Along the Coast

South County’s life-savers

By Mary Jane Fine

Patrick McGlamery wasn’t nicknamed Squid for nothing. A water-baby who learned to swim at three months, he surprised no one when he dived into life guarding just out of high school. He joined Boca Raton’s Ocean Rescue Department two decades ago and rose to lieutenant after a dozen years.

Midday on July 18, waves ramped up a rip current that pulled Nicholas Donev under, in front of Lifeguard Tower 17, a usually quiet stretch of beach just south of Spanish River Park. Squid McGlamery, just returned from lunch, was manning that tower.

One of the 215 men and women who guard Palm Beach County’s 47 miles of shoreline — and the lives of those who enjoy them — McGlamery knows the stereotype of his profession: sun-bronzed hunks who collect a paycheck for eight fun-in-the-sun hours of sunbather admiration. He’s quick to define his job with the tongue-in-cheek one-liner: “a job that’s boring, punctuated by incredible bursts of activity.”

His more serious assessment: “Every day is different, unlike a desk job. The tides are always different. The wind is always different. It’s almost a matter of finding your Zen, just relaxing."

See LIFEGUARDS on page 13

New Intracoastal manatee signage months away

By Nirvi Shah

New signs that warn boaters of speed limits and note the possible presence of manatees in the Intracoastal Waterway could be months away from being installed.

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission has plans for several new signs throughout Palm Beach County’s portion of the waterway — including some in areas not currently marked — based on a 2006 study of intracoastal boat traffic. But FWC waterway unit planner Shaun Davis said a variety of problems are keeping the signs away for now.

“We’re trying as hard as we can to get it going,” Davis said. The $100,000 project needs permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard to proceed, and then the signs must be ordered.

The sign delay comes on the heels of a deadly year for manatees. In 2009, 429 manatees were killed by weather, boaters and other causes. But this year’s severe cold weather alone killed 246 sea cows, for a total of 640 through the end of August, according to FWC records.

While many of the signs Fish & Wildlife plans to install will replace those already in placewarning boaters of speed limits and manatees, others are intended to cover previously unmarked portions of the waterway, according to Paul Davis, an environmental manager at Palm Beach County’s Environmental Resources Management Department.

For example, “one area is at Woolbright Road,” he said. “There’s not a zone there,...” See MANATEES on page 12

Gulf Stream’s croquet connection

By Tim O’Meilia

Picture a neighborhood agitator. A troublemaker. An interloper.

Now imagine a white-haired thoracic surgeon dressed in his croquet whites — cotton Bermuda shorts and polo-style shirt — propping a croquet mallet on his shoulder at a jaunty angle.

That’s how a revolutionary looks in Gulf Stream or coastal Delray Beach.

Meet Bill Luke, surgeon, pilot, medical missionary, model wooden ship builder, champion croquet player and — on Nov. 13 — the newest member of the Hall of Fame of the Croquet Foundation of America, based in West Palm Beach.

He’s the guy who roused the neighborhood against him in Delray Beach when he dared try to build a croquet court, which brings in a decidedly unruly crowd.

He’s the guy who battled the establishment at the St. Andrew’s Club in Gulf Stream for years to build a nouveau croquet lawn. It’s these uppity malletheads you’ve got to worry about.

See CROQUET on page 2

House of the Month

Hypoluxo Island home combines award-winning design with a magnificent setting. Page 26

Inside

South Palm pair stays busy

Couple chair town’s cultural ‘Spotlight Series.’ Page 17

Church’s time capsule

First Presbyterian of Delray discovers an 80-year-old secret. Page 23

South Florida’s own creepy crawlers

Lack of high winds help area’s spider to thrive. Page 14

PLUS: Party-perfect fare inspired by spiders! Page 15
Editorial

Art and inspiration transcend seasons

As I walk into my home, I’m greeted with an original encaustic painting of a palm. I love the textures and colors. It puts my mind instantly at ease after a hectic day at the office.

Encaustic (or hot-wax painting) is an ancient art form, but the artist who created my painting was not old. She was 66.

Terry Wely — one of the talented “Briny Artists” — died in September. She leaves many, many mourning friends and family members.

In her obituary published in Fenton, Mich.’s Tri-County Times, it reads that Terry “loved painting, especially encaustic painting.” She did. I am lucky enough to have known Terry and own a piece of her work.

Today it reminds me how heartache and memories may eventually fade, but art — in all its forms — has the potential to live on and inspire us for generations.

Reading a good book, walking through a sculpture garden or listening to a string quartet inspire me. It’s stimulating to ponder form and physics and the definition of beauty.

Taking the time to explore the art of others often sends beauty to physics and the definition of garden or listening to a generation.

It involves shot-making skills and communicating through a remarkable software program that allows him to swiftly spell out words with the swish of a computer mouse.

“IT’s a mental game,” Luke said of croquet. “You have to think four or five shots ahead. Unlike backyard croquet, wickets in the game are barely an eighth of an inch wider than the wooden ball. Tactics are as important as talent.”

He can barely speak now. His son, David, helps translate.

“Whether he was starting a tournament or being a big financial supporter, he has a great passion for the sport he first took up when his wife, Joan, pestered him into taking lessons at the PGA National Golf Resort in Palm Beach Gardens in the mid-1980s. A few of their British friends had puttered about in the sport.

The Lukes were smitten. They began taking trips along the East Coast, playing in tournaments and filling their bookshelves with trophies. Then there was no prize money in croquet. The only cash is what competitors spend to play.

“It’s all about the silver,” said Luke, referring to the trophies.

The Lukes, now 82 and nearly immobile with ALS, describes croquet as a “lawn sport.” Unlike backyard croquet, wickets in the game are barely an eighth of an inch wider than the wooden ball. Tactics are as important as talent.

After a summer respite, it’s nice to have back the educated and insightful musing and reviews of these critics to get me off the porch swing and out to experience the wonderful art created in our community. I hope they do the same for you.

In this month’s Boca Raton/ Highland Beach edition of The Coastal Star, Hap Eirsten takes a look at the State of the Arts in Boca Raton. He’ll be doing the same in our area over the next two months. If you’d like to read his Boca piece, you can find it on our website at: www.thecoastalstar.com.

— Mary Kate Leming, editor
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To achieve this distinction, Pascal J.G. Liguori
Broker Associate / Premier Estate Properties

"Providing my clients with service beyond expectations, I welcome the opportunity to be of service to you."
My jaw dropped to the floor after reading Town Commissioner Terry Brown of Ocean Ridge being quoted by Angie Francalancia in the September article, “Growth opponents delighted by court’s rejection of SB 360.” Mr. Brown’s quotes imply that no other Ocean Ridge commissioner opposed high-density building on the barrier islands. You quoted his statement: “I was a strong supporter of the lawsuit, but I couldn’t get any of the other commissioners to go along.”

Along with what? Entering into the lawsuit? Although many residents of Ocean Ridge support and are members of the Florida Coalition for Preservation, our town of approximately 1,600 families does not have the financial resources to participate in the suit on the legal front.

For you to quote Mr. Brown in this unbalanced and vague fashion is to imply that the rest of my Town Commission supports high-density development. This is not true. I have watched them go above and beyond any reasonable expectation of the voting populace to fight high-density development along the coast of Florida.

Since your inaugural paper you have set a high standard for your newspaper. Please don’t lose sight of those standards now. This article is a terrible misstep. Its implications are erroneous in the selected quotes. It allows Mr. Brown to pat himself on the back while implying that Mayor Ken Kaleel and Commissioners Geoffrey Pugh, Betty Bingham and Lynn Allison opposed him in his fight against high-density development.

Shame on you. Your readership deserves better.

Dr. John D. Wootton
Ocean Ridge
Town officials in Briny Breezes have finally written some proposed changes for the town’s long-term development plan, and now they’re waiting to see if state planners will agree with what they’ve suggested.

The probable sticking point: the town’s estimated population — a little something that will help decide future construction numbers if a developer ever wants to swoop in and again try to remake the town from all mobile homes to oceanfront condos or homes. The population ranges from 150 in the summer to probably 400 during the hurricane season, said Jerry Lower, the Planning and Zoning Board Chairman, although during spring break and Easter week it might rise briefly to around 1,000 people, he said. (Disclosure: Lower is the publisher of The Coastal Star.)

But in the state-required Environmental and Appraisal Report approved by town officials Sept. 23, officials claim a base town population of 924 residents.

"The word density is the critical word here," said Robert Ganger, president of the Florida Coalition for Preservation. "Everything evolves around how many people do you have in a given area?"

Ganger, whose nonprofit growth-management group follows development on the barrier island, said the town’s number is too high and town officials know it too high.

"It’s kind of embarrassing, because (the state) has trained planners and they’ll look at that and say, ‘Gee, that can’t be right,’" Ganger said.

Even board chairman Lower, who owns a Briny mobile home and lives in Ocean Ridge, said the numbers may meet resistance.

"The majority of the P&Z Boardagreed on a position that was given to us by the corporation, which is basically an estimate of the absolute peak of winter population," he said.

And instead of getting that number through voting statistics or car registrations, considered accepted methodology, the 942 number is based more on word-of-mouth, said town attorney Jerome F. Skrandel.

Skrandel said they did it that way because "the people do not want to cooperate with something that they think is a waste of their time."

"It’s not a head count," Skrandel said. "We tried to do a head count but this is based on anecdotal evidence from the residents."

Indeed: Skrandel said the corporation thinks the population could at times hit 1,200.

Mobile home towns like Briny Breezes are indeed odd in Florida these days, and deciding how they should be designed for the future is a major debate. Today, Briny’s 43 acres are zoned for only mobile homes yet sit on prime oceanfront property. Briny drew national attention when a developer offered landowners $510 million to buy the town, but the deal fell through in the summer of 2007 in part because state officials wouldn’t allow the density — or population — that the developer wanted.

Again, a numbers game. But for years — perhaps because of the economy, perhaps for more complicated social reasons — the population of Briny Breezes has been dwindling. According to the University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research, the residency of Briny Breezes has declined from 417 residents in 2008 to 411 today. Still, because the town board has a complicated business partnership with the town’s corporate side, there was pressure to submit high population numbers, Ganger said.

As part of the original sales deal, corporation officials have an agreement with a finder to bring in another developer — and that developer will want state rules that allow higher density construction, he said.

The EAR proposal would also allow residents to replace mobile homes with the so-called Katrina Cottages or pre-fab homes. Whatever the outcome, Lower said it likely will be years — perhaps a decade or so — before any major changes come about.

