brick color, white stripes to improve visibility

By Rich Pollack

In its efforts to improve visibility of crosswalks along State Road A1A, Highland Beach is going red.

Taking a page out of Delray Beach’s playbook, Highland Beach officials hope to repave the eight crosswalks within town limits with textured asphalt that would then be painted brick red.

If all goes well, the inside of the crosswalks will include white Thermoset striping, with white Thermoset borders on the north and south sides of the walkways.

“All I’ve wanted was an effective system that will stop cars when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk,” said resident John Boden, who has been leading the effort.

Because A1A is a state road and falls under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation, getting the green light to make improvements has required the OK of state officials, which has slowed the process.

Now it seems efforts are moving at a quicker pace.

An engineering study has been completed and preliminary approval for the projects has been granted by state officials.

Late last month, Highland Beach sent out a request for bids for construction of several crosswalk improvements.

They include:
• The two-toned pavement markings.
• New signage with pedestrian-activated rapid flashing lights.
• Embedded lighting in the crosswalks that will also be pedestrian-activated.

Labadie said the bids will be opened in early February and work on some pieces of the project could begin as early as March.

Funding for the project is estimated to be around $400,000, with the town having budgeted only about $200,000.

While the state’s Department of Transportation has said it will not help with the funding, town officials have enlisted the aid of state Rep. Mike Caruso, R-Delray Beach, and state Sen. Kevin Rader, D-Boca Raton, and are hoping to get about $200,000 directly allocated by the Legislature.

Two bills — one that would include funding for crosswalk improvements and another that would help the town pay for drainage improvements — are winding their way through the Legislature.

To further improve pedestrian visibility and make crosswalks safer, Highland Beach last year unveiled crosswalk flags at a test location in the south end of town.

Those flags have received a positive reaction from residents, and have since been added to the crosswalk near the Regency Highland condominium, Labadie said.

WELCOME TO THE NEWLY RENOVATED BREAMER ISLE AND BOCA HIGHLANDS BEACH CLUB!

Just completed a $4.1 million renovation that skyrockets this complex to the top of the list! Incredible transformation to the highest standard. Breamer Isle is a high-rise luxury condominium located in the Boca Highlands Beach Club and Marina, one of the only “ON THE BEACH” beach clubs in Highland Beach and Boca Raton. The 2-story beach party/clubhouse includes: pool, full kitchen, bathrooms, several deck areas, several water/food grills for el-fresco dining, full-time steward, chairs, umbrellas plus cart-taxi service for drop off/pick up.

BRAND NEW LISTING UNIT 902. ONLY LISTING CURRENTLY IN THIS BUILDING | 2-BR, 2-BA | $595,000 | Views as far as you can see...city, marina and ocean. All impact glass windows. New appliances. Freshly painted. New crown moldings throughout. No popcorn! Move right in or renovate to make it your own. 4740 South Ocean Boulevard 902, Boca Raton | Web: RF-10577565
Sad News
We announce the closing of The Boynton Beach Postal and Gift Center on September 30, 2020.

After 30 years in business, our lease is up and the landlord refuses to renew.

We wish to thank our thousands of Loyal Customers for the support they have given us through the wonderful years we have had – thanks to you all!

We are now liquidating our total inventory of Gifts, Clothing and Greeting Cards. Come and take advantage of the wonderful savings!

Regular shipping of UPS, FedEx and U.S. Mail will continue through September.

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SUNSHINE SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER
562 East Woolbright Road, Boynton Beach 33435

Political newcomers challenging incumbents in March election

By Mary Thurwachter

Council members up for re-election in Lantana on March 17 will face opposition from two political newcomers and longtime residents.

Mark Allen Zeitler, 63, an air-conditioning contractor, will challenge Edward Shropshire, 67, for the Group 3 seat that Shropshire won by a 2-vote margin in 2017. Shropshire is semi-retired from Cemex (formerly Rinker Materials) but continues as a driver trainer and safety coordinator.

Karen Lythgoe, 60, is running for the Group 4 seat held by Philip J. Aridas, 65, who has been in office since 2011. Zeitler and Shropshire live across the street from each other in the Lantana Heights neighborhood and have different views about code enforcement.

"Part of the reason I’m seeking office is that neighbors, some of the longtime residents that I grew up with, encouraged me to run," Zeitler said.

"Lantana to me has always been a middle-class, working man’s type of area, and to me it’s going the wrong way in terms of code enforcement," said Zeitler, whose family moved to Lantana in 1959. "I remember back when people had no yards and boats were parked in the swales and things like that, and to me it’s really starting to come along."

"But I don’t think we need to have more code enforcement laws and create a gated-type community with condo commandos. That’s what I’d like to put a slowdown on. We do need code enforcement, but we just don’t need to be making new codes to basically benefit what appears to be just him," referring to Shropshire.

A resident since 1979, Shropshire has said that Lantana is no longer the seaside village it was and voted to add an additional code enforcement officer because the town was "looking terrible."

Lythgoe, a security analyst for a Fortune 500 company, has lived in Lantana since she was 4.

"I had a wonderful childhood here and I want to make sure other children have the same memories," she said. Her late husband was David Lythgoe of Lythgoe Plumbing, a business that was in Lantana since 1947.

"I’ve not been active in government," she said. "Someone called me and said, ‘Come on, these two guys are running unopposed; we’d like to shake things up a little bit.’ I’m comfortable in my life and I’d like to give something back to the town that gave me such a great childhood. I’ve been a political junkie all my life. ‘I’ve got an awesome granddaughter and I’m running for her,’ she said. ‘I’m doing this to show her you can do anything at any age.’

One issue that concerns Lythgoe is traffic.

“As a child, I rode my bike all over this town through all the little streets, and now people just go racing up and down the roads. Everybody is in a hurry. There’s just so much traffic. It’s just not safe for kids," she said. She would like kids to play outdoors more, away from their electronic devices.

Aridas, a resident of Lantana since 1977, works for Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation and wants kids and adults to spend more time outdoors, too. He’s pleased with the council’s implementation of the first dog park in the town at Maddock Park, as well as having made significant improvements to the skate park there. He has been a staunch supporter of the new Lyman Kayak Park and thinks it’s important to provide residents with fun things to do within the town.

Council members are elected to three-year terms with no term limits and are elected townwide.


Monuments to honor veterans planned for Bicentennial Park

By Mary Thurwachter

Monuments recognizing the U.S. armed forces are in the works at Lantana’s Bicentennial Park on East Ocean Avenue. Individual markers about 20 inches high will honor the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy and Merchant Marine.

Shropshire said he and Dworkin agreed to pay for the artwork in the town, preferably on its site. In lieu of the monument and he said he would like to focus on the needs of Lantana residents without these false allegations.

The complaint was filed in January 2018 by Lantana resident Catherine Padilla, 55, who said the two had become friends when both attended a large Kiwanis Club meeting in 2015. She claimed when the two had lunch after a morning Kiwanis meeting, after which he drove her to a motel and propositioned her for sex.

Padilla said she told him she “wasn’t interested” and that he drove her back to her car. Padilla said Stewart called her a week or two later and said he would guarantee her street would get speed tables, a safety measure for which she had lobbied, if she would have sex with him at the motel.

In August 2015, the Lantana Town Council unanimously voted in favor of the traffic-calming speed humps for Padilla’s street.

Stewart has consistently maintained that Padilla’s accusations were totally false and that he has never asked for, or accepted, anything in exchange for a vote.

Padilla said she had not received official word of the recommendation but was expecting to hear something by the end of the year.

“I never for a minute thought that this would be dismissed,” she said. “I believe in karma. People will get what they deserve in the end.”

Lantana

Judge recommends dismissal of ethics complaint against Mayor Stewart

By Mary Thurwachter

A judge has recommended that the Florida Commission on Ethics dismiss allegations of sexual harassment against Lantana Mayor David Stewart. Administrative Law Judge Cathy M. Sellers, in her official Recommended Order to the Commission on Ethics filed on Dec. 16, wrote that Stewart did not violate ethics law.

Sellers presided over a full evidentiary hearing on the case in West Palm Beach on Sept. 24.

Stewart, 67, was accused of missing his position to obtain a sexual benefit for himself and soliciting sex from a constituent based on an understanding his vote, a finding action or judgment would be influenced.

The Commission on Ethics is considering a recommendation on the matter March 6 in Tallahassee.

But the panel, its website notes, “is limited in its ability to modify findings of the ALJ.”

In October 2018, the commission found probable cause to pursue both allegations.

“My attorney advised me that the administrative law judge has entered a favorable recommendation,” Stewart said. “I’m very grateful that the judge was able to see the truth. I’m hoping that the Commission on Ethics will concur and that my family and I can move on with our lives and I can focus on the needs of Lantana residents without these false allegations.”

The complaint was filed in January 2018 by Lantana resident Catherine Padilla, 55, who said the two had become friends when both attended a large Kiwanis Club meeting in 2015. She claimed when the two had lunch after a morning Kiwanis meeting, after which he drove her to a motel and propositioned her for sex.

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“I never for a minute thought that this would be dismissed,” she said. “I believe in karma. People will get what they deserve in the end.”

Shropshire said he and Dworkin had talked about art, and Dworkin and his people asked him if he had any art. Shropshire said: “We worked with community leaders, Shropshire said, “I’m not saying this is a bad project,” Stewart said, “but it’s taking money that was supposed to be used for another reason: art. I think back to 2017 when we did the memorial at the end of the rec center. Stanley Gundlach (of Gundlach’s Marina) and myself went out and secured about $10,000 in donations to have that painting done.”

The mayor said he has learned from the Cultural Council and other towns that art increases the value of a municipality, and he wants that for Lantana.

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Shropshire said he and Dworkin had talked about art, and Dworkin and his people came up with a dead end. “One afternoon, I brought up the idea of the monument and he said he would like to do that with this money,” Shropshire said.

As far as getting new development sources to put up public art, Shropshire said: “We requested, we didn’t demand it. He just more or less volunteered for the art in public places and he and I think that this would be a good substitute because it is artwork in a sense and will honor the brave men and women of this town and provide a beautiful backdrop and be another addition to a downtown waterfront area.”

Council member Lynn Moorhouse said he thought adding monuments at Bicentennial was a nice idea.

“I frankly would rather see the six services recognized than a big butterfly at the end of the Dollar Tree or something,” Moorhouse said.

When the vote was taken, the mayor voted to approve as did the others. Council member Phil Aridas was absent.

The six armed forces monuments will go in front of the Bicentennial Park marker. Rendering provided

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NEWS 25
Nada’s Italy brings travel, culture to Pineapple Grove

N ot everyone has the time or money to fly to Italy. But anyone can tap into the culture with a visit to Nada’s Italy in Delray Beach. And when people do want to experience the real deal — a country known for its contributions to the worlds of art, architecture, food, fashion, opera, literature, design and film — Nada’s Italy can help with that as well.

Nada Vergili owns Nada’s Italy, a travel and tour company in Pineapple Grove, and whether leading a tour or a class, she loves sharing the very best of her home country.

On Saturdays, starting at 4 p.m., her company provides free classes, each with something different about Italy. For example, this month’s classes include language (Jan. 11 for intermediate and advanced speakers of Italian and a Jan. 25 survival guide for travelers) and a presentation on Naples and the Tuscany region. She moved to the United States when she was 22. Vergili designs her tours to provide authentic travel experiences.

“We have small groups — never more than 12 — and we move around in executive Mercedes vans with a private driver, not the big bus style of mass tourist transit,” she says.

“We work mostly with small, boutique hotels. Some only have seven or eight rooms, but they’re luxury. You could be in a medieval castle. You could be staying in a Renaissance villa in the countryside. You could be staying at a family-run boutique hotel in the Amalfi Coast, overlooking the sea. Our excursions are authentic Italian experiences. We provide a view of Italy the way it is supposed to be seen.”

What is the best part of a tour with Nada’s Italy? Many would say the food but, more than anything individuals absolutely love the experiences,” Vergili says. “The tours we provide throughout the days and evenings are led by an amazing group of English-speaking Italian guides. One word that is found within our reviews time and time again to describe our tours is ‘magical.’”

When and why did Nada’s Italy move to Pineapple Grove in Delray Beach?

“In 2012, a road trip down the East Coast with a friend, after her marriage ended, brought me to Delray Beach. Both my friend and I fell in love. The vibe of Delray is eclectic. I thought this is going to be my new home, immediately. It took a few years of house hunting and visiting as a tourist, but I purchased a home in Lake Ida three years ago and subsequently the office in Delray was a must-have,” Vergili says.

“Our most popular tours are: Jewels of the Amalfi Coast, Italian Treasures, and Northern Delights. Some of our more seasoned travelers love Flavors of Verona and Lake Garda, as well as our Tuscan Villages and Cinque Terre tour,” Vergili says.

Nada’s Italy is at 119 NE Second Ave. It has a second location in Charlotte, North Carolina. Call 877-959-8365 or visit www.nadasitaly.com.

Sometimes it’s nice to be home for the holidays. Sometimes it’s nicer to get away, especially for people who’d like to experience sun, warmth and beach rather than clouds, cold and snow.

As usual, the Boca Raton Resort & Club was fully aware that guests would be arriving and was all decked out for the holidays. It ranked No. 3 among the 10 best hotels for the holidays in USA Today’s Reader’s Choice awards, which polled travel experts, editors and readers from around the world.

How do South County cities stack up against other cities in America where populations and job opportunities are rising rapidly? The personal finance website SmartAsset, in a study of boom towns, has some answers.

SmartAsset looked at data for 500 of the largest cities across seven metrics: population change, unemployment rate, change in unemployment rate, GDP growth rate, business growth, housing growth and change in household income. It listed the top 50. Boca Raton was rated No. 20, and Boynton Beach placed No. 47. Delray Beach was unranked. For Boca Raton, over five years, its population increased 8.67%. Its average yearly gross domestic product grew 3.39%. Over five years, its number of establishments grew 10.32%. And it had a 19.42% five-year housing growth rate.

For Boynton Beach, over five years, its population grew 6.72%. Its average yearly GDP grew 3.39%. The number of its establishments grew 10.32%, and its housing market grew 4.34% over five years.

The Lantana Kmart at 1201 S. Dixie Highway will be closing by February, according to TransformCo, the company that purchased the assets of Sears Holdings Corporation (including Kmart stores) last February. Shoppers will notice “Going Out of Business” signs on the doors.

With the rise and convenience of online retail, big-box stores like Kmart are scaling back their brick-and-mortar operations because they are not finding the same type of economic vitality experienced in the past.

In September, the Lantana Town Council approved a $16,800 annual fee for the new business district, which would help the town maintain a downtown feel.

Business Spotlight

Nada’s Italy brings travel, culture to Pineapple Grove

Antonio Falvella teaches an Italian language survival class for travelers at Nada’s Italy. From left are Alan Levy, Joanne Weingarden, and Jeff and Kim Jolicoeur. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star
change to its comprehensive land-use plan that could pave the way to replace the shopping center anchored by Kmart at the northwest corner of Hypoluxo Road and South Dixie Highway with apartments.

Webber International University in Babson Park elected entrepreneur and real estate developer Harold "Sonny" Van Arnen to its board of trustees at its annual board meeting in October. Van Arnen, an Ocean Ridge resident who has founded and owned a number of businesses, is chairman of Van Arnen Properties, a real estate development firm at 265 NE Fifth Ave., Delray Beach.

Shannon Duff has joined Oxbridge Academy as associate director of academic advising, student services and college counseling. Duff earned a BA in history at Yale and an MBA from the Yale School of Management. She worked as an analyst and, later, as an associate at Lehman Brothers in New York.

Oxbridge named Tyler Grimes as distinguished visiting artist in musical theater for the school year. Grimes is the managing director of the Lovewell Institute for the Creative Arts in Fort Lauderdale, which conducts musical theater workshops internationally.
LUXURY INTRACOASTAL WATERFRONT ESTATE | $10.750 M
Direct Intracoastal Point Lot in Boca Raton, deep water dockage and 202’ of waterfront. NEW CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHED - Custom design by Mary Widmer Luxury Collection. 6BR/8BA with 1st floor master suite, Elevator, heated Pool & Spa. 10,780 sq. ft. under air.
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Ira Merritt 561-487-3800 | bocaira@aol.com

INTERIOR POINT WATERFRONT – BOCA RATON | $1.499 M
Amazing location, 165 feet of interior canal frontage, 55’ dock, Close to inlet, 4 bedroom / 3.1 bath, freeform pool, panoramic views.
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Brittany Belcher 561-716-8125 | Selling@OliveBelcher.com

BEACH WALK EAST | $1.299 M
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Geoff Braby 561-699-3455 | Geoff@SellsSouthFlorida.com
David Gunther 954-651-4789 | David@SellsSouthFlorida.com

BOCA HARBOUR DEEPWATER HOME | $1.450 M
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Vincenza Antonacci 561-714-8464 | viniantonacci@gmail.com
Brian Pearl 561-245-1541 | brian@brianpearl.com

CLARENDON | $1.150 M
Geoff Braby 561-699-3455 | Geoff@SellsSouthFlorida.com
David Gunther 954-651-4789 | David@SellsSouthFlorida.com
Former National Enquirer staffers tell all in ‘Scandalous’

By Mary Thurwachter

Two years ago, a California acupuncturist took her parents, visiting from Florida, along to meet friends for dinner at a trendy L.A. restaurant. The acupuncturist, well-known in Hollywood circles, had a client list that included famous folks such as Kim Kardashian.

