Along the Coast

Volunteers a crucial factor in safe boating

By Emily J. Minor

On a hot summer morning, the temperatures already topping the 80-degree mark at a little after 9 o'clock, key members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 54 have reported for duty. Happily, they’ve checked the boat from bow to stern, distributed the five life jackets, reviewed the day’s assignments. Today, it’s an aid-to-navigations mission, a volunteer outing of great importance because it helps keep the water safe for boaters. These guys are looking for everything from disabled markers to an oil sheen on the water to a sailboat that’s sprung free from its anchor. They’re looking for anything that’s not right — like the plastic grocery bag. See AUXILIARY on page 13

Counties begins training for oil spill clean up

By Antigone Barton

A break in the current that could carry oil from BP’s exploded Deepwater Horizon site from the Gulf of Mexico to these shores has compounded uncertainty of when and how our beaches and waterways will bear the disaster’s impact. But county officials say they remain on course to respond swiftly to whatever comes.

While the earliest possible arrival from the disaster remained three weeks away as County Environmental Resources Management restoration director Dan Bates updated county commissioners at their June 29 meeting, beach cleaning training for local government employees has been approved and begun with a one-hour online course.

And while citizen volunteers will not be used to carry tar from the beaches, training may be given for volunteers interested in monitoring beaches for signs of damage.

The preparations are part of a stance that Palm Beach County oil disaster task force members say will remain firm: If oil arrives here, they will not depend on BP to protect local beaches.

"If BP is unable to clean up, we're prepared to move very quickly," said County Mayor Charles Runnell. See OIL SPILL on page 10

‘Auld lang syne, baby. See you at the Kravis’

By Hap Erstein

Ask Nancy Barnett, managing director of the award-winning Florida Stage, what she will miss about the Manalapan playhouse now that the company is leaving and she mentions the baby crabs.

Baby crabs? “Every year in October, when the baby crabs come out, they come under the door into the offices, so we’d have to chase them out, sweep them out, carry them out in shoe boxes,” says actress-turned-administrator Barnett. “We’re not going to have that at the Kravis Center.”

After 19 years as the anchor tenant of Plaza del Mar, Florida Stage is moving to West Palm Beach this summer to become a permanent resident of the performing arts complex’s Rinker Playhouse.

Subscribers are split between those who see the financial and architectural advantages of the move and those who worry about the personal inconvenience and loss of theatrical intimacy. But for the staff, those crabs are a metaphor for the behind-the-scenes struggles that were always a part of the theater’s life in Manalapan. See FLORIDA STAGE on page 19

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Cool off with gelato
Gulf Stream resident wrote the book on frozen confection. Food, Page 16

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Meet Your Neighbor
John Katsaros has written a book about how he escaped the Nazis. Page 17

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WWII vet helps wounded soldiers get service dogs. Page 25

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House of the Month
Ocean Ridge home has classic style, ocean views. Page 26
Editorial

Bravo to Briny for police protection vote

“On this side of the bridge, people wave with all five fingers.”

I laughed out loud when Ocean Ridge Police Chief Chris Yannuzzi said this to help explain why his department was better suited than Boynton Beach to provide protection to Briny Breezes at its June 24 town meeting. After 25 years with the Boynton Beach police force, he knew what he was talking about. I think we all do.

After much thought, discussion and a hard look at the financial implications of the two contracts, Briny made the right decision by agreeing to return their protection to their neighbors. We can only hope that this is the beginning of a return to friendly relations between the two towns.

Boynton Beach’s lack of ability to negotiate a better contract, water, sewer, fire or police protection should have come as no surprise to the Briny commission. Boynton is a big city with big city problems. That’s what drives their financial decisions — not an attempt to thumb their noses at big city problems. That’s what drives their financial decisions — not an attempt to thumb their noses at big city problems.

Boynton Beach’s willingness to respond to fire-rescue calls in the unincorporated pocket when the county requests mutual aid or when a 911 caller requests Boynton’s response. Boynton Beach Fire Chief William Bingham was the first to step forward to work out an agreement with the county to renew services to this area.

Are there financial repercussions for his doing so? No doubt. But I’ve heard Chief Bingham speak about this arrangement, and believe he genuinely cares about the safety of residents in our area.

When Ocean Land Investments rolled into town with its snake oil deal to buy Briny, there was a lot less concern for the residents on this side of the bridge. They pitted good, honest Briny shareholders — with a dream of being able to provide an increased inheritance for their heirs — against good, honest residents of the neighboring towns with a dream of maintaining their existing lifestyle into their retirement years. The proposed sale built a wall between neighbors.

If Briny’s earlier choice of Boynton for police protection was retaliation for Ocean Ridge’s stand against the Ocean Land development, then this decision to return police protection to Ocean Ridge can be seen as an olive branch — finally.

Let’s hope so. Regardless of Briny’s long-range plans for the park, let’s hope they include their neighbors in the discussion. We all want the same thing on this side of the bridge: to live in a place where neighbors smile and wave at each other — with all five fingers.

— Mary Kate Leming, editor

Disclosure:
The editor and publisher of The Coastal Star own property in Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes, and did so at the time of the proposed sale.

Maybe it’s because she was a reading teacher and librarian “in another life.”

Perhaps it’s because she wanted to give back to her small hometown of five years.

Whatever the reasons, Joan Bernstein was asked to lead a fund-raising drive to update and refurbish the Manalapan town library, she quickly agreed.

When she started in February, the goal was $75,000 to replace the ceiling, lighting and carpets, panel the sweeping curved wall, repaint and add new furniture to the library, which was built in 1981.

Two fund-raising letters, some gentle arm-twisting and a couple of months later, Bernstein and her committee had raised $107,000 in contributions from 85 donors. Gifts came big ($10,000) and small ($20).

“I’m proud of the people of Manalapan,” Bernstein said. “They were extremely generous.

“The fact that we could accomplish all that we set out to do was tremendous.”

Bernstein shares credit with designers Mary Thornton of MET Interiors and Sophy Isaac, who are volunteering design services, and town Commissioner Marilyn Hedberg, who served as town liaison with the fund-raisers.

“They are working very hard to spend the money as well and as decoratively as possible,” Bernstein said. Bernstein and her husband, William, moved to Manalapan from Atlanta in 2002. She said she soon realized that Manalapan is a “wonderful little town, which deserves residents to be active.” She serves as a member of the town’s architectural commission; her husband is on the town commission.

The library was established in 1971, named for former Mayor J. Turner Moore and moved into its current space in 1981.

It is not part of the county library system; residents pay a $25 annual membership fee. The 8,000-volume library also hosts town gatherings, meetings, book clubs, a reading hour for children and computer classes.

The building’s design is somewhat unique, since it was built to surround the town’s 400,000-gallon water tank. However, the sweeping curved walls of the interior.

Town officials are planning a grand opening sometime this November after the work is complete.

“We’re absolutely amazed and delighted,” said town librarian Mary Ann Kunkle. “I cannot say enough good things about Joan.”

Helping Manalapan Library turn a new page

The library’s new decor will have a tropical feel, with soothing greens and vibrant prints.

Joan Bernstein (right) headed the fund-raising drive for refurbishing the Manalapan Library, and raised $107,000. Designer Mary Thornton donated her services. Photos by Jerry Lower
Residents of this usually quiet coastal area have lately raised an assertive voice on two separate issues, urging southern neighbor Gulf Stream to annex them and objecting to the height — among other things — of the latest development of the Sea Horse condominiums.

The oceanfront Sea Horse project has been drawing outrage from residents who protest its height, potential drainage problems and an approval process that has provided no forum for public comment. County Commissioner Steven Abrams assures them, however, the issues they’ve raised will be part of a meeting being held by developers and county officials to hash out some of the concerns.

Meanwhile, Gulf Stream is taking the next step toward annexing the unincorporated community where the Sea Horse project is located, following a study prompted by nearby residents requests to join the town.

At their June 11 meeting, Gulf Stream commissioners voted to support Urban Design Kilday Studio’s recommendation for voluntary annexation of the pocket south of Little Club Road and north of Sea Road, which is next to Sea Horse.

Gulf Stream is the quickest method, in which property owners petition to become part of Gulf Stream. The town would need 100 percent consent by residents in the county pocket.

Urban Design also recommended the town simultaneously pursue a second method, Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement annexation, in case voluntary annexation doesn’t succeed, according to the report from Joni Brinkman and Marty R.A. Minor. ISBA provides for counties and towns to negotiate agreements and processes for annexation and land use.

Boyon Beach is forming an ISBA, the report pointed out, noting Gulf Stream opted not to take part. Boynton Beach’s move to study annexation of other areas in part precipitated the outcry from pocket residents who fear becoming part of that city’s jurisdiction.

The Bellmar House on North Ocean Boulevard submitted a letter to Gulf Stream checking on the status of its request of several months ago to be annexed. The same letter also raised the issue of the 4010 development — formerly called the Sea Horse project, which Bellmar House said it is “vehemently opposed to.” The letter cited the project’s density as well as its design as factors in the protest.

The design is not in keeping with the surrounding buildings on the barrier island,” said the letter signed by Bellmar House Condominium Association.

Of much greater concern are drainage issues which were brought to the attention of the previous developer and not yet addressed.”

Another property just north of the Sea Horse, the Ballantrae Condominium Association, said that the development’s height should be limited to 35 to 40 feet with a density of six units per acre, said President David G. Frey in a letter. He, too, feared a drainage problem.

Frey wanted the project approved consistent with Gulf Stream’s zoning ordinances — or said it should be delayed until the “annexation issue is resolved,” when Gulf Stream’s ordinances would govern. The developer says, however, that the height is within the county formula at about 67 feet and with some higher peaks for roofing. “We think we have a high-quality design. We don’t think it’s out of character for the area,” said Koler "Residential President Bob Vail. Vail pointed out that there are buildings with as many as seven stories nearby, and that the county formula would allow the developer to build higher.

Gulf Stream Town Manager Bill Thrasher told commissioners that Gulf Stream officials met with the county after a “considerable” amount of resident feedback opposing the six story Sea Horse project. The project’s height is in dispute at between 70 and 90 feet, Thrasher said.

“We feel that’s incompatible with the area and are making that position known to various regulating bodies in the area.” Mayor William Koch said the county is using a fast-track procedure which doesn’t involve public hearings to move the project approvals along, despite the growing objections of residents in the area. "It’s a ballpark we don’t have a bat in," Koch said.

The county had earlier responded to a letter from Sea Horse developers that the project didn’t have to go through public hearings if its new design constituted only a minor change from a 2006 proposal for the initial project.

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Briny Breezes

Ocean Ridge police to resume patrol of Briny Breezes in October

By Margie Plunkett

The Ocean Ridge Police Department will begin patrolling Briny Breezes in October after winning the council’s unanimous support with last-minute contract concessions in its competition with current provider Boynton Beach Police Department.

Briny Breezes voted to pay $185,000 a year under a three-year contract after Ocean Ridge eliminated a 4 percent annual increase. The package saved about $129,000 over the Boynton Beach proposal of $219,350 a year and was particularly alluring as Briny Breezes faces a budget year pinched by falling property tax revenue and a maxed-out tax rate.