DCA officials are supposed to respond to the town within 60 days. Also in the revisions is a suggestion to allow more low-traffic commercial businesses, like a dentist, doctor’s office or coffee shop. Neither Lower nor Ganger expect resistance to that part of the plan.

---

Population figure likely to face challenge

By Emily J. Minor

One side is Florida Hometown Democracy, the sponsor of Amendment 4, supported by what it calls a “grass-roots group of committed volunteers,” as well as the Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition, the Florida Public Interest Research Group and the Audubon Society of the Everglades, among others.

On the other side is Citizens for Lower Taxes and a Stronger Economy, which says its “grass-roots army” includes the Associated Builders and Contractors; the Chambers of Commerce for Greater Boca Raton, Greater Delray Beach and Greater Boynton Beach, and the Realtor Association of the Palm Beaches.

Stuck in the middle on he amendment, which would put land-use changes to a referendum vote, are two groups more accustomed to being advocates: the Delray Beach-based Florida Coalition for Preservation and the 1000 Friends of Florida.

“It’s frustrating not to take a position,” said Bob Ganger, the coalition’s president. "We determined if we did, we might just do ourselves more harm than good."

Ganger said Amendment 4 could turn out the same way the constitutional amendment on classroom reduction did.

“No the school system runs out of money because they can’t build enough school rooms or hire enough teachers,” Ganger said. "Well, the same thing is likely going to happen here."

Another fear, he said, is that state legislators might do away with the Department of Community Affairs, which monitors land use plans now, by saying it’s no longer needed if the amendment passes. Managing growth without the DCA would be like a baseball game with no umpire, Ganger said.

The 1000 Friends of Florida, a nonprofit growth-management watchdog group, at first opposed the measure but in mid-September shifted to a neutral stance.

“The current position is voters should educate themselves and make a conscious decision,” said Joanne Davis, community planner with the group’s Palm Beach County Green Initiative.

Davis said if the amendment becomes law there would be no sudden stop in development. There are enough plans in the pipeline to keep everyone busy for six years, she said.

“That’s a lot of development, and it’s already been approved,” Davis said.

In Gulf Stream, Town Manager William H. Thrasher said Amendment 4 could add an unwelcome $3,600 to $5,000 to land use decisions.

“Our town is very frugal, very cost sensitive. They’re just generally against growing government,” he said.

In the County Pocket, residents who are unhappy over a county decision to boost density at the Sea Horse complex may vote in favor of the proposal to ‘make a statement,” Ganger said. He said amendment supporters could get a 10 to 20 percentage point bounce from the electorate’s mood this year to “throw the bums out” on ballots across the county.

Davis said there was another motivation. “A lot of people feel truly disenfranchised,” she said. “There’s a good shot this thing is going to pass because of people’s anger.”

What’s the right way to vote on Nov. 2?

“It’s a very tough call,” Davis said. “I’m not going to say how I’m going to vote because I might get in trouble on either end.”

Along the Coast

Amendment 4 vote: ‘A very tough call’

By Steve Plunkett

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The Coastal Star news editor Greg Harber is on vacation and doesn’t have a substitute. So someone is responsible for this article. On the other hand, somebody is responsible for it, too. Ganger wants density. Davis wants not. What should you do?
In spite of the tough times and the crazy politics, life goes on in Boynton Beach. In fact, in some cases it’s getting better. Just ask Troy Wyman.

For Wyman, the sun is shining brightly in Sunshine Square Plaza at the corner of Woolbright and Federal, where his Boynton Diner is taking a big leap to … dinner!

The diner now offers three squares a day. To the already ambitious daily menu, add the likes of maple, peach and jalapeño-glazed twin boneless pork chops, pineapple jerk-marinated jumbo shrimp brochette or smoked salmon penne with asparagus and vodka dill cream sauce.

Wyman credits his new chef, Jim Grisbeck, who until recently cooked at Ta-boó on Palm Beach’s Worth Avenue. Yeah, yeah, it’s hard to believe, but Boynton is doing better than Palm Beach, at least where the Diner is concerned.

“There’s nothing in the area that does our kind of food, diner food that’s a step above,” Wyman said. “The opportunity was there and I picked up a great chef, so we decided to try dinner. It’s the best value in the area.”

Wyman’s optimism is bolstered by the surge in occupancy at Las Ventanas, the massive 494-unit rental and retail project across the street, where residential occupancy has already reached 80 percent.

“We really hated to lose him,” Ta-boó manager Mark Mariacher said of Grisbeck, “but he was much better than what we had him doing here and with business being slow, we had no choice.”

The breakfast menu offers 50-plus items, from basic bacon and eggs to fancy French toasts. The Camp Fire ($9.50) is two slices of graham-cracker-encrusted French toast stuffed with chocolate and marshmallow. The seafood frittata ($12.95) includes grilled shrimp, crab and lobster with three eggs and Swiss cheese topped with béarnaise sauce, plus a side and toast.

A lunch menu included chicken pot pie ($8.95) and fried catfish jambalaya with shrimp, mahi, crab and lobster with peppers, onions, mushrooms, garlic rice and tomatoes, topped with cornmeal-breaded catfish and jalapeño cornbread on the side ($9.95).

Diner food? A step above? How about a giant step?

Speaking of Palm Beach, the massive seven-month, $15.8 million Worth Avenue improvement project is on schedule and by some accounts should be done before the projected Nov. 30 finish date and under budget. The new clock tower is in place at the ocean end of the street. Sidewalks have been widened and paved with tabby; new street lights are going up; pedestrian rest areas will include shade trees.

The construction has snarled traffic and hasn’t been great for business. County Road, which was closed south of Worth Along the Avenues

Boynton Diner scores chef with Ta-boó ties

The Spodak Dental Group, including Dr. Myles Spodak (second from left) and Dr. Craig Spodak (third from right), were honored on Sept. 25 as the ‘Business of Year’ at the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce Luminary Gala. Photo by Jerry Lower

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Manalapan

Tahitian-inspired house sells for $15.5 million

By Christine Davis

Acqua Liana, the Tahitian-Fijian inspired house at 270 S. Ocean Blvd. in Manalapan, has been sold for $15.5 million by real estate developer and president of Venture Concepts International, Ralph McKinney.

Unveiled early in 2009, the seven-bedroom estate was originally priced at $25 million, but was recently listed with Pascal Lugouri of Premier Estate Properties for $22.9 million.

"The high-end real estate market is taking the lead in the real estate recovery," Lugouri said. "Acqua Liana is the latest of four oceanfront sales that I have closed.

The buyer was Bali 620 Realty Trust, which had Ronald Kochman listed as trustee, according to the warranty deed filed Sept. 13. On top of the $15.5 million, the buyer also purchased furniture, electronics and media equipment equal to 20 percent to 25 percent of the purchase price, McKinney said.

"In this market, we are pleased with the sales," McKinney said.

Palm Beach broker Lawrence A. Moens, represented the buyer. The green-certified, 15,000-square-foot Acqua Liana, or Water Flowers, sits on 1.6 acres with 150 feet of ocean frontage as well as a dock on the Intracoastal Waterway. It features solar panels, which have increased efficiency, and multiple water features inside and out, including swimable water gardens, a 2,200-gallon fish tank, a glass front of a purchase price, McKinney said.

"This house has been sold," McKinney said. "We expect to see more sales in the near future.

"It’s been a tough market, but we expect to see more sales in the near future."

McKinney plans to build another oceanfront home, a bit smaller than Acqua Liana, but in the same exotic design style.

"What’s clear," he said, "is supply and demand. There are very few oceanfront homes on Palm Beach, and people want them.

Delray Beach/Gulf Stream

Gulf Stream hopes to influence new Boynton Walmart

By Steve Plunkett

The town of Gulf Stream is "very interested" and won’t be stop to a Walmart from being built across the street in Boynton Beach the way homeowners in Delray Beach apparently were, its town manager says.

"We’re still trying to apply pressure," Town Manager William Thraisher said after the retail giant pulled rezoning and site plan applications in late September for the former Ralph Buck Smith site on South Federal Highway in Delray Beach.

Gulf Stream Mayor William Koch Jr. plans to send a letter outlining the town’s concerns: that the Boynton Beach store not be open around the clock and not allow motor homes to park there overnight, that more landscaping be installed and that the Boynton Beach store be open during the day.

The letter will also be sent to the Florida Department of Community Affairs, which has said that it will keep an eye on the project.

"If this could be enhanced upon or attained, it would be a great benefit, in my opinion, not only to our residents but to that entire section of Federal Highway," Thraisher said.

"I’m not aware of the Gulf Stream Civic Association, monitors the Boynton Beach project because of its nearness to Place Au Soleil in the mainland part of town.

"Wal-Mart is known for having a pretty high crime propensity," he told town commissioners at their September meeting.

Delray Beach neighborhoods close to the proposed store in their town — on Federal Highway just south of Linton Boulevard — claimed a “huge victory” in a joint e-mail from the Tropic Isle Civic Association and Tropic Bay Condominiums.

"This was never a ‘done deal’ and was a very tough fight from the beginning," e-mailed David F. Smith.

"We’ve been fighting this with Palm Beach County’s road manager and the F.E.C. Railway Station," said Kelli Freeman.

"It’s been a tough fight, but we’ve held on, too!" she said.

Thraisher said the town’s concerns are posted at www.pbcgov.com/newsroom/roads_print.htm.

Meanwhile in Lake Worth, Prime 707, which began Oazzo Blue last year, has begun renovations over the names have changed, but at least one face remains the same at 707 S. Lake Ave. That being Josh Santangela, who has gone from manager at Prime 707 to chef/owner at Fiorentina. He’s doing out contemporary regional Italian, as he sees it, "like Paradiso but with a lower price point.

More change in Lake Worth as we say goodbye to Yesterday’s, and say hello to Palm Beach Home Interiors.

Yesterday’s Antique Mall, on Lake Avenue, closed rather suddenly in July. But as of Oct. 1, it’s home to Palm Beach Home Interiors, a consignment store, operated by Palm Beach Consignment Group.

The company also owns Van Michael’s Consignment in West Palm Beach and Jamie’s Classic Consignment in Lantana and plans to open Antique Row Consignments on Oct. 6 at the former Chris Ellis Collection space on Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach. Offering “upscale furniture without the upscale price of new retail,” the new store will offer a couple of other little twists: exhibits by regional artists and seminars in art and home design.