The TV reality star wasn’t part of this small gathering, but film producer and director Mark Landsman was, and he couldn’t get over the entertaining stories his friend’s father told.

But who was the charming, chatty daddy? Enquiring minds wanted to know.

He was Lantana’s vice mayor, Malcolm Balfour, former articles editor at the National Enquirer. The acupuncturist was his daughter, Antonia.

“Malcolm was regaling us with stories from his former career and had been a reporter from the earliest days of the National Enquirer,” Landsman said. “Naturally my ears perked up because I’m fascinated with that. He told these crazy stories and offered to introduce me to some of his former tabloid trench mates, and it just went from there.”

What “went from there” was production of a documentary called Scandalous, a look at the history of the National Enquirer, an influential tabloid that covers everything from alien landings and psychic predictions to celebrity breakups and medical oddities. No expense was spared to get a story. Sources were paid handsomely, a practice that continued after the 1988 death of owner Generoso Pope Jr.

“The great thing about working for the Enquirer was there was unlimited money to get a story,” said David Wright, an investigative reporter for the tabloid from 1976 to 2010. “If you were on a story and you wanted to hire a boat or plane, or someone to help you climb a mountain, you just did it. But that was starting to dry up in the last year I was there and I was more confined to doing stories on the phone. I like traveling and I like knocking on doors.”

The film, which debuted in November at select theaters, including a short run at the Lake Worth Playhouse, examines “how this publication came into being and, on a larger scale, the influence it has on society,” said Landsman.

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Pay it Forward celebrates the numerous philanthropic events in South County. Events are current as of 12/29. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JANUARY
Saturday - 1/11 - Premiere Fund of Florida’s Perfect Pink Party at The Breakers, One South County Road, Palm Beach. Experience a cocktail reception, dinner dance, live auction and presentation of the inaugural Daniel E. Ponton Excellence in Community Leadership Award. 6:30-11 pm. $1,250. 307-4000 or downtownpontevedra.org.
Saturday - 1/19 - The Rotary Club of Boca Raton's OPAL Awards at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. Celebrate Outstanding People And Leaders with cocktails and dinner. 6:30 pm cocktails, 7:30 pm dinner. $250 - 471-7100 or opalawards.com or rotaryclubbocaraton.com.
Sunday - 1/20 - Kraus Center’s Palm Beach Wine Auction at 1000 North, 1000 North U.S. Highway 1, Jupiter. Savor a five-course dinner paired with specially selected wines followed by a sensational live auction. 6 pm. $1,250. 651-4320 or palmbeachwineauction.org.
Thursday - 1/23 - American Humane’s PupsPatriots Military Gala at Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa, 100 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. Welcome special guest speaker retired Army Maj. Gen. James “Spider” Mark III and honor the service dog/veteran teams that graduated from the intensive training program. 6 pm. $500. 537-5887 or americanhumane.org.
Friday - 1/24 - Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program’s 7th Annual Wine Dinner at St. Andrews Country Club, 17577 W. Clagade Oval, Boca Raton. Recognize long-time supporters who celebrate 26-plus years of helping at-risk girls and women in Palm Beach County. 6:30 pm apéritif and silent auction, 7:45 pm dinner and live auction. $300. 305-371-3337 or womenoftomorrow.org.
Saturday - 1/25 - Carded Center’s 2020 Call to Heart Ball at Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa, 100 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. Join the nonprofit for an unforgettable evening of cocktails, gourmet food, professional dancers, performance art, entertainment, live music and more. 6 pm. $500. 853-1638 or carded.org.
1/25 - Adolph & Rose Levi Jewish Community Center’s Jeans Jewels & H.O.W. at Boca West Country Club, 20583 Boca West Drive, Boca Raton. Support the programs and services of the organization while rocking the night away in boots and bling. 7 pm. $990. 852-3257 or berenjcc.org.
1/25 - Arts Garage’s Annual Gala, “Tropical Safari II,” at 94 N.E. Second Ave., Delray Beach. Enjoy complimentary cocktails, dancing and live entertainment. 6-11 pm. $1,200. 400-6557 or artsgarage.org.

FEBRUARY
Saturday - 2/1 - Norton Museum of Art’s Gala 2020 at 1650 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. View the George O’Keeffe: Living Modern exhibition while sipping cocktails, eating dinner and dancing to late-night entertainment. 6-10 pm. $525. 832-5196, Ext. 1121 or norton.org.
Saturday - 2/22 - Boca Raton Regional Hospital Ball at Boca Raton Resort & Club, 501 E. Camino Real. Honor Leon and Toby Cooperman and Bernie and Billi Marcus while enjoying special entertainment by Red Stewart. 6-11 pm. Sold out. 955-4142 or donnahospital.com/ball.
Wednesday - 2/26 - Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse’s Heart of a Woman Luncheon at Royal Palm Yacht Club, 2425 W. Maya Palm Dr., Boca Raton. Celebrate the strength, courage and determination of women by keynote speaker Audrey-May Prosper, a survivor of sexual violence. Luncheon features luxury raffles and silent auction. 10:30 am-1:30 pm. $75. 265-3700 or aidtoabuse.org.
Saturday - 2/29 - George Snow Scholarship Fund’s The RhinoWine Cowboy Ball: Boots & Bling at Boca Raton Resort & Club, 501 E. Camino Real. Help deserving students achieve their dream of attending college while enjoying whiskey tasting, riding a mechanical bull and bidding in a live auction. 6:30 pm. $250. 347-6799 or scholarship.org.
Laugh With the Library Co-Chairwomen Amy Snook (left) and Chiara Clark play piano with funnyman Sarge Pickman, a Delray Beach resident.

Photo provided by CAPEHART

Spotlight to shine on Sarge at Laugh With the Library

The producer and personality behind the former syndicated program The Best Damn Sports Show Period will headline Laugh With the Library Chapter 14.

Sarge Pickman, a Miami Beach native and Delray Beach resident who parlayed his Fox Sports gig into a stand-up comedy career, takes the stage Feb. 7 at the Opal Grand Oceanfront Resort & Spa (formerly the Delray Beach Marriott).

“He’s hysterical,” said Amy Snook, co-chairwoman of the Delray Beach Public Library fundraiser. “His son goes to the same school as my son, and I recommended him only because I sat next to him at some sporting events and he made me laugh out loud. I called him and asked him, and he was so flattered and said yes in about a millisecond.”

The 2020 installment will celebrate the importance of local businesses — several are sponsoring the event — and the connections they bring to the community.

“This is his town,” Snook said of the entertainer known as Sarge. “He has a vested interest just as much as anyone else who lives here.”

More than 400 guests are anticipated, and they will get to hear from a hilarious host, enjoy dinner by the bite and participate in a silent auction. Proceeds will support programming at the library.

“If it will be a night of fun — probably somewhat unexpected fun — but an opportunity to support such an important asset,” Snook said. “It will make you more passionate about supporting the library.”

Library programming “has just gotten better and better each year,” Co-Chairwoman Chiara Clark added. “It’s all free and all open to the community all throughout the year.”

Clark said a portion of the evening will be dedicated to educating guests about the library.

“The library is the cornerstone of the community,” she said. “We really are the university for this entire town. We serve everyone.”

If You Go
What: Laugh With the Library
Chapter 14
When: 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Feb. 7
Where: Opal Grand
Oceanfront Resort & Spa,
10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray
Beach
Cost: $200
Information: Call 266-0798
or go to www.delraylibrary.org/laugh

Pay it Forward
If You Go
What: Laugh With the Library Chapter 14
When: 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Feb. 7
Where: Opal Grand
Oceanfront Resort & Spa,
10 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray
Beach
Cost: $200
Information: Call 266-0798
or go to www.delraylibrary.org/laugh

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Send news and notes to Amy Woods at flamywoods@bellsouth.net.
The board of trustees of Quantum Foundation has approved six new grants totaling $424,000 to Palm Beach County-based nonprofits.

The agency’s mission is to fund initiatives that improve the quality of health in the community. “This grant cycle focuses on greater access to health resources and stronger connections to result in an overall healthier community,” foundation President Eric Kelly said. “We fund organizations that take an upstream approach to making Palm Beach County a healthy place to live, work and play.”

Among the allocations was a $75,000 distribution to Palm Health Foundation’s BeWellPBC, an initiative that targets the behavioral health needs of youths and families. “BeWellPBC works with local partners to bridge relationships and current gaps in care coordination throughout the county, especially to the underserved communities,” Executive Director Lauren Zuchman said. “We are grateful to Quantum Foundation not only for providing funding but for being a true partner in this initiative.”

Food delivery truck gifted to Boca Raton nonprofit
Boca Helping Hands finally unveiled its new refrigerated truck, made possible by $150,000 in donations from the community. The funds were raised in short order following media reports about the sudden death of the old truck, affectionately known as “Grandpa Bear.”

“We are simply astounded and so grateful for the incredible outpouring of support from the community and particularly appreciate the media getting the word out about this,” said Greg Hazle, the nonprofit’s executive director. “Even a couple of our clients picked in after seeing our story on TV and online, giving us what they could to help and wishing they could give more.”

Hazle said the 24-foot vehicle will enable the organization to fulfill and expand its efforts to feed families in need.

Lang Realty donates to American Cancer Society
As part of its Open the Door for a Cure campaign, Lang Realty contributed more than $13,000 to the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. The money was raised through proceeds from the sale of each home in October.

“Many of our own agents and staff have personally battled this disease or have gone through this with loved ones. We are delighted to support this worthy cause.”

Super Bowl raffle to help local children’s charities
Boca West Children’s Foundation is raffling off VIP packages for Super Bowl LIV, taking place Feb. 2 in Miami. Packages include a pair of seats near midfield, limousine service to and from Hard Rock Stadium and a $400 gift card for dinner at the restaurant of the ticket-holder’s choice. Tickets cost $100, and a recipient will be selected for every 500 sold. The drawing is set for Jan. 10. All proceeds benefit local children’s charities.

To enter, visit www.bocawestfoundation.org/ways-to-give and earmark the donation for the raffle. For more info, call 488-6980.
Gone Coastal

Sensational Oceanfront Properties
Where the Sea & Sand Meet

**ABSOLUTE COASTAL LIVING** 4 BR | 6.1 BA | 6,934 SF

$4,895,000 — Experience the luxury of surf and sand at your doorstep. Indulge in four stories of highly curated oceanfront living, perched on 200 feet of pristine beach frontage. Situated just a short 30-minute drive from both Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale Airport. Be on permanent vacation.

**PURA VIDA ON THE OCEAN** 4 BR | 6.1 BA | 6,934 SF

$5,975,000 — Experience the luxury of surf and sand at your doorstep. Indulge in four stories of highly curated oceanfront living, perched on 200 feet of pristine beach frontage. Situated just a short 30-minute drive from both Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale Airport. Be on permanent vacation.

**TWO STORY OCEANFRONT PENTHOUSE** 5 BR | 7 BA | 12,600 SF

$5,975,000 — With 100’ of luxurious oceanfront magic, this stunning two-story penthouse & gated boutique residence with 4+ car garage, 1,000 bottle wine room, modern style, & spacious open concept offers its residents unparalleled living. Enjoy this private 5,000 SF rooftop with heated pool, putting green, unrivaled ocean views, and much more.

**OCEAN GRANDE** 3 BR | 4 BA | 4,000 SF

$4,775,000 — Glamour has a new name with this luxurious & grand 3 BR/4 BA elegant residence in the most prestigious new building in Hillsboro Mile, Ocean Grande. Marble inlaid floors, gourmet kitchen, open concept floorplan, private intracoastal view balcony, 24 hour security, valet & doorman, this is full service luxury living. Dockage available.

**HISTORIC JOHN VOLL DESIGNED ESTATE** 6 BR | 6 BA | 5,490 SF

$4,400,000 — Behold ‘Ocean Apple’, an oceanfront estate where the essence of The Hamptons Meets Delray Beach is quintessentially captured. This captivating coastal compound affords picturesque ocean vistas while exuding the elegantly weathered charm of a classic seaside retreat.

**STYLISH BEACH RETREAT** 3 BR | 3.1 BA | 2,491 SF

$1,750,000 — A stylish beach retreat awaits offering serenity & ocean breezes! This brand new renovated corner townhome offers immediate joy and carefree living in a beautiful enclave right on the sands. With gated comforts, impact windows and a turnkey coastal lifestyle, this pet-friendly, chic beach retreat offers a sense of peace & serenity.

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Pride & Prosecco
Delray Beach Public Library — Nov. 7

With literary-themed cocktails such as Gin Eye, Huckleberry Sin and The Postman Always Brings Ice, the sipping, snacking and shopping event raised more than $10,000 for library programs.

More than 200 attended and enjoyed light bites from local restaurants and merchandise from local vendors.

ABOVE: (l-r) Nancy Dockerty, Brenda Medore and Leanne Adair.
CENTER: (l-r) Chiara Clark, Leigh Martini and Jenny Nelson.
RIGHT: Carrie and Doug Young.
Photos provided

Light up the Holidays celebration
Town Hall, Highland Beach — Dec. 5

A 28-foot Christmas tree and a 15-foot menorah were lighted as the crowd sang along with Boynton Beach High School’s acclaimed Dimensional Harmony choral group during the annual holiday celebration. The Boca Raton High School ROTC presented the colors of the flag prior to the ‘National Anthem.’ State Rep. Mike Caruso led a prayer and resident Harry Adwar recited a Hanukkah reading. The town also celebrated its 70th anniversary with an enormous cake that fed the entire 250-person crowd.

ABOVE: (l-r) Highland Beach Vice Mayor Greg Babij, Town Manager Marshall Labadie, Santa, Police Chief Craig Hartmann, Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman, Mayor Rhoda Zelniker and Commissioner Barry Donaldson. Photo provided

Hope Bash Boca
Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton — Nov. 2

The seventh annual Place of Hope event recognized Kelly Fleming and NCCI Holdings as Jay DiPietro Hero of Hope honorees and benefited programs at the charity’s Leighan and David Rinker Campus. ‘Under the Palms’ was the theme, and live and silent auctions, music and dancing were featured.

ABOVE: Jeannine and Leland Morris.
Photo provided by Coastal Click Photography

White Truffle Dinner
Café Sapori, West Palm Beach — Dec. 2

The Kravis Center event celebrating the upcoming Palm Beach Wine Auction, set for Jan. 20, included four courses of fine Italian cuisine paired with select wines, all underwritten by Ed and Jen Dudnyk.

“We're here because of the more than 80,000 children the Kravis Center reaches with its arts-education programs every year,” auction Chairman Ted Mandes said to the 80 guests. ‘Over the last 27 years, the Kravis Center has reached more than 2.6 million local students, and the Palm Beach Wine Auction has raised more than $54 million in proceeds. We are committed to the future of the children in our community.’

ABOVE LEFT: Craig and Shelley Menin. ABOVE RIGHT: Stephanie and Peter Lamelas. Photos provided by CAPEHART

Welcome Back
Benvenuto, Boynton Beach — Nov. 17

Il Circolo, The Italian Cultural Society, greeted guests and members at a lively luncheon enhanced by camaraderie, music and take-home gifts. It marked the start of the 2019-20 season. A highlight of the event was the attendance of five Florida Atlantic University students whose summer study program in Venice was supported by the nonprofit.

ABOVE: (l-r) Sally Valentl, Virginia Longo and event Chairwoman Gloria Ciongoli. Photo provided
Celebrations

Community Inclusion Awards
Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton — Nov. 22

The Unicorn Children’s Foundation annual event coincided with the organization’s 25th anniversary and official rebrand launch. Unsung heroes were recognized for their efforts at building a better and more inclusive community for people with special needs. Nearly 100 nominations were received in 14 categories spotlighting excellence, integrity and passion in providing support and services for people with disabilities. ABOVE: (l-r) Amy Mann, Joselyn Gago, Erica Sonn, Michelle Yellin, Tom Lonardo, Sharon Alexander, Palm Beach County Commissioner Robert Weinroth, Angela Fisher, Juliette Ezagui, Marjorie Bernstein and Gregory Fried. Photo provided by Mitchell Zachs

Annual Friends Members’ Dessert Reception
Kravis Center, West Palm Beach — Nov. 6

Nearly 700 Kravis Center supporters celebrated the reopening of the performing arts center with a champagne toast and sweet treats. Taking place prior to the evening’s performance of ‘The Simon & Garfunkel Story,’ the event featured a wide array of desserts and drinks. ‘We have come a long way to improve and enhance our patrons’ experience here at the Kravis Center, and we owe it all to our donors, who are like family,’ CEO Judith Mitchell said. Annual Friends each contribute a yearly gift of $100 or more. LEFT: (l-r) Fabiola Brumley, Jeff Stoops and Mitchell. Photo provided by CAPEHART
Chef Dak takes his Jewell Bistro to oceanfront hotel

Big news for fans of Dak Kerprich, the chef who originally made his chops with South County diners at Pizzeria Oceano in Lantana.

The owner of Jewell Bistro on Dixie Highway in Lake Worth Beach plans to move across the bridge.

Jewell Beach is taking over Sergio’s in the Ambassador Hotel, a Palm Beach co-op that will become a boutique hotel under the ownership of the Richard Schlesinger family.