The concessions turned the vote of aldermen including Frank Barba, who said he had supported Boynton Beach but was swayed by the increase in the already substantial dollar difference in proposals. The tiny town opted for a three-year pact — Ocean Ridge offered the choice of one-, two- or three-year terms — with a clause that allows it or Ocean Ridge to get out of the contract with 60 days’ notice.

The council’s unanimous vote included new Alderman Peter Fingerhut, sworn in at the June 24 meeting to replace Karen Wiggins after she joined the park’s corporate board.

Mayor Roger Bennett sought concessions from both Boynton Beach and Ocean Ridge as Briny Breezes neared its June 30 deadline for notifying Boynton Beach if it would renew its police contract.

Boynton Beach City Manager Kurt Bressner, who indicated he would take the requests to his June 15 commission meeting, according to a letter by Briny Breezes attorney Jerome Skrandel, “I don’t want to close the ballfield,” said council member Elizabeth Tennyson, but increasing taxes isn’t an option. “I know people who are hanging on by their fingernails financially. We can’t burden our residents by raising taxes. I will not drive a family out onto the streets.”

Council says it’s down to the nitty gritty of providing only services that are essential for public safety. But that didn’t help police force job security: Lantana had already found budget cuts by making it possible for Police Chief Rick Lincoln to retire six months early, come autumn, and will replace him with Capt. Jeff Tyson. Meanwhile, Capt. Andy Rundle, one of the names that had surfaced as a possible replacement for Lincoln, volunteered to take early retirement in what Bornstein called a noble gesture.

The town pays about $250,000 annually to operate and maintain the sports complex, and it needs to find about $150,000 to keep it open in the new budget year that begins Oct. 1, Mayor David Stewart said. The sports complex was discussed as a possible budget casualty, but it could still remain open: The Lantana Athletic Association and Town Manager Michael Bornstein plan to meet to discuss prospects, including that group’s taking over the 22-acre sports park, which features baseball, soccer and other facilities.

Some residents spoke hopefully at the meeting of helping the complex get closer to financial viability by seeking corporate sponsors and cutting costs.

“Let us help,” Lantana Athletic Association President Brenda Northup offered, later adding that fewer restrictions brought by the new Dixie Youth League let the teams play when they don’t need light, saving at least one hefty cost.

“The town can’t fund it. We don’t have the money this lifetime.” Mayor Bennett said.

Some residents had even suggested that information sent out about both police department proposals with an 80-page packet and an earlier poll of residents was skewed in favor of Boynton Beach.

Lantana

Sports Complex threatened by cuts

By Margie Plunkett

A dozen kids in sports uniforms fidgeted outside Lantana Town Hall on a night late in June, while many of the 118 residents crammed inside to voice fears that the town’s youth will likewise be left out because the town can’t afford to keep the Lantana Sports Complex open.

“Our children will be turned into second-class citizens without travel programs and access to the fields,” resident Helen Smider said.

Lantana Council’s budget meeting made clear the tough choices as revenues plunge late in June, while many of the 118 residents crammed inside to voice fears that the town’s youth will likewise be left out because the town can’t afford to keep the Lantana Sports Complex open.

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Ocean Ridge

With tight funding, turtle nests go unmarked

By Thomas R. Collins

Faced with less federal money, and slashes to its own department budget, Palm Beach County has cut back on its surveying of sea turtle nests on a beach that had been one of the most closely watched.

The stretch of beach, from just north of the Boynton Inlet south nearly to the southern town limit of Ocean Ridge, no longer has every sea turtle nest marked as it had in the past. But all nests are still counted every day, said Paul Davis, environmental manager with the county’s Department of Environmental Resources Management.

He said the change just brings surveying on that beach — which has been done by Boca Raton contractor DB Ecological Services Inc. for the past two nesting seasons — down to the same level as at other beaches. But it has some observers concerned about the safety of the nests and the county’s dedication to protection of the fragile creatures.

The main problem that led to the diminished surveying was that the county was no longer required under a permit for beach renourishment to survey for the sea turtles. When the requirement ran out, so did the federal government’s matching money for the surveying — $64,395. That funding was intended for about half of the Ocean Ridge stretch of beach.

So the county cut what it considered “nonessential.” The county has made up more than $60,000 of what was lost, but it’s not enough to keep things as they were.

“We don’t have the funding to do so as intensively as we have in the past,” Davis said.

The county’s own budget for sea turtle surveying also has continued to decline in recent years, adding to the hardship, Davis said. He noted that Ocean Ridge has just 115 nests per mile, compared to the county average of 358 nests per mile.

In Delray Beach, the budget for surveying has not been cut, and all nests are counted and marked, senior planner Scott Pape said. “We still do the full turtle survey.”

In Manalapan and Gulf Stream, contractors are hired privately for beach cleaning and surveying for sea turtle nests is done as a requirement for those contracts.

Davis said the unmarked nests are not considered to be in jeopardy. Normal beach activities, such as people walking across nests, don’t harm them, he said. Nests where the markers have been removed have historically been found to remain viable, he said.

“We don’t believe that there’s a greater risk to the nests,” he said.

Local environmental activist Kim Jones thinks otherwise. She said she runs along the beach every day and has seen unmarked turtle nests in areas where the beaches are raked to clean them — a big no-no.

“There are nests that are vulnerable that are not even being acknowledged,” she said. “And I tell you, I’m ripped about it.”

She also said nesting may be lower in Ocean Ridge specifically due to the beach renourishment project. Jones said she has offered to round up volunteers for more extensive surveying, but said the county hasn’t taken her up on it. She said she doesn’t understand why all nests can’t be marked, since someone is out on the beach every day anyway.

“How difficult is it to just put a stake in the ground, or two or three, like we’ve always done, and just cordon it off?”

Fuel shortage, pilot error cited in crash

A twin-engine Cessna plane that hit the new Ocean Ridge Town Hall in July 2008 crashed because of a partial loss of engine power due to fuel starvation, according to a National Transportation Safety Board report in June.

Contributing to the crash, the NTSB report said, was the pilot’s decision to add only a limited amount of fuel before the flight. The pilot said he bought 10 gallons of fuel for each of two main tanks and had planned to fly 22 miles from Palm Beach County Park Airport to Pompano Beach Airport.

According to the report, the pilot said that five minutes after takeoff, the plane lost engine power, started to rapidly lose altitude, struck Ocean Ridge Town Hall and hit the ground. The new Town Hall was still under construction at the time. The pilot, Laurent Gillion of Boca Raton, survived the crash.

Bird sanctuary vote coming

Ocean Ridge came a step closer to becoming a bird sanctuary with an ordinance passed on first reading at the June 7 meeting.

“The ordinance, up for final approval July 12, protects birds from harm within the town’s bounds. The ordinance prohibits trapping or molesting birds or robbing their nests.”

— Margie Plunkett
Weatherman Weagle tests pedals’ mettle for American Red Cross

Heads turned. Hands waved. Horns honked. Motorists and pedestrians from Sebastian to Boca Raton had no trouble recognizing the familiar cyclist during the first week of June. Steve Weagle was at it again, biking to raise awareness and money for the American Red Cross.

No easy task, either, for the WPTV-Channel 5 weatherman. When temperatures weren’t in the 90s, he and his occasional riding companions were being buffeted by energy-sapping headwinds and pelted by stinging rain. Yet after 11 years and more than 1,200 miles, he’s ready to do it again.

“It’s amazing how many people recognize us,” Weagle said as he pedaled through Lantana on the final 25-mile leg along U.S. 1 from CityPlace in West Palm Beach to Boca’s Mizner Park. Joined by Stan Kilbas, owner of Wheels of Wellington and who, as usual, donated the bike, Weagle covered the 25 miles in a wearying four hours.

The entourage still managed to arrive in time for the final party at ZED 451, where a couple of check presentations and an auction of Weagle’s bike brought his total for the week to $52,000. (Two bidders, Toyota-man Earl Stewart and an anonymous one, put in $12,500 for the bike.)

“We covered 130 miles,” Weagle said. “We started 10 miles farther north this year, but it was worth it. The ride doesn’t just raise money. It calls attention to the Red Cross’ work and brings in a lot of volunteers, too.”

With folks like Rush Limbaugh spending millions on his umpteenth wedding (He reserved 200 rooms for guests and paid $1.2 million just for Elton John), The Breakers is having a good year. Other Palm Beach hotels also are doing well. Business at the established restaurants hasn’t returned to the heady, pre-Bernie Madoff levels of five years ago, but with the exception of Amici, which has been sold to a Monte Carlo group and will reopen in the fall as Cafe Milano, most are bearing up. To ensure that customers keep coming in during the slow summer months, 14 restaurants from Manalapan to Palm Beach are reviving “Palm Beach Restaurant Summer.”

The Ritz-Carlton’s Temple Orange and The Four Seasons Bistro are joining a dozen Palm Beach eateries to offer three-course lunch specials for $20.10. See AVENUES on page 7.

Along the Avenues

Hypoluxo Island and Manalapan...Coastal Living Paradise!

Hypoluxo Island Pool Home
3BD/3BA
Another wonderful home on this barrier island walking distance to ocean beaches, dining and shopping.
Sold for $415,000.
Great Value! Great Neighborhood!

Hypoluxo Island
Steals and Deals! Don’t Wait!
Live the Island Lifestyle on Hypoluxo Island! Waterfront and non-waterfront homes are available at tremendous values! 617 SE Atlantic Drive ~ $499K
1020 N Atlantic Drive ~ $1,200K

Turnberry Estates – Atlantis
4BD/4BA
Incredible values remain available in Turnberry Estates – Atlantis, a non-equity golf community just 4 miles from Ocean beaches. 24-hour guard, manned security, private club membership avail. NOW is the time to buy. Call for a list of all available properties.

Call To Inquire About Additional Property Offerings & Open House Schedule
AVENUES: Continued from page 6

and three-course dinners for $35 through Sept. 30.
Additionally, several restaurants are offering a variety of specials featuring happy hours, take-outs and themed meals.
In the Restaurant Summer mix: Bice, Café Boulud, Café Cellini, Charley’s Crab, The Chesterfield’s Leopard Lounge & Bar, Cool Breeze, CoCo Palm Beach, Renato’s, Michelle Bernstein at The Omphoy and The Breakers (including Echo, Flamingo, Ocean Grill, Panama Restaurant and Seafood Bar).
Other specials: Café L’Europe, 264 The Grill, Mi Casita McCarty’s, Cuccia dell’Arte & Nick & Johnnie’s Pâtio Bar and Grill, The Colony’s Polo Steakhouse and Tent 9. And let’s not forget the Circle Dining Room at The Breakers, where Sunday brunch buffet includes mimosa and Bloody Marys (be sure to bring a designated driver) is summer-priced at $75.

“It’s heartbreaking, but it’s what I had to do,” said Amici president Maurizio Ciminella. “We’re closing after nearly 17 years. Big customers aren’t eating out as often. Hotels are adding more restaurants; you can’t blame them.”

The Breakers offers nine restaurants on and off the golf course, whereas Delray is at a Top of the Point, formerly the Governor’s Club, in Phills Point in West Palm Beach.