Just in case RP hasn’t learned its lesson, the Raging Grannies and supporters of Clay Glass Metal Stone Cooperatives in the Gallery at Lake Worth intend to make a point through Oct. 13 with its show, “The Raging Arts (or) Will Are We Doing to This Planet?”

To call attention to recent environmental disasters, the gallery’s sidewalk will become a beach scene complete with sand, wildlife (extant and extinct) and an oil-pumping derrick. Call 215-205-9443.

Since he arrived on the scene in the early ’70s, Dennis Kochler has been involved in public service. A veteran of two tours of duty in Vietnam, he represented District 4 for the County Commission from 1976-1984. One of the first proponents for controlled growth in Palm Beach County, he continued that role on the County Planning Commission.

His role also saw him advocating for veterans and veterans rights.

Last month the Vietnam Veterans of America recognized him with its highest honor, the VVA Commendation Medal, for “outstanding national service to veterans, and to his community.”

He’s still fighting. . . but now the foe is cancer. What started out as small battle against melanoma has become a full-body war. The cancer and its treatment have forced him to close his one-man law practice and the bills are staggering, so fellow veterans and friends have organized a benefit at E.R. Bradley’s Saloon in West Palm Beach at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 9.

Sponsorships are available, but friends are urged to come and contribute what they can. Contact thevry@aol.com.

Both The Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach and the Susan G. Komen Foundation’s Race for the Cure are celebrating their 20th anniversary in Palm Beach this year. Since October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the resort and foundation are joining to offer a deal that will continue until race day, Jan. 20.

The purely pink “Sweet Dreams for the Cure” package offers each guest a pink bathrobe and a pair of fluffy pink socks, a pink “Dream for the Cure” pillowcase from Pioneer Linens, a pink pedicure from the resort’s Eau Spa and a special pink welcome cupcake.

Five percent of the proceeds (50 square room) goes to the Komen Foundation. Call 533-6000.

Don’t miss:

The first Oktoberfest of the season — Saturday, Oct. 2, 7-8 p.m. at the Point de Horneil Pavilion at the F.E.C. Railway Station in Boca Raton. Befits the Boca Historical Society.

Seafood, German bier, bake sale and music by the Sheffield Brothers, $75, 561-395-6766 or www.sheffieldbrothers.com.

The big daddy, the American German Club’s 27th annual festival, opens Friday, Oct. 8 and runs for two weekends at the club, 5111 Lantana Road. $7 admission, free parking and is a rampable event.

The bridge was closed to road traffic and pedestrians July 20 so workers could install pilings, and is scheduled to replace sidewalk railings on both ends. Work is to continue through Oct. 6. 5-7 p.m.

Motormen must go almost a mile south to Atlantic Avenue or nearly 3 miles north to Woolbright Road in Boynton Beach to reach the mainland while the George Bush span is being worked on. Construction has left some businesses along Ocean Drive feeling almost marooned.

"It’s truly hurting the retail people big-time," said Susie McTigue, owner of the Great Stuff antiques and antiques shop just west of the bridge.

"We’re trying to get people to e-mail (Delray Beach chamber official) George Diaz," she said.

Bridge construction updates are posted at www.pbegov. com/newsroom/roads_print.html.
The yarns she can spin: Storyteller becomes the characters of her tales

By Ron Hayes

Sally Leyenberger came to Delray Beach in 1978, and for the first decade or so, she was an average citizen. She did not attract attention. She did not spread stories.

And then, in 1988, Sally Leyenberger turned herself into a big red dog, and the stories began.

Since then, she has become a storyteller, a snowman, a Mad Hatter and dozens of other characters. “We shall say, ‘characters.’”

At 2:30 on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 10, she’ll greet children as a caterpillar who became a butterfly during a story session at the Lantana Nature Preserve. Photo courtesy of Sally Leyenberger

The free event will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Geared to children ages 5 to 10, it will also feature games, prizes and drinks.

At 2:30 on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 10, she’ll greet children as a caterpillar, tell them a story of those 4- and 5-year-olds, sprawled on a floor, chins in hand, grinning, tell a story of their own.

“At that I do it.” In a sense, Leyenberger’s own story is also one of transformation. Instead of a caterpillar who became a butterfly, she is a glowing widow who found a new zest for life through storytelling.

After working for 24 years as a bookseller and bookstore owner, she combined her bookelling experience with a love of storytelling, used connections in the publishing industry to obtain permissions, and began appearing at summer camps and public schools as Clifford, the Big Red Dog.

In time, her business, Pretend Party Productions, grew as big as a big red dog.

She developed other characters — the Cat in the Hat, a dinosaur, a monkey, a snake. A pirate, a pumpkin, a sugar plum fairy.

“My mission statement says ‘My mission statement says “I used to be a princess,” she says. “I used to be a princess”’,” she says with a laugh, “but I’m too old, so I changed it to a duchess.”

As the Mad Hatter, she changes hats to teach children about the jobs each hat represents.

As Safari Sal, she leads them on an imaginary visit to Africa.

For her Arctic adventure, Leyenberger appears as a snowman, and brings along a S-no-cone machine to delight those Florida natives who have never seen snow.

Today, she appears as 32 different characters, garbed in custom-made costumes from Costume World in Deerfield Beach.

After each appearance, Leyenberger poses for pictures with the children and hands out bookmarks or, for the teachers and parents, bibliographies for future reading on story subject.

“The secret of storytelling is simply getting over the initial shyness,” she says. “Everybody has a story, and people are thrilled that you want to share it. All you need is a beginning and an end, and a little piece of yourself in the middle.”

The Lantana Nature Preserve is an ideal spot for stories about butterflies. Situated on six acres at 400 E. Ocean Blvd., the preserve offers winding paths through native habitat and mangroves, and includes a real butterfly garden.

At the end of her appearance, Leyenberger said, “I will offer each child a packet of milkweed seeds with which to start his or her own butterfly garden.

“This keeps me young,” she said. “I have no children of my own, I’m a widow — this keeps me young.”

For information about Fall Fun at the Lantana Nature Preserve, call Ilona Ballour at (561) 588-7427.

Ocean Ridge

Police to get paid for all added hours

By Margie Plunkett

Police officers will be paid for a full, 104 extra hours they will work annually because of a schedule change to 12-hour shifts, a reverse by Ocean Ridge commissioners who initially agreed to pay for only 44 additional hours.

The commission felt that since the officers would be working the hours, they should be paid for them at their present salary rate,” Town Manager Ken Schenck said in an e-mail.

Commissioners voted at their Sept. 8 meeting to pull $34,000 from budget reserves to pay for the hours. The Police Department started moving to 12-hour shifts in late July to ease scheduling and save the town money. Patrolmen were expected to receive the same annual pay, but the new schedule would have meant lower hourly rates and less overtime pay. Commission’s move restored the hourly rate.

Under the 12-hour-shift schedule, officers will work 84 hours every two weeks instead of 80. While sergeants are already working the new schedule, officers are expected to start in November, Schenck said. The new work schedule doesn’t apply to dispatchers. The town had initially planned to compensate officers for 44 of the 104 added hours by giving them more holiday pay.

Ocean Ridge will see a savings in overtime as officers work four more regular hours each pay period and fewer overtime hours will be required.

Officers voiced concern at the July town meeting when the change was first discussed and later took a step toward unionization with a petition for collective bargaining. Officers then pointed out that other towns that had made the move to the 12-hour shift had not reduced police officers’ hourly wages.

“Manalapan, Delray Beach, South Palm Beach and Boca Raton pay the four hours to their officers in straight time,” Officer Bob Massamino had told commissioners. “We want what our neighbors get.”

Addition of full-time officers that earlier made the move included Boynton Beach, Gulf Stream and the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, according to Ocean Ridge Police Chief Chris Yanuzzi. Under the new schedule, officers choose their shift every six months. Yanuzzi said at the July meeting, adding that the schedule meant every other weekend off with a three-day weekend.

Town agrees to bird sanctuary status

The town of Ocean Ridge is now a bird sanctuary, taking on the distinction with a vote of the commission at its Sept. 8 meeting. The ordinance prohibits trapping or molesting birds, or robbing their nests.

The sanctuary status means that “you can save them (birds) away, but can’t shoot them away,” said Commissioner Betty Bingham in response to public comment during a hearing on the ordinance.

Another thought from the public: “I’d like to know how it would affect the cat population.”

— Margie Plunkett
South Palm Beach

Paying for underground powerlines may be a community event

By Steve Plunkett

Coming to your mailbox as soon as this month: a straw ballot asking whether the town should spend $4.6 million to bury electricity, cable TV and phone lines.

Town commissioners unanimously agreed at their September meeting that Town Manager William H. Thrasher should draw up a ballot question much like the straw poll that began last month reduced the force from 51 officers. "It would be nice to have the extra officers to diminish the force. "It would be nice to have the extra officers to have the nights covered by two lieutenant to make sure two are on duty until midnight. "So far it's been working out," he said. "We have as much need but if you want to add a ninth guy, I'll take him," Crane said.

By Tim O’Meilia

Police officers opt for union

By Tim O'Meilia

South Palm Beach police officers are following the lead of those in neighboring Manalapan and will join the Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association.

The town’s five rank-and-file officers voted unanimously last month to have the PBA as their collective bargaining unit, the first union in the town’s 52-year history.

Mayor Martin Millar, a retired police officer and firefighter, said he expects the first thing the union will ask for is more officers, something the mayor said he will support.

The Town Council last month reduced the force from 10 to eight in the budget year that began Oct. 1. One slot has been unfilled for about a year and an officer was fired last month. The police chief, captain and lieutenant are not included in the union.

Millar was the only council member to oppose the budget, partly because of the police cuts and partly because he wanted a smaller budget to reduce taxes. Millar questioned Police Chief Roger Crane about the diminished force. "It would be nice to have the extra officers to have the nights covered by two officers," the chief said.

He juggles the schedule, using the police captain and lieutenant to make sure two are on duty until midnight. "So far it’s been working out," he said. "We have as much protection and backup as we need but if you want to add a ninth guy, I’ll take him," Crane said.

It’s likely the town will hire a labor attorney to deal with any proposals made by the union.

2010-11 Tax Rates

The final tax rate per $1,000 of assessed property value as approved by the county, school district and municipalities.

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Notes: *South Palm Beach: Does not include $3.46 per $1,000 Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue tax now billed directly to property owners. The Palm Beach County Health Care District holds its final budget vote Sept. 29, after the Coastal Star deadlines. County and Municipal taxes shown reflect only those over $1 per $1,000 of taxable property value. Debt services and other independent taxing districts often vary by municipality and are not reflected in this chart. Please see your 2010 property tax record.

