Boca Raton

Exhibit chronicles computer giant’s big footprint

By Mary Jane Fine

Earlier this summer, the Boca Raton Historical Society opened an exhibit showcasing IBM’s Boca Raton years.

Far earlier than that, Glenn Anderson lived and worked them. Together, the Historical Society and Anderson tell a pretty thorough, and thoroughly compelling, saga. This is IBM’s centennial year, an apt time for Boca Raton to count the ways in which it has felt the company’s significance and clout.

“IIBM had a very big influence on this community,” says exhibit curator Susan Gillis, approaching a framed front page of the March 16, 1967, Boca Raton News with its lead headline: IBM To Hire 400 by Year’s End. “In the 1980s, Boca was known as Silicon Beach because [thanks to IBM’s presence] it attracted so many high-tech companies.”

Along the Coast

Brown pelicans to fly off the threatened species list

By Ron Hayes

On June 8, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission voted unanimously to remove the brown pelican from its list of threatened species for the first time in nearly 40 years.

The stately, shore-dwelling bird — a real coastal star in these parts — was among 16 species recommended for removal from the list, along with the Florida black bear and snowy egret.

But not so fast.

As with all things bureaucratic, the news is good, but not quite that simple.

“No changes will happen right away,” says Dr. Elsa Haubold, leader of the commission’s Threatened Species Management System. “The pelican, along with the 15 others, will remain on the list until we get a management plan in place to prevent them from having to be listed again.”

In other words, the brown pelican is on a list to be taken off the list — as soon as they figure out the best way to keep it from going back on the list.

The fish-eating birds,

See PELICANS on page 8

Highland Beach

Patriotic passion

Some folks plant flowers. Susan Epling and her son Brandon plant flags.

It started when Brandon was 4. Brandon is now 23, and the Highland Beach duo still plants upward of 1,500 flags each year for Independence Day throughout the town.

Meet the Eplings on page 13

Boca Raton

Library to sport historical aesthetic, modern technology

By Margie Plunkett

Designers of Boca Raton’s new downtown library are going green. In fact, they’re seeking silver LEED (Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design) certification for the light-filled and spacious downtown library, whose “Mizneresque” façade was unveiled in June.

A silver rating is the third highest rating of four levels in the LEED green building certification system.

Architect PGAL, which is designing the new $8.8 million library, presented the exterior of the building during a public meeting June 21. The plans for the interior were also modified to reflect larger public meeting space and more room for the used-book store made possible by a $250,000 gift from the Friends of the Library. The library is planned for the former Causeway Lumber site, two blocks from the old facility.

The exterior uses elements from the city’s master plan that represent both urban and suburban and also includes towering, asymmetric features and a roof that appears to be sloped. “It has a

See LIBRARY on page 6

Inside

Exotic get-aways
Take a beer tour, go birdwatching or visit Africa. Page 10-11

Summer arts
The Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival marks its 20th season. Page 12

Farewell to Florida Stage
A look back after the theater company takes its final bow. Page 5

Coastal Star
Pat Thomas is practicing her dance steps for Boca’s Ballroom Battle. Page 2

Snow scholars
Foundation awards $433,000 in scholarships to 63 students. Page 9
Good news is always welcome

In this down economy, where cities are doing everything they can to balance budgets—including Boca Raton’s putting up parking meters in Mizner Park and at the beach—good news continues to come out of South County.

For starters, there is encouraging news on the real estate front. A 6,000-square-foot penthouse at One Thousand Ocean in Boca Raton sold for $10.4 million. That was the highest-priced condo purchase in the county and the first penthouse closing at One Thousand Ocean at the mouth of the Boca Raton Inlet.

Secondly, the George Snow Scholarship Fund gave out a record $433,000 to 63 Florida Scholarship Fund gave out a record $433,000 to 63 Florida students during its annual awards reception at Royal Palm Yacht Club. Besides cash awards, recipients received a laptop computer.

Thirdly, Highland Beach will sparkle with red, white and blue for the Fourth of July for the 20th year in a row, thanks to the hard work and generosity of a local Realtor and her son. Susan Epling started her tradition of flag-plating, she said, to teach her son about patriotism and giving back to the community.

You can read more about all three of these stories in this month’s Coastal Star. After all, we can all use some uplifting news during these trying times.

And we can all honor the good works and generosity of the people who live here, as we celebrate our freedom to buy stunning homes, send deserving scholars to college and patriotically adorn the town for the Fourth of July.

— Mary Thurwachter, Managing Editor

Correction

A caption beneath a photograph of a yoga class at the Highland Beach Library in the May edition of The Coastal Star incorrectly identified the yoga instructor. Her name is Dee Greenberg.

It didn’t take a lot of coaxing to get her to compete, she says, because the event is for a good cause—George Snow Scholarship Fund. She knew George Snow and one of his daughters, who was an ER nurse.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., Thomas moved to Boca Raton 50 years ago when she was in her early 20s. Boca was a sleepy town back then, she recalls, but then IBM came to town and everything changed. The town grew up around her.

She cherishes the time she spends with her four children and nine grandchildren, most of whom live nearby. But she always makes time for her other passion—volunteering.

On Tuesday evenings during the season, she volunteers at the emergency room of Boca Raton Regional Hospital. “It’s a kind of concierge service,” she said. “I go into the waiting room to see if someone needs a warm blanket, for example, and make sure everyone has what they need.”