Delray Beach, however, hasn’t been hit so hard — far fewer Madoff victims, a less transient population, more dining variety and lower rents.
Its problem may, in fact, be too much of a good thing. The street is packed with people. It’s almost like a sports event in the making. The Breakers wants to drive them away, but it would like to make it easier for them to drive away.

“Our restaurants are pretty solid,” Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Marjorie Ferrer said. “Our problem is that 2 a.m. everything is closed and at 2:30 the street is packed with people. It’s almost like a sports event ending.

In some places they turn their valet stands into taxi stands, so the people who shouldn’t be driving can find an easy ride home. We’re looking into that.”

Like Golf and The Blue Angel in the east, Paddy McGee’s, the first Irish Pub on Atlantic, has become a haven for soccer fans during World Cup weekend, opening early to accommodate all the bleary-eyed fans. And you can bet no tears were shed when France was sent packing after a full menu. Door prizes. Drink specials, including a Harp’s 20-ounce World Cup glass that costs $8 including a Harp’s 20-ounce bottle of champagne.

“When in Rome . . . cook as the Romans cook. That’s what is about to happen down on Ocean Avenue in Lantana, where Apicius Ristorante E Enoteca will be opening soon at what was once il Trullo and most recently R Kitchen. The name is Italian for a Florentine-style restaurant and wine bar. It’s the brainchild of Palm Beach developer and restaurateur Leo Balestrieri. Apicius was the first known Roman cookbook, and Balestrieri and his partner and general manager Nubair Talanian want to bring something original to South County: a wine bar with small, tapas-like plates, plus a full menu of meat, seafood and game, much of it imported from Italia, including venison, pheasant and wild boar.

For several years, Balestrieri ran Mulberry Street, a restaurant in Boone, N.C. That space is now occupied by Golf Express, a Brazilian steakhouse, partly owned by Luciano Madeiros, who also has a share of Golf in Delray.

The colorful Balestrieri made news of a different sort last year in West Palm Beach when he took issue with a Democratic Party activist over an anti-Rush Limbaugh moving billboard that was parked on Clematis Street.

Sounds like diners are in for an original experience.

Remember when Howard Johnson’s 28 flavors posed the ultimate indulgence for a youngster? Of course, by 2010 standards, 28 is a paltry number. The ice cream shelves at Publix take up an entire aisle. In this decade alone, the company has introduced more than 40 new products and flavors.

It makes sense that July, being one of the hottest months of the year, is National Ice Cream Month. To celebrate, the Ritz-Carlton in Manalapan is hosting Ice Cream Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m. throughout July, and on Fridays and Saturdays as well.

Customers at Cool Breeze, located on the Resort Lawn can build their own cone with ice cream made in-house and topped with sprinkles, gummy bears, Oreos, MMs and, of course, a cherry on top. Price: $4 per cone.

Also on tap are snow cones, $4 for regular, or $9 for the more daring — flavored with strawberry, cherry, lemonade, lime, peach, mango, raspberry or banana-vodkas.

If you build it they will come. And if they come, they’ll need places to eat. Which is why The Promenade in Boynton Beach will have two restaurants by year’s end, rising like a pair of phoenixes from the ashes, or rather the rubble, of the shopping center that gave way to The Promenade. Margo’s, a 2,500-square-foot sit-down restaurant, and Happy Garden, 1,000 square feet of take-out, enjoyed long histories before the walls came down. Let’s hope they haven’t been away too long.

Across the bridge on A1A, Wachovia Financial Center customers have been notified that the Ocean Ridge branch — across the street from Nomad Surf Shop — will be combined with the branch at Woodbright and Federal in late September. That’s one less banking opportunity on the East side of the bridge.

Coming Aug. 13 and 14, it’s Tastemakers of Delray 2010. The ultimate restaurant crawl features samplings from 24 of the city’s top restaurants, paired with wine, beer or cocktails, all for the price of a “passport,” only $25. And the deal continues after the 14th, as passport holders can continue to use them until Sept. 30 for special deals at participating restaurants.

Tastemakers is sponsored by the Delray Beach Downtown Development Authority. Boca and Florida Table magazines and benefit the American Cancer Society.

For details, call (561) 243-1077.

Thom Smith is a freelance writer. He can be reached at thomsmit90@gmail.com.
By Tim O’Meilia

South Palm Beach voters may be asked to make a nearly irreversible decision on the future of the Palm Beach Oceanfront Inn this fall. The Town Council voted 3-2 to consider placing a pair of town charter amendments on the ballot that would limit the height of new buildings east of State Road A1A to 60 feet and would prohibit new or the expansion of existing non-residential buildings.

Twice since 2005, the owners of the two-story inn, the only commercial building in town, have failed to persuade the council to allow zoning changes that would permit a 10-story or higher hotel-condominium.

Councilwoman Stella Jordan, who proposed the charter changes, said they would preserve the residential nature of the town. “It puts control of redevelopment of the town in the residents’ hands,” she said, and takes it away from the council.

Both the height and land-use restrictions are in the town’s zoning code, which can be amended by ordinance by the council.

Mayor Martin Millar complained the council did not have sufficient time to study Jordan’s proposal since they didn’t provide the specifics until the meeting, although the issue of charter change was on the agenda.

“This could cost the town money and we could have a lawsuit by an outsider,” he said. Millar and Councilman Brian Merbler opposed the charter vote. Merbler questioned whether the hotel, if damaged in a storm, would be allowed to be rebuilt.

“My concern is that we would eliminate any window of opportunity to update (the hotel),” he added.

Jordan and council members Donald Clayton and Susan Lybeck approved the measure.

The proposal drew the angry opposition of motel co-owners Ronald and Michelle Paloka.

“They want to express my vehement opposition. I have no choice but to consider it a taking under the Bert Harris Act,” Peter Paloka said, referring to the state law allowing landowners to sue for “just compensation” when a land use change restricts the potential value of their property.

“You are putting your town in a precarious situation,” said Michelle Paloka. She also called Clayton “a bully and a hypocrite.”

Former Councilwoman and planning board member Pat Schulmayer said such changes required hours of consideration of the intricacies of the issues by the planning board and the council.

“This is no way the people of this town will have the intelligence or the information to make this sort of decision,” Schulmayer said.

In July, the council will consider two ordinances drafted by the town attorney that would put the questions on the ballot. The proposals could be revised then. A second approval is required in August.

This is Jordan’s second attempt to challenge why the council.

In January, before she was elected, she submitted petitions signed by more than 20 percent of town’s registered voters to put three changes on the ballot, including the two council charter changes.

But Town Clerk Janet Whipple rejected the petitions, ruling that they were not signed a month before the requested election date.

She also ruled they did not comply with other technical requirements, including the formation of a five-member committee, and they conflicted with the state law on comprehensive plans.

In other action, the Town Council:

• Approved, by a 4-1 vote, a $1,000 donation to the town of Lantana and the Greater Lantana Chamber of Commerce for the Fourth of July celebration.

• Granted a unanimous approval of an agreement with Phillips and Jordan Inc. for emergency debris removal and disaster recovery services after a storm.

• Gave final unanimous approval to abolishing the boil of adjusting and transferring its powers to the planning board.

Along the Coast

Supreme Court ruling may have impact on beachfront owners’ rights

By Kelly Wolfe

This month, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed a ruling that said when public money is used for beach re-nourishment: the beach then becomes publically-owned, despite the fact that when some people bought land, the deed said they owned the beach down to the high water mark.

The ruling is confusing to land-owners like Merrilee Lundquist of Ocean Ridge, who said she agreed to sign a piece of paper allowing the state to re-nourish the beach when needed, but she wasn’t told at that time she would be giving up ownership of the land. Plus, Lundquist asked, what happens when the re-nourished beach has washed away?

“At first, it was like a road in front of our house,” Lundquist said in the months after the state poured sand onto her property. “Now, all that sand is gone.”

The Supreme Court, in an 8-0 vote June 17, rejected a challenge by six homeowners in Florida’s Panhandle who argued that a beach-widening project was essentially a taking of property without “just compensation,” as the Constitution requires.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs did not return calls seeking comment.

Justice John Paul Stevens argued in the majority that the state law had long recognized as “taking of property” the taking of property without “just compensation,” as the Constitution requires.

And the re-nourishment agreements, he said.

There was only one property owner who recently sold the memory that didn’t Bates said. But that man eventually sold his property to Merrilee Lundquist, who did agree to allow for re-nourishment.

The homeowners who filed suit in Destin wanted the state to pay them underdetermined compensation for “taking” their property, which Florida law had long recognized as extending to the water line at high tide.

New sand along seven miles of storm-battered beach in Palm Beach County, said he was glad the Supreme Court upheld the ruling, and said he hasn’t had many complaints from property owners on this coast, anyway.

“In our experience, property owners support re-nourishment agreements,” he said.

But Town Clerk Janet Whipple rejected the petitions, rulings that they were not signed a month before the requested election date.

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“I think beach owners are going to be upset with this,” Lundquist said. “I go down and look at my plants. It’s not frightening, it’s frightening. People live on the beach, and doesn’t mind when people relax in the sun on what is essentially her property if it often doesn’t end there.

“I came home one day to find a teenage couple in my pool,” she said. “I had a $600 gate broken. People have stolen my plants. It’s not frightening, but it’s part of it.”

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Town commission delays vote on turtle lighting ordinance

By Margie Plunkett

Sea turtles will continue to nest in peace under county regulation after Manalapan commissioners put off voting until year’s end on a turtle lighting ordinance that moves control to the town.

The postponed ordinance is expected to be resurrected after seasonal residents return.

The draft legislation has been postponed several times and earlier set off a furor when Commissioner Howard Roder accused Mayor Tom Gerrard of personally benefiting from the proposed ordinance he originated.

The proposal was also the impetus for written policy on who can request the town attorney to draft ordinances, who can request the town attorney to draft ordinances, guidelines which haven’t yet been completed.

The postponement at the June 22 commission meeting came on the heels of a wide-ranging discussion about the Environmental Resource Management about the implications of opting to move regulations that protect sea turtles to Manalapan’s jurisdiction.

Lighting restrictions are in place during turtle season to ensure hatchlings can proceed to the ocean without being distracted and disoriented by lights from homes on and near the beach. Gerrard and others say that new county regulations are unreasonably restrictive, even limiting lighting that can’t be seen from the beach. Residents claim that the overly limited lighting poses a safety hazard.

Manalapan’s ability to monitor coastal lighting and enforce compliance came into question, as Commissioner William Bernstein, for one, reiterated his previously stated doubts on the topic.

“One of my serious problems with the statute is that it would impose upon our town the responsibility for compliance and I think we have a spotty history when it comes to compliance,” said Bernstein, who was the only dissenter to the proposed ordinance’s approval during a first reading vote in March. The commissioner also feared the added duty would take resources away from the Police Department’s primary duty of protecting residents. Police Chief Clay Walker, however, said officers routinely patrol the beach at night on ATVs, and could add observation and detection of possible lighting violations to the patrol, which would be far more frequent than the county’s twice yearly check.

And Paul Davis of ERM also said with the proper training he believed the Police Department’s efforts would be sufficient.