Gulf Stream

Residential trash rates fall

Residential trash collection rates will fall as of Oct. 1 after commissioners voted to reduce them about 3 percent. Despite the rate cut, many commercial users will see costs go up, because the Solid Waste Authority raised disposal charges, according to a memo from City Manager David Harden to commissioners.

Waste Management will lower total monthly fees for residential service to $12.62 per unit from $13.02 previously. Total fees for rear-door pickup will drop $22.14 from $22.87. Commercial fees vary more widely than residential, but a commercial user with a two-yard collection once a week, for example, will rise to a monthly charge of $93.60 from $90.61.

— Margie Plunkett

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**Along the Coast**

**Citizen board opposes WXEL sale**

By Angie Francalanca

For the first time since the sale of WXEL-FM 90.7 was announced six months ago, the public broadcasting station’s Citizens Advisory Board had a chance to tell its board of trustees why the members and the community oppose the sale.

The board of trustees met Sept. 23 for its annual meeting. It was the first time the board met since its April 20 special meeting in which it approved the station’s sale by Barry University to Classical South Florida.

Citizens Advisory Board President Pablo del Real, who had asked for time on the agenda to speak, reminded the trustees that having a citizen’s advisory board is a requirement of its license.

“It’s supposed to operate as a conduit for community input,” he told the board. “It’s difficult to advise someone on a decision after they have made that decision.”

Del Real told the trustees that the advisory board opposes the sale because the new owners wouldn’t be local, they’d move to an all-music format rather than community programs, and the sale would split the licenses of the radio station from the public television station, WXEL TV.

The transfer of the station’s license to buyer Classical South Florida must be approved by both the Department of Education and the Federal Communications Commission.

The license transfer is anticipated to be on the DOE’s agenda at its Dec. 17 meeting, which will be held in Miami.

The location has not been selected, said a department spokeswoman.

The Citizens Advisory Board told the trustees it had the same concerns as those raised in past months by the DOE, including the position that the broadcasting license is a public asset and that “Barry is profiting from the sale of a public asset,” del Real said.

Pat Meehan of the law firm Holland Knight, which represents the trustees in the sale, said the trustees had addressed all the concerns raised by the DOE, adding that the lawyer who described the station as a public trust “was misguided.”

James Roth, a West Palm Beach resident who opposes the sale, said he’s forming a grass-roots group to fight it, called SOSWXEL.

Last month, the Boynton Beach City Commission sent a letter to the DOE expressing concern about the potential loss of community programs and loss of jobs in the city.

Boynton Beach deeded the land on S. Congress Avenue that is home to WXEL specifically for the community to have a non-profit public voice, said City Commissioner Bill Orlow.
Along the Coast

Shutter up! Storm-survival lessons old buildings can teach us

By Tim Norris

Rebuffing hurricanes is not an open-and-shutters case, Michael Bornstein concedes, but for most area residents, openings and shutters are weapons of choice.

Learning where and how to use them is a lesson in technology, folk wisdom and history.

As Lantana’s town manager, Bornstein knows that another storm will find Palm Beach County sooner or later. The area’s oldest buildings and their button-ups might offer lessons in how to come through.

Where Bornstein is standing one recent afternoon, bright blue and pink Bahama shutters belly out from windows near the northeast corner of Old Key Lime House.

“Even in ancient times, without glazed surfaces,” he says, “this was the obvious solution for safety in a storm.”

Storekeeper and postmaster Morris B. Lyman — who later named Lantana for a flowering plant — and relatives built the wood-frame house by hand, from Dade County pine, the hardest wood locally available. The year was 1889 and the location a point on the Intracoastal Waterway’s west bank.

The building, always a family home and harboring a succession of restaurants, has weathered Florida’s worst tempests, including the Lake Okeechobee hurricane of 1928, the Labor Day hurricane of 1935 and the triple whammy of 2004 and 2005: hurricanes Frances, Jeanne and Wilma.

The third strike almost was a game-ender. At the Key Lime House and the whole coastal area around it, Wilma found the atmosphere congenial.

In the restaurant’s casual waterside dining space, the storm tossed aside silverware and shot glasses and other souvenirs and, instead, took the tin roof, twirling it up and over the house itself and dropping it in the parking lot out front. Any opening into a sealed building brings a dramatic increase in pressure that can literally raise the rafters.

Whenever co-owner Kathy Cordero glances at historic photos on the restaurant’s wall gallery, she sees the result: a crazy quilt smash-and-scatter of ruin. “It was a typical Florida tin roof, and it just went,” she says.

The main house and its steel Bahama shutters, meanwhile, suffered dents and dings but stood fast.

Traditional crafts work

Although side-mounted colonial and top-mounted Bahama shutters made of wood have covered windows in America’s coastal areas for more than 300 years, one storm changed the material game.

After Hurricane Andrew and its spawn of tornadoes flattened a good part of Homestead in 1992, construction codes statewide started mandating better protection, bringing new plastics and carbon fiber and metal alloys into play.

From where she sits, in the coffered library of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, Janice Owens, its director of education, appreciates the importance of technology and style. She also sees a simpler story, one she grew up with in Palm Beach County.

“We had aluminum awnings that you bolt down, and they’re still on my father’s house,” she says. “Now I have corrugated aluminum. A lot of people still use plywood on their walls, and it works.”

Plywood sheets 5/8-inch to 3/4-inch thick, anchored to sturdy window frames or walls with barrel bolts, can match steel panels for strength. History might seem to promote technology, Owens suggests, but it also reveals simpler truths.

The day that Wilma hit the Old Key Lime House, something else stood fast: the roof on its outdoor bar.

“The bar is a chickee — palmetto thatch on a bald cypress log frame — installed by Seminole craftsmen and women. It stood partly because it allowed air, even driven at 125 mph or more, to pass through openings at either end. The Cordero family hired Seminoles to rebuild the open-air restaurant the same way, and, even in summer heat and gearing up for football crowds, it stays remarkably cool.

Sometimes simpler, Kathy Cordero says, is better.

Tradition can be, too. Colorful shutters such as the Key Lime House’s Bahamas, Bornstein says, help celebrate the life here.

“I love the ocean in all its temperaments,” he says. “It’s beautiful when it’s flat and shiny, but there’s something wonderful about the danger of it when it’s really Stormed up.

The shutters can show that beautiful village structure so familiar in Florida, but there’s still a hint of danger that makes you feel closer to reality. Shutters are there for a reason.”

The steel Bahama shutters of Lantana’s Old Key Lime House helped keep the 1889 building secure during storms. Photo by Jerry Lower

The ‘Storybook House’ contest

Behind a vine-covered white picket fence on the Intracoastal Waterway, is a cottage dubbed “The Storybook House.” It is one of the first homes built on Hypoluxo Island, in how to come through.

If you’d like to join this contest and offer your own under opening into a sealed building brings a dramatic increase in pressure that can literally raise the rafters.

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If you’re gearing up for football crowds, and, even in summer heat and, even in summer heat and...
Hypoluxo Island/Lantana
Crowd mixed in reaction to Jet Ski license request

By Margie Plunkett

The buzz of Jet Skis on the Intracoastal Waterway likely won’t subside after Lantana’s Town Council denied issuing a business tax receipt to a rental company that serves the Ritz-Carlton. Captain Morgan’s Jet Ski Rentals said it can continue to use the Sportman’s Park area to launch its Jet Skis anyway.

The company’s request for the tax receipt for two Jet Skis drew protests from Intracoastal neighbors who objected to noise and added safety hazards from the watercraft. They also feared the business, which would serve Ritz guests as well as walk-ins, would ultimately grow and add more Jet Skis.

A contingent of residents, however, endorsed supporting a business whose operators said they educate renters on the use of Jet Skis and impose prohibitions in an effort to reduce safety risks. Resident-owned Jet Skis also are responsible for existing noise, they said.

Advisors pointed out the business tax receipt gave Lantana a greater opportunity to control the company.

The company currently rents Jet Skis from the Ritz-Carlton location, but also transports clients to the Intracoastal, using the boat ramp at Sportman’s Park to launch and pick up the Jet Skis. It is now planning to rent private dock space nearby to store two of the Jet Skis so that it doesn’t have to transport them back and forth.

“Jet Skis are there. They will be there,” said Harvey Tucker of Captain Morgan’s. “We’re trying to eliminate our trailers and trucks there.”

He also said that the marina they are renting space from has lost five boats in the last few months — so their rental business will help it and bring money to the town.

“If we do not get a license or tax receipts, we will still put the Jet Skis there,” Tucker later said. “We need no license to be there.”

When asked if the business was expected to grow, Tucker said, “God willing, maybe,” pointing out that it wasn’t likely in the current economy.

The operators said they follow all the Coast Guard rules. “We feel it’s safer from us than the public,” Tucker said.

“We’re teaching them to operate safely.” Renters, who are given a safety course, must be 18 years old — although the company is considering reducing the age to 16 — and are not permitted if they have been drinking.

The company, which has been doing business with the Ritz for four months, has insurance of $5 million, the operators said.

Renters are instructed to use the watercraft south of the Lantana Bridge through Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, owner Morgan Baer said. “That’s really the widest and safest area to ride.” They’re not allowed to dock, beach or leave the vehicle, and must wear life jackets at all times.

“Jet Skis are often considered a nuisance. How won’t they be?” asked council member Elizabeth Tennyson, adding that rental companies often have problems finding locations for that reason. “Whether it’s a nuisance would be determined by the people living there.”

The operators said they use the quietest of equipment — that the four-stroke Jet Skis are equipped with mufflers and 82 percent quieter than diesel.

Erica Wald, who is an Intracoastal neighbor, said, “I have never seen a Jet Ski that doesn’t bother me. I’m going to be hearing them go round and round. It’s very noisy, it’s a nuisance. You are going to account for the Ritz-Carlton and these two nice gentlemen, and you are going to hurt every other resident.”

Jet Skis contribute to a dangerous scenario with fishing near the bridge and an abundance of fishing hooks there: “Someday, someone’s going to lose an eye,” resident Al Pezzuto said.

Other residents welcomed the business. “I think they’re doing us a service. They’re going to teach people what to do,” said Teresa Wilhelm. “We can’t stop people from using the lake. It’s not yours, it’s not yours, it’s not yours,” she said, looking to the crowd. “It’s open to the public.”