Kerprich is setting up a deal that puts him in as the operator of the 150-seat restaurant with patio space and a full bar. Marsha Kerprich, his wife and business partner, will handle the front of house as well as pastries.

Upgrades are planned as the main oceanfront hotel was built in 1947, with buildings added in the 1960s.

The new owners are making cosmetic changes for this season: “painting, new furniture, things like that,” Kerprich said. New ceilings and floors have been installed. A major renovation is planned for the following year, he said.

The oceanfront location makes it that much more relevant, he said. “The burger will be the only red meat. No other red meat — seafood and vegetables will be the main focus,” he said. “Light and casual.”

A grab-and-go or continental breakfast will be offered featuring Marsha’s pastries.

A Sunday brunch set around the pool is planned once the place is up and running. Restaurant guests will be able to use the pool as well.

Live music, bingo and other activities are being discussed as part of the Sunday brunch, making it a party-like setting.

“We’ll be modern casual. It’s still all about the views that feel like you’re on a cruise ship! This building is east Delray’s most desired buildings. Enjoy direct intracoastal views that feel like you’re on a cruise ship!” Kerprich said. The patio at Jewell Beach, in the Ambassador Hotel, will offer sunset views.

The latest celeb chef to open in South County is Michael Salmon, a former finalist on the Food Network’s “The Next Food Network Star” and ‘24 Hour Restaurant Challenge.”

His Flybird on Linton in Delray Beach is drawing attention for its simple menu centered on char-grilled chicken and flavorful side dishes.

Salmon has chefied for then-Mayor Ed Koch in New York and led the kitchen at Mickey Mantle’s — a former sports bar near Central Park once a watering hole for the Yankee and his buddies.

His talents got him to the finals on Food Network contests that produced other stars such as the Hearty Boys Dan Smith and Steve McDonough, Guy Fieri and Jason Smith.

Salmon is living in Delray Beach. He opened the chicken takeout in May with the thought of making a chef-created meal to respond to an “I don’t want to cook tonight” demand. With an average meal around $15.95, it’s not fast food, but fast-casual and chef-created.

Everything from Mexican Vacation Soup (chicken, hominy, poblano, jalapeño, cilantro and tomatillos) to desserts (chocolate pecan tart, or sugar-gluten-free dairy-free mango-tapioca pudding) are made in house.

On the menu front and center are the chickens — dry-brined to keep the meat moist and flavor infused, then cooked to a char over a wood-fired grill. The birds start out as vegan-fed, with no preservatives, hormones or other additives. They’re

The COASTAL STAR

January 2020
available as a quarter-, half- or whole-bird meal.

More chicken: Crispy — fried served on a potato bun; in a pie — char-grilled pulled chicken with mac 'n' cheese, gravy, hot sauce and crowned with his lofty, buttery mashed potatoes; on a salad — char-grilled on either Greek or Caesar.

Flatbread made in-house is served as a side, and with encouragement, maybe he’ll turn it into a dish of its own — diners rave about it singly in reviews.

Sides are taken to that hands-on-chef level: house crispy fried potato chips, those mashed potatoes with gravy, coleslaw, char-grilled vegetables, roasted beets and wild mushrooms with herbs.

Salmon, whom you can find behind the line stoking the grill, has a mantra emblazoned on his website and spelled out on the shop’s uniform T-shirts: "Just feed me."

According to lore, it stems from his college days when he was the DC — designated cook — for friends. It always seemed to be the answer to his question, "What do you want to eat?"

Now, he’s doing just that for the public.

Flybird, 335 E. Linton Blvd., Delray Beach. 243-1111; www.flybirdfood.com. Open Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; closed Sunday.

In brief: A new "restaurant-driven complex" at the corner of Butts and Town Center roads in Boca Raton is planned. A call for upscale Mexican, American, Italian and sushi restaurants was issued by the developers. Spaces are large: four 5,000-square-foot spaces plus patios are available. … A new chef is in place at 3rd and 3rd in Delray Beach. Emerson Frisbie, most recently of West Palm Beach’s Butcher Shop, will be taking over the stoves at the bar and grill. …

Boca Bacchanal 2020’s schedule has been announced, and tickets are on sale. Events are slated each month leading up to the main events March 6 and 7. Visit www.bocabacchanal.com for info and tickets. …

Owners of Farmer’s Table, a “clean and green food” themed restaurant in Boca’s Weston Hotel, opened a second one in the rebuilt North Palm Beach Country Club. It debuted in December. Others, we’re told, are in the planning stages.

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Michael Salmon grills chicken, the centerpiece of his Flybird restaurant menu in Delray Beach. Photo provided

The Plate: Antipasto for one
The Place: The Hive Bar and Grill, 618 Lantana Road, Lantana; 513-9168 or www.thehivebarandgrill.com.

The Price: $9

The Skinny: For many years, the building at Lantana Road and Sixth Street was home to Pearl’s. But Pearl went on to her reward and The Hive is filling some of the void in Lantana for a community gathering space for lunch, dinner and late-night crowds.

It was quiet the Friday afternoon I visited — four tables of folks who clearly were regulars at The Hive were having a grand time. A cup of the chili ($4) delivered a hearty helping of stew, packed with beans and ground beef that had a slightly smoky flavor. It also was packed with onion and red peppers. The antipasto for one ($9) really was enough for two, with plenty of crisp, fresh romaine, plus salami, black olives, roasted peppers, tomatoes, pickled artichokes, pepperoncini, strips of pepperoncini peppers. The sweet, tangy dressing that accompanied was a perfect foil to the salty meat, cheese and crisp veggies.

— Scott Simmons

Dining

An antipasto from an unexpected place

Michael Salmon grills chicken, the centerpiece of his Flybird restaurant menu in Delray Beach. Photo provided

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— Scott Simmons
Continued from page A11

level, looks at the impact it had on journalism and our political landscape," Landman said.

He pitched the documentary to people at CNN Films, and they went for it. In August before the Nov. 15 theatrical release, distributor Magnolia Pictures acquired the North American rights to Scandalous.

The movie uses current-day interviews with former staffers and others to explain why the paper has thrived, the effect of its cloistered, sometimes partisan politics, and why a tabloid handbook to "Missy Smith in Kansas City" began acquiring exclusive rights stories about powerful people and then killing the stories to protect them.

In its coverage of Elvis Presley's death to Monica Lewinsky's affair with Bill Clinton to O.J. Simpson's murder trial, the tabloid shook the foundations of American culture and politics, sometimes allegiance to his godfather, reputed mob
director and underworld figure Joe Valenti. It also had an unknown philanthropist.

Ballour was a huge at the tabloid. When I asked Rose Kennedy for advice, she said, "I was quite a little favorite with Pope from then on," Ballour said.

Balfour was working as a "I was used to celebs screaming at me on the phone, but when Princess Di died, it got real ugly. It was going to cast a dark eye on you and fire you," he said. Wright was working as one of the stars of Scandalous, as are others from South Palm Beach County — including Ocean Ridge Mayor Steve Coz, once the tabloid's editor and senior vice president; his wife, Val Coz, a real estate agent with Douglas Elliman and former photo editor at the Enquirer; and British investigative reporter Wright, who lives in Atlantis.

Former employees like film Val Coz

"I have to think it was the JonBenét Ramsey murder," Wright said. "I was quite a little favorite with Pope from then on," Ballour said.

Balfour, who worked for Pope from 1971 to 1980, is one of the few people who knew Pope from his days in the New York tabloids. He was a huge hit at the tabloid. "I was quite a little favorite with Pope from then on," Ballour said.

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Must See

**Poetry**
Native American Joy Harjo, the U.S. poet laureate, to appear at annual festival. Page AT14

**Reviews**
A stellar adaptation of the classic 'Little Women,' in theaters now. Page AT15

**Books**
Writer who inspired 'True Blood' comes to Delray. Page AT16

Collectibles
FAU in Boca Raton will host huge Depression glass show. Page AT18

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**Art**

**INDELIBLE INK**

Exhibit of prints at The Four Arts shows the humor and humanity of Rembrandt

By Gretel Sarmiento
Palm Beach ArtsPaper Art Writer

A striking candlelight effect may be the loudest marking of one of the greatest artists in the history of art, but a new exhibit extinguishes it in favor of his other theatrical — and humane — sensibilities.

Detail-soaked biblical passages, scenes of street life and portraits of the distinguished and the marginalized have aligned at the Society of the Four Arts to resurrect a Dutch master's groundbreaking etchings. Rembrandt van Rijn, the most revered among Holland's Golden Age artists, may be best known for his dramatic use of light but it is his printmaking methods that Rembrandt: The Sign and the Light focuses on through Feb. 2. Featuring 69 prints that also include landscapes and self-portraits, the exhibition marks the 350th anniversary of Rembrandt's death in 1669.

The heightened expression of the protagonist in Man Crying Out, Three Quarters Left: Bust is one of the distinctive characteristics of Rembrandt's etchings. Rembrandt ramps up the emotions erupting out of the unkempt bearded man, who is seen REMBRANDT on page AT12

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**Music**

Why live-music venues are dying out

By Bill Meredith
ArtsPaper Music Writer

There have been times, some relatively recently, when Palm Beach County seemed to actually flirt with having a creative live music scene that featured full bands playing original material.

Now is not such a time.

Between the influx of noise ordinances, worded to imply that music is equitable to 'noise,' and implemented to counteract the growing number of outdoor live music venues; ever-popular acoustic solo artists and duos, cover bands and tribute acts, and deejays, the number of area bands playing original compositions seems purposely stifled.

One need only to look back 10 years or so to see when things were different, and where things started to turn, in a couple of disparate Palm Beach County towns: small Lake Worth Beach in the center of the county and sprawling Jupiter to the north.

In Lake Worth Beach, open town forums debating a proposed noise ordinance in 2010 routinely featured 90% of speakers who were in opposition. Many who spoke in favor were, predictably, the retired owners of the small, antiquated homes surrounding the downtown east-west thoroughfares of Lake and Lucerne avenues. The seemingly pre-ordained ordinance passed, helping to result in the dissolution of popular open air live music sites like South Shores Tavern (on Lucerne Avenue) and Havana Hideout (on Lake).

Even the popular 'Evening on the Avenues' events, which once featured live bands on the first and third Fridays of every month on the Cultural Plaza stage between Lake and Lucerne, are no more.

"With an outdoor venue, it's only logical to assume its intended purpose is for the sound to extend out," says Lake Worth-based singing solo flamenco drummer Steve Kornicks bemoans the loss of creativity and originality on the local music scene. Photo by Bill Meredith

See LIVE MUSIC on page AT13

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Boynton Beach Historical Society
235 SW 6th Avenue, Boynton Beach, 33435
11am-3pm • First Presbyterian Church
January 18th

Doretha Hair Truesdell
Mary Ann Carroll
Al Black
Featuring the Original Artists
Florida Highwaymen
Women Composers
String quartets by
Friday, Jan. 24, 7:30pm

Two Intimate Concerts "In the Round"
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Curtis Arnett
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Lee Knight
Robert Lewis
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Doretha Hair Truesdell
January 18th
11am-3pm • First Presbyterian Church
235 SW 6th Avenue, Boynton Beach, 33435
Co sponsored by the Boynton Beach Historical Society and the Boynton Woman's Club

REMBRANDT
Continued from page 11
portrayed mouth half-open in an afflicted state.
The artist often borrowed from his own likeness to compose etchings of street characters and several pieces here remind us of what he looked like. The north gallery contains one of the most famous: Self-Portrait Leaning on a Stone Sill.
Dressed in an elaborate period costume and positioned in a confident pose looking straight at us, a long-haired Rembrandt emulates esteemed painters who preceded him. The self-portrait quotes two well-known portraits: Raphael's Portrait of Baldassare Castiglione, and Titian's Man with a Quilted Sleeve.
The Pancake Woman offers up a touching snapshot of everyday Dutch life through an elderly woman tasked with the essential function of producing food while hungry customers pile up and hover over her. She is worn out, exhausted and too busy for distractions; not even a dog's attempt to steal a child's pancake manages to disrupt her concentration. Rembrandt underscores the woman's relevance by making her figure stand out from the crowd via her darkened shape mirrors the shadow and light. They are also larger in scale.
One of the most evocative takes narrates the precise moment Jacob hears that his son Joseph has been killed by a wild animal. Delivering the news in Joseph's Coat Brought to Jacob are Joseph's half-brothers, who, blinded by jealousy, sold him into slavery and fabricated a tragic story.
A horrified Jacob raises his arms in agony and pulls away from the coat dripping goat's blood that the siblings have brought as proof of the tragedy. Standing over him in shock is Jacob's aunt, Leah, who stares open-mouthed.
Throughout his career, Rembrandt produced more than 300 etchings, engravings, and dry points. Printmaking's most obvious benefit is saving time because one matrix can generate multiple impressions; an advantage the artist rendered null in some cases by spending years modifying a single image. Incessant direct observations and a close study of people and everyday life are said to be important contributors to the artistic genius of this prolific painter and portraitist. The show reveals several layers of his multi-step technique, including working nearly the entire surface of a plate to hold a vast volume of ink.
The nocturnal scenes resulting from this exercise are the highlight of The Sign and the Light even if they are the most difficult to appreciate. They are unexpected, almost useless if it weren't for their cleverness. If they were squeezed of their ink, they would easily feed several lighter prints. A student's gaze manages to filter through the darkness and penetrate the plane to make eye contact in Student at a Table by Candlelight, judging by the hand he draws to his temple, he has been at it for a while. A single candle aids his scholarly efforts. Upon close inspection, we realize the young man hasn't actually remained fixated on the book opened before him and so the intimacy of the moment is preserved.

This is among Rembrandt's sharpest skills; the ability to elevate private and public moments and anonymous faces with a mystique that doesn't yield a drop of intensity no matter how long the descriptions unraveling the intentions and the setting.
The Bamboo Room, one of South Florida’s best rooms for original touring and local acts in its initial 1999-2008 incarnation in Lake Worth, reopened in 2011. Yet the upstairs club subsequently closed; opened again in 2015, closed; reopened in 2018 and then closed again, all before its current incarnation — as a private party rental venue that features almost exclusively deejays for its themed nights, mostly R&B or Latin music.

Deejays have become increasingly popular with venue owners and managers, and have practically taken over over wedding receptions from live bands. They have nearly every recorded song at their fingertips; often cost less than a full band, and can control their volume. Not that they’re always asked to play; the Bamboo Room, like other South Florida clubs feature both deejays and live bands, the latter of which are consistently asked to turn down. Then a deejay takes over, pumps up the volume to stadium level with no volume complaints, and the dance floor fills with people who would never dance to live original music specifically because they find it unpredicatable.

The definition of a non-music scene is one in which people often want to hear what they’ve heard before. Dancers’ only thoughts are about what might happen later with their dance partners, or whether anything is going on the floor. Coincidentally or not, the genre became more popular after commercialization was eliminated in public schools.

As a partial result, venues and series from Boynton Beach and Lake Worth, such as the Funky Biscuit in Boca Raton, have included much larger crowds attracted to their shows at the indoor Boca Raton venue.

The Funky Biscuit Allstars have no problem with the large crowds attracted to their shows at the indoor Boca Raton venue.

Photo by Jay Skolnick

The Funky Biscuit Allstars have no problem with the large crowds attracted to their shows at the indoor Boca Raton venue.

Ocean scene is one in which people only want to hear what they’ve heard before. Dancers’ only thoughts are about what might happen later with their dance partners, or whether anything is going on the floor. Coincidentally or not, the genre became more popular after commercialization was eliminated in public schools.

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Photo by Jay Skolnick
Joy Harjo, the current U.S. poet laureate, will take part in the 2020 Palm Beach Poetry Festival. Photo provided

Poetry

Poetry festival salutes art of saying the unsayable

By Christina Wood
ArtsPaper Contributing Writer

Angela Narciso Torres admits she wrote some pretty bad poetry when she was a kid. Unlike countless other teens pouring out their hearts or communing with their angst in late-night writing sessions, however, Torres returned to poetry later in life.

She was living in New York with a husband and kids of her own, when she decided to sign up for a creative writing course. “I could not write a short story to save my life,” she says. The last section of the course covered poetry, however. “I was surprised; I was really into it.”

Of all the literary genres, Torres says poetry is the hardest to explain. “Poems are used at weddings and funerals because there are a lot of things in life that are unsayable,” she says. “The language has to not only have a good fit in terms of sound and sense, but it also has to be fresh. It’s figurative writing, it’s metaphor, it’s language that can elicit emotion.”

Torres is the recipient of the 2019 Yeats Poetry Prize and was a finalist in the 2019 Frost Place Chapbook Competition. Her second collection, What Happens Is Neither, will be published in March 2021, while a new chapbook, To the Bone, is due out next month.

Torres is on the faculty of the Palm Beach Poetry Festival, which returns to Old School Square in Delray Beach on Jan. 20-25. The festival, now in its 16th year, presents leading poets at a number of public events, including readings, talks and panel discussions. Poetry workshops are also offered.

For the second time in its history, the festival will be hosting a sitting U.S. poet laureate. Joy Harjo, the festival’s special guest this year, was selected for the position about a month after her participation in the festival was announced. “We could not be more thrilled to congratulate and welcome Joy Harjo, whose poetry often merges the global and the personal, and the imagery of the natural world with that of the inner one,” Patricia Smith, the author of eight books of poetry and a finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize, is the festival’s poet at large. Her evening appearance at the festival will be Jan. 24.