But Town Manager Tom Heck wanted to study further whether Manalapan has the resources to handle compliance before committing to it. Others argued against moving too hastily to take on an environmental responsibility that could have a critical impact if not stewarded properly. “I’m not an environmentalist,” said resident Basil Diamond, “but in light of what has happened in the Gulf [of Mexico], when mankind is insensitive to the environment, there are consequences.”

Kathryn Diamond later added, “You have to look at the gulf. We could be the only coast left with turtles.”

Manalapan has had a good track record for nesting turtles, according to information from Davis, who said there had been seven events of turtle disorientation, each of which could involve from one to 100 hatchlings. The beaches here have provided a good environment and above average nesting, he said.

Opting out of county regulation of turtle lighting could also put at risk any funds for beach projects, some argued, although they were countered by comments that because Manalapan doesn’t have a public beach, it isn’t eligible for most funds anyway.

Nine other towns have opted out, with eight of those in 1988, Davis said, adding, no others have opted out since Juno Beach in 1992. Since it was passed on first reading, the proposed turtle lighting ordinance has been revised to address concerns by county and state regulators, residents learned at the commission meeting.

Revisions include that lights cannot be visible from the beach, altering phrasing that they couldn’t be visible from the beach at a height of three feet, an attempt to view lighting from a sea turtle’s perspective.

Other language was added to guard against the effects of indirect, as well as direct lighting, reflecting what Davis of ERM said were growing concerns about the impact of the glow from indirect illumination.

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OIL SPILL:

Continued from page 1

up the beach, we will do it," Assistant County Administrator and Public Safety Director Vince Bonvento said. "Whatever it takes to protect our estuaries and our communities and our beaches, we will do." That is the backbone of a draft plan that task force members discussed at a June 10 meeting and sent to commissioners and disaster response coordinators that include state, federal and BP officials.

By federal law, BP bears responsibility for addressing impacts of the disaster.

"That makes a few people uncomfortable," said ERM’s Bates, who directs beach enhancement and restoration efforts for the agency.

While Bates said plans call for "BP showing up and cleaning up in a timely and efficient manner," designated county and municipal employees will receive eight hours of training through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in early July to assess damage from oil. In addition, a half-day training for those who may participate in clean up efforts is in the works, Bates said.

Training is critical because the oil from the spill — whether it turns up in the form of tar balls, or mats embedded in seaweed — is considered hazardous waste and must be disposed of appropriately.

For that reason, Gary Solomon, founder and coordinator of Sand Sifters, a volunteer group that cleans beaches from the Boynton Inlet to Gulf Stream, is directing interested oil cleanup volunteers to sign up on the county’s website at www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/deepwaterhorizon/feedbackapp/.

"They will need training we don’t provide," he said.

Solomon, who attended the June meeting asked county officials to post signs directing beachgoers not to touch or try to dispose of oil they find on the beach. The county has since ordered signs, and as they arrive will leave it to individual municipalities to decide when to post the warnings.

For Solomon and the Sand Sifters volunteers who gather cigarette butts and bits of plastic from local beaches on a weekly basis, the wait to see the impact of the oil disaster is grueling.

"Our goal is to make sure the beaches are healthy and wildlife is protected," he said.

"So this whole thing is one big blow to the bottom of our hearts."
Competitors vie for WXEL while listeners complain about sale

By Kelly Wolfe

Two competing nonprofits showed how they would revamp and re-energize WXEL public television and radio at a public forum June 29. The Delray Beach-based Strategic Broadcast Media Group and the Community Broadcast Foundation are both interested in buying WXEL, despite the fact that at least the radio portion of the broadcast station is already under contract to a Miami classical music station.

Both organizations spoke of similar ideas. Both said they wanted local programming. Both said they would increase revenue by renting SBMG, said the station could make local and traveling artists more money than it does now. Both said they are concerned about losing local programming if Classical South Florida takes over.

Before money changes hands, the license transfer has to get the approval of the Florida Department of Education and the Federal Communications Commission. So far, the sale isn’t on the board’s agenda.

Pablo Del Real, chair of WXEL’s Community Advisory Board, said the board does not support the sale of the license because the city feared it would mean fewer jobs at the station — meaning fewer jobs in Boynton Beach. However, city leaders did, at that time, voice concern about stepping in the midst of a sale between two private entities.

Meanwhile, foundation representative Murray Green said his group would rely on a superstar sales team to make more money. “We need a sales team equivalent of the best sales team in town,” Green said.

When asked how much it was willing to spend to buy WXEL, SBMG said it had offered $3.5 million for both the radio and television portions of the station. SBMG also said it already had raised the money. The foundation said it would get loans to pay for the station, and would not say how much it would pay for the station.

The exchange of ideas and the presentation, however, are moot if Barry University, which operates WXEL, is allowed to move forward with an offer from nonprofit Classical South Florida, which said in April it would buy the radio station for $3.85 million in cash.

Bruce Edwards, a senior vice president at Barry University, which has been operating WXEL since 1997, when the university stepped in to keep the beleaguered station from closing. Barry put the station on the market in 2004. The late June meeting appeared to be in response to loyal listener outcry after the sale was announced. Listeners said they are concerned about losing local programming if Classical South Florida takes over.

Because the station is owned by the community, the community does have a voice in the license transfer. The Board of Education and the FCC will hear public comment before approving the measure.

During a meeting in early June, the Boynton Beach City Council agreed to send a letter to the Department of Education, saying it did not support the sale of the license. The city feared it would mean fewer jobs at the station — meaning fewer jobs in Boynton Beach. However, city leaders did, at that time, voice concern about stepping in the midst of a sale between two private entities.

A Mediterranean fruit fly has been found in a trap in the 100 block of Andrews Avenue in Delray Beach. This is the first detection of the pest outside of Boca Raton, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture.

Medflies are an invasive species that damages citrus and other fruits by implanting eggs that can hatch inside, making the fruit inedible or unsuitable for sale. State and federal officials have launched an eradication program, which includes the release of sterile fruit flies. This program is being expanded to include south Delray. For more information visit www.doacs.state.fl.us or call 888-397-1517.

-Mary Kate Leming

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Gulf Stream School graduation

Chantry Evans-Cross, 13, rings the bell June 10 after graduating from Gulf Stream School. Chantry arrived in America in the summer of 2000 from Cambodia. Her parents are Pete Cross and Christine Evans of Delray Beach. Chantry will attend American Heritage School in the fall. Photo by Pete Cross

Communion at the beach

Dozens of parishioners from St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Delray Beach gathered on the public beach June 25 for services near the Sandoway House Nature Center. Above, The Rector Canon William H. “Chip” Stokes (left) gives a communion wafer to parishioner Paul Lopez of Delray Beach. Photo by Jerry Lower

Along the Coast

Celebrations

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COMMISSIONERS TALKING POINTS:

1. Taxpayers are entitled to a voice in the future of WXEL. At least two of the three commissioners representing the Boynton Beach community were not present at the meeting.

2. Competition is healthy. Both the groups vying for WXEL have presented compelling pitches for revamping their public radio station.

3. The FCC’s role in the future of WXEL is uncertain. The sale of the license is contingent on approval by the FCC’s Communications Commission.

4. The future of local programming is uncertain. Both groups claim to support local programming, but it remains to be seen how that will play out in the final sale.

5. The sale process is complex. The sale is subject to approval by the FCC and the Board of Education, and the sale dollars must be approved by the FCC’s Communications Commission.

6. The future of WXEL is uncertain. The sale process is ongoing, and it is unclear what the final outcome will be.

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The summer has barely gotten under way and already there have been a couple of tragic deaths along the Intracoastal Waterway. Deaths that, with the most basic of precautions, likely could have been avoided. The United States Coast Guard has very clear rules regarding life jackets and their role on boats.

In Florida, every vessel must have onboard a wearable, USCG-approved personal flotation device for each person. The PFDs must be of the appropriate size for the intended wearer, be in serviceable condition, and within easy access. The state urges everyone on board a moving boat to wear one of these life jackets at all times.

Vessels 16 feet in length or longer must also have at least one USCG-approved throwable Type IV PFD that is immediately available in case of a fall overboard. And any child under the age of 6 must wear a USCG-approved Type I, II or III personal flotation device while onboard a vessel under 26 feet in length while the vessel is under way.

The Coast Guard has developed a rating system for PFDs, evaluating each device on its usefulness in certain situations. The most important devices for boaters are Types I, II and III. Type-IV are throwable devices such as life rings and floating cushions that can be thrown to a person in distress. These are for use in calm waters only.

Type-I
The top of the list is Type-I devices. These are geared for rough or remote waters where rescue may take a while. They provide the most buoyancy, are excellent for flotation, and will turn most unconscious people face-up in the water. These devices are generally bright orange, very rigid and incorporate reflectors, whistles and sometimes even water-activated flash beacons. A good example of a Type-I device is the Type-I Foam Life Jacket. These retail for around $45 to $50 each. While they are designed to withstand extreme seas and they won’t get waterlogged, they are not appropriate for continuous wear.

Type-II
Type-II devices are considered near-shore devices. These vests are good for calm waters when quick assistance or rescue is likely. They are not for rough waters, since they will not turn most unconscious people face-up. Type-II PFDs are used for water sports, such as water-skiing and wakeboarding. Some Type-II PFDs are designed to inflate when you enter the water. Generally speaking, these are what jet skiers are wearing. They look like vests and usually have three buckles on the front. The Medalist Vest retails for about $70 and is a prime example of a Type-II device.

Type-III
Type-III are floatation aids. These vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters when quick assistance or rescue is likely. They are not for rough waters, since they will not turn most unconscious people face-up. Type-III PFDs are used for water sports, such as water-skiing and wakeboarding. Some Type-III PFDs are designed to inflate when you enter the water. Generally speaking, these are what jet skiers are wearing. They look like vests and usually have three buckles on the front. The Medalist Vest retails for about $70 and is a prime example of a Type-III device.
Coast Guard: from page 1

crew sees it the minute they set off.

“I believe in service,” says Coxswain Otto Spielbichler, 79, from Boynton Beach, a retired university teacher who’s been volunteering with Flotilla 54 for 21 years.

“For me, it’s a way I can do some useful things for the benefit of my community and myself.”

The U.S. Coast Guard has been around since 1790 and operates under the Department of Homeland Security, although during conflict its services can be transferred to the U.S. Department of the Navy. The Coast Guard has maritime jurisdiction in both domestic and international waters. And according to numbers from last summer, there are 42,000 men and women on active duty, 7,500 reservists and 30,000 auxiliary volunteer members.

Sixty-five of those auxiliary volunteers are right here, working the shorelines of Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Hypoluxo Island, inspecting and assisting from the C-15 Canal in Delray Beach to the Southern Boulevard bridge in West Palm Beach.

“I wanted to get into something where I could become a participant and help others, and boating seemed to be a natural area,” said crew member Bruce Parmett, 79, who sold outdoor entertainment equipment, then boats, before he retired to Boynton Beach.

The auxiliary members have an odd combination of power and lack thereof. They can’t arrest anyone. They can’t write a ticket. But they can talk to a business owner about the crumbling pier surrounding an outside bar. They can approach a boat and remind the captain that everyone on board needs a life vest. And they can inspect, inspect, inspect until the cows come home: bridge lights, channel markers, abandoned vessels that have appeared seemingly from nowhere.