Christopher Smith said, “I think we should roll out the red carpet” to find and encourage businesses to come to town.

And “having a layer of control by selling the license, the permit — you can’t stop people from using the lake. It’s open to the public.”

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and enjoying what’s around you.”

"On this day, what was different was Donev, a football player at Olympic Heights High School, out celebrating his 16th birthday with friends. A yellow caution flag was flying, but the moderate risk it signaled couldn’t predict the sudden waves that caught Donev and his buddy, Michael Maldonado, just the far side of the sandbar, intensifying the until-then modest rip current.

McGlamery had kept his eye on the boys. When he spotted one “apparently going after” the other, he radioed a rescue, then launched himself into action. Within seconds, he was shoving a floating device to Maldonado. But Donev had vanished.

Statistics on drowning deaths vary, depending on the source, but according to B.J. Fisher, director of Health and Safety for the Virginia-based American Lifeguard Association, the U.S. records about 3,800 drowning deaths annually, including both ocean and pools.

Danger is nowhere evident on a mid-September morning in Delray Beach, illustrating the other end of the life-saving spectrum, a classic green-flag (low-hazard) day: air temperature 79 degrees at 7 a.m., water temperature 84, a gentle 5- to 10-mph breeze from the east, just the slightest ruffle of wavelets. This is the slow season, those lazy, hazy, less-than-crazy days of late summer after the kids return to school and before the snowbirds descend.

At Tower 5, lifeguard supervisor Bob Black scans the water, where one woman bobs up and down close to shore, and a kayaker paddles out. “As you can see, it’s really calm out this morning. There are no sea pests, no jellyfish or nothing,” says the genial Black. “Today, I think we’re gonna be sittin’ and sweatin’.

This is not a complaint. "Whenever I think about being bored," says Black, "I think that in a couple of months I won’t be.”

The county’s beaches are guarded 365 sometimes-boring-sometimes-not days a year, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. But a lifeguard’s day begins even earlier, says Bob Taylor, Delray’s Ocean Rescue superintendent. Supervisors start at 7, everyone else at 8. They assess the day’s weather and water conditions; get rescue equipment ready — the watercraft and ATVs; the

Focus now: to prevent people from getting in trouble rather than fishing them out.”

Black employed that method a couple of years ago when, manning North Tower 2, he noticed two people swimming in unguarded water that hid a rip current. He radioed a rescue and swam out. He’d covered 25 yards before the pair, a mother and 12-year-old daughter, screamed for help. And help was right there.

When McGlamery pulled Nich Donev from under the sea, he detected a faint pulse. Seconds later, on shore, he felt Donev had a special fan in the test, a grueling physical challenge eliminates most: ‘We’d have to go rescue them,” says Taylor. “Rescues, of course, are lifeguards’ buzzah! moments, but avoiding danger is the real goal.”

“We practice preventative lifeguarding here, directing people verbally or with a flag (low-hazard) day: air spectrum, a classic green-flag day. Air temperature 79 degrees at 7 a.m., water temperature 84, a gentle 5-10 mph breeze from the east, just the slightest ruffle of wavelets. This is the slow season, those lazy, hazy, less-than-crazy days of late summer after the kids return to school and before the snowbirds descend.”

Lifeguards: Continued from page 1

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When McGlamery pulled Nich Donev from under the sea, he detected a faint pulse. Seconds later, on shore, he felt for a pulse again. There was none. Other lifeguards arrived. They did CPR. They did chest compressions. They turned him on his side to let water spill from his mouth. He began to breathe on his own.

Within two to three minutes, fire department paramedics were there with a bag-valve mask that gave Donev 99 percent oxygen with each breath. The paramedics transported him to the hospital, where he made a full recovery.

McGlamery recovered, too. During the rescue, he had little time to think. That night was different. “Every muscle in my body was tense,” he recalls. “I couldn’t eat. I was freezing cold. I had to turn the a/c up to 85.

“It was the first time in 20 years of lifeguarding I knew for sure that, without my intervention, this person would have lost his life.”

Two months later, when the Olympic Heights football team played Spanish River High, Donev had a special fan in the crowd: Lt. Patrick “Squid” McGlamery.

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John G’s On The Beach

John G’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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LAKE WORTH CASINO SHOPS • (561) 585-9860
10 S. Ocean Blvd. • Lake Worth, FL 33460
The thought of long, slender legs and a home draped in colorful silk conjures up an image of royalty and elegance. But couple those things with cunning, stealth and entrapment, and we’re likely to be wary.

Fascinating yet scary is one way to describe spiders, yet some undeservedly deem them evil or dangerous.

“The mystique of the web and the cultural misconception of sucking the life out of its prey add to the stigma,” says Dr. Gregg Nuesly of the University of Florida Everglades Research Center.

According to Nuesly, there are only four dangerous spiders in Florida: the brown recluse, the black widow, red widow and brown widow. They are all shy and are usually encountered by accident.

More common are the harmless and beneficial spiders. One of these is the golden silk orb weaver. It lives in mature woodlands and yards with tall vegetation. It needs tall trees to start their webs. The hurricanes of 2004 and 2005 took a terrible toll on their ability to build. Plus the wind and driving rain undoubtedly destroyed populations.

Now, with the recovery of our canopy — and some rest from high wind — the golden orb weavers have been busy. Tribal peoples have used the golden orb weavers’ webs for fishing lures and nets, and to stop bleeding. Today, the silk from the orb spider is being considered for uses such as parachutes, bulletproof vests, lightweight clothing, seat belts, light but strong ropes, as sutures in operations, artificial tendons and ligaments.

Their cousin, the spiny orb weaver, is one of the most colorful and easily recognized in Florida. It has a white underside with black spots and red spikes around its body. It shares the same web style as the golden orb. These webs are beneficial and capture many insects we don’t want around.

Most spiders, including the orb spider, are relatively harmless. They all can bite, but most don’t, even when we destroy their web. They are beautiful animals, graceful, skilful and elegant in their architecture. Their benefits greatly outweigh any misconception we may have about them.

This Halloween, catch a look at the beauty of our “spooky” friends. Orb weavers are fascinating neighbors.

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Photos by Jerry Lower
...and on the table!

By Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley

Golden silk orb weaver spiders are taking over South Florida. But with Halloween almost here, don’t be scared. Be daring. Put arachnids to good use in our spider-inspired holiday treats.

Spider Bread Bowl for a Crowd: Begin with an unsliced 8-inch round loaf of bread — you pick the variety. Horizontally slice off the top third of the loaf to create a round of bread; set aside. Scoop the soft bread out from inside the loaf leaving about 1/2 inch of shell (use the bread for stuffing, crostini or fresh breadcrumbs).

Place the scooped loaf, which is the body of the spider, on a large platter. Place the top of the loaf resting on the edge of the loaf but hanging off onto the plate as the head of the spider.

For legs, begin with eight long thin carrots. Measure 4 1/2 inches from the tip and cut the carrot in 2 pieces (the second piece should be 3 inches long). Take two toothpicks and insert one in each end of the 3-inch carrot piece so about half the toothpicks are secure in the carrot while the other half of each toothpick protrudes.

Working with the other piece of carrot, slice insert one in each end of the 3-inch carrot piece so about half the toothpicks are secure in the carrot while the other half of each toothpick protrudes.

Take your piece of carrot with toothpicks and insert the blade of a knife and draw a straight line from the center of the circle to the edge at equal distances around the circumference. This creates a web effect. To make the icy decoration, fill a metal bowl or ring mold half full with water. Sprinkle with black plastic spiders (available at party or Halloween stores). Place carefully in the freezer until solid.

Add another layer of water to fill the container. Place more black plastic spiders in the water. Return to freezer until solid.

To remove ice block, invert the bowl or mold and place hot towels on the bottom of it. Lift the mold away from the ice. Place ice ring or block in punch bowl. Add punch to cover. We don’t recommend using ice cubes with punch because they melt too quickly, making your punch watery and, if there are plastic spiders in them, they could become a choking hazard.

You can use your favorite punch recipe or try our Spider’s Venom: Combine 1 quart cranberry juice, 1 (750-milliliter) bottle dry white wine, 1 cup brandy, the slices of 1 lemon and 1/4 cup sugar or to taste. Stir to combine. Cover and refrigerate overnight. When ready to serve, place ice block in large punch bowl and add cranberry mixture. Add 1 to 2 bottles club soda or to taste. Makes 24 servings; serve in punch cups.

Check out more Halloween recipes and tips online at www.thecoastalstar.com. You can reach Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley at debhartz@att.net.
Reef predator: Exotic, spiny — and edible

By Jan Norris

The pest from the Pacific Ocean called a lion fish could soon be called dinner. Scott Hardin, exotic species coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said marketing the predator that’s attacking native fish on South Florida reefs as an edible seafood is entirely plausible.

“I really don’t know what it tastes like — I’ve never eaten them — but yes, they’re edible. Plenty of people have. It’s actually part of the management strategy used in the Caribbean islands,” he said.

The lion fish, one of a number of fishes in the Scorpaenidae family, is now a concern on reefs off Palm Beach County. A non-native species introduced largely by saltwater aquarium owners, the fish has no natural predators here, Hardin said.

Environment watchers are afraid the fish may take over natural habitats and decimate reef fish populations if left to multiply, so fisheries staff members are training others — divers and anglers — to catch and destroy any lion fish they find.

Compounding the problem is that the fish is venomous — its long spines give those who touch it a sharp sting, similar to that of a severe jellyfish sting, Hardin said. “In most cases, it’s not fatally venomous. You don’t want to get stung by them, or spined as it were.”

Anglers and divers, groups that the FFWCC are working with to catch the fish, must be taught how to handle them safely; this may deter their being sold as a food fish in seafood departments anytime soon.

Beachgoers have little to worry about however, Hardin said. “They’re saltwater animals. We know they’ve gotten to near-shore waters — they can hang around bridge pilings and rubble around them — but typically they’re on the offshore reefs.”

Nobody has a clue as to the current population, but the growing number is troubling. “We’ve got something that can eat a lot of stuff. They’re indiscriminate about eating reef fishes,” Hardin said. “They reproduce after two years, then can reproduce many times a year, constantly pulsing out eggs in their unique reproduction method.”

There’s hope they may become dinner for other reef fish, though. “A couple have turned up in some Goliath groupers, and a lot of folks think those fish will eat them,” he said.

Hardin finds this new intruder an educational challenge. “All our other exotic predators have been on land or in freshwater. This is really the first marine animal we’ve dealt with, and we have yet to talk to a lion fish expert. They don’t have any natural enemies on this side of the world, so not that much is known about them. We’ll be learning as we go.”