“The Palm Beach Poetry Festival is once again offering a nationally recognized, world-class learning opportunity with more than a dozen of America’s most engaging and award-winning poets,” Williamson says. “In addition to our workshops, the festival brings the voices of America’s most beloved living poets to the Crest Theatre stage. We work hard to present a diverse group of poetic voices, each expressing in their poems what we sometimes find inexpressible.”
Reviews

Two American tales a century apart, but with compelling, modern themes

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

Ordinary Americans (Palm Beach Dramaworks, through Jan. 5)

Quick, name a pioneering comic actress from the early days of television. Chances are you mentioned Lucille Ball, but before we loved Lucy there was Gertrude Berg, who not only starred in The Goldbergs — the first exposure to Jewish family life for many Americans — but also wrote, directed and produced the entire series, as she had previously done on radio for two decades.

That would be reason enough to celebrate Berg with a nostalgic play, but T. Edgar & Emily (Palm Beach Dramaworks) aptly delineates the two worlds of Berg and Goldberg, and costume designer Brian O’Keefe also helps the contrast between the humble clothing of the TV family and the well-heeled real-life professionals.

Dramaworks has focused on developing new plays in recent seasons, and Ordinary Americans is the most satisfying result of such efforts. Subsequent productions — and there should be many — would be well advised to seek out Dimon to anchor their casts.

— Hap Erstein

Little Women (opened Dec. 25)

In a word, Greta Gerwig’s adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s coming-of-age family saga is ravishing. A masterly follow-up to the director’s masterly Lady Bird, Little Women extends this auteur’s insightful consideration of young adulthood, furthering her affiliations for young women who chafe against society’s strictures.

Gerwig has structured an ambitious bifurcated narrative that oscillates between the characters’ young adulthood, after three of the sisters have left the March family home, and a formative period seven years earlier, when they all lived together as the Civil War wound bloody close.

This approach allows past and present to rhyme in ways that sacrifice and patriotism ripple across its canvas like leitmotifs.

The stellar cast includes Laura Dern as Marmee March; Meryl Streep as the caustic Aunt March; and Bob Odenkirk as Father March.

The fabulous script should be the one to beat for the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar, while Gerwig should not be overlooked as director, either. She has crafted a fully immersive world in which every element, from production design to costumes to acting, exceeds expectations. — ArtsPaper Staff
Thriller writer to meet fans in Delray Beach

By Sharon Geltner
ArtsPaper Contributing Writer

Thanks to a long ago favor by a local businesswoman, New York Times bestselling author Charlaine Harris will stop at the Murder on the Beach Mystery Bookstore in Delray Beach to promote her latest thriller, A Longer Fall. She’ll be there Saturday, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m. The store is at 104 W. Atlantic Ave.

Harris is best known as the author of the Southern Vampire Mysteries series, which inspired HBO’s True Blood series, which ran from 2008 through 2014. That show featured telepathic Louisiana waitress Sookie Stackhouse, who dates a vampire and consorts with supernatural creatures including, werewolves, vampires and shifters.

Alan Ball, creator of HBO’s Six Feet Under, produced the series. “My last tour starts in Texarkana, Texas. I requested to visit Murder on the Beach, because when it was very early in my career, the store supported my career. I try to pay back,” Harris said.

In 2001, Joanne Sinchuk, then-owner and founder of the bookshop, invited Harris to sign books at their Miami Book Fair booth. Sinchuk saved Harris from hotel bills by hosting her and three other authors at home. “Today, Sinchuk manages the store, which is owned by David Wulf, Booksmart Enterprises owner.”

“That was so extraordinary, I never forget it,” Harris said.

The book Harris was promoting before her game changer, Dead Until Dark.

“Charlaine’s very first Sookie Stackhouse book had the Murder on the Beach. It was doing very well, but no one knew the author and there was no TV show,” Sinchuk recalls.

Since then, Harris has had three television series based on her books. Besides HBO’s True Blood, NBC is airing this season the Midnight, Texas mini-series, based on her Midnight Crossroad trilogy. The Hallmark Movies and Mysteries Channel shows her Aurora Teagarden Mysteries.

“I’ve seen Charlaine five more times at mystery conferences, including Sleuthfest in Fort Lauderdale. Every time, she tells everybody how I let her stay at my house,” Sinchuk said. “She remembers. She is such a sweetheart.”

Harris will chat with fans about A Longer Fall, a dystopian action thriller taking place in an alternate future in which FDR was assassinated. The United States has split into five regions, including Dixie, Texoma and a Russian empire known as the author.

“My contract is for three books in the Gunnie Rose series and I’ve just finished the third,” Harris said. “I think Simon & Schuster will want more.”

Deborah Dauphinee

Our Top 10 picks in theater and film for 2019

By Hap Erstein
ArtsPaper Critic

Theater

It was an odd year at the theater in South Florida. Try as I might to include them in the year’s best, two of the region’s most reliable companies — Malitz Jupiter Theatre and GableStage — failed to make the cut of the top 10.

But there was good news in 2019, like the following highlights of the season:

1. A Streetcar Named Desire (Palm Beach Dramaworks) — Given the head start of one of Tennessee Williams’ greatest plays, PBD demonstrated why the play captures us with a top-notch production lyrically directed by Barry Lewis, and a memorable performance by Kathy McCarthy as the emotionally fragile Blanche DuBois.

2. Funny Girl (West Theatre) — This bio-musical of Folies star Fanny Brice is rarely revived due to inevitable comparisons to La Streisand, but The Wick found its star in the remarkable Stephanie Maloney, who single-handedly pulled the production into the winner’s circle.

3. Dear Evan Hansen (Broward Center) — This tale of high school angst and a social media lie that goes viral is a surprisingly heartfelt and a social media lie that goes viral is a surprisingly heartfelt and artfully unconventional staging.

4. Andy and the Orphans (Primal Forces) — Perhaps the most authentic performance of the season came from Edward Barbanell, a Down syndrome adult playing a similarly afflicted character in a dismally comic yarn of parental loss and offset memorial services, a surprisingly heartfelt production from this usually edger company.

5. Crazy for You (West Theatre) — Charismatic hoofer Matt Loehr tackled Mark Haddon’s wildly imaginative novel of teenage, autistic, math whiz Christopher (brilliantly twirly Ryan D’Hoto), the family’s newb coworker, Matthew Sherlock Holmes, and succeeded with an artfully unconventional staging.

6. The Irishman — A culmination of diaristic movie yet, starring Martin Scorsese’s The Irishman, Netflix photo

FILM

Streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime will play a major qualitative role in awards and best lists, if no box office, this year. Everything looks better on a theater screen rather than your home TV, but a film like Martin Scorsese’s epic, 3½-hour The Irishman — the best film of 2019 — seems designed for home viewing.

Here are my top 10, highly subjective choices for 2019:

1. The Irishman — A culmination of everything director Scorsese has done in his half-century-long career.

A suppositional talk of Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa’s demise, with stellar performances by Robert De Niro, Al Pacino and particularly Joe Pesci.

2. Marriage Story — Yes, a more accurate title would be Divorce Story, but that might cut down on viewership. Stars Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver give career-best work as the parting couple, turned contentious by their lawyers.

3. Pain and Glory — Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar crafts an autobiographical movie yet, starring longtime collaborator Antonio Banderas as a fictional version of the filmmaker, creatively blocked late in his career.

4. Once Upon a Time in Hollywood — Quentin Tarantino’s output has been erratic, but he is back on top in this epic tale of bygone Tinseltown, with Leo DiCaprio as a western star and Brad Pitt as his go-for and stand-in. His screenplay, compelling if confusing, moves inexorably to the Sharon Tate murder by charismatic Charles Manson and his cult.

5. A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood — Fred Rogers’ neighborhood to be precise, yet the uncanny impersonation by Tom Hanks takes a back seat to Matthew Rhys (The Americans) as a cynical magazine writer, assigned against his will to interview the children’s show host and finds himself transformed by the experience.

6. Parasite — The wealth gap is distressingly universal, as South Korean director Bong Joon-ho shows in this darkly satirical look at two families — one crazy rich and the other poor but clever — played by a remarkable ensemble.

7. The Farewell — Comic actress Awkwafina (Crazy Rich Asians, Ocean’s 8) is a revelation in this dramatic leading role, as a young woman who draws to embrace her cultural roots when she goes to China with her family to celebrate the life of her cancer-stricken grandmother.

8. Jojo Rabbit — What would you get if you crossed The Producers with Diary of Anne Frank? Yes, a Holocaust comedy, with debuting Roman Griffin Davis as his jowly scene-stealer John Lithgow. Peace and Glory

9. The Farewell — Comic actress Awkwafina (Crazy Rich Asians, Ocean’s 8) is a revelation in this dramatic leading role, as a young woman who draws to embrace her cultural roots when she goes to China with her family to celebrate the life of her cancer-stricken grandmother.

10. Bombshell — Fox News fans may not be persuaded, but “fair and balanced” viewers should recognize the stark performances of Charлизe Theron, Nicole Kidman and Margot Robbie as the trio of blonde lookers at the network who brought down serial sexual abuser Roger Ailes (jowly scene-stealer John Lithgow).
Don’t Miss

For January: Area stages to host giants of musical genre

Palm Beach ArtsPaper Staff

Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition, Jan 14-26, Lynn University, Boca Raton

Hamilton 1 Jan. 28-Feb. 16 in Boca Raton

Opera

The musical that’s become a modern-day phenomenon — Hamilton, the story of a West Indies native who became the right-hand man of Gen. George Washington during the Revolutionary War — has finally arrived in West Palm Beach.

The multi-award winner featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B, and Broadway, Hamilton is the story of America then, as told by America now.

The smash Broadway hit Hamilton hits the Kravis Center on Jan. 28, by Photo: Jacob Joseph

Calendrier des événements pour Broadway, Hamilton, qui a fait son entrée dans les salles de spectacles en 2015, sera de retour à la salle Kravis Center, à West Palm Beach, du 28 janvier au 1er février 2023.

Le spectacle est un mélange de musique, de rap, de jazz et de blues, et est créé par le producteur Lin-Manuel Miranda. Il raconte l’histoire de George Washington et des autres fondateurs des États-Unis, de manière contemporaine et innovante.

Le spectacle était initialement présenté à Broadway, mais a ensuite remporté de nombreux prix et a reçu des critiques élogieuses. Il est devenu l’un des spectacles de Broadway les plus populaires de tous les temps.

Hamilton, Hamilton, Hamilton...
The Florida Highwaymen are a group of African-American painters from the Fort Pierce area who produced paintings of Florida landscapes beginning in the late 1950s. Several of the original artists are scheduled to appear at the second annual Show & Sale. Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; there is no entry charge or parking fee. **ABOVE:** Artist Doretha Hair Truesdell and Boynton Beach Historical Society President Randall Gill at the 2019 show. Photo provided

**Depression glass show comes to Boca**

By Scott Simmons

Boca Raton long ago made a name for itself as a playground of the elite.

And Depression glass was the dinner and barware of the masses.

But the city is proving to be a more affordable venue than cities in Miami-Dade and Broward counties for one of the state’s biggest shows of the glassware, Jan. 25-26 at Florida Atlantic University. **“I think we’re getting out-priced for space a little farther south. We’ve also been competing with the Super Bowl. It’s going to be in Miami, so things are increasing rather quickly,” said Greg Xiggoros, president of the South Florida Depression Glass Club and a Boynton Beach resident.**

He says FAU should be a good fit for the show, now in its 46th iteration. The show slowly has been moving its way north, from an armory in North Miami to the War Memorial Auditorium in Fort Lauderdale to Emma Lou Olson Civic Center in Pompano Beach, where it had been held for a decade.

The exhibition hall in which the show will be held is a new space, and it’s better located for vendors and shoppers from points north.

And it’s not just your grandmother’s pink or green Depression glass.

Xiggoros promises that the 21 vendors, who come from across the country, will offer plenty of glassware and pottery you won’t see elsewhere.

Then, there is this year’s theme: “Nudes in Glass.”

It sounds risqué, but the Depression era also was the Art Deco era, with motifs of stylized nymphae and goddesses, so it’s not all that far-fetched.

“There’s at least 14 steps to make. So it goes with collecting. It’s been 21 years of getting out scholarships.”

He’s been collecting Elegant glass for about a decade — his mom’s set of Fostoria Chintz was the first piece in my collection.

The Roseville display, of Ohio pottery, will be a 100-piece collection. Xiggoros says he started collecting Roseville in 1970.

“That’s when we amassed the big collection. I sold 300 pieces at an auction to establish a scholarship in perpetuity at its height in value,” he said. “That scholarship still exists today. It’s been 21 years of getting out scholarships.”

**If You Go**

**Antique Vintage Glass and Pottery Show & Sale**

Featuring “Nudes in Glass: This Ain’t Your Grandma’s Glass Show”

**When:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 25 and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 26.

**Where:** Florida Atlantic University, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton (GPS address is 1995 Dade Ave., Boca)  
Cost: $5 with card or ad, $6 without; early buying 9-10 a.m. Saturday. 510  
Info: www.sfdgc.com or Showinfo@SFDGC.com

The glass that most folks think of, it’s called really A to Z Depression glass,” Xiggoros said. “The items that were found in cereal boxes, inside movie theater giveaways, inside laundry detergent. It’s a pressed glass with a raised design. And we have major dealers showing that type of glass.”

But Depression-era glassware wasn’t just items given as premiums.

“There were still the families that could afford the Heisey, the Morgantown, the Fostoria, and that tends to be a lot lighter in weight, a lot more delicate, a lot more work,” he said of the glassware collectors have dubbed “Elegant” glass. “One of the stems of Fostoria alone took 14 steps to make.”

There also will be plenty of that so-called Elegant glass, as well as such pottery as Homer Laughlin’s Fiestaware and Roseville.

And Grandma wouldn’t be totally shocked at the show — there will be plenty of the pink and green Depression glass that she used every day.

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He’s been collecting Elegant glass for about a decade — his mom’s set of Fostoria Chintz pattern was the impetus.

Xiggoros has since branched out, courtesy of a shop in St. Petersburg.

“I looked on a shelf and there was a cocktail stem called Adonis and it had a green stem and foot and the glass bowl had Roman soldiers in three different poses. That was the first piece in my collection. And after that it was procure, procure, procure. So it goes with collecting.**
1/8 - The Jews of Iran: From Persian to Muslim. Part of One-Time Event Series at FAU Osher Lifelong Learning Society. 3-4 pm. Free with museum admission. Reservations: 655-2766; fourarts.org

1/8 - The Beatles tribute at Elbo’s. $10 O.G.; $14 O.G. and 2 drink minimum. Cash only. 954-7729; elbo.com


1/8 - Scott Pippins Improved Test Drive Class at Organic Driven, 2400 NW Raja Dr., Boca Raton. 10 am-noon. Free. 495-3880; organicdriven.com

1/8 - The Good Life - Tool of the Year: How the Jews, the Jews, and the Jews from Moscow to Jerusalem Gave Birth to the American Piano - LIVE! at Temple Sinai of Palm Beach. 2240 N Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. 7-9:30 pm. $6 at the door. 731-3119; boyntonlibrary.org

1/8 - Color Create Craft Program at the Studio of the Arts, 426 S. County Rd., West Palm Beach. Free for ages 5-10. Every Thursday from 3-5 pm. For price. 588-2450; jenisonparker.com

1/8 - Tapestry: The Carole King Songbook Competition Final Round & Awards Ceremony at Lynn University Wold Performing Arts Center, 3601 North University Blvd., Boca Raton. Sat 7:30 pm. $40 reserved; $30 general admission. Reservations: 561-299-3800; lwoldarts.org

1/8 - Beach House Comedy Club - The Colleolting Story with Mary Robinette Kowal at Boca Raton Public Library, 2400 NW Raja Dr., Boca Raton. 8-10 pm. $22, buy two get one free. 495-3880; boca-raton.library.fl.us

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Lantana opens the area's newest greenmarket

By Linda Haase

Lantana’s Bicentennial Park has stunning Intracoastal views, a gorgeous gazebo, shaded picnic tables, benches and a playground. And as if this gem wasn’t special enough, the park opened its inaugural year in mid-November. Each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as many as 32 vendors share their handmade and innovative creations.

Chatting with merchants — “very friendly and passionate about their wares — enhances the experience,” Herrera says. “You can learn a lot about a product when you meet the person behind the product.”

Among the offerings are producing vendors such as candles, shell art, cheeses, spices, sarongs and much more. “It’s fun. Come for breakfast and stay for lunch: There’s a vegan bakery, authentic Bahamian dishes like chicken soup and conch salad, crepe stands, shrimp and grits and more (hurry yet!).”

One of those serving up tasty treats is Shilatian Sanchez, who owns the bencheshke store at Nana’s Southern Kitchen & Country Store. It resembles a country store, restaurant, right down to the wood paneling, homey curtains and red-and-white checkered tablecloths. The tempting aroma from the Lantana Greenmarket is made from scratch and to-order shrimp and grits, triple-decker grilled cheese sandwiches and Draggin’ Mamas BBQ, where your food goes through the air. Also available at her booth are homemade jams and jellies. The 30 flavors are: jalapeño, mint, fig, tropical and orange marmalade. “My pies don’t come from a book. They are custom made and big on flavor,” says Sanders.