Each inspection requires either paperwork or a phone call to the U.S. Coast Guard station.

In this case, it’s the U.S. Coast Guard Station Lake Worth.

Auxiliary Commander Jerry Schnur has been around boats most of his life and says his Flotilla 54 men and women take what they do very seriously. Being out on the water isn’t feel’s a play — and the volunteers are constantly reminding boaters of that.

Things can go wrong, very quickly. That’s why Schnur thinks the boating safety classes they offer on the last Saturday of the month are so important.

“We’ve really been trying to stress our classes these last few months,” he said.

Volunteer members patrol in uniform, but use their own boats. (They get reimbursed for the fuel.) They get specific assignments and must always radio in, several times, with their duties and their location on the water. At SunFest, the flotilla works the water, and they’re there during Fourth of July events along the coast.

And the Gulf of Mexico oil spill that has everyone worried about contamination off the Florida coast? They haven’t seen anything, Schnur said, but they recently got a list of environmental consultants who can train auxiliary members on how to handle the oil, if the spill reaches us. All that means more time off and on the water, of course.

“It’s really a way of life,” says Schnur, 82, of Lake Worth. “It requires a very big commitment.”

Jerry Mullinax, the chief warrant officer at the Lake Worth station, says they couldn’t keep the waters as safe without his auxiliary volunteers.

“I’m not surprised at the number of people who volunteer,” he said. “I’m surprised at the quality of people who volunteer.”

There are electricians, doctors, teachers. Everyone from lawyers to carpenters.

“We have some retired CEOs,” Mullinax said. “Some of these people can buy and sell you 10 times over. They could be somewhere else, enjoying the sunny sands, and they’re not.

“They’re still working for their country.”

Safe Boating classes offered in Boynton Beach and Boca Raton

Flotilla 54 offers a safe boating class from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month. The cost is $36, pre-registration is required and bring a sack lunch. The course is taught on land and is offered at the auxiliary office at Boynton Beach Boat Club Park, 2010 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach. Call 561-966-2158 for information.

About Boating Safety is offered by the Coast Guard Auxiliary of Boca Raton at the headquarters building at Spanish River Park on ALA 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This boating safety class teaches requirements for boats under 22 years old to obtain a Florida boating ID card. $35. Call 561-391-3600.

Remember environment when celebrating on shore or sea

Enjoy the Fourth of July fireworks along the coast, but don’t forget you’re sharing our shores with marine life and endangered species.

Here are some year-round reminders for boaters and beach goers:

**Boaters:**
- Do not anchor on a coral reef.
- Keep a lookout for sea turtles and manatees, especially after dark.
- Report injured or dead marine mammals to: Southeast Stranding hotline: 877-435-8282.
- Report injured or dead sea turtles to the NMFS southeast regional office: 727-824-5312.

**Beach spectators:**
- Do not use flashlights on the beach, shoot fireworks on the beach or disturb sea turtle nests.
- Be sure to dispose of all trash in the proper receptacles.

Violating the Endangered Species Act can harm or harming and endangered or threatened species (including coral) carries a civil fine of $25,000 and/or a criminal penalty of $50,000 and/or up to one year in jail.


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Present this ad and receive... $25 OFF your August 17th purchase.
Finding the right wine helps to cool our sweltering summer

By Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley

For those who stay in South Florida this summer, there’s one reward: plenty of hot, humid weather that is the perfect excuse to chill out with a bottle of wine.

“A glass of wine brightens up everything — whether you are on the back porch, around the pool or sitting down to dinner,” says Asher White, co-owner and wine buyer for Dolce Vita Wines in Lake Worth.

To find something refreshing, you have to put a little thought into what you pour. For help, we turn to three local wine experts who have tips for summer sipping as well as suggestions for bottles to buy.

When it comes to whites, you may want to avoid your favorite chardonnay because it can get “muted and flabby” when served very chilled, says Bob Leone, manager and wine director of Crown Wine & Spirits in Boynton Beach. Instead, look for a wine that has a good level of acidity to stand up to the cold.

Dave Spitzer, owner of Old Vines Wine & Spirits in Delray Beach, agrees with Leone that you don’t want a big buttery chardonnay. Instead, look for “crisper more mineral and acidic wines that are not soft on the palate,” he says.

Spitzer recommends wines made from torrontes, white grapes from Argentina; albarino grapes from Spain; and catarratto, white grapes native to Sicily. All make nice, crisp wines perfect for serving chilled.

Or, select a New Zealand sauvignon blanc that has overtones of citrus such as grapefruit. Served chilled, it’s very refreshing, Spitzer says.

La Dolce Vita’s White recommends a Chilean sauvignon blanc priced from $10 to $12 a bottle. “It’s a good wine that’s a good value for summer when the economy is slow,” he says.

He also enjoys South African chenin blanc that has bright acidity and good minerality without too much grapefruit flavor. He suggests serving it with seafood, pork, chicken or a salad.

“Don’t get too caught up with pairing foods and wines. Drink what makes you happy,” he says.

In summer, you can even pour reds if they have “what wine geeks describe as good structure and bold fruit,” says Crown’s Leone. He’s a fan of Australian shiraz (“Not the cheap stuff”) as well as California cabernets and red zinfandels.

Although you can drink these reds year round, they lend themselves to the al fresco experience, and their flavors go well with grilled dishes, he says. However, he recommends you serve them with a slight chill, at about 65 degrees.

“A lot of people don’t drink red wine in summer because they think it is too hot,” explains White. “But truth is they are serving the wine too hot,” he says. It’s best to put the bottle of red in the refrigerator for about 30 minutes before serving.

Spitzer also serves lightly chilled cabernet and Australian shiraz when dining indoors where it’s air-conditioned. But he finds some people feel that these wines are too high in alcohol and, therefore, too heavy to drink in the outdoor heat. He also warns that their high alcohol content (above 13.5 percent) can go to your head quickly in our summer climate.

Instead, he enjoys a light red such as a pinot noir, beaujolais or a little more fruity wine such as a syrah or zinfandel.

Anything described as bright and fruity can be chilled, says Spitzer, who highly recommends that when drinking wine outdoors in summer you consume a glass of water for every glass of wine you imbibe. “You’ll feel a lot better and stay longer at the picnic,” he says.

White finds that many of his customers who drink cabernets in the winter switch to chardonnays in the summer, even though some of our experts don’t recommend serving this often buttery wine ice cold. But for those who want to stick with reds, Dolce Vita’s White also recommends a pinot noir with good fruit, a zinfandel and a shiraz. He keeps pinot noir around as a staple.

“Don’t rule out a good rosé,” White says. We’re not talking about that sweet pink wine California has used to ruin the reputation of these pretty pours.

“People see pink in a wine glass and think sweet,” White says. But that’s not necessarily true unless the winery has used lesser quality grapes and “jazzed them up” with sugar. A true rosé is a red wine in which the liquid hasn’t been left in contact with the grape skins for very long. It’s the skins that give red wine its red color.

White suggests you look to wines from Mediterranean regions such as Provence and Languedoc where rosés are the summer wine of choice. Or select one of the better rosés from the Rhone region of France where the winemakers use a blend of grenache, mourvedre and cinsault grapes. They produce a wine that tastes juicy with fresh fruit, he says.

And when the temperature and humidity rise, don’t forget sparkling wines. Leone recommends a Washington State sparkler that can be budget priced at about $10. Spitzer is a fan of a dry (Brut) sparkler such as a rosé, blanc de blanc or blanc de noir. And White likes to fill flutes with prosecco, the sparkling wine of Italy, which has tropical fruit flavors without being sweet.

With so many choices, perhaps the most important thing to remember this summer is: Whatever makes you happy works. Just enjoy it. There are no rules to break when it comes to serving wine,” White says.

Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley can be reached at debhartz@att.net.
Gelato
A cool taste of Italy.

Story and recipe, Page 16

Ask a wine professional

We asked local wine experts to recommend and comment on some of their favorite bottles for summer drinking (prices listed are representative; check stores for exact prices).

- Aker White, owner and wine buyer of Dolce Vita Wines, 9 N. J St., Lake Worth, 561-481-3130

White
Thomas Henry Sonoma County Chardonnay, $13
(Slight oak, good fruit and crisp acid help this wine stand up to food)

Bansea Prosecco, $18 (It’s extra dry with tropical fruit flavors that go well over)

Odfjell Cabernet from Oregon, $24

(a cool taste)

- David Spitzer, owner
Old Vines Wine & Spirits, 900 E. Atlantic, Suite 3, Delray Beach, 561-276-2076

Leone

Pinot Noir, $19 (Fresh ripe fruit flavors of black cherry and raspberry, nicely structured, smoother than pinot grigio)

Si Soave, $10 (Made with the garganega grape rounded out with trebbiano, wines from Soave, which is near Verona, Italy, have less acid and taste fuller)

Lamura Bianco di Sicilia $10 (Made from the Sicilian grape catarratto, this is a fresh white with floral and tropical aromas)

Clayhouse Adobe Red, $16 (A Blend of zinfandel, petit- sirah, syrah, malbec, grenache and mourvedre, this wine is bright and fruity with hints of anise and spice)

Z’ivo Quartet, $23 (From the Willamette Valley of Oregon, this wine is a blend of pinot blanc, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc and melon de Bourgogne).

Bradsgaw Blue Moon Pinot Noir, $19 (Fresh ripe fruit flavors of black cherry and raspberry, nicely structured, rich body with a lasting finish).

— Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley

Layer Cake Shiraz, $15
(From southeastern Australia, this wine is made in a big, ripe style with a lot of dark fruit such as black plums and berries. They use oak to age it so the wine tastes of vanilla.)

Kaesler “The Bogan,” $63
(From the Barossa Valley of south Australia, this wine is similar to the Layer Cake Shiraz, but on a bigger scale with more elegance; can be aged 10 years.)

Earthworks Shiraz, $12
(Lighter than the Layer Cake wine but not as big and robust; however it costs less, too. Not as outgoing a personality.)

Zinfandel, $23
(From southeastern Australia, layered wine with a rich body with a lasting finish.)

John Gi’s is an old-fashioned enterprise that has occupied a scenic spot fronting Lake Worth’s public beach since Dec., 1973. They have been honored by numerous awards over the past years and spend a good deal of time and effort serving the community that welcomed the family and the restaurant so warmly.

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- VIP service, emergency care and others.

For the Health of it!

For a wine professional who recommends and comments on some of their favorite bottles for summer drinking, prices are representative and vary. Wines are from different regions, such as Oregon and Australia, and offer a variety of flavors and aromas. Aker White from Dolce Vita Wines recommends the Pinot Noir for its fresh ripe fruit flavors, and David Spitzer from Old Vines Wine & Spirits highlights the Si Soave for its less acid and fuller taste compared to Verona wines. Layer Cake Shiraz from southeastern Australia is made in a big, ripe style with dark fruit flavors. The wine is aged in oak, giving it a vanilla finish. Earthworks Shiraz is lighter than the Layer Cake wine but at a lower cost, not as outgoing in personality. The story also includes a recipe for Gelato and a special mention of John Gi’s, an old-fashioned restaurant in Lake Worth. The restaurant is located on the beach and offers breakfast and lunch daily. It has been honored with numerous awards and has been a community favorite since 1973.
Gulf Stream resident wrote the book on Italian ices

By Jan Norris

Ice cream’s a natural in summer in the states, but in Italy, the lighter gelatos and fruity sorbets fly off the carts and out of the stores.