Autumns high tides may cause flooding

By Steve Plunkett

Fall has come and, with it, the season of higher-than-usual tides. In the Intracoastal Waterway west of Ocean Ridge, for example, tides crested at 3.3 feet above mean low water levels in September. They’ll hit 4.1 feet with the new moon Oct. 7-9 and 3.9 feet again Nov. 3-4.

In March, April and May, by comparison, the tides will max out at 2.8 feet.

Tides peak twice each month, during the new and full phases of the moon, said Robert Molleda, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. “They occur when the Earth, sun and the moon all three are in a line,” Molleda said. And they’re generally higher around the fall and spring equinoxes.

Even though Highland Beach is low-lying, Town Manager Dale Sugerman said the town doesn’t get tidal water on A1A but rain can back up if tides are high.

In Manalapan, last year’s elevation of State Road A1A makes highway flooding a topic for the town’s history book. The roadway was raised 18 inches and new water mains and drainage were installed.

“That’s helped us with our high tides,” Town Clerk Lisa Petersen said.

Town Manager William Thrasher said Gulf Stream had major problems with flooded roads about 10 years ago but had since invested in extra drainpipes and pumps.

Still, water can accumulate especially when tides are extra high and accompanied by rain.

“High tide is one thing, but high high tide is another,” Thrasher said.
10 Questions

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS: Jeff and Ruth Stein

Being retired and enjoying physical activities outside is great, agree Jeff and Ruth Stein. But, they add, there’s only so much swimming and golfing they can do. They do not sit around waiting for the world to happen, and even if they were so inclined, “how long can a person sit at the beach?” Ruth asked.

“My background is in physical education,” explained Jeff. “But you have to keep the mind active, too.”

So, on top of enjoying Florida’s great outdoors, they’ve heaped on interesting volunteer work.

Ruth is active in her synagogue, Temple Emanu-El, and Jeff is president of his condo association. Both go to Town Council meetings, and new members of the Community Affairs Advisory Board, they took on chairing Spotlight, the town’s 2011 cultural series.

“We wanted to give back a little bit,” Ruth said. “Keeping pace with the world and what’s going on in it is a passion for the two.”

“There’s no such thing as the news anymore,” Ruth said. “We only have one extreme or the other. There are the people who listen only to Fox and those who listen only to MSNBC, for example.”

“I’d rather see the bigger picture, the frame, to better understand some of the chatter, what the issues are and what’s happening.

Deepening their understanding of current events is a trait that they share with their neighbors, they found.

Which is why the Steins (and their neighbors) have taken such an intense interest in Spotlight, a 15-year-old program in which knowledgeable presenters offer insights into today’s local, national and international issues.

“There are so many bright people from wonderful backgrounds in this town that want this kind of stuff, and that’s why the series has gone on for so long. They are sharp, and that’s what makes the whole thing go,” Jeff said.

“Since we moved here, the Steins have added new faces to this year’s program. They invited Edwin Black to speak, for example, after learning about him from his father, Harry Black, a friend they know from Temple Emanu-El.

“When we did call Edwin, he’d already been warned. ‘Oh, you’re the people from that small town that does the lecture series,’” Jeff said.

Black intends to share? “You’ll have to come to the lecture to learn about that. I’m not telling,” Jeff said. — Christine Davis

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school? How do you think that has influenced you?

Jeff: I grew up on Brooklyn and Long Island, N.Y. I attended undergraduate school at Adelphi University and majored in physical education. My graduate studies were done at Syracuse University in counseling. I still enjoy participating in physical activities such as bicycling, jogging and kayaking. I still use the interpersonal skills that I learned in graduate school in my everyday interactions with people.

Ruth: I grew up in Syracuse, N.Y., and attended the University of Buffalo for my undergraduate degree in English and education. Jeff and I met at Syracuse University while doing our graduate studies in counseling. We lived many years on Long Island, but I think I still have some of the small town in me. I prefer to be outdoors and be a part of a small community.

Q. How and when did you become involved in the South Palm Beach Cultural Series? Jeff and Ruth: We bought the apartment in 1998 and did not move down full time until May 2007, when we retired. We bought series tickets for the 2008 season. At the end of the season, we completed a questionnaire and said we would be willing to help. Nobody turns down a volunteer. I don’t think that we expected to be chairing it so soon.

Q. What other careers have you had, what were the highlights?

Jeff: I have been involved in education for over 40 years as a physical education teacher and guidance counselor on the elementary and secondary school levels and as a financial aid counselor and admissions director at the college level.

Ruth: I taught English at the middle school level before I was married and for a few years before the children were born. When I was ready to return to work, I decided to make a career change and went back to school for a certificate in employee benefits. I worked for 25 years as a pension administrator for an actuarial firm, then for Barnes & Noble and finally in a law firm. Barnes & Noble was a real challenge. There were over 20,000 employees and about five different entities that had been acquired each with its own different plan. It took a lot of organization.

Q. Why are art and culture important to you?

Jeff: I was brought up in a home where music, art and theater were important. We were exposed to the theater at a young age. I can still remember my mother yelling to be heard to tell my father to turn down the volume on the stereo as he listened to his beloved classical music and opera.

Ruth: As a former English teacher, I still look for not only the entertaining quality of a book or movie or play, but I still enjoy digging a little deeper. This is a way for me to keep my mind active.

Q. Tell us about the South Palm Beach Cultural Series. Jeff and Ruth: The Cultural Series offers five classical concerts and a series of six lectures. We bring to the town some of the best singers, performers and diverse musical programs. We have several new lecturers for this year’s series that will cover such topics as oil addiction, foreign policy issues, and terrorism and current legal battles. We feel it is an exciting and varied program.

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

Jeff and Ruth: Jeff’s parents bought in South Beach in 1974. We knew we always wanted to live on the ocean when we retired. During one of our visits and on our way to the airport to return home, we decided to make a spontaneous offer on an apartment. The phone was ringing as we opened the front door on Long Island telling us we had just purchased an apartment.

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

Jeff: I have always enjoyed the ocean. Growing up on Long Island we always had the ocean close by. As a teen, my friends and I used to spend our weekends at Jones Beach. For me, it’s a real treat to be able to go downstairs and be at the beach.

For a small town, South Palm Beach offers so much. This town does so many things for its residents. I can imagine that we are the envy of many similar small towns.

From the cultural series to the ice cream socials to the bus trips to the book reviews and more, there is always an activity available to the people of South Palm Beach who want to take advantage of them.

Ruth: I love the ocean, the small-town environment and the fact that we are away from the hustle and bustle.

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

Jeff: “Poor planning on your part doesn’t make an emergency on my part.” I like to think things through before making decisions.

Ruth: When we were selling our home in the Bronx to retire, a dear friend told me she was unhappy about it and did not like change. I thought, ‘you might not like change but if you stand still, change will happen anyway. I think about that conversation all the time and keep reminding myself that everything always changes.

You have to decide how you are going to cope with the change.

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

Jeff: My college wrestling coach. After graduating from undergraduate school I would speak to him and seek his advice. If it weren’t for his advice to attend Syracuse University for graduate school I would not have met my wife, Ruth. I might not even be here answering these questions.

Ruth: I fondly remember my third-grade teacher and my seventh-grade English teacher. Both of them taught me that you have to master what is set before you.

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

Jeff: Pat Riley, head coach of the Miami Heat. When I had hair, I was told that we looked somewhat alike. He is a take-charge kind of guy, which I admire.

Ruth: I really enjoy a summer movie on Long Island, The Closer, with Kyra Sedgwick. I love her character. She is a strong, single feminine woman who works hard and is good at what she does. She makes her mind known and is good with words. I think I would choose her to portray my character.
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10/6 - Socrates Cafe – Weekly discussion group at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. 11:00 am-12:00 pm. Free.

10/6 - Garden Walk Wednesdays at the Sandoway House Nature Center, 142 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Visit the native butterfly garden at the historic home adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean. 2 pm. Free. Members, $4; students, $1. See 577-7733, Ext. 4688.

10/6 - Back to Life is held at Bethesda Heart Institute, 4th Floor Conference Rooms. 2015 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. Learn what to expect before, during and after spine surgery. Held again 10/20 & 11/3. 2 pm. Free. 742-6240.

10/6 - YFM Post SST Weekly Dinner is held at 100 NE 25th St., Boynton Beach each Wednesday. Dinner menu: 4 pm. $7. All welcome. 721-7688.

10/6 - Teen Gaming is held at the Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. Grades 6-12 play video games. Held again 10/13, 20 & 27. 6-7:30 pm. Free. 742-6830.

10/6 - Young Friends 2010-11 Season Kick-Off Event is held at Sea Spa at The Ritz-Carlton, Palm Beach, 1005 Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. A Young Friends of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County event. 9-11 am. SPT asks $50 member, $45 nonmember. See 335-1334, Ext. 0.

10/6 - Lisa Black speaks and signs her new book, That Shof of Murder on the Beach Bookstore, 223 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 3 pm. Free. 729-7790.

10/6 - Kaju: The History and Art of Japanese Vinyl Toys is presented at The Mennello Museum and Japanese Gardens, 4000 Monkirk Park Rd., Delray Beach by Mark Nagata, the owner of the largest collection of Ultraman toys outside of Japan, and professor James L. Lee, a collector of Japanese vinyl toys. 7:15 pm. $50 member, $60 nonmember. Registration: 496-2033.

10/6-7 - Anti-Violence Presentation - The Hand in Hand Abuse organization presents a program about bullying, bashing and dating violence at the Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd., Grades 6-12. 4:30 pm. Free. 742-6830.

Thursday - 10/6 - Boynton Beach Library Quilters meet every Thursday at the Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd. 2-4 pm. Free. 266-9440 or www.delraylibrary.org.

10/7 - Knit ‘N Purl is held at the Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd., 1-5 pm. Free. 742-6380.

10/7 - Wine Tasting is held at Wine & Spirits, 900 E. Atlantic Ave. #3, Delray Beach. 4-5 pm. Free. 742-6380.

10/7 - Surgical Weight Reduction Symposium is presented by Miguel A. Lopez-Vega, M.D. in the Clayton Conference Center of Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2015 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. Held again 11/14, 4:30 pm. Free. 773-7732, Ext. 4680.

10/7 - Bob Roberts Society Orchestra, Bob Roberts Society Orchestra will perform at the Boca Raton Resort and Club, Mizner Park Amphitheater, 7 p.m. Free. 742-6240.