LANTANA JANUARY 12-18 Sunday - 1/12 - 42nd Oshogatsu: A New Year’s Celebration! 11 am-1:30 pm. Free. Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach. Traditional New Year’s Day event held each January 1. Curtains and red-and-white checkered tablecloths. The tempting aroma from the Lantana Greenmarket is made from scratch and to-order shrimp and grits, triple-decker grilled cheese sandwiches and Draggin’ Mamas BBQ, where your food goes through the air. Also available at her booth are homemade jams and jellies. The 30 flavors are: jalapeño, mint, fig, tropical and orange marmalade. “My pies don’t come from a book. They are custom made and big on flavor,” says Sanders.

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ATT22 Community Calendar

THE COASTAL STAR

January 2020

29-31: Tetu at Levis JCC/All/All
5/15: Spotlight No. III: The Art of the Four Arts at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100/100 Atlantic Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 266-4949; delraylibrary.org
5/16: Craft Talks with Nicole Brown & Brenda ciccone at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100/100 Atlantic Ave. Adults. 10:30 am-noon. Free. 266-4949; delraylibrary.org
5/17: Kill Reading with Nicole Brown, Jessica Jacobs, Adam Matjaka & Maggie Smith at Crest Theatre at Old School Square Pavilion, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 2:30 pm. $20/age 13-20; $10/member. 243-9722; oldschoolsquare.com
5/19: The Origins of Byzantium with Charles L.挝nathan at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100/100 Atlantic Ave. Adults. Part of The Society of the Four Arts Library. 7-8:30 pm. $60/annual member; $100/non-member. 805-8562; fourarts.org
5/19: The Thomas Wolfe Memorial Poetry Reading sessions with Joy Joaquin at Crest Theatre at Old School Square Pavilion, 51 N Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 2:30 pm. $20/age 13-20; $10/member. 243-9722; oldschoolsquare.com


**January 2020**

**THE COASTAL STAR**

**Community Calendar**

**AT 23**

**Old School Square, 51 S. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Part of Palm Beach Poetry Festival. 8-10 pm. Free. 243-7922; x4050@oldschoolsquare.org**

**Thursday - 1/23**

**- Building New Lives Together with Down Right Byes at Cultural Council of Palm Beach County; 88 Lake Ave, Lake Worth. Part of the First Friday Art Walk series. 9-11 pm. 535-member & non-member fee: $29.75. 217-3171, dufy@pwbchamber.org**

**- Hack Proof Yourself: Hack or be Hacked? at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Swinton Ave. Part of One-Time Event Series at The Society of the Four Arts. 10:30 am. Free. 393-7922, library@fourarts.org**

**- Hack Proof Yourself: How to Stop Robocalls at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Swinton Ave. Adults. 10:30 am. Free. 393-7922, library@fourarts.org**

**- The American Political Scene with Rabbi Richard Politz at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Swinton Ave. Part of One-Time Event Series at The Society of the Four Arts. 12:30 pm. Free. 393-7922, library@fourarts.org**

**- Palm Beach Jazz: The Parrot Cove Home Tour at 4900 Old Palm Drive. Tickets start at $35-$50. 237-9000; lynn.tix.com**

**- Annual Oyster Roast Fundraiser at Morikami Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach. Part of One-Time Event Series at The Society of the Four Arts. 6-8 pm. Free. 495-0233 x210; morikami.org**

**- The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess at Old School Square Pavilion, 51 S. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Part of Palm Beach Poetry Festival. 8-10 pm. Free. 243-7922; x4050@oldschoolsquare.org**

**- The Holocaust Film Festival at Lynn University Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall, 777 Glades Rd, Boca Raton. Part of One-Time Event Series at The Society of the Four Arts. 6-7 pm. Free. 237-9000; lynn.tix.com**

**- The Art of Living with Dressed-Down Sharon-Taylor at The Society of the Four Arts, 102 Four Arts Plaza, Delray Beach. 1-3 pm. Free. 495-0233; morikami.org**

**- The Chinese Philosophy of Taoism at Boca Raton Public Library, 700 S. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 7-8 pm. Free. 393-7922; library@fourarts.org**

**- Digital Storytelling at Boca Raton Public Library, 700 S. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10:30 am. Free. 393-7922, library@fourarts.org**

**- The 100 Years Since the 19th Amendment Ceremony at Boca Raton Public Library, 700 S. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10:30 am. Free. 393-7922, library@fourarts.org**

**- Two for the Road: French Poets & Writers at Boca Raton Public Library, 700 S. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10:30 am. Free. 393-7922, library@fourarts.org**

**- Digital Storytelling at Boca Raton Public Library, 700 S. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. 10:30 am. Free. 393-7922, library@fourarts.org**

**- Family Recipes, Family Secrets: A Cookbook of Women's Wisdom at George Wilkins Whitney at Chabot of South Palm Beach, 224 S Ocean Blvd, Manalapan. 7-8 pm. Free. 541-4375, artsong@chabotofspb.org**

**- Free Friday Concert: Spider Cherry at Old School Square Pavilion, 51 S. Swinton Ave, Delray Beach. Part of Palm Beach Poetry Festival. 7-9 pm. Free. 243-7922; x4050@oldschoolsquare.org**

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For those who seek an exceptional life

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As we dip our toes into this fresh new year, may we collectively resolve to forgo resolutions. So put down the pad and pencil, dear reader. Delete that list from your smartphone. It’s 2020 already. Time for a fresh approach.

And who better to show us a new way than Barb Schmidt, the Boca Raton-based mindfulness practitioner, teacher and author of the international bestseller *The Practice: Simple Tools for Managing Stress, Finding Inner Peace, and Uncovering Happiness*. As 2019 came galloping to a close, she stopped to share some thoughts on how to more peacefully and harmoniously navigate the new year.

“About five years ago, my daughter Michelle Maros, who runs Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life with me, said: ‘Mom, you know what I like instead of resolutions? I like setting an intention word that is kind of my guiding star, or my true north, or my highest ideal for the year.’ And I have found that to be magical,” Schmidt said.

See VISION on page H2

Barb Schmidt of Boca Raton recommends taking a fresh approach to setting goals.

Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star
Barb Schmidt leads a seminar with her daughter Michelle Maros. Kicking off 2020 with two popular local events that reinforce the mission of their nonprofit organization Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life: "Furthing inner peace and wellness by educating and inspiring individuals and creating community through mindfulness practices, online resources and programs.

Schmidt, who is also known for her philanthropic work, will lead a four-part meditation study group, beginning Jan. 14, as part of Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life's wellness series at Boca Raton Regional Hospital's Christine E. Lynn Women's Health & Wellness Institute. Since Schmidt and the institute launched the series in April 2016, "we have welcomed nearly 4,000 people into our workshops and reached hundreds more people through our in-house television network," said Maureen Mann, the institute's executive director.

Dr. Patricia Anastasio, a physician with Advanced Pediatrics of Boca, says the Peaceful Mind Peaceful Life programs have been transformational, reducing stress and fatigue. "I now recommend mindfulness training to all of my friends and colleagues as the most important resource for reducing anxiety and preventing burnout," she said.

On Jan. 28, Maria Shriver, TV journalist, author and founder of the Women's Alzheimer's Movement, will join Maros and Schmidt in an evening of conversation at Mindful Boca 2020, at the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center at Lynn University.

"I am over the moon, unbelievably excited to be bringing her in," said Schmidt. "A practitioner of mindfulness and meditation for more than 30 years, Schmidt has been on the inside out, not directed from the outside. It’s like I’m sitting in a place where I really can absolutely handle things difficult, I’m always trustworthy... name one thing that went back and forth. Where, if you go on a diet. Where, if you choose a word, it comes from the inside, not directed from the outside... They meet state of Florida requirements with all caregivers are licensed and insured. All caregivers are experienced in a variety of specialties. From personal care, skilled care to dementia and Alzheimer’s Care, they are available for short-term visits or 24/7 support. All caregivers and licensed insured.

"Mindfulness meditation — just sitting with oneself for no matter how long — is a great way to let that word kind of come back into focus. Why not give it a try? But no mindfulness can transform the other 99%. “Just taking a break is the most powerful thing we can do,” said Schmidt. "It’s truly just finding that space throughout the day where I can be with me for a second here, for a minute there and just notice: What am I feeling? What do I want? What is happening? What am I really, really wanting? What is the world doing for me? It’s like I’m sitting in a place where I really can... From a little bit calm in this moment, Schmidt. "And... just noticing, Wow, I feel really well for you in your day. There’s always something that went well. Find it and name it. And then close your eyes and go to sleep..." She says, “When you can disconnect from technology and disconnect from the external world, even for a minute or two, it realigns your brain. It realigns your ability to be able to maintain and nourish your nervous system.” The students tell her it’s hard to do, but it’s working. “They’re seeing the results of the break, between feeling anxiety and stress and noticing. Wow, I feel a little bit calm in this moment,” Schmidt said. "And... just noticing, I really only need to do that for one minute. And when you try it you see that one minute is pretty powerful. Schmidt says research shows that spending just 14 minutes — or 1% of each day — in mindfulness can transform the other 99%. "Just taking a break is the most powerful thing we can do,” said Schmidt. "It’s truly just finding that space throughout the day where I can be with me for a second here, for a minute there and just notice: What am I feeling? What do I want? What is happening? What am I really, really wanting? What is the world doing for me? It’s like I’m sitting in a place where I really can"
Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation’s $250 million fundraising effort, Keeping the Promise, got an early holiday present. Philanthropists Toby and Leon Cooperman made a $25 million gift to the campaign during a St. Andrews Country Club event in early December.

In recognition of the gift, the hospital’s new Medical Arts Pavilion will be named in their honor. The Coopermans are signers of Warren Buffett’s Giving Pledge effort “to help address society’s most pressing problems by inviting the world’s wealthiest individuals and families to commit to giving more than half of their wealth to philanthropy.” The Coopermans plan to give all their wealth away, to organizations, institutions, and individuals that have made a difference to them. These have included Hunter College in New York City, Columbia University, and St. Barnabas Medical Center. They have also launched the Cooperman College Scholars Program and the Cooperman Family Fund for a Jewish Future.

Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation recently created its Charles Levitetz Advanced Symptom Support and Individualized Care Program at the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Cancer Institute. This program, which was funded through a gift from the Levitetz Family Foundation, intends to offer relief from the symptoms and stress of a serious illness and to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

Boca Raton Regional Hospital, part of Baptist Health South Florida, recently launched a long-term monitoring program for cryptogenic stroke patients to help reduce their risk of a secondary stroke. The stroke team at the Marcus Neuroscience Institute offers the option to insert a small cardiac monitor to capture such things as abnormal heartbeats and rhythms, which often go undetected and can increase stroke risk. The data are relayed to specialty cardiac physicians so that they can promptly initiate treatment when it is required.

The device is implanted using a minimally invasive procedure and lasts up to three years as patients continue their everyday activities.

“Patients that have suffered cryptogenic stroke often have undiagnosed atrial fibrillation or other cardiac complications months after being discharged from a hospital. Traditional programs typically end weeks or even days after the initial stroke,” said Brian Snelling, M.D., medical director of the Marilyn and Stanley Barry Center for Cerebrovascular Disease and Stroke at the neuroscience institute. “The Reveal LINQ system is enabling us to detect heart disturbances on a long-term basis to facilitate proactive treatment when needed.”

Endocrine surgeon Jessica L. Buicko, M.D., has joined Bethesda Health Physician Group. Buicko earned her medical degree at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. She completed a general surgery residency at the University of Miami program at JFK Medical Center. She completed a fellowship in advanced endocrine and metabolic surgery at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Buicko, who is affiliated with Bethesda Hospital East, will see patients in her office, General and Vascular Surgery Specialists, 2800 S. Seacrest Blvd., Suite 200, Boynton Beach.

Jill Shutes, a geriatric nurse practitioner, was named the new vice president of Alzheimer’s Community Care Services. Previously, Shutes worked as an assistant professor of nursing in the graduate nursing program at Palm Beach Atlantic University. She has more than 20 years of experience as a geriatric nurse practitioner working in long-term care, assisted living and skilled nursing facilities throughout South Florida.

Santa Fe Suites, a health care executive-office-suite complex at 306 NE Second St., celebrates its 10th anniversary in Delray Beach. The suites house 22 businesses with spa and health service functions.

— Christine Davis
JANUARY 4
Saturday - 1/4 - Fitness & Sambron: Yoga Class at Sambron Square, 22 N Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Every Sat 9-10 am class. Free: 399-7933; downtownboca.org
1/4 - Kemetic Yoga at Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 110 NE 5th Ave, Delray Beach. Calming, therapeutic yoga using ancient postures/templeings. Bring yoga mat, water, wear comfortable clothing. Every Sat 9:30-10 am. (50)person: 2918833; spadymuseum.com
1/4 - Yoga Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Every Sat 9:30-11 am. 5 classes $75/resident, $94/ non-resident; 10 classes $120/resident, $150/non-resident. 20 classes $200/ resident, $250/non-resident. 477-8722; myboca.us
1/4 - Adult Tai Chi Class at Delray Beach Community Center. 50 NW 1st Ave. Every Sat at 9:00-10:30 am. beginner 10-11:30 am. Per class $15/resident, $17/non-resident. 243-7000 x5091; mydelraybeach.com
1/4 - Welcome New Baby! Sibling Class at Bethesda Heart Hospital, 335 SW 4th Ave. Every M 7:30-9 pm. $150/non-resident; 20 classes $200/resident. 510-3152; 55 classes $245-3156. 306- 6945; fitmommblog.com
1/4 - Reconciliation Support Group at Temple Beth El of Boca Raton, 355 SW 4th Ave. Every M 7 pm. Free: 399-4900; fteboca.org
1/4 - Life Issues: A Support Group for Adults at Faulk Center for Counseling, 22455 Boca Rio Rd, Boca Raton. Wed 6:30-7:30 pm. M 10-11 am. SS/session: 483-5300; faulkcenterforcounseling.org
1/4 - Chair Yoga at First Presbyterian Church, 235 SW 6th Ave. M 2:00 pm; W 4:30 pm. 583-7724; fcbypatron.com
1/4 - Traditional Yoga at First Presbyterian Church Bethesda, 235 SW 6th Ave. M 2:00 pm; W 4:30 pm. 583-7724; fcbypatron.com
1/4 - Boca Raton Multiple Myeloma Support Group at Bethesda Community Center, 2000 Yamato Rd, Boca Raton. Meet, interact with fellow myeloma patients, their family members, friends. Learn new aspects of treatment/management. 1st M 3-6 pm. Free: 901-5936, 637-4682; myeloma.org
1/4 - Men’s Issues Support Group at Faulk Center for Counseling, 22455 Boca Rio Rd, Boca Raton. Every M 6:30-8 pm. SS/session: 483-5000; faulkcenterforcounseling.org
1/4 - Breastfeeding Support Group at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, 800 Meadowlands Rd. Every M 1-3 pm. Free: 993-3455; birth.com
1/4 - Zumba Gold at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Boca Beach. Age 50+- Th/S 9-10:30 am, T 3-4 pm. Per class: $5/resident; $6/nonresident. 243-7000 x245; mydelraybeach.com
1/4 - Women’s Issues Support Group at Faulk Center for Counseling, 22455 Boca Rio Rd, Boca Raton. Every T 10:30-11:30 am. SS/session: 483-5000; faulkcenterforcounseling.org
1/5 - Zumba at South Beach Park, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sun 10:30 am. Free: 399-7000; downtownboca.org
1/5 - Yoga at Delray Beach Red Reef Park West (Intastuctive side), 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Register/tparking passes at Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Classes held on grass overlooking the Intracoastal. $12/session or on-site. W 6:30 pm; Th 1st & 3rd Sat 10:30 am. 50 classes: $60/month (unlimited classes) $165/ resident, $210/ non-resident. 319-7080; myboca.us
1/5 - Fitness & Sambron: Tai Chi Class at Sambron Square, 72 NW Federal Hwy. Every Sat 10:30-11:30 am class. Free: 393-7000; downtownboca.org
1/5 - Yoga Class at South Beach Park, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sun 10:30 am. Free: 399-7000; downtownboca.org
1/5 - Aikido Class at Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Explore effective, non-violent methods of conflict resolution. Every Sat 12:30-2:30 pm. Per month $25/resident, $31.25/non-resident. 319-7080; myboca.us
1/5 - Chair Yoga at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 1 pm. Free: 276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org
1/5 - CA (Cancer Anonymous) at Unity of Delray Beach 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 6 pm. Free: 276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org
1/5 - AA Meeting at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every Sat 7:30 pm. Free: 276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org
1/5 - Yoga Class at South Beach Park, 400 N State Rd A1A, Boca Raton. Every Sat 9:30 am & Sat 10:45 am. $5/class. 588-8689; spadyofpalmbeach.org
1/4 - Monday 1/5 - Sunday 1/11
Sunday - 1/5 - Childbirth Express: A Day Full of Learning at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 200 S Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Held again 1/17. 10 am-5 pm. $55/session. Registration: 369-2229; publihitations@BHInc.org
1/5 - Yoga in the Park (Gazebo) Class at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. All ages. Every Sun 10-11 am. Per class: $10/resident, $15/non-resident. 243-7000; mydelraybeach.com
1/5 - CODA (Codependents Anonymous) at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Sun 6 pm. Free: 243-9503 x14; mydelraybeach.com
1/5 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park West (Intastuctive side), 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Register/tparking passes at Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Cash accepted on-site. W 6:30 pm, Th 1st & 3rd Sat 10:30 am. Separate groups held simultaneously: Adults, $165/month; 50 classes, $825/ resident, $1000/ non-resident. 319-7080; myboca.us
1/5 - Yoga at the Beach at Red Reef Park East, 1400 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Register/tparking passes at Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. Cash accepted on-site. Sun 4:30 pm. 50 classes: $60/month (unlimited classes) $165/resident, $210/ non-resident. 319-7080; myboca.us
Monday - 1/6 - Circuit Training at Sugar Sand Park Field House, 300 SE Military Blvd, Boca Raton. Workout targets multiple muscle-groups. M/Th/S 8:30-9:20 am or 9:30-10:30 am class. 512 S 5th Ave, 514 classes $60-$75; 10 classes $700-$850; 15 classes $1050-$1250. 306- 6945; fitmommblog.com
1/6 - Bereavement Support Group at Temple Beth El of Boca Raton, 355 SW 4th Ave. Every M 7 pm. Free: 399-4900; fteboca.org
1/6 - Life Issues: A Support Group for Adults at Faulk Center for Counseling, 22455 Boca Rio Rd, Boca Raton. Wed 6:30-7:30 pm. M 10-11 am. SS/session: 483-5300; faulkcenterforcounseling.org
1/6 - Chair Yoga at First Presbyterian Church, Boynton Beach, 235 SW 6th Ave. M 2:00 pm; W 4:30 pm. 583-7724; fcbypatron.com
1/6 - Traditional Yoga at First Presbyterian Church Bethesda, 235 SW 6th Ave. M 2:00 pm; W 4:30 pm. 583-7724; fcbypatron.com
1/6 - Yoga Class at First Presbyterian Church Bethesda, 235 SW 6th Ave. M 2:00 pm; W 4:30 pm. 583-7724; fcbypatron.com
January 2020