F.W. Pearce of Gulf Stream knows all about this. He’s written the book on it: The Ciao Bella Book of Gelato and Sorbetto, co-authored by Danilo Zecchin (Clarkson Potter, $24.99).

“When I bought Ciao Bella in 1989, gelatos were still new to the United States,” Pearce said. The original New York store was 300 square feet, and Pearce said he swept floors, ran the cash register and did any of the work needed to keep it open. Today, the chain is in 50 states and does $20 million in business, though Pearce is no longer its CEO.

Locally Ciao Bells products can be found at: Walmart, Target, Publix’s GreenWise and Whole Foods.

The difference in American ice cream and gelatos isn’t much, Pearce said. “Gelato is simply the Italian word for ice cream and gelatos isn’t much sweeter — chocolate, sweet vanillas and fruits.

Sorbeto, the other cousin of ice cream, but without the cream, is just another word for non-dairy frozen fruit concoctions. Both are easily made at home, with little more than fresh ingredients (sourcing the best is what made Ciao Bella an award winning product, Pearce said) a thermometer and a couple of pots and pans.

An ice cream maker is a good thing to have for the gelatos, but sorbets can be made in baking pans or ice trays, using a blender. Pearce said the tricks are simple: Do not try to rush the cooking of the custard base by turning up the heat or you’ll wind up with scrambled eggs. “Use a thermometer and cook it over low heat. Just be patient,” he said.

For sorbettos, you also can add alcohol, which, Pearce says, improves the texture, since the alcohol slows the icings of the concoction, resulting in a smoother, finer ice crystal. So, just like you would plug a watermelon with vodka, considering adding a half-cup or so to this sorbetto.

The Chocolate Stout and Irish Cream gelato recipes are in a chapter called “Adults only.”

The back of the book gives presentations — how to make a quenelle scoop like a pro — and other recipes for show-stopping ways with gelato and sorbetto. We’re stealing the mango and raspberry coulis plate-painting trick for our next party.

As for the flavorings, be creative. Fruit alone is great, but you can mix in other foods. Their latest best seller is a Key Lime Graham Cracker; we’re printing it here from the book (there are 124 more recipes) with his permission. Combining flavors results in some exciting and refreshing flavors; the mint-watermelon sorbetto is a summertime delight.

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Key Lime Graham Cracker Gelato

1 quart plain base, directions below
3 tablespoons fresh lime juice, preferably key lime juice
2 teaspoons grated lime zest
¾ cup graham cracker crumbs
For plain base: (This makes about 1 quart and can be used in numerous other gelatos.)
2 cups whole milk
1 cup heavy cream
4 large egg yolks
2/3 cup sugar

To make the base: In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, place the milk and cream. Place over medium-low heat and cook, stirring occasionally, so a skin doesn’t form, until tiny bubbles start to form around the edges, and the mixture reaches 170 degrees F. Meanwhile, in a medium heat-proof bowl, place the egg yolks until smooth. Gradually whisk in the sugar until it is well incorporated and the mixture is thick and pale yellow.

Temper the egg yolks by very slowly pouring in the hot milk mixture while whisking continuously. Return the custard to the saucepan and place over low heat. Cook, stirring frequently with a wooden spoon, until the custard is thick enough to coat the back of the spoon and it reaches a temperature of 185 degrees F. It’s not allow mixture to boil. Pour the mixture through a fine-mesh strainer into a clean bowl and let cool to room temperature, stirring every 5 minutes or so. To cool the custard quickly, make an ice bath by filling a large bowl with ice and water and placing the bowl of custard in it, stir the custard until cooled. Once completely cooled, cover and refrigerate until cold before using — at least 8 hours or overnight.

To complete the key lime gelato: Make the plain base as directed and chill well. Gently whisk in the lime juice and zest into the base. Pour the mixture into the container of an ice cream machine and churn according to the manufacturer’s directions. Just after churning, quickly stir in the graham cracker crumbs (Use a stiff rubber spatula or wooden spoon), do not completely mix but leave them as ribbons of crumbs throughout.

Transfer to an airtight container and freeze for at least 2 hours (this is called ripening) before serving. Makes approximately 1 quart.

Ciao Bella founder and author F.W. Pearce serves gelato to Will (left) and James Fogarty of Gulf Stream at a May 27 book signing, which was held at Periwinkle boutique in Delray Beach. Photo by Mary Kate Leming
10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: John Katsaros

John Katsaros has quite a story! And, until recently, not one he was allowed to tell. During World War II, Katsaros served as a gunner, photographer and engineer in the U.S. Army Air Corps, when he was barely out of his teens. During that time, he survived a 25,000-foot free-fall. Took photos of the enemy's secret aircraft and weaponry. Tore through enemy territory. Was captured twice. Escaped. Had a $10,000 reward on his head. Almost lost an arm due to prison.

And the grande finale of this tour of duty? A four-day climb over the Pyrenees in a suit and dress shoes a size too small — only to be jailed when he reached the other side.

None of this could be talk about, “My mother and father never knew what happened to me,” he said.

After we were shot down, we basically became spies. We had to report back everything that we saw, and that information was used by Intelligence.

Over the years, as information became declassified, he was freed by the government from his oath of secrecy, and able to recount his experiences. He just has published the rewrite of his book, Code Burgundy — The Long Escape, which came out in 2008.

“The British knew every step I took through French Intelligence and the Resistance. I was only a 20-year-old kid at the time, and I did exactly what the French Intelligence told me to do. I knew if I did, I'll have a good chance of escaping.”

He went thousands of miles but did manage to get back, he said, thanks to the French Resistance. “That's why I honored them in my book. Without them, I'd never have made it.”

In London, he was interrogated for three days.

“The Germans were way in advance, he explained. "They came out with the V2 bomb. It was shot up quite high, and you never knew where it would land: You couldn't hear it. It was developed by Dr. [Wernher] von Braun, whom we captured and he developed our program on intercontinental ballistic missiles, which resembled the V2 bomb."

The Germans had so many secret weapons, so far superior to the Allies," he said. "Besides the stealth jet bomber and the first rockets, they had the flying V1 Buzz, V1. We called them Doodlebugs. They were unmanned and they shot them over London. They made a 'putt, putt, putt' sound, like an engine on a grass cutter. Count to five and you'll be alive, because when they landed, within one second, they were

John Katsaros recently published a new version of his book, Code Burgundy — The Long Escape, about his exploits during World War II. Photo by Tim Stepien

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school? How do you think that has influenced you?
A. I have spent many winter months in Florida, since 1942. My primary residence for 32 years has been Ocean Ridge. We spend six months in Ocean Ridge and six months in Massachusetts.

Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration?
A. The Somme, by Malcolm Brown, a remarkable book about WWI Western Front. For many, it is the ultimate symbol of the folly and futility of war.

Q. What book are you reading now?
A. The Somme, by Malcolm Brown, a remarkable book about WWI Western Front. For many, it is the ultimate symbol of the folly and futility of war.

Q. What advice do you have for a young person selecting a career today?
A. If financially able, get as much of an education as possible. It is the foundation of your future success. If not, consider joining the U.S. Air Force or other military service, as a career, and take as many advanced courses as they offer.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Ocean Ridge?
A. My wife, Mary, and I love the ambience of the small town, living across from the Boynton Beach and the ease of shopping, fine restaurants, easy access to the Palm Beach International Airport, great nearby golf courses, walking the beach, visiting friends, entertainment and the local friendly people. It’s like living in paradise.

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Q. What do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?
A. "A bird in the hand is better than two in the bush."

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A. The Somme, by Malcolm Brown, a remarkable book about WWI Western Front. For many, it is the ultimate symbol of the folly and futility of war.
By Mary Thurwachter

In the early 1940s, Michigander Ruth Jones was a single lady in her 20s who began traveling to Florida with her cousin. Her aunt owned the Old Dutch Mill restaurant on Federal Highway, the very spot she eventually met her spouse.

“I got sand in my shoes and never went back,” she recalls. “People don’t use that expression much anymore, but that’s what happened.” She fell in love with the Sunshine State with its flowers, strawberries and beaches. She was also quite smitten with a tiny one-story cottage at the corner of NE First St. and NE First Ave. in Boynton Beach.

In 1946, she used money she had inherited to buy the modest cottage with wood floors and Dade County pine paneling so hard she had to get help when she wanted to pound a nail in the wall. She paid $12,000 cash. Before long, she married Mason Jones, a farmer and Boynton pioneer, and raised her family in the 1,000-square-foot home.

About three years ago, Jones sold the cottage to the Community Redevelopment Agency, a group that promotes development in downtown Boynton. In June, the agency approved a land lease, which would allow the cottage to be rehabbed and moved to the southwest corner of East Ocean Avenue and Southeast Fourth Street. A restaurateur has expressed an interest in opening a casual eatery in the house.

Boynton Beach Mayor and CRA Chairman Jose Rodriguez says the Jones Cottage is a true Boynton Beach landmark and that the CRA felt strongly about preserving this tangible part of the city’s history. Repurposing the cottage is part of an overall project to revitalize the Ocean Avenue area.

What does Jones think of her old home becoming a restaurant?

“When I see it, I’ll believe it,” Jones laughs, adding that the wheels of government turn slowly.

Boynton was very different in the 1940s and ‘50s, she recalls. “The population was around 3,600 and if you went west of Seacrest you were in the wild.”

Mason was a member of the city’s volunteer fire department and their mutt, Trixie, was the department’s mascot. “When the fire siren sounded, the dog couldn’t wait to go, and if Mason didn’t go quickly enough, Trixie would take off on her own.”

Mason Jones died in a car accident when the youngest of their five children was 2, leaving her to raise the children by herself. She worked at Bud’s Take-Out for 12 years and later at the Ocean Club for 18. She was the cook at the snack bar by the pool.

Today, Jones lives west of Seacrest, although it’s far from the “out in the wild” place she described from years ago. She has a spacious two-bedroom, two-bathroom home in a well-manicured adult community with nice people for neighbors. But she will always cherish, the time she spent at the two-bedroom, one-bath home at 201 NE First Ave.

Sure, the Vernacular-style house with mango, rose apple and avocado trees in the backyard was tiny, but she made it work. Her three daughters bunked in one bedroom, her two sons in the other. She slumbered on a sleeper sofa in the living room.

“Christmas was always a very special time, with stockings hung from the coquina fireplace,” Jones recalls. She said she had heard that Lucille and Otley Scott, owners of the now defunct Lucille and Otley’s restaurant on Federal Highway, were the original homeowners who put in the fireplace.

Another of the cottage’s previous inhabitants was the late Irvin Lacey, a longtime Boynton Beach resident who was born in the home.

“I had so many nice neighbors there, but all of them are gone,” she says, “and the neighborhood has really changed.”

Mary Thurwachter is a West Palm Beach freelance writer and founder/producer of the travel e-zine INNsideFlorida.com
"Being here all those years, it just all washes over you for a moment," says Tyrrell. "You hear the ringing of all of those words and all of those stories in your head."