10/7 - Teen Movie Night is presented as part of Teen Movie Night at the Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd. Grades 6-12. 6-8 pm. Free. 742-6830.

10/7 - 23rd Annual Woman Volunteer of the Year Luncheon & Fashion Show is presented by the Junior League of Boca Raton, Inc. and Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation. Event is held at the Boca Raton Resort and Club, Marriott Center Grand Ballroom, 501. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Tickets $51.50, $62-67.75, Ext. 2.

10/7 - Aliens in Wonderland (PG) is presented at Teen Move Night at the Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd. Grades 6-12. 6-8 pm. Free. 742-6830.

10/7 - As the 24th Annual Police Labor Day Challenge along Delray’s Municipal Beach. Officers from all three departments competed in volleyball, basketball and other activities. Photo by Jerry Lower.
10/9 - I.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 54, Boating Safety Class is held at the Delray Beach Community Center, 50 W. 1st Ave. New and inexperienced boaters learn boating safety and seamanship. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. $40. 996-2758.

10/9 - QuickStart Tennis is a three-week course for ages 5-10 at the City of Boynton Beach Tennis Center, 311 S. Congress Ave. Held on Saturdays from 10/23-9/9-5.

10/9 - Family Fun Mile. 265-Kiddie K (up to age 6)/9 am. Food, fitness, Run/Walk and Family Fun Mile/7:30 am, 404-2000.

10/9 - Run/Walk, $10: Family Fun Mile. 265-Kiddie K (up to age 6)/9 am. Food, fitness, Run/Walk and Family Fun Mile/7:30 am, 404-2000.

10/9 - Ward Larsen speaks and signs his new book, Fly By Wire on the Beach Bookstore, 237 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 1 p.m. Free. 279-7790.

10/9 - Ward Larsen speaks and signs his new book, Fly By Wire on the Beach Bookstore, 237 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach. 1 p.m. Free. 279-7790.

10/9 - Scarecrow Festival is held at 58-64 Colonial School Playground, 524 NE 1st Ave., West Palm Beach. The Historical Society of Palm Beach County presents live music, food, storytellers, scavenger hunt, corn hull doll making, face painting and more. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $3 ages 2-12 under, $10 general. 832-4146, Ext. 106.

10/9 - Growing & Caring for Vandas is presented by Spady Cultural Museum. Tour focuses on five historic districts. 10 am-4 pm. $40. 996-2158.

10/9 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, NW 1st Ave. New and inexperienced boaters learn boating safety and seamanship. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. $40. 996-2758.

10/9 - QuickStart Tennis is a three-week course for ages 5-10 at the City of Boynton Beach Tennis Center, 311 S. Congress Ave. Held on Saturdays from 10/23-9/9-5.

10/9-11 - CEO Golfers World Challenge: 2010 U.S. Regional Semi-Final Match is held at the Boca Raton Resort and Golf Club, 201 E. Camino Real. Hosted by World Trade Center (WTC) Palm Beach, the CEO Golfers run for profit association raises exclusively to Chambers, Presidents, CEOs, senior level management and owners of companies striving to bring better fiscal understanding, efficiency and productivity to the Palm Beach County area. Entry fee $500 per golfer, which includes greens fees and carts for two days, practice round 10/9 or 10/10 and shotgun tournament 10/11. 644-1717.

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10/10 - 10-16 - Childbirth Education Prenatal Class is offered as a refresher course at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, 2015 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. Provides an overview of the signs of labor, breathing techniques and more. Bring two pillows and a blanket. Wear comfortable stretchy clothes; no dresses or skirts. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 575. Registration: 309-2229.

10/10 - 10-16 - Multi-Cultural Festival - Celebrate the rich heritage of Delray Beach at this annual event at Pine Grove Park, 400 S.W. 10th St., Delray Beach. Festivities are free.
include music, food, children’s activities and family fun. Registration fees range from $28 to $370. For more information, call 278-3760 or mydelraybeach.com.

**Municipal Meetings**

10/4 – Ocean Ridge - First Monday of each month at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 4054 Ocean Ridge Blvd., Ocean Ridge, 7 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 787-6700.

10/10 – Lake Worth – First Monday of each month at 341 Swinton Ave., Lake Worth, 6:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 545-8881.

10/20 – Homestead – First Monday of each month at the Homestead Civic Center, 20000 SW 181 Street, Homestead, 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 255-2891.

10/27 – North Miami – First Monday of each month at 620 NE 123rd Street, North Miami, 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 898-6000.

10/15 – West Palm Beach – First Monday of each month at the West Palm Beach Civic Center, 845 S. Olive Road, West Palm Beach, 6:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 846-3740.

10/22 – Delray Beach – First Monday of each month at the Delray Beach Civic Center, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 263-6800.

10/29 – Boca Raton – First Monday of each month at the Civic Center, 201 S. Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton, 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 398-2215.

10/30 – Boynton Beach – First Monday of each month at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach, 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 713-3000.

11/1 – Wellington – First Monday of each month at the Wellington Civic Center, 2400 N. Community Drive, Wellington, 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 713-3190.

11/22 – Palm Beach Gardens – First Monday of each month at the Community Room, Palm Beach Gardens Civic Center, 1050 North Hampton Road, 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 626-6580.

12/7 – Royal Palm Beach – First Monday of each month at the Royal Palm Beach Civic Center, 273 52nd Avenue, Royal Palm Beach, 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 793-7500.

12/14 – Lake Worth – First Monday of each month at 620 NE 123rd Street, North Miami, 7:30 pm. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 898-6000.
Charles Murn

BRINY BREEZES — Charles Murn had a degree in mechanical engineering from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and a citation from NASA for his contributions to the manned space program. In Briny Breezes, he put that knowledge to work fixing items donated to the town’s annual charity auction. “I don’t think I did anything,” remembers Mary Lou Mueunier, a friend and neighbor for 25 years. “Any items anybody needed, he’d fix them so they could be auctioned.”

Murn, who died Sept. 2, lived in Briny Breezes since the 1970s, but had been in a nursing home for the past several years. He was 91.

“He was just a good person who did what he had to do,” Mueunier recalled. “He was one of those quiet people who are so good to have around. We all played cards together, and I would care for my wife every Thursday while he played his golf.”

A native of Syosset, N.Y., Murn was also a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, and was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroism during the war.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia; a brother, Stanley; and two sisters, Paulina Martin and Frances Elision.

He is survived by a nephew, Stan Murn.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 9 at St. Mark’s Catholic Church in Boynton Beach.

The Postmistress is held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery in Royal Palm Beach.

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Delray Beach

A gift from the past

Hidden for more than 80 years, a church’s time capsule makes an unexpected appearance

By Mary Thurwachter

Aaron Strippel keeps an eagle eye out for changes in the landscape at First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach. As head custodian, he scouts around on a golf cart each morning making sure the grounds are in tiptop condition.

But on one bitter cold day last February, Strippel discovered something he didn’t know existed — a small, rusty copper box neatly tucked into the side of the church. He could see it that day because a cornerstone in place for 81 years suddenly slid off the building, revealing the handmade container, which turned out to be a time capsule.

“It just all of a sudden popped out,” said Nancy Young, First Presbyterian’s historian. “What a wonderful surprise!”

“I couldn’t wait to find out what was inside,” Strippel said, “but I knew it wasn’t up to me to open.”

He took it to Dr. Theodore Bush, the senior pastor, and Nancy Fine, the office manager, and they opened the old copper vessel.

“Once we looked inside, we immediately decided, due to the condition of the items, not to touch them with our bare hands,” Fine said.

Inside, they found old newspapers, a sermon about the church’s great beauty and design, and a Bible, all of which they turned over to the Delray Beach Historical Society for careful examination.

“I was kind of disheartened at first,” said Dottie Patterson, archivist for the historical society. “The top had come loose and there was damage from insects, water and humidity. It was like little pieces of ashy paper.”

Her spirits lifted as she carefully sorted out the contents, piece by piece, often using tweezers, and realizing she could decipher enough words to know from which paper they came. Then, as she looked at archives of old newspapers, she found copies and had them photographed and enlarged on poster board.

“I got excited that I could re-create the papers and people could see what was in them,” Patterson said.

Among other news contained in the capsule was a story about how the historic Spanish/Italian-style church — the only church on the barrier island between Highland Beach and Palm Beach — had survived the hurricanes of 1926 and 1928. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on Swinton Avenue, on the other hand, was wiped off the ground in the 1928 hurricane.

The capsule was concealed in 1929, a year or less after the church became Community Presbyterian Church. It was built in 1924 as Gibson Memorial Baptist Church for 35 Baptists who had left another church with their minister, the Rev. Samuel Gibson.

By 1928, membership had grown to 135, but they couldn’t afford to keep it. They turned the deed over to F.J. Schrader, the builder and architect, and one of the church’s members.

The Presbyterians rented the church for $30 a month. Schrader, a devout Baptist, had offers from others who wanted to buy the building, but insisted the purchaser be another church. So he sold it to the Presbyterians for $19,000.

Contents of the time capsule will be on display during a special reception after church on Oct. 17, according to Young. Then the capsule will once again be stored beneath the cornerstone, and new items, to be determined, will be added.

“It’ll be some things that will be of significance in another 80 years,” Young said.

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITIES

The Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is putting out the welcome mat to businesses in the downtown area, and seeking proposals for active commercial use of two historic structures.

Ruth Jones Cottage

This 1940s, 1,000-sq. ft., one-story building is being relocated to Ocean Avenue and SE 4th Street. The CRA is covering the cost of the move, utility hook-ups, basic interior build-out, and construction of a new, covered, outdoor deck. Perfect structure for a restaurant or bar.

For more information on this property, please view our LoopNet listing: http://bit.ly/b0AAa9

Oscar Magnuson House

Rich in Boynton Beach heritage, the Oscar Magnuson House, built in 1910, is a two-story, 1,500-sq. ft., free standing building, located at 211 Ocean Avenue. Ideal structure for retail, art gallery, gourmet restaurant, or possible conversion to office space.

For more information on this property, please view our LoopNet listing: http://bit.ly/a9zgzw

The CRA Board is offering economic development incentives including interior build-out, rent abatement, signage and exterior improvements, based on final approval. Both properties are available for lease or purchase, with lease rate and terms negotiable. Additional financial assistance could be provided based on proposed tenant use, and desired lease or purchase terms, at the discretion of the CRA Board.