Health Calendar HS

January 12-18

Sunday - 1/12 - LAMAZE Birth Class: A Day of Fun and Learning at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Expectant parents learn about the birth process and gain insight for Mom and Baby. 6-8:30 pm. Free. 304-4500; publicrelations@BHInc.org

Monday - 1/13 - Surgical Weight Loss: A Workshop with Dr. Dennis Merritt at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. 12:30-3 pm. Free/free-will offering. 276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

Tuesday - 1/14 - 7th Annual Palm Beach Region for Women and Discussion Group at Faulk Center for Counseling, 2425 Boca Rdo Rd, Boca Raton. Every W 1-2:30 pm. 583-3300; faulkcenterforcounseling.com

Wednesday - 1/15 - Stroll for Well-Being: Garden Walks workshop at The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach. Visit as often as you wish over a 3-month period. Specially developed journal used as a guide, a means to record personal thoughts through 12 themed garden strolls. Class dates W 1/15, 1/22, 1/29 & 2/5 (am group), 3/5 (pm group). Sat 1/18, 2/22 & 3/21 (am group), 3/28 (pm group). 11 am-12:30 pm or 1:30-2:30 pm. Registration required/free to qualified applicants: 495-0233; morikami.org

1/15 - Updates in Endocrine Surgery: Understanding Thyroid and Parathyroid Disease at Lantana Road Branch Library, 4000 Lantana Rd. Presented by Jesus J. Bowie, M.D., part of Bethesda Health’s Ask the Physician Lecture Series. 2 pm. Free. 304-4500; publicrelations@BHInc.org

1/15 - Breastfeeding: Health Benefits for Mom and Baby at Bethesda Heart Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Expectant parents learn about benefits of breastfeeding. 6-8:30 pm. Free. 369-2229; publicrelations@BHInc.org

Thursday - 1/16 - Project C4OPE: A Forum Series for Families in the Opioid Crisis at Pompano Park Community Center, 1301 NW 2nd St, Deerfield Beach. Presented by Hanley Foundation, Project C4OPE (Connect for Overdose Prevention and Education) designed to connect people in our community who share the experience of a loved one who has died of opioid overdose. Served food. 6-8 pm. Free. 268-2337; hanleyfoundation.org/project-c4ope

January 19-25

Tuesday - 1/21 - Baby Care Basics: Newborn Care and Comfort at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2815 S Seacrest Blvd, Boynton Beach. Presented by Dipnarine Maharaj, M.D., Hematology/Oncology; part of Ask the Physician Lecture Series. 5 pm. Free. 734-2273; publicrelations@BHInc.org

Thursday - 1/23 - Skating Sharp with Barbara Klaw at Deerfield Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Part of Lifelong Learning Institute. Every Th through January 22. 1-2:30 pm. $60. 266-9440; delraylibrary.org/lifelong-learning-institute.

Saturday - 1/25 - Tranquility Yoga with Chamber Ensemble at Kravis Center Rehearsal Hall, 100 W Broward Blvd, Boynton Beach. 60-minute yoga practice accompanied by a live chamber orchestra. Bring a yoga mat. 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm & 2 pm. Free. 305-329-2700; chamberensemble.org

January 26-1 Feb

Tuesday - 1/28 - Alternatives for Painful Orthopedic Conditions at West Boynton Branch Library, 945 S Jog Rd. Presented by Jeffrey S. Rosenfield, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon; part of Bethesda Health’s Ask the Physician Lecture Series. 3 pm. Free. 734-5555; publicrelations@BHInc.org

Friday - 1/31 - Wellness Screening Expo at South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Rd, Deerfield Beach. Presented by Deerfield Medical Center and Alliance of Delray. Compensatory screenings, flu, shingles, pneumonia, tetanus shots (cost determined by insurance), heart health screening & blood work (appointments required, fasting necessary); health information/literature. Call the doctor/hospitalist, unscheduled prescrip- tion drug drop, more. 8 am noon. Free admission. Appointment: 415-828-7600; information: alliancemefarexpo.org

1/31 - 2020 Brain Bowl Luncheon: Caregiving through the Ages at Boca West Country Club, 20531 Boca West Dr. Benefits Louis & Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center, Alzheimer’s Association, Alzheimer’s Community Care. Luncheon, fashion show. 11 am-1 pm. Call for tickets: info: 847-734-1393; brainbowlsfests.org

The Club at Boynton Beach is NOW OPEN. Five-star surroundings, service-devoted team members, abundant amenities — and unparalleled care always at our core.

This opportunity won’t last. Be among the first to come see us and you could take advantage of savings up to $10,000. Call 561-463-3684 today to arrange your personal tour.

The Club at Boynton Beach.
Designed to delight.
Musician’s collection aims to calm sound-phobic dogs

Now ear this! We people possess many abilities. But paws down, our dogs win the hearing contest.

Yes, the only member of your household who can detect and respond to your whispers in a room on the opposite end of your house is your dog. (I’m betting your cat can hear those subtle sounds, too, but chooses to stay napping on a comfy spot.)

Dogs can pick up sounds at higher and lower frequencies than we can. On average, there are about 12 muscles per canine ear that can be tilted, turned, raised or lowered to zero in on sounds at greater distance than human ears.

But this heightened sense comes with a price. Some dogs turn into panic paddles at the sound of fireworks, truck backfires, thunder, alarms, people yelling and even the whirl of vacuums across living room rugs.

South Florida is no stranger to storms and other irritating or frightening sounds. “I equate thunderstorms to a phobia disease or weakened immune systems and can physically affect a dog. Some scared irrational response that can emotionally escalate to a phobia — an exaggerated, excessively, shed excessively, pant heavily, dogs with sound fears.

No study that pins down the percentage of sounds, sights and situations, but there is exhibit some signs of fear and anxiety to perceiving frightening sounds can cause unaddressed, the fear of specific sounds may help lessen fear in dogs. “Most great inventions come from fear. It works, great, and if not, the music won’t hurt the dog.”

Tyrrell has donated about $20,000 in products to those serving in the military or lowered to zero in on sounds at greater distance than human ears.

“Why, our limbic system is tied to fear.” says Tyrrell. “Why, our limbic system is tied to music. At specific frequencies, Wholetones works for all living things.”

He knows firsthand. His dog, Zivah, a mixed breed rescued from a shelter in the Bahamans, would pace, drool and look for a safe place to hide at the first sounds of thunder or fireworks. Then Tyrrell left music he created on Wholetones playing and Zivah calmed down and curled up on the bed with Tyrrell and his wife, Lillian, while the storm raged on.

Tyrrell launched Wholetones for people in 2014. The product line now includes CD and plug-in device versions specifically for dogs and cats. The pet device contains more than 52 minutes of specifically composed, original music infused at the exact frequency of 396 hertz. Hertz (Hz) is a measure of sound frequency or cycles per second.

The collection of songs is derived from music by Tyrrell. It can be played at even low volumes to be effective and may benefit dogs with separation anxiety and hyperactivity, Tyrrell says.

Stacey Gelkopf, who owns Jake’s Pet Supply in Lake Worth with her husband, Harry, has readily stocked the pet versions of Wholetones in their store.

“We get a lot of requests from customers looking for products that can calm their pets from fireworks, thunderstorms and other noises,” says Gelkopf. “Music seems to really help dogs without the worry of any side effects that may occur in giving over-the-counter medications or holistic remedies. You simply turn on music and if it works, great, and if not, the music won’t hurt the dog.”

Other methods worth considering

Here is a rundown of some other options to consider to calm down your scared or anxious dog.

- **Anti-anxiety vests or antistatic jackets may help** a dog feel less anxious or frightened.
- **Sprays and diffusers** that emit dog-appeasing pheromones. Consult your veterinarian about selecting the best commercial product for your stressed-out dog.
- **Calming herbs and supplements, such as chamomile, valerian and lemon balm. Work with your veterinarian in advance to avoid accidentally giving a toxic dose to your dog.**
- **Essential oils in tinctures and administered by a dropper. Recognize that all essential oils are not the same and vary in efficacy by manufacturer. Check with a holistic veterinarian first.**
- **Training and behavior modification from professional dog trainers using positive reinforcement techniques may help lessen fear in some dogs.**
- **White noise to help block out the source of the fear-causing sound.**
- **Zylkene is a supplement that contains casein, a milk protein. It can be given before a known fear trigger, such as an approaching thunderstorm.**
- **An anti-anxiety medication such as trazodone, Xanax or Prozac may be prescribed by your veterinarian to help your dog stay calm.**

Arden Moore, founder of fourleggedlife.com, is an animal behavior expert and host of the Oh Behave! show on petliferadio.com. Learn more at www.ardenmoore.com.
Pet Pictures with Santa
Town Hall, Ocean Ridge — Dec. 9

The Ocean Ridge Garden Club, starting what it plans to make an annual event, arranged pet pictures with Santa. ABOVE: Dozens of Ocean Ridge residents took advantage of the event, including Sallie Howell with her pooch, Fishbone. RIGHT: Between sitting for photos, Roger Latham, from Lake Worth, waved to passing motorists and promoted the sale of holiday poinsettias.

Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star
M ost dive flags towed through the water by snorkelers and scuba divers meet Florida’s minimum requirement for divers to identify themselves in the water. State law requires dive flags used in the water to be at least a 1-foot square, red with a white diagonal stripe. Most are mounted on floats and have lead weights at the base to hold them upright. Although foot-square dive flags are legal, dive flags on boats must be larger, at least 20 by 24 inches, a dive industry veteran says they don’t do enough to protect divers in the water.

“The flag is simply antiquated,” says Robert Carmichael, CEO of Brownie’s Marine Group in Pompano Beach, whose company took Marine Group in Pompano Carmichael says more visible diver-down warning devices such as his, which displays three, 12-by-12-inch diver-down symbols, should be mandated by a generic state law that would open the playing field for dive equipment companies to develop warning devices that perform better than flags.

Alternatives to the standard diver down include:

**LEFT:** Brownie’s Marine Group’s inflatable 3D Buoy has a large base and dive flags visible on three sides.

**CENTER:** A small inflatable dive tube gives a higher profile above the water. It’s easy to use when a diver surfaces.

**RIGHT:** Larger dive flags on floats are ready to use at Boynton Harbor Marina. Photos by Willie Howard/The Coastal Star

**The 2014 change in state law (FS 327.331) allowed divers to use diver-down buoys in addition to flags. The buoy is defined as a buoyant device that displays the red and white diver-down sign on three or four sides. But Carmichael says divers have been reluctant to pay $90 for his buoy versus $30 to $45 for a float-mounted dive flag. “We need legislative guidance on this,” he said. “Safety doesn’t sell.”**

The effectiveness of dive flags was called into question again on Thanksgiving Day, when 25-year-old marine biologist Carter Viss was hit by a boat while snorkeling off The Breakers hotel in Palm Beach. The impact severed his arm. It likely will be months before the full report on the Viss accident is complete, but preliminary reports by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission said the operator of the 33-foot powerboat was slowing down before the boat struck Viss, who was being treated for his injuries in late December.

Unfortunately, boat-versus-diver accidents have happened several times in South Florida waters. Andrew Harris died after being hit by a boat while snorkeling near Jupiter Inlet in 2014. Diver Rob Murphy lost both legs to a boat while snorkeling near Jupiter Inlet in 2004. Diver Bob Murphy lost both legs to a boat while snorkeling near Jupiter Inlet in 2014. Diver Rob Murphy lost both legs to a boat while snorkeling near Jupiter Inlet in 2004.

In the new Central East zone (Palm Beach through Volusia counties), the daily bag limit for spotted sea trout will drop from four to two fish. Wotton said. In the new Central East zone (Palm Beach through Volusia counties), the daily bag limit for spotted sea trout will drop from four to two fish. Wotton said.

State law requires boat operators to make “a reasonable effort” to stay 300 feet away from dive flags in the open ocean and 100 feet away in an inlet, river or navigation channel. Boats approaching closer must do so at the slowest possible speed that maintains headway and steering. But some boaters don’t know the law or simply aren’t careful, said Mike Leifeste, a dive boat captain who works at Force E dive shop in Boca Raton. Although most people rely on dive flags, Leifeste said that sometimes he has to sound an air horn, call boat operators on VHF channel 16 or move his boat between the divers and an approaching boat to protect his divers. His tip for divers: “Always try to make yourself as visible as possible.”

**FWC tightens limits on spotted sea trout**

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission in December approved new limits and management zones for spotted sea trout effective Feb. 1.

In the new Central East zone (Palm Beach through Volusia counties), the daily bag limit for sea trout will drop from four to two fish. The slot size for sea trout also shrank by an inch. Under the new rules, sea trout must be between 15 and 19 inches in length.
January 2020
The COASTAL STAR
Outdoors/Calendar H9

Winter Wahoo
Boynton Harbor Marina, Boynton Beach — Dec. 9

Capt. Chris Agardy of Fish Envy Charters, based at Boynton Harbor Marina, cleans one of two wahoo his clients caught Dec. 9. The wahoo hit bonito belly strips trolled in 250 feet of water off Boynton Inlet. William Howard/The Coastal Star

total length to be legal to keep.

The sea trout season also will be closed during November and December, meaning no recreational harvest will be allowed in the Central East zone during those two months.

Coming events

January: Grouper season closed Jan. 1. The seasonal closure means red, black, gag and several other species of grouper cannot be harvested until the season reopens May 1. For details, visit myfwc.com and select “saltwater fishing” and “recreational regulations.”

Jan. 4: Basic boating safety class offered by Coast Guard Auxiliary. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the headquarters building at Spanish River Park, 3939 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Fee $35 ($5 for youths ages 12-19). Register at the door. Bring lunch. Call 391-3660. Leave a message.

Jan. 8-11: 83rd annual Silver Sailfish Derby; a sailfish release tournament organized by the West Palm Beach Fishing Club and based at Sailfish Marina in Palm Beach Shores. Captains meeting Jan. 8 at the fishing club. Fishing will be Jan. 9-10, followed by awards dinner Jan. 11. Entry fee $1,000 per boat for fishing club members, $500 per boat for non-members, plus $300 late fee that is deducted on Dec. 31. 832-6760 or www.wpbfishingclub.org.


Jan. 25: Basic boating safety class offered by Coast Guard Auxiliary. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the classroom building next to the boat ramps, Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 201 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach, Fee $20. Register at the door. Call 331-2429.

Tip of the month

If you find a sick, injured or dead sea turtle, call the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission’s Marine Mammal Hotline: 888-404-3922. The hotline also can be used to report problems with manatees and other wildlife. Be prepared to give the exact location of the turtle or other animal, whether it’s alive or dead, to state its approximate size and the closest access point to reach it.

William Howard is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Reach him at gbellouh.net.

Jan. 27-31: 1/25 - Intracoastal Adventures: Kayaking at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the classroom building next to the boat ramps, Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 201 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach, Fee $80. Register at the door. Call 331-2429.