In 1991, Florida Stage had been in existence for four seasons at Palm Beach Stage College — then Community College — in Lake Worth. That is when Palm Beacher Mary Montgomery introduced Tyrrell to philanthropist Lois Pope, who had offices in the plaza and thought an available space there might be worth considering.

"It was a vacant gourmet grocery store, all one level, with beautiful black-and-white tile that's still under there, I think," says Barnett. Scenic designer Victor Becker drew up plans for the conversion to a performance space and a contractor was hired. "It happened very quickly, like three months, over the course of the summer," recalls Barnett. "Presto-chango, we had a theater."

Looking back, Barnett admits there were doubts that their audience would follow them to this new location. "Sure, because who knew where Manalapan was? I think we did worry about it at the time, just because it was such an unknown place."

Tyrrell remembers being more upbeat about the move. "I truly felt that it would give us a higher profile, because we were going to be in our own space." Still, in his mind, this was always intended to be an interim residence for the company. "It wasn't long before we were looking and talking to people about a permanent home in the center of the community," he says.

Those talks reached fruition Nov. 30, when Florida Stage and the Kravis Center announced their partnership plan. "They're so positive, so productive, so helpful," says Tyrrell of the Kravis staff. "We're so lucky to have that kind of attitudinal collaboration."

With sufficient time to plan an orderly move, the transfer of 19 years' worth of theatrical and institutional history began following the final curtain on June 20.

Included were more than 200 lighting instruments, the sound and infrared hearing systems, some 75 to 100 boxes of files, books and binders, plus computers, phones and office equipment, packed and carried in caravans of company vehicles.

Summing up Florida Stage's time in Manalapan, Tyrrell says, "It's been such a great adventure. Just think of it, exactly 220 productions here. It's been a fabulous way to spend a life."

Hap Erstein is a freelance arts writer and contributor to PalmBeachArtsPaper.com. He can be reached at hapster11@att.net.
July 4 Weekend Events

**July 4 Fireworks on the 4th**
- The 4th of July Fireworks on the 4th is sponsored by the Boynton Beach City Library. Fireworks will be held at the Intracoastal Park, 2240 N. Federal Highway. Fireworks will begin at 9 pm. Free. (540-5000 or 742-6246 or www.boyntonbeachcra.com)
- The Lantana Fireworks on the 4th is presented by the City of Lantana and Florida Atlantic University. Fireworks will be held at the Intracoastal Park. Fireworks will begin at 9 pm. Free. (742-6390)

**July 4 Weekend Events**
- The Delray Beach Fireworks on the 4th is presented by the City of Boca Raton and Florida Atlantic University. Fireworks will be held at Bryant Park. Fireworks will begin at 9 pm. Free. (504-5000 or 742-6390)
- The Boca Raton Fireworks on the 4th is presented by the City of Boca Raton and Florida Atlantic University. Fireworks will be held at Bryant Park. Fireworks will begin at 9 pm. Free. (504-5000 or 742-6390)

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**July 2010**

**The COASTAL STAR**

**Community Calendar 21**

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**Municipal Meetings**

- **Thursday - July 15, 2010**: Delray Beach City Commission. 7 pm, Delray Beach Civic Center, 2nd Floor, 100 W. North Ave. Open to the public.

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**July 11-17**

**Sunday - July 11**: Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival Summer Concert. For first time in concert, 80-piece orchestra composed of music from the masterpieces of the 18th-20th centuries. 8 pm. African American Museum of the Arts, 1801 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. 800-858-5050 or www.apm.org.


**Monday - July 12**: 3rd Tuesday in the Park (all ages) at the Delray Beach Tennis Center on 7/23-25. Spectator fee $7. 2350 Jaeger Dr. Boys 16's Match Sites are Broken Sound Park. 279-6390.


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**July 25-31**

**Tuesday - July 27**: Li'l Bit & Summer Nights is presented by "Li'l Bit" at the Delray Beach Theater. 235 S. Swinton Ave. 912-6001 or www.delraybeachtheater.com.

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**August 1-7**

**Sunday - August 1**: The Hooters Super Bowl of Chili is held every Sunday at the Colony Hotel, 521 E. Atlantic Ave. Delray Beach. 787-1000. 9-11 am. 200 non-members. Reservations: 912-8110.

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**August 2-7**: Delray Beach Events - "Welcome to Delray Beach, FL" the beauty of puppetry and storytelling at the Delray Beach Civic Center, 2501 S. Swinton Ave. 912-6001 or www.downtowndelray.com. 6-9 pm.

**August 8**: Book Group at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. 4:30-5 pm. Free. 266-9490.

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**August 15-21**

**Tuesday - August 17**: Pre-K Make & Take at the Delray Beach Library. 100 W. Atlantic Ave. M-Th 1-2:30 pm. Free. 266-0197.

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**August 22-28**

**Saturday - August 22**: Summer Green Market at the Village Park, 1101 NW 2nd St., Delray Beach. Practices M-Th for 5 weeks. Showers, music, vendors. $5/person. 233-2828.

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**August 29-31**

**Saturday - August 29**: Delray Tennis Art Auction. Delray Tennis Center on 7/23-25. Spectator free. 279-6390.

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**September 2-8**

**Monday - September 7**: Antics Science Program at the Boynton Beach City Library. 100 W. Atlantic Ave. For ages 4 years +. 10 am. Free. 266-0197.

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**September 9-15**

**Tuesday - September 14**: Garden Digital Photography Contest at Mounts Botanical Gardens, 531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach. 1 pm. Free. 233-4211.

**Wednesday - September 15**: Pre-K Fun: Happiness Happens at the Children's Museum, 129 East Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. Pre-K ages 2-5. 10:30 am-Noon. $2.50 plus museum admission. 742-6390.

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**September 16-22**

**Monday - September 20**: KinderMusik Fiesta Kamp at the Delray Beach Boat Park, 2010 N. Federal Hwy. Boaters can enjoy a beach party with polo for kids. $75/person. 272-7676.

**Tuesday - September 21**: KinderMusik Fiesta Kamp at Wehrman Park, 90 N. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Ages 5-10. 1-4 pm. $50/members, $75/non-members. Reservations: 912-8110.

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**September 23-29**

**Tuesday - September 29**: Creative Concepts Summer Program: The Royal Room Summer Cabaret Series. $90/person. Show only. 1101 NW 2nd St., Delray Beach. 391-8110 or www.downtowndelray.com.
Robert Zelle

By Dianna Smith

GULF STREAM—Robert Zelle spent his life giving to others. He volunteered for years at various places such as schools and medical centers while living part of the year in Gulf Stream and the other in Nashville and while building his reputation as a successful businessman.

Mr. Zelle died June 12 at the age of 86, leaving behind many mourners who appreciated Zelle’s dedication to their causes.

At the Community Foundation of Middle Florida, Zelle was one of the founding board members in a group that works with donors who support local communities, of which Mrs. Zelle was one of the founders, President Ellen Lehman said. Mr. Zelle was also a lifelong animal rights activist who supported their shelter needs.

When he died May 24, the couple had been married for 52 years. Her daughter Kimberly said her mother’s death — widely reported in entertainment publications from Hollywood to New York — came as a shock to family and friends.

“I remember how enormously generous he was and how he coupled his compassion with a businessman’s sense of, as he used to say, ‘kicking the tires.’” Lehman said. “He approached his charitable investments with zest, but with an ironclad conviction that he should use the fruits of his labor to help those in need. He did with his business investments.”

Mr. Zelle served as a pilot and instrument instructor in World War II before landing a job as a sales and marketing executive vice president of Life and Casualty Insurance Company of Tennessee in Nashville.

After retiring in 1970, he continued working with the company in the sales and marketing department and he began to invest in private companies. Then, 10 years later, he founded Reel Broadcasting Company and WZTV Channel 17, Nashville’s first independent television station.

He volunteered on several boards, including ones at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the University School of Nashville and Alive Hospice.

His only son, Robert Zelle Jr., died in a car accident in 1972. To keep his memory alive, Mr. Zelle and his wife, Anne, dedicated themselves to the boarding school from which their son graduated — the Darlington School in Rome, Georgia. Mr. Zelle became a board member there and dedicated a patio as well a fountain in his son’s honor. He found a sketch of a fountain as he sifted through his son’s things after he died and was so moved by the drawing that he had it built on the school campus.

Pam Morgan, the school’s advancement officer, described her friend as quiet, intelligent and always on the go.

“Until the last five years of his life … he was very active in Florida,” she said. “He told me one time that his social life was very rigorous (in Gulf Stream) and that he rested in Nashville.”

His wife, Anne, said through tears that he was a very special person. “Very quiet and very caring for other people.”

A graveside service was held in Nashville by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

By Emily J. Minor

Jacqueline Weisblut

Ocean Ridge — Jacqueline Bander Weisblut, 65, died on Memorial Day after suffering from multiple sclerosis since she was a young woman in her early 20s.

Her husband, Bob Weisblut, said his wife died a heart attack and that doctors don’t believe the sudden attack was related to her years of illness.

Mrs. Weisblut was diagnosed with MS in 1966. A difficult disease to diagnose, she had been diagnosed with MS in the early 1980s after her blood pressure and cholesterol levels were checked.

“Her illness define her, he said. She worked at IBM for many years when the couple lived outside Washington, D.C.

In the 1980s, Bob Weisblut’s father bought a Florida home in Boynton Beach and the couple began spending time there. They found that they liked the southern weather, which was nice for Jacqueline Weisblut’s ailing body.

In 1992, the couple bought Ocean Liner Villa Apartments a few winters of seasonal leasing.

“It was nice,” he said. “She could sit in the building and see the ocean. She always said it was like sitting on the back of an ocean liner.”

Once they moved, Bob Weisblut said they adjusted to the Florida lifestyle easily. Their apartment complex — once strictly short-term, seasonal rentals — evolved into long-term leasing. They made a lot of friends and despite physical limitations, they went out to dinner or a show two or three nights a week, he said.

She had a pretty full social calendar and she was very well-liked.

Jacqueline Weisblut also loved to read and enjoyed watching TV and movies on DVDs.

Bob Weisblut said his wife wasn’t feeling well on Memorial Day so he took her to the emergency room, where she suffered a heart attack.

After her death, Bob Weisblut enjoyed visits from many friends, including some longtime friends he has known since high school who have stayed in touch.

Besides her husband, Jacqueline Weisblut is survived by a sister and several nieces and nephews.

Donations can be made in her memory to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, P.O. Box 4527, New York, NY, 10021.
Summer Arts

By Greg Stepanich

The arts provide psychic sunblock during sizzling summer

Students, faculty and Equity actors take part in FAU’s festival rep each year, which also includes Shipwrecked!, a play by Don Zver that runs from July 9-24. Tickets are $20; call 800-564-9539 or visit www.fauevents.com.

And if you need still more Shakespeare, Palm Beach State College’s summer theater series continues at the campus in Lake Worth with three performances of the Bard’s domestic comedy The Taming of the Shrew on July 13-15. The college has joined forces with the Take Heed Theater Company for the performances at Stage West, which begin at 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets: $17, for more information, call 868-3509 or visit www.duncanthetheatre.org.