Contact: Vivian Brooks, CRA Assistant Director, 561-737-3256, brooksV@bbfl.us

www.boyntonbeachcra.com
Acts of kindness contrast with divisive rhetoric

“For those of us who experienced 9/11 in America, our hearts were heavy in two respects. One, because of the senseless loss of innocent life. But then there was a double blow to us, because in the process, the religion of Al-Islam was dismissed, by the conduct of people who called themselves doing something in the name of Islam.”

Those thoughts come from David Shafeed, Superior Court Judge in Indianapolis, Ind. He’s also an assistant imam, chairman of the Interfaith Alliance and one of the founding members of the Coalition for Good Government.

He’s a sign of the longtime positive participation of Muslims in American life — and as such, someone of whom the Rev. Terry Jones of Gainesville might find it hard to conceive.

Shafeed’s comments, from a previous speech at Yale, underscore Jones’ mistake at the foundation of much of the angst of recent days: the failure to distinguish between the overwhelming majority of Muslims — good people living their lives alongside those of other faiths or no particular faith — and the comparatively few but murderous extremists. Even when the former are labeled “moderate Muslims,” they wrongly get blamed for the latter.

It’s that conflation of blame that had Jones threatening to burn copies of the Quran on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks against America — and Islam. That, in turn, brought him the condemnation even of those who admittedly know little about Muslims, but who recognize the contradiction of a purported man of faith burning other people’s religious texts.

With the reverend having backed off, the focus shifted to the Islamic cultural center in Lower Manhattan that has been misidentified as “the mosque at ground zero.” Again the same misperceptions persist.

The proposed equivalent of a YMCA or Jewish Community Center not only would serve the hundreds of thousands of New York City’s Muslims — policemen, firemen, teachers, lawyers, accountants, cab drivers, etc., its very conception serves notice to the extremists that Muslim Americans in particular are not with their program — and that perhaps they should take a look at America’s pluralistic expression of Islam.

Unfortunately, the rhetoric of Jones and others has encouraged verbal and physical attacks against innocent Americans already twice victimized by 9/11.

In contrast, countless other individuals and organizations made plans to pray, read the Quran or otherwise support their Muslim neighbors, co-workers and fellow citizens in the face of the reverend’s spiritual assault.

Joe Bernadel (left) is joined by Imam Yahya Islam, who delivered a load of Haiti relief items from his congregation. Photo by C.B. Hanif

Local acts of kindness

Members of the Delray Beach Interfaith Clergy Association, on a recent Ramadan evening, joined a fast-breaking dinner at the Islamic Center of Boys Raton. And at the clergy’s September meeting, their speaker, retired Army Maj. Joseph Bernadel — also founder of the Toussaint L’Overture High School in Boynton Beach, and representative of the Haitian Diaspora on the Haitian Reconstruction Commission — gave a warm welcome to Imam Yahya Islam of Columbus, Ga., who had delivered to the school a U-Haul truckload of spontaneously collected Haiti relief items from his congregation.

That was just another routine act of kindness among good people, as when Heartsong Methodist Church opened its doors for the congregation across the street when that Memphis Islamic Center’s renovations weren’t completed in time for worship services during Ramadan.

It was also a reminder of the increasing awareness that the unity of humanity is our ace in the race against insanity. Said Shaheed’s comments, from a previous speech at Yale, underscore Jones’ mistake at the foundation of much of the angst of recent days: the failure to distinguish between the overwhelming majority of Muslims — good people living their lives alongside those of other faiths or no particular faith — and the comparatively few but murderous extremists. Even when the former are labeled “moderate Muslims,” they wrongly get blamed for the latter.

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Paws Up for Pets

Girl helps firefighters get oxygen masks for pets

You’re never too young to make a difference. Just ask 12-year-old Monica Plumb of Poughquag, Va. After reading in her local newspaper about firefighters using a pet oxygen mask to save the life of a dog in a house fire two years ago, the then-10-year-old did some research and was dismayed to discover that most fire departments across the country lack pet oxygen masks.

With the help of her parents, Monica created the www.petmask.com website and started to raise money to buy pet oxygen masks for fire stations. Thanks to her efforts, more than 320 fire stations from Maine to Alaska — plus some in Canada — now carry these specially designed oxygen masks, including three departments in Florida.

“I am an animal lover and care a whole lot about all animals,” says Monica. “At the time, I was too young to be able to volunteer at my local animal shelter. I wanted to do something to help animals and that’s when I realized I could raise money and awareness about pet oxygen masks.”

Her proud father, William, adds, “Monica surprised my wife, Wendy, and me by her determination. We thought she was going to just do this locally for about a month and stop, but she really wanted to do more to help pets all over the country. We’re happy to help her.”

I called several fire departments in Palm Beach County to see if their trucks were equipped with pet oxygen masks. Kevin Green, a spokesman for the West Palm Beach Fire Department said, “I’ve heard about the pet oxygen masks,” says Bailey. “We were equipped with pet oxygen masks to revive a dog.”

The mask also protects pets — should die from smoke inhalation. “We responded to a house fire last year on Christmas Day and were able to revive a large Labrador from one of the pet oxygen masks,” says Bailey. “There are a lot of deadly toxins present during a structure fire and having the right oxygen mask for family pets is crucial to saving their lives.”

The U.S. Fire Administration estimates that nearly 100,000 animals die each year in fires, mostly due to inhaling poisonous gases. This year, a cat suffering from smoke inhalation after an apartment fire in Winnipeg, Canada, was revived after receiving a dose of pure oxygen from one of Monica’s donated pet masks. In Bonner Springs, Kan., a cat was rescued from a house fire and resuscitated with one of the donated pet masks.

Each pet oxygen mask kit costs about $30 and includes three sizes. Each set can help revive cats, dogs, rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs and even birds.

Monica’s goals include becoming a veterinarian, but she is picking up skills in marketing and sales. To make a donation and/or sponsor a fire station, contact Monica at sponsorship@petmask.com.

As Monica says, “Every penny counts! I hope to provide pet oxygen masks to every fire station that needs them.”

Monica’s efforts have earned her the 2009 ASPCA “Tommy Monahan” Kid of the Year Award and 2009 United Animal Nations’ Animal Choice Award. Not bad for a kid who is still a year away from becoming a teenager.

Above: A firefighter demonstrates the pet oxygen mask.

Left: Twelve-year-old Monica Plumb is raising money to buy pet oxygen masks for fire stations across the country. Photos provided.
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.

Award-winning design on Hypoluxo Island

Cross the foot bridge over the koi pond and walk through the portal of Spanish cypress double doors to see this fabulous waterfront estate, which features six bedrooms, six full and one half baths. It offers sensational views from every room and deep-water dockage just minutes to the ocean.

The dramatic, almost 10,000-square-foot residence was designed by local architect Randall Stofft, and was a winner of the Gold Coast Builders' Association's coveted PRISM award. Its custom building touches include finishes of the finest quality, from its tumbled stone floors to its hewn wood ceiling beams of pecky cypress and cherry crown and baseboard moldings.

Each bedroom has its own balcony, while the second floor master suite is a perfect get-away, reminiscent of world-class hotel suites in its completeness and attention to details. There is a separate, private suite for guests, as well as a four-car garage, standby generator, Weathershield impact doors and windows, Vantage home automation system and a multi-camera home security system. Everything adds up to this perfect island treasure being the ultimate in Florida living. $5,375,000.


Wood-encased impact windows and French doors open the huge family room onto the covered lanai with summer kitchen for easy entertaining.

Light fills the expansive living room (with fireplace), as well as the second floor gallery, which is accessed via the custom stairs with hand-wrought balustrades and cherry wood railings — or the hydraulic elevator.

The kitchen is a blend of old world and modern, with commercial-grade stainless appliances, center island, gas stove, custom wood cabinetry, granite counters and a large pantry.

The finest materials were selected for the custom mahogany paneled library/club room. Built-in bookcases abound beneath the coffered ceiling.

From the waterside infinity-edge pool, you enter a tropical paradise, which also has a lanai and lush grounds. The pool is heated and has a spa and waterfalls.
A Furniture Store & So Much More!

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Valid from October 1st – November 30th, 2010. Must show coupon at time of purchase.

Offer not valid on already discounted items. Qualifying amount applies to merchandise only, not value of gift certificates or applicable taxes. No adjustments on previous purchases. Not valid for cash or cash equivalent. Cannot be combined with any other offers or discounts.
HYPOLUXO ISLAND

Old World charm meets modern luxury. Stunnig waterfront estate with deep water dockage, minutes from the ocean. Custom built with the highest level of finishes. Heav wood and stone floors, gourmet kitchen, paneled library/study room and solid wood cabinetry. Separate guest suite, 4 car garage, impact windows and doors and full house generator. Waterfalls, pool and koi pond.

Bill Quigley, 561-346-3434 Offered at $3,375,000

MANALAPAN

A short distance from the Ritz Carlton, this spectacular intracoastal home offers 5 Bedrooms, 4 full and 2 half baths and boat dockage just minutes to ocean access. Water views from every room and the finest of features and finishes. Guarded island community. Gratis membership to the LaCoquille Beach Club at the Ritz with purchase.

Bill Quigley, 561-346-3434 Offered at $4,865,000

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Val Coz, 561-386-8011 Offered at $1,395,000

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Just steps to deeded beach this 1950’s cottage is ready for a re-do, or teardown and build your dream house.

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Great Intracoastal and city views from this 3 Bedroom, 3 full and 1 half bath Townhouse with 2300 sq ft. Beautiful hardwood floors, granite counters, stainless Steel appliances, impact doors and windows and 2 car parking garage. Great waterfront complex with pool & gym.

Bill Quigley, 561-346-3434 Offered at $599,500

WALK TO THE BEACH

UPDATED

Great Ocean Ridge property, east of A1A, 3/2 with heated pool, updated kitchen & baths, upstairs master with loft, lovely covered loggia— all just steps to the sand. Move in and head to the beach! $100K+ price reduction.

Val Coz, 561-386-8011 Offered at $675,000

DUNE DECK PENTHOUSE

Big ocean views from this 1 bedroom 1.5 bath penthouse directly on the sand in South Palm Beach. Bright, light and airy with large master, open living dining area and spacious kitchen with built-in office area. Owner is motivated and says “bring all offers”.

Val Coz, 561-386-8011 Reduced to $2,000,000

Wquigley@fiteshavell.com

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Bill Quigley, 561.346.3434 Specializing in Coastal Properties in Manalapan, Hypoluxo Island, Gulf Stream

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