Outdoors Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 12/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JANUARY 4
Saturday - 1/4 - Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Meet at pavilion in lower parking lot. Bring water, hat, sunscreen. Bags, gripers, grabbers provided. 8-10:30 a.m. free. jeffchristiogmail.com

1/4 - A Walk in the Hammock at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Free guided nature walk through the hammock & along the mangroves by the Intracoastal. All ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 2/11 10 a.m. Free. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

1/4 - Coral Red Fish & Alligator Feedings at Sandoway Discovery Center, 424 5th St. Boca Beach. Shank 7:50-10:30 am. Sun 1-3 pm. Alligator W/ Sat 1 pm. Free w/S6 admission. 274-7763; sandowayhouse.org

JANUARY 5-11
Sunday - 1/5 - The Art of Nature at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Variety of artistic methods to view/interpret nature. Blends of media. Meet at the classroom building next to the boat ramps, Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the classroom building next to the boat ramps, Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 201 5th St. Speaker George Powers: “Winter Tracking-Juvenile Sea Turtles,” T-Sat 10:30 am, Sun 1:30 pm. 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

JANUARY 12-18
Sunday - 1/12 - Florida Trail Association Bird Walk at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet at Spanish River Library lot. 7:30 am hike begins. 832-4870, westpalmbeachfishingclub.org

Monday - 1/13 - Eco-Watch Lecture Series: Dr. Kirt Rusenko, Marine Conservationist presented by Gumbo Limbo Nature Center at Boca Raton Public Library. 1501 NW Spanish River Blvd. Age 6-14; children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 7-8:30 pm. $5/suggested donation. Reservations: 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

Tuesday - 1/14 - Eco-Watch Lecture Series: Gordon Gilbert, Founder of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center at Boca Raton Public Library, 1501 NW Spanish River Blvd. Age 6-14; children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6-7:30 pm. $5/suggested donation. Reservations: 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

Wednesday - 1/15 - Early Birding with Dr. Kirt Rusenko, Marine Conservationist presented by Gumbo Limbo Nature Center at Boca Raton Public Library, 1501 NW Spanish River Blvd. Age 6-14; children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6-7:30 pm. $5/suggested donation. Reservations: 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

Thursday - 1/16 - Early Birding with Dr. Kirt Rusenko, Marine Conservationist presented by Gumbo Limbo Nature Center at Boca Raton Public Library, 1501 NW Spanish River Blvd. Age 6-14; children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 7-8:30 pm. $5/suggested donation. Reservations: 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

Friday - 1/17 - Wetlands & Wildlife at Wakodahatche Wetlands, 13026 Jog Rd, Delray Beach. 7 mi guided boardwalk tour. Bring camera, binoculars. Age 7+; children must be accompanied by an adult. 8-10:30 am. Free. Reservations: 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 1/18 - Intracoastal Adventures: Stand-Up Paddle Boarding at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida’s unique animals/ ecosystems. Age 12-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 8-9 am. Fee. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Saturday - 1/19-25
Sunday - 1/19 - Florida Trail Association Bird Walk at Pondhawk Nature Area, 1011 NW Spanish River Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet at Spanish River Library lot. 7:30 am hike begins. 832-4870

1/19 - Intracoastal Adventures: Good Night Canoe at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Short talks about South Florida’s unique animals/ecosystems. Age 8-adult; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 6-7:30 pm. $25/member; $25/non-member. 544-8605; gumbolimbo.org

Tuesday - 1/21 - Eco-Watch Lecture Series: Dr. Kirt Rusenko, Marine Conservationist presented by Gumbo Limbo Nature Center at Boca Raton Public Library, 1501 NW Spanish River Blvd. Age 6-14; children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. 7-8:30 pm. $5/suggested donation. Reservations: 544-8615; gumbolimbo.org

Wednesday - 1/22 - West Palm Beach Fishing Club at 201 5th St. Speaker George Powers: “Winter Tracking-Juvenile Sea Turtles,” T-Sat 10:30 am, Sun 1:30 pm. Free. 832-4870, westpalmbeachfishingclub.org

Thursday - 1/23 - Audubon Everglades: Basic boating safety class offered by Coast Guard Auxiliary, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the classroom building next to the boat ramps, Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the classroom building next to the boat ramps, Harvey E. Oyer Jr. Park, 201 5th St. Speaker George Powers: “Winter Tracking-Juvenile Sea Turtles,” T-Sat 10:30 am, Sun 1:30 pm. Free. 832-4870, westpalmbeachfishingclub.org

Friday - 1/24 - “Audubon Everglades: Florida Audubon Enchanted Night Project Manager Shansreville Breeding at Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach. 7:15-9 pm doors open/light refreshments, 7 pm program. Free. audubonrefuge.com

Saturday - 1/25 - Lanterns Beach Cleanup at 100 N Ocean Blvd. Gloves/bags provided. 2nd W 9-10 am. 345-1664; roshashanabaton.com

Sunday - 1/26 - The Art of Nature at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. Meet at Spanish River Library lot. 10:30 am program. Free. audubonrefuge.com

Note: Events are current as of 12/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.
In tiny Por La Mar Park, historic buttonwood looms large

Por La Mar Park in Boca Raton is known for its large gnarly and sprawling southern buttonwood tree. In 1992, the tree received the city’s historic designation for its “landmark significance as well as its historic association and specimen quality.”

The park also recently received an award from the Boca Raton Beautification Committee. “We felt the tree had character and had lived so long that it and the park around it deserved recognition,” says Jo-Ann Landon, past president and longtime committee member.

Today, with its horizontally growing trunk and gnarly bark, that buttonwood remains a testament to the artistry of Mother Nature.

It’s so picturesque that it is often used as a backdrop for graduation and wedding photos, says Samantha Griffin, a records and customer service specialist for the city who lives nearby.

A historical photo from the 1920s shows three women lounging under trees in this area that would later become the park.

“It shows us that Boca Raton’s pioneers knew about this spot. It was probably a nice place to get some shade away from the beach,” says Susan Gillis, curator of the Boca Raton Historical Society and Museum.

Even today visitors are discovering this tiny park’s attractions. James Rosenberg, 27, of Delray Beach and Karen Restrepo, 26, of Fort Lauderdale have ridden their bikes through the Por La Mar area for over a year. But only recently did they discover the spreading buttonwood in a ring of strangler figs, sabal palms and some smaller buttonwoods just starting on their growth journey.

The first thing this duo did, after getting off their bikes in the park, was to gently climb the historic buttonwood that creates a natural jungle gym.

Although this tree looks unique, Dawn Sinka, horticulturist/arborist for the city of Boca Raton, explains that this is a natural growth pattern for this species. She adds that the buttonwood naturally has a vase shape with drooping foliage. But when the foliage touches the ground, as it does repeatedly in this park, the tree begins to grow upward again.

And of course, the force of wind and storms have influenced how this tree has grown. “Certainly, anyone who stumbles across this tree can’t help but be impressed,” Sinka says.

This .3-acre park and its character tree have been a meeting place for generations of Por La Mar residents, including William Wear, 72. He lives in the Por La Mar house his grandparents built and where he visited them as a youngster. He remembers the nearby park as a “magnet” for him and his friends, who would climb in the tree.

“Even today, the park is a hidden gem,” he says.
Garden Calendar
Note: Events are current as of 12/27. Please check with organizers for any changes.

**JANUARY 4**
Saturday - 1/4 - Grooming the Garden at Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 N Military Tr, West Palm Beach. Volunteers new to gardening or with a certified green thumb invited to assist weeding/pruning. No RSVP or experience required. Bring sunscreen, hat, gloves, water. 1st Sat 8:30 am. Free/member. 233-1757; mounts.org

**JANUARY 5-11**
Sunday - 1/5 - The Art of Bonsai at Morikami Japanese Museum and Gardens Oki Education Center, 4000 Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach. Explore new techniques to artistically train/trim trees. Bring your own tree, pruning tools, bonsai pots, soil, wire as needed. Every Sun through 2/9. Intermediate 9 am-noon; Beginner 1-4 pm. $45 materials fee (beginners) + $81/member; $91/non-member. Reservations: 495-0233; morikami.org

Tuesday - 1/7 - Boca Raton Garden Club at 4281 NW 3rd Ave. Speaker Floridal Design Judge Christine Biscoglia, Wellington Garden Club, demonstrates making beautiful arrangements w/live flowers. 1st T 1 pm. Free. 395-9376; bocaratongardenclub.org

Wednesday - 1/8 - Delray Beach Orchid Society at Veterans Park Recreation Center, 802 NE 1st St, Delray Beach. 2nd W 6:30 pm. Free. 573-2422; delraybeachorchidsociety.com

**Thursday - 1/9**
Thursday - 1/9 - Boca Raton Orchid Society at Safe Schools Institute, 1790 NW Spanish River Blvd. 2nd Th 7:30 pm free/member & 1st-time guest. 830-6542; brosonline.org

Saturday - 1/11 - Ribbit the Exhibit: Featuring 23 Fanciful Frogs at Mounts Botanical Gardens, 531 N Military Tr, West Palm Beach. Runs through 5/31. 10 am-4 pm. $15/non-member; $8/student & RAP member w/ID; $5/child age 5-12. 233-1757; mounts.org

**JANUARY 12-18**
Tuesday - 1/14 - Florida Native Plant Society at Mounts Botanical Gardens, 531 N Military Tr, West Palm Beach. Our Mission in Action. 7 pm. Free. palmbeach.fnpschapters.org

Thursday - 1/16 - The Evolution of the French Garden from the Renaissance to the Modern Era with Page Knox at The Society of the Four Arts Dixon Education Building, 260 Coconut Row, Palm Beach. 2:30 pm. $20/non-member. Reservations: 805-8552; foursarts.org

**JANUARY 19-25**
Wednesday - 1/22-23 - Tropical Adventures: 64th Annual Tropical Short Course sponsored by Florida Federation of Garden Clubs District X at Mounts Botanical Gardens, 531 N Military Tr, West Palm Beach. Outstanding speakers on environmental issues, latest trends in landscape design/horticulture, floral designs, vendors, gift baskets, more. 8:30 am. Registration fee starts at $40. 635-8809; ffgc.org
Candace Friis

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Utilizing her exceptional experience and knowledge of the luxury waterfront markets, Candace serves an extensive and elite worldwide client base. She enjoys a reputation as a highly skilled Broker who goes the extra mile for her clients and above all, is known for her stellar integrity.

Candace, widely recognized for her exceptional negotiating and marketing skills, is a member of Corcoran’s prestigious President’s Council and is the recipient of numerous, distinguished awards. At Corcoran, Candace recognizes the unique opportunity of a strategic international alliance generating exposure through a broad multimedia approach.

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== Iconic Point Lot Estate ==

1428 N OCEAN BLVD | GULF STREAM
6 BR | 7.3 BA | 12,377 TOTAL SF

== Oceanfront Estate ==

1847 S OCEAN BLVD | GULF STREAM
4 BR | 4.1 BA | 4,366 TOTAL SF

== New to Market ==

5610 N OCEAN BLVD | OCEAN RIDGE
4 BR | 4.1 BA | 4,366 TOTAL SF

1117 ISLAND DRIVE | DELRAY BEACH
6 BR | 7.2 BA | 9,005 TOTAL SF

== New to Market ==

22 ROBERT RABORN CT | VILLAGE OF GOLF
VACANT LAND

200 N OCEAN BLVD, S-1 | DELRAY BEACH
3 BR | 3.1 BA | 2,899 TOTAL SF
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Bermuda Estate
1041 SEASPRAY AVE | DELRAY BEACH
5 BR | 5.5 BA | 7,860 TOTAL SF

1032 N VISTA DEL MAR DR | DELRAY BEACH
5 BR | 5.1 BA | 6,225 TOTAL SF

2943 POLO DRIVE | GULF STREAM
3 BR | 3 BA | 2,312 TOTAL SF

27 HUDSON AVE | GULF STREAM
4 BR | 4.1 BA | 5,948 TOTAL SF

1445 N OCEAN BLVD | GULF STREAM
5 BR | 5.1 BA | 7,038 TOTAL SF
OCEANFRONT

134 ISLAND DRIVE | OCEAN RIDGE
5 BR | 6.1 BA | 5,480 TOTAL SF
PENDULSA LOT

15 ADAMS | DELRAY BEACH
3 BR | 3.1 BA | 3,939 SF

New to Market

Sold

Religious leaders offer advice for a happy new year

Wendy Tobias, associate pastor at St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church, says she’s approaching 2020 by saying yes. Yes to love, yes to God’s presence in her life, yes to community and yes to “creation care,” a wide ministry that educates, inspires and mobilizes Christians to care for God’s creation and be stewards of the planet by fighting pollution.

“Tobias says if you look around, you’ll see people doing amazing things. It starts with your attitude. “My mother forbade us from using the word hate’ in our house. She said there was already enough hate in the world. Start the new year by removing the word hate’ from your vocabulary and say yes to love.”

Janis Fontaine writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and events. Contact her at janisfontaine@outlook.com.
JANUARY 4
Saturday - 1/4 - Catholic Grandparents Meeting at Ascension Church, 7:30 p.m. Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Sat 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 209-2430; diocesegp.org

JANUARY 5-11
Tuesday - 1/5 - Martha Creek: A Message Of South Palm Beach, 224 S Ocean Blvd, Palm Beach. Every Tu 10-11 a.m. (reservations required) free. 734-9330; stpaulsdelray.org

JANUARY 12-18
Sunday - 1/12 - Lecture for Mortals Only with Rabbi Jay Lyons at Chabad of South Palm Beach, 224 S Ocean Blvd, Manalapan. A conversation about Jewish burial practice & fascinating South Florida burial practice & fascinating South Florida

JANUARY 19-22
Saturday - 1/19 - Introduction to The 4T Programming at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. Every 7-9 p.m through 1/23. Free. 276-5796; unitleadtobeach.org

TUESDAY LESSON
The Bible Study at Unity of Delray Beach, 101 NW 22nd St. 7 pm. Free. 276-5796; unityofdelraybeach.org

JANUARY 2020
The COASTAL STAR
Religion Calendar M15

January 2020
Religion Calendar
Note: Events are current as of 12/27. Please check with organizations for any changes.

JANUARY 4
Saturday - 1/4 - Catholic Grandparents Meeting at Ascension Church, 7:30 p.m. Federal Hwy, Boca Raton. Sat 10-11:30 a.m. Free. 209-2430; diocesegp.org

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Religion Notes

New life-size Nativity enriches holiday season at St. Lucy

As cars whizzed by on A1A, about 200 parishioners from St. Lucy Catholic Church in Highland Beach gathered after dark for the big reveal of the new life-size Nativity scene. After Father Brian Horgan blessed the manger scene, someone flipped a switch and the characters came to life, with "oohs" and "aahs" all around.

The 12 full-color fiberglass figures featured the one thing the Nativity scene demanded: a removable Jesus. The custom is to leave the manger empty until midnight Christmas Eve, when the baby is placed in the scene. "We didn’t want one with the baby Jesus bolted to the cradle," Jeannette Schmitz said.

Schmitz is the church’s director of family ministry and social outreach and was part of the volunteer team assigned to finding a suitable holy family for the knolls in front of St. Lucy. It took almost a year. Finally, at www.catholiccemetery.com for just under $10,000, the team found the “72-inch Heaven’s Pillar Angel" with wings that are gold and almost 7 feet tall. The detail is quite stunning. "We liked the beautiful faces and expressions," Schmitz said.

After the lighting, parishioners gathered in Fellowship Hall for the annual Feast of St. Lucy, the church’s patron saint. The church served prime rib and snapper and au gratin potatoes. The lighted display got immediate attention, Schmitz said. "People are stopping to take photos."

The essence of St. Lucy, whose name means "light," is light. A light in the world leading the way for Christians today just as the light of the North Star led the wise men to Bethlehem so long ago.

St. Lucy Catholic Church is at 3510 S. Ocean Blvd. About 200 parishioners gathered last month to dedicate the Nativity scene at St. Lucy Catholic Church in Highland Beach. The figures included a removable Jesus that could be placed in the manger on Christmas Eve. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

Author to speak at Unity on living better life

Dennis Merritt Jones, author of The Art of Abundance — Ten Rules for a Prosperous Life, released in 2018, will speak at services at Unity of Delray Beach on Jan. 12. This book and Jones’ two previous books The Art of Uncertainty — How to Live in the Mystery of Life and Love It and The Art of Being — 101 Ways to Practice Purpose in Your Life — were recipients of Nautilus Awards (“Better Books for a Better World”). He offers free downloadable study guides for the books on his website.

Jones will speak about The Art of Uncertainty at the 9:15 and 11 a.m. services and will present a workshop from 1 to 3:30 p.m. to explore “Practicing the Power of Presence.”

Unity of Delray Beach is at 101 NW 22nd St. Call Unity at 561-276-4194 or visit www.unityofdelray.org.

The second annual Human Trafficking expert to speak at St. Lucy

The keynote speaker is Liza Smoker, an attorney and managing director of the Human Trafficking Academy at St. Thomas School of Law. She graduated from FSU with degrees in multinational business and real estate and law. Smoker was selected as one of 60 presidential leadership scholars in 2019 for her leadership growth potential and “personal leadership projects aimed at improving civic engagement or social good,” and Place of Hope will honor Smoker with its first Illumination Award.

Proceeds from the luncheon will benefit Place of Hope’s human trafficking prevention and education programs. The programs include screenings of a documentary on human trafficking in South Florida and presentations to community, corporate, civic and religious groups. Experts agree the best weapon against this epidemic is education.

Tickets to the luncheon are $55. Sponsorships are available. For tickets or information, visit www.placeofhopeinker.org/humantraffickingluncheon.

Interfaith conference to address bigotry

JAM & ALL is an organization of Jews, Muslims, Christians and people of all other faiths or no faith who come together to discuss important issues.