She has been a volunteer with the Debbie–Rand Memorial Service League, auxiliary to the hospital, since 1983 and was the organization’s president from 1995 to 1997 and again from 2001 to 2005.

Thomas has served on the Hospital Board since 1997 and serves on the Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation Board. In 1999, she was chosen Woman Volunteer of the Year.

She helped to found Boca Raton’s Promise for Youth and Caring Hearts Auxiliary 10 years ago and was president for four years.

A recent walk-in-the-mall fundraiser she helped organize raised $150,000 for the Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center at FAU, which offers innovative programs of care to help people with mild and moderate memory loss to maintain their cognitive and social interactive skills.

Thomas is president of the Wellness Center as well as the Friends of the Conservatory at Lynn University.

In 2002 she was chosen as a Woman of Distinction by the Boca Raton Soroptimist Organization, in 2003 the Boca Raton Historical Society inducted her into the Walk of Recognition and in 2008 was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award.

“I have a wonderful circle of friends from my volunteering,” Thomas said. “I appreciate everything, everyday.”
Boca Raton

Construction complete on Palmetto Park Road

By Margie Plunkett

Drivers can lay off the horn on Palmetto Park Road. After nearly a year of construction, the Pedestrian Promenade was completed with a final pressure wash in the last weekend of June.

With the exception of pergolas, the roadway construction was expected to be complete, said Municipal Services Director Bob DiChristopher.

The $7.2 million Pedestrian Promenade project by Burkhardt Construction Inc. began in September — and had been in planning for years. In an attempt to make downtown more pedestrian friendly, and competitive with neighboring cities, the project widened sidewalks with pavers and improved lighting and landscaping.

Part of the work had been delayed until the end of tourist season after merchants voiced fears that their business would be heavily impact by road closings during the busiest time of the year.

Intersection closings resumed in May, however, allowing roadways to be raised and pavers to be installed; the final closing was scheduled at Palmetto Park Drive at Mizner Boulevard and Plaza Real South, according to Burkhardt.

$5 million gift for Boca hospital

Boca Raton Regional Hospital’s foundation received a $5 million donation from Elaine J. Wold and the family of the late Dr. Keith C. Wold to start the Wold Family Center for Emergency Medicine.

The new program will enhance the hospital’s emergency department with expedited emergency care and an emphasis on clinical excellence, efficiency and privacy, according to Jan Savarick, president of Boca Raton Regional Hospital Foundation.

Keith Wold was a board member at the hospital for many years. Elaine Wold, his widow, served on hospital support committees.

Penthouse sells for $10.4 million

The sale of a 6,900-square-foot penthouse at One Thousand Ocean in Boca Raton for $10.4 million is the highest priced condominium purchase in Palm Beach County this year.

It’s also the first penthouse closing (June 2) at the condo since its 2006 launch.

Corcoran Realtor Senada Adzem represented the buyers, a young family from Europe. With two private terraces totaling 4,000 square feet of outdoor living space, the home comes with 14-foot ceilings, a private cabana, three-car garage and full access to the Boca Raton Resort & Club.

It also comes with “the best view in Boca,” says Adzem.

The sale of the penthouse, coming on the heels of $38 million in sales over three months, means there are only three penthouses available at the condo located at the mouth of the Boca Raton inlet.

— Staff Report

CASTLES BY THE BEACH REALTY
NEWS 3
Jazz, blues and views at The Bridge

Four decades ago, the builders of The Bridge Hotel, just inside Boca Inlet, had ambitious plans that included a casino. Slots, roulette and other games of chance still aren’t legal in hotels, so the present owners have put much of the hotel’s $2 million renovation into entertainment.

In addition to the view Carmen’s restaurant on the top floor offers a musical supper club for dining and dancing. Wednesdays are set aside for Jazz, Bossa & Blues. For a $10 cover, South Florida’s best singers and musicians perform, while you eat, drink, dance, talk — or listen. Recent acts included the stunning Nicole Henry and Anthony Corrado.

Latin jazz guitarist Jorge Garcia and Grammy-winning violonist Federico Britos perform July 8, and a week later, it’s two shows.

Boca Raton piano-vocalist Hal Roland for the price of one with sax

Street parking in Mizner Park will cost $1 per hour during the day and $2 an hour between 5 p.m. and midnight. The good news: Parking in the Mizner Park garages is still free.

One Boca Raton restaurant closes and two more take its place, or so it seems. Taking over the old III Forks spot on East Palmetto Park Road is Philippe Chow — upscale Asian out of New York.

If anything is harder to find than blues, it’s jazz, but all of a sudden, it’s popped up around.

Nothing we can do about it,” said Annie Kim, owner of Love Me. “It kills business,” said Maria Quezada, who works at Bark Avenue Grooming. “Nobody wants to pay to walk around.”

Parking meters are an inconvenience, but there’s not much we can do about it,”

Notice something new at Mizner Park? The parking meters have arrived. Put in as way to raise city revenues in the middle of a recession, the meters have arrived. Put in as way to raise city revenues in the middle of a recession, the parking meters are getting a less-than-enthusiastic welcome.

“Parking meters are an inconvenience, but there’s nothing we can do about it,” said Annie Kim, owner of Love Me.

“It kills business,