Pop music: Two big events for the younger crowd are headed to the Cruzan Amphitheatre outside West Palm Beach this month, beginning with the Vans Warped Tour, now in its 15th season. It’s a combination extreme sports and music festival — Vans is a maker of skateboarding shoes and apparel — that features some of the most interesting young pop and punk bands playing today, along with skateboarding and BMX shows.

On the huge lineup are such bands as West Palm’s own Hey Monday and Four Year Strong, all of them playing 30-minute sets on different stages. The all-day extravaganza begins on Monday and Four Year Strong, both at 7:30 p.m. each night, and it’s a picnic atmosphere in which you’re encouraged to bring your own food, chairs and blankets, though concessions are available.

Being so close to the water takes the edge off the heat, and sitting out under the sky listening to great English Renaissance poetry and watching timeless drama is one of the better ways I know of to spend a summer evening. Call 575-7336 for more information, or visit www.pbcmf.org.

The Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival this year is making something of a return to its past while celebrating the release of its latest disc on Boca Raton’s Klavier record label. For the 19th season, founders Michael Ellert (flute) and Michael Ellert (bassoon) have programmed works from earlier seasons, including the Nonet of the Czech composer Bohuslav Martinu and the Sextet by French composer Francis Poulenc.

Also on the programs will be the world premiere of Odyssey, a trio by Boca-based composer Clark McAlister written for the three founders.

This series is unlike many chamber music events in that it is geared to music for winds rather than strings, which guarantees concert programs of continual freshness. Nonetheless, canonical string works aren’t being ignored: the lone String Quartet of Maurice Ravel, Beethoven’s so-called Harp Quartet, and the String Quintet in G of Dvorak also will be heard.

As in past years, each of the four concerts will be given three times, in three different venues. This year, because of venue-scheduling difficulties, there will be no Saturday night concerts. Instead, the concerts are set for Friday nights (8 p.m.) at Persson Hall on the campus of Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Sunday afternoons (2 p.m.) at the Crest Theatre in Delray Beach, and Monday nights (8 p.m.) at the Essey Campus Theatre on the campus of Palm Beach State College in Palm Beach Gardens.

Week 1 is scheduled for July 9, 11 and 12; Week 2 is July 16, 18 and 19; Week 3 is July 23, 25 and 26; and Week 4 closes out the festival on July 30, Aug. 1 and Aug. 2. Single tickets are $22, and can be had by calling the venue box offices, 800-533-6874, or at www.pbcmf.org.

Shakespeare, in the park and at school: Theater aficionados know the old actor’s superstition about not saying the name of Shakespeare’s “Scottish play” while inside the building, but for those of us sitting in the audience, Macbeth remains one of the great events of any play going season.

The Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival celebrates its 20th season July 15-20 at the still-new Seabreeze Amphitheatre in Jupiter’s Carlin Park with this story of one’s own ambition and cold-blooded murder in medieval Scotland. It’s a free outdoor event, beginning at 8 p.m. each night, and it’s a picnic atmosphere in which you’re encouraged to bring your own food, chairs and blankets, though concessions are available.

Being so close to the water takes the edge off the heat, and sitting out under the sky listening to great English Renaissance poetry and watching timeless drama is one of the better ways I know of to spend a summer evening. Call 575-7336 for more information, or visit www.pbcmf.org.

Meanwhile, down at Florida Atlantic University, Shakespeare’s beloved comedy, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, is playing this month (through July 25) as part of the Boca Raton college’s summer Festival Repertory Theatre.

Local group Hey Monday will perform at Van’s Warped Tour beginning July 24. Photo provided
The blessings are likely to be mutual once again this month when Monsignor Tom Skindeleski of St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray Beach leads his ninth annual Knights of Columbus father-and-son contingent in service to indigenous people in the rain forests of Guatemala.

“We construct anything from student desks to putting in tile floors for the computer room in the school,” he said. “We put in a section floor of a dormitory one year in which we were able to sleep 100 more students in the dormitory.”

Add to that selfless service the bonding between fathers and sons. “These young fellows have come back totally moved by a Third World experience in which, while they thought they were helping others, they also express how the others have really helped them to come to another understanding of different peoples, different countries, different cultures.”

The school is the Father Tom Moran Education Center, named for the retired priest who, while serving villages around Livingston, in eastern Guatemala, established two-room schoolhouses to start self-supporting educational communities.

Steve Dudenhoefer expanded that effort to the high school now serving 650 students through Ak’Tenamit, a community development organization run by the Maya. ‘Ak’Tenamit means ‘New Village,’ and that’s what they’re creating after years of civil war ravaged the villages,” Skindeleski said.

The up to 14 travelers, as young as 13, include the state treasurer of the Knights — the world’s largest Catholic fraternal service organization, with nearly two million members. Lodging is financed by the local parish Knights and a state council grant. The men are asked to cover their airfare.

They give up a week — July 17-25 this year. After an overnight stay in Guatemala City there’s a five-hour bus and boat ride to Livingston, 145 miles away. Then each day it’s 25 minutes each way by motor launch up the river to work — waterways being how locals, including the students, get around.

The Knights are helping the country develop its best resource. Some of those students are becoming trilingual — in their local dialect, Spanish and English for computers. No wonder Skindeleski said the government wants to expand the program of schools and clinics to three other sites.

Barely back from the June close of the “Year For Priests,” an international gathering of priests with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome, Skindeleski will lead yet another group in the path of Brother Pedro Betancourt, who in dedicating his life to service of the poor, ill and otherwise unfortunate, became Guatemala’s first saint.

Skindeleski said the Mayan people have a rich, centuries-old heritage, which they share in their own way despite their poverty. “Everybody comes back uplifted” as a result of the spiritual and cultural exchange. “Tired maybe. But uplifted by the experience.”

C.B. Hanif is a writer and inter-religious affairs consultant. Find him at www.interfaith21.com
Irwin Stovroff of Boca Raton is living proof that you’re never too old to make a difference and that you should never underestimate the healing power of dogs.

Stovroff, energetic at 87, first caught my attention when he recently appeared on the Bonnie Hunt Show with his golden retriever, Cash, to speak about what he is doing to reach out to injured war veterans.

But Stovroff’s lifelong commitment to veterans really began six decades ago, on Aug. 13, 1944. On his 35th and final mission — one day away from going home — this World War II Air Force second lieutenant welcomed the arrival of the morning sun inside a B-24 Liberator flying behind enemy lines near Caen, France.

“We had our bags packed to go home and we were envisioning parades,” he recalls. “Instead, we ended up in a prison camp.”

German anti-aircraft artillery pierced both engines, setting them aflame. Stovroff and the nine other crew members bailed out and parachuted into German-dominated territory, dodging bullets as they floated down. Acting quickly, Stovroff ripped off his GI dog tags that indicated he was Jewish. The crew members were captured as soon as their boots touched ground and ordered to march into a cemetery with freshly dug graves.

“I thought they were marching us to be killed and dumped into those graves,” recalls Stovroff. “The German commander said, ‘Nein, nein, we do not kill our prisoners.’”

Stovroff fought fatigue and starvation inside POW camps before being freed by a Russian troop in May 1945. He weighed a mere 85 pounds on his 5-foot 10-inch frame on his first day of freedom.

Belatedly awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 2000 by former POW and Distinguished Flying Cross recipient John McCain, R-Ariz., Stovroff always knew that dogs unleashed hope and inspiration. But the special service dog training averages about $50,000 per dog. This special breed of dog must be on duty 24/7 and not only meet the physical needs of these veterans, but also their emotional needs triggered by combat stress.

He shares the story of a veteran named Mark who suffers from seizures following three tours of duty. With Stovroff’s help, money was raised to pair Mark with a service dog named Larry from VetDogs.

“Larry starts barking to alert Mark when he is about to have a seizure; he gets on top of him to protect him during his seizure and licks his face as he comes out of his seizure,” says Stovroff. “I am constantly amazed by how special these dogs are and how they help our vets.”

Since 2008, Stovroff has helped raise $2 million to cover the cost of these specially trained dogs. In 2009, he worked with U.S. Rep. Ron Klein, D-Fla., and Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., to get Congress to pass the Wounded Warrior K-9 Corps Act that provided $5 million for organizations that train dogs to help blind and disabled veterans.

Always at his side is Cash, a well-trained, 3-year-old golden retriever that accompanies him on visits to see veterans hospitalized and recovering at home. At home, he and his girlfriend, Doris, enjoy the company of Tammie, a corgi trained as a therapy dog.

“I brought Cash with me to meet a veteran named Arnold recently,” says Stovroff. “He was on his third tour in Iraq and inside a tank when an IED exploded. His head slammed against the tank and the three others inside died. Arnold suffered severe brain damage and lost his eyesight. He has three kids and a wife.”

Stovroff pauses, collects his emotions, and continues, “He was petting Cash and we both started crying. I said to him, ‘I went through holy hell in war, but I realize how lucky I am. I have all my limbs. I came back in one piece. I have had a LEFT: Irwin Stovroff and his golden retriever, Cash, visit with wounded veterans.

BELOW: Stovroff as a prisoner of war in World War II. Photos provided

wonderful life and being here with Cash to help you is the best thing I can do.’”

It took six months, but, Stovroff helped arrange for Arnold to be paired with a service dog.

“For as long as I’m able, I will do everything I can to help these veterans and work to get them specially trained dogs that can help them live their lives to the fullest,” he says.


Ardon Moore, founder of Four Legged Life.com, is an animal behavior consultant, editor, author and professional speaker. She happily shares her home with two dogs, two cats and one overworked vacuum cleaner. Tune in to her “Oh Behave!” show on Pet Life Radio.com and learn more by visiting www.fourleggedlife.com.
House of the Month

Each month, The Coastal Star features a home 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 very special homes.

Unparalleled oceanfront vista in Ocean Ridge

As you approach the entrance to 6767 North Ocean Boulevard, you are overwhelmingly aware that you are coming to a truly unique complex of individual homes. This very special enclave of only 14 homes sits directly on 750 feet of lushly landscaped oceanfront property. The tropically planted grounds resemble those of European manor homes in their formality and sculptured presentation.

The homes in this private paradise are classically designed, Bermuda-style homes by Henry Harding, in pastel shades with white concrete tile roofs. The gated 6.84 acres of the complex feature 24-hour security and equally attentive management.

This residence is entered via a walled-in courtyard overseen by statuesque pelicans, opening to an allee of palm trees and a magnificent private pool area. Three bedrooms with spacious walk-in closets and three baths in a split plan is the home’s layout. Separate dining room, wet bar and den add to the amenities as does a one-car garage. This 3,079-square-foot home is in impeccable condition and is offered fully furnished and professionally decorated. $2,950,000.

For a personal tour, contact Barbara Whitaker, Broker-Associate, Corcoran Group Real Estate: 561-278-0433 office or 561-271-3317 cell. Web ID #5700. corcoran.com

An unfettered oceanfront panorama greets you from this residence nestled away on A1A in Ocean Ridge.

The separate spacious family room/den area also faces the ocean.

The traditional look of the living room is enhanced with a tray ceiling and a glass sliding door/wall from which you can enjoy spectacular sunrises.

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