On Feb. 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., JAM will host a conference called “Transforming Bigotry and Hate: From Awareness to Action,” led by keynote speaker Arno Michaels at the Lynn College of Nursing at FAU Boca Raton, 777 Glades Road. Michaels used to be a white supremacist, and he will share what drew him to white supremacy and what led to his transformation away from it. Also part of the conference is “Managing Your Prejudices” by Gail Price-Wise, president of the Florida Center for Cultural Competence.

Tickets, which include a box lunch, are $25 in advance at www.eventbrite.com. Tickets will be $30 at the door. The conference is free for FAU students with ID. For more information, call 239-4621 or 251-5336. For more about JAM & ALL, visit jamandallinterfaith.net.
St. Andrews marks completion of renovations

By Brian Biggane

Nearly 200 people were entertained by the Palm Beach Pipers bagpipe ensemble and a five-piece band as St. Andrews Club of Delray Beach celebrated the completion of its expansive renovation project on Dec. 6.

President Henry Blackiston made a short speech and presided over a ribbon-cutting ceremony before the bagpipe ensemble, respecting the Scottish tradition of St. Andrews, led attendees inside the clubhouse and up the stairs to the refurbished ballroom.

“It was really spectacular,” General Manager Robert Grassi said.

Blackiston presented gifts to members who had been involved in planning for the project, which began in November 2018. Permits were secured in April, construction started in May and the job was completed in late November.

Grassi said the goal of the renovations was to meet members’ requests to bring a “more airy atmosphere” and more of a Florida feel to the facility. “The dining rooms are yellow, gold and white, and each room has a distinctive color combination with the wallpaper, so they blend nicely,” he said. “The members wanted more casual dining and more bars, so we built a huge bar downstairs and we have more casual space. There’s also a beautiful porch that looks out on the ocean.”

The renovations were more than cosmetic. They included new furniture throughout, improved lighting and an upgraded sound system. Also updated were the software, wiring and phone systems.

“It was a massive renovation because we took everything in need of an update and addressed it,” Grassi said.

The goal going forward is to offer more diversity in the dining area and attract more members by broadening the club’s target market. While the club has typically cut back on activities during summer months, Grassi said the plan now is to be open year-round except for September.


New color schemes and settings help to create a more open feel in the dining rooms. Photo provided

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WE ARE PROUD MEMBERS OF USA TAEKWONDO, THE AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION AND WORLD TAEKWONDO FEDERATION
CEO Santa, helpers bring cheer, gifts to kids at Seagate party

By Janis Fontaine

On Dec. 12, as it has every year for the last six years, the Seagate Hotel & Spa in Delray Beach hosted kindergartners and first-graders from the Achievement Centers for Children & Families and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County for a Santa Claus meet-and-greet. The children enjoyed rides on the Seagate Trolley, a party with cookies, crafts and carols with Mrs. Claus, and gift bags stuffed with goodies to take home.

And look at Santa! This was no hired-off-Craigslist figure. E. Anthony Wilson, CEO of Seagate Hospitality Group, played the jolly man and Carie Cody, the hotel’s retail manager, was Mrs. Claus. Wilson left town on Santa’s heels, but we reached him by email: “One of my favorite Christmas traditions that I look forward to every year is getting the opportunity to dress up as Santa for an annual holiday children’s event. All kids should experience the joy of meeting Santa and I’m honored to be able to provide that experience. There’s only one thing better than supporting the Achievement Centers and the Boys and Girls Clubs, and that’s seeing smiles on the children’s faces when they meet Santa face-to-face. It’s the little things that make this holiday season so special.”

Way to go, Mr. Wilson!

Bahamian Christmas breakfast for kids

Most kids look forward to Christmas with unbridled glee, but for children who lost everything to Hurricane Dorian when it devastated the northern Bahamas in early September, a bountiful Christmas didn’t seem possible. But through the efforts of Sandy Collier, who owns Bahama’s Christmas special. "That's what makes this holiday season so special. It's the little things that make a difference, and that's what we want kids to experience."

Collier got help from the crew from Funky Fritters, including owner Brandon Marvell, and Mini Meals on Wheels founder Christina Dixon Wells. The food was paid for by West Palm Beach attorneys Michael Pike, of the firm Pike & Lustig, and Tayson Gaines.

AFTER: Delray Beach’s Seagate Hotel hosted about 20 children who got to meet Santa, his wife and helpers. LEFT: In Boynton Beach, a party for displaced Bahamians meant gifts such as new dresses for Zaniall Maycock, 10, and her sister Leah, 3. Photos provided

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Bahamian Christmas special. "That's what makes this holiday season so special. It's the little things that make a difference, and that's what we want kids to experience."
Spelling Bee contenders
St. Vincent Ferrer School, Delray Beach — Dec. 5

Forty students competed for two spots to represent the school in the Southeastern Florida Scripps district spelling bee, set for March 10 in Boca Raton. The winner of the district bee will have the opportunity to compete at the regional level. ABOVE: (l-r) Seventh-grader Evangeline Price placed second and eighth-grader Olivia Robbins placed first, earning awards from Principal Vikki Delgado. Photo provided

Monday – 1/6 – Winter Break Camp at American Spirit Cheer & Dance, 215 S J St, Lantana. 7:30 am-5:30 pm. 3/4 member; 5/11/non-member: 557-1099; americanspiritcheer.com

1/4 – One Day Camp: Engineering is Elementary at South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, 4001 Deerfield Trl W, Deerfield Beach. Age 4-9. 9 am-4 pm. 347-3950; sugarsandpark.org

1/4 – Rhythmic Gymnastics: Beginner at Sugar Sand Park Field House, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Age 8 & under. Must be accompanied by an adult. Held again 2/1. 10-10:30 am. Free. 347-3950; sugarsandpark.org

1/4 –drop-in story time at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Music, stories, fingerplays, action songs. Children all ages accompanied by an adult. Every Sat. 10-10:30 am. Free. 393-7968; bocaerc.org


JANUARY 6

1/6 – Stories, Signs, and Symbols at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. All ages. Every Sat. 10:45-11:30 am. Free. 266-0197; delraylibrary.org

1/6 – Rhythm in the Heat – Tuesday at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. For all ages. Every Tue. 10:30 am-12 pm. $3/member; $5/non-member. Register: 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

1/6 – Tales for Tadpoles at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Pre-literacy class: music, stories, rhymes, lap puppets. Age 1 months to not-yet-walking. Every M 10 am. Free. 266-0079; delraylibrary.org

1/6 – One Day Camp: Engineering is Elementary at South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, 4001 Deerfield Trl W, Palm Beach. Age 4-9. 9 am-4 pm. 345/member; 355/non-member; before/after care 2-3:30 pm & 4-5 pm 1st Friday. RSVP: 370-7705; sfsciencecenter.org

1/6 – Oh Baby at Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Preschool music, movement and rhymes. Age 2 months to 24 months. Every M 10:45 am. Free. 266-0079; delraylibrary.org

1/6 – Homework Assistance at St. Andrew’s School Roberts Theater, 3900 Jog Rd, Boca Raton. Age 5-8 w/an adult. Held again 2/1. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. $5/member; $10/non-member. Reservations: 544-6015; gumbolimbo.org

1/6 – Acro Class at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 SE Mizner Blvd #73, Boca Raton. Age 2-7. Every Sat 11:30 am-12 pm. 394-3626; showtimeboca.com

JANUARY 4

January 2020
The COASTAL STAR
12

Tots & Teens Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 12/24. Please check with organizers for any changes.

JANUARY 4

Saturday – 1/4 – Sensory Saturdays: Special Exploration Hours at South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, 4801 Deerfield Trl W, Palm Beach. For families affected by autism spectrum disorder. No heavy crowds; softened general lighting, decreased noise levels/vision stimulation on interactive exhibits whenever possible. 1st Sat 8-10 am. $5/adult, $7.50/teen/mar; 5-6/child 3-12; free/member & child under 3. 832-1988; sfsciencecenter.org

1/4 – Sensory-Friendly Saturday at Children’s Science Explorium, 1005 Military Tr, Boca Raton. Explore the museum in sensory modified setting with sound/light adjustments. 1st Sat 9-10 am. Free. 347-3950; scienceexplorium.org

1/4 – Drop-In Story Time at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Music, stories, fingerplays, action songs. Children all ages accompanied by an adult. Every Sat 10-10:30 am. Free. 393-7968; bocaerc.org


1/4 – Drop-in Craft at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. All ages. Every Sat. 10:30-11:30 am. Free. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

1/4 – The Symphonia - Meet the Orchestra: Singing in Music at St. Andrew’s School Roberts Theater, 3900 Jog Rd, Boca Raton. 10:30 am. $5/adult; free/child. 376-3848; thesymphonia.org

1/4 – Acro Class at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 SE Mizner Blvd #73, Boca Raton. Age 2-7. Every Sat 11:30 am-12 pm. 394-3626; showtimeboca.com

1/4 – Nature Detectives at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 13810 Ocean Blvd, Boca Raton. New mystery each month. Age 5-7 w/an adult. Held again 2/1. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. $5/member; $10/non-member. Reservations: 544-6015; gumbolimbo.org

1/4 – Singing Star Group Voice Class at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 SE Mizner Blvd #73, Boca Raton. Age 4-7. Every Sat 11:30 am. 390-3482; sfsciencecenter.org

1/4 – Tiny Tots Ballet/Tap Class at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 SE Mizner Blvd #73, Boca Raton. Age 3-2. Every Sat 11:30 am-12 pm. 390-3482; sfsciencecenter.org


1/4 – Kids Hip Hop Class at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 SE Mizner Blvd #73, Boca Raton. Age 4-7. Every Sat Noon-12 pm. 390-3482; sfsciencecenter.org

1/4 – Aquarium Feedings at Sandoway Discovery Center, 142 S Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach. All ages. Daily 2-4 pm. $5/admission/ages 3+; 274-7260; sandoway.org

1/4 – Oppossum, Snake, Owl & Alligator Feedings at Dogwatcher Nature Center, 14045 Park Access Rd, Boca Raton. Oppossum W; Snake, Owl F; Alligator Sat. 3:15-3:30 pm. Free. 629-8760; pbcnature.com

1/4 – Frozen Jr. at Showtime Performing Arts Theatre, 503 SE Mizner Blvd, Boca Raton. Every Sat from 11/8 pm. 325-0546; 255-8400; showtimeboca.com

1/4 – Jettie’s Story Time at Jupiter Community Center, 881 N Dixie Hwy, Jupiter. All ages. Every Sat. 10-10:30 am. Free. 463-0043; jupiterlibrary.org

1/4 – Mother Nature & Me: Getting Up Close at The Nature Center at the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, 4001 Deerfield Trl W, Palm Beach. Age 4-9. 9 am-4 pm. 345/member; 355/non-member; before/after care 2-3:30 pm & 4-5 pm 1st Friday. RSVP: 370-7705; sfsciencecenter.org

1/5 – Discovery Camp: Wild at Heart at sugar sand park, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Children’s books come to life through interactive performance, singing, movement, props. Age 2-5 10 am-3 pm. W 2 pm. Free w/paid admission. 742-6780; schoolhousemuseum.org

1/5 – Exploration Science Squad: Fantastic Fossils at Children’s Science Explorium, 100 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Kids explore, experiment, try something new every month. Age 5-6 w/parent;

Tots & Teens Calendar

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The 10th annual “It’s a Wonderful Run” 5K race drew 440 registered participants ages 4-89. Seventy-eight volunteers prepped hot pancake meals in the cafeteria for the well-conditioned field. ABOVE: The school’s cheer team added Santa to its lineup at the event. (l-r) Gabriella Jones, Raina Demarest, Maya Macyszyn, Santa, Alexa Fernandez and Hannah Flores. Photo provided
January 2020

The COASTAL STAR

Tots & Teens Calendar 21

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1/2 - 7/22: Exclusive Florhow Library at Boca Raton Public Library, 4000 Park Dr. Age 9-12. 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. 393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 1/24: Very Silly Vaudeville at Keven Center Rink Playhouse, 701 Olenehein Blvd, West Palm Beach. 7 pm. Tickets: $5, 832-7669; kevan.org

1/24 - 7/24: Exclusive Poy to American Spirit Crew & Dance, 2115 3rd St, Lantana. 6-8 pm. $30/week. $314-week. Member. 557-1099; americanpointcheer.com

1/24 - Eyes to the skies with professional-grade 16-inch Maksutov-Cassegrain telescope at Children's Science Exploratorium Starmap, Planetarium, 300 S Military Tr, Boca Raton. Informal event held in the parking lot. Weather permitting. Telescope is out for at least one hour after scheduled start time; stars must be visible for telescope to align. Age 8+ (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). 7 pm. Free. 345-1912; scienceexploratorium.org

Saturday - 1/25: Mouse Trap Car Workshop at South Florida Science Center. The Science-STEM Education Center, 4801 Dreeher Dr N, West Palm Beach. Interactive, inquiry style demonstrates the construction process of a mouse trap. Participants make precisie metric measurements, use basic tools, follow verbal/written directions to construct a basic, geared mouse trap car to meet specifications shown on a technical drawing of a mouse trap car. Led by Palm Beach County Science Teachers. Each registration includes one kit. Parent should accompany/assistant child age 8-13, 9:am-noon. $20/person. 370-7710; sfsciencecenter.org

1/25 - 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge Kickoff at Deby Beach Public Library, Public 100 W Atlantic Ave. Pick up free reading log, book recommendations, information. Games, prizes, crafts, snacks. Age 0-5. Free. 561-9704; delbarylibrary.org

1/25 - Sharkfest at Sandboy Discovery Center, 142 Ocean Blvd, Deerby Beach. Age 3-10 pm. 3-person. (247-242); sandboyhouse.org

1/25 - Intro to Orienteering at Daggerwing Nature Center, 11435 Park Access Rd, Boca Raton. Join a naturalist, learn how to navigate using a map & compass. Practice directional skills on a fun, outside adventure course. Bring a water bottle, sun protection, closed-toe shoes, $5/person. 393-7704; pbcnature.com


1/28 - GEMS Club: Winter Wonders at South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, 4801 Dreeher Dr, West Palm Beach. Empower young girls to explore STEM fields. Girls grades 2-6. High school girls can volunteer to be mentors. 7-7:30 pm. $5/advance, 30/door. Registration: 561-7710; disney.org


1/28 - Teen & Tween Anime with Merikami at Boca Ratun Public Library, 4000 Park Dr. Grades 6-12. 6-7:30 pm. Free. 393-7968; bocalibrary.org


Thursday - 1/30 - Omo Adventures at Deby Beach Public Library, 100 W Atlantic Ave. Age 6-10 pm. Free. 561-9704; delbarylibrary.org

1/30 - Create It at Boca Raton Public Library, 4000 Park Dr. Age 2-11 pm. Free. 393-7968; bocalibrary.org

Friday - 1/31 - Fabulous Fun Friday: Hot Chocolate Day at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Fun w/crafts/ activities match the theme of the week. All ages. 10:30-11:30 am, $4/member, 5/non-member w/paid admision. 426-4890; schoolhousemuseum.org

1/31 - Winter Wonders Night At The Museum at South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, 4801 Dreeher Dr N, West Palm Beach. Science crafts, activities, entertainment, exhibits, planetarium shows, a chance to view the night sky 6-9 pm. $14.95/adult; $12.95/senior; $10.95/ child (3-12); $5/child member & kids under 3. 629-8760; sfsciencecenter.org

Saturday - 2/1 - Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus at Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave. Age 3-8, 12-3 pm. $15/person. $14.50/member; $16.50/duibing. 561-829-6680; klwtheatre.com

Saturday - 2/1 - Drive the Bus at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Fun w/crafts/ activities match the theme of the week. All ages. 10:30-11:30 am, $4/member, 5/non-member w/paid admision. 426-4890; schoolhousemuseum.org

Saturday - 2/1 - Moonlight Drive at Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach. Fun w/crafts/ activities match the theme of the week. All ages. 10:30-11:30 am, $4/member, 5/non-member w/paid admision. 426-4890; schoolhousemuseum.org
January 2020  The COASTAL STAR  House of the Month  H23

The covered loggia overlooks the pool and waterway and has a summer kitchen with dining area.

The covered loggia overlooks the pool and waterway and has a summer kitchen with dining area.

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Private waterfront compound in Highland Beach

The residence offers five bedrooms, five full and two half baths with more than 11,000 total square feet. Meticulously maintained to include special upgrades and improvements by the owner, this property has impact windows and doors, whole house generator, Control4 technology, elevator, six air-conditioning zones, central vacuum, two large hot water heaters, two gas fireplaces, storage and four-car air-conditioned garage.

The home has a paneled library with a fireplace, a paneled billiards room, a chef’s kitchen with butler’s pantry, wine cellar, ground floor laundry and substantial storage. All en suite bedrooms are accessed via the grand staircase or elevator. The master wing is a luxurious retreat with sitting room, a morning bar, a private balcony and dual master baths. Upstairs has its own laundry facilities as well.

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A home theater has a 120-inch screen and hidden projector, stadium seating, custom lights and controls.

A soaring gold-leaf ceiling, Biltmore Estate-inspired chandelier and stone fireplace are interior custom touches in the formal living room. A solid wall of windows overlooks the waterway.

Each month, The Coastal Star features a house for sale in our community. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers and provides readers with a peek inside one of our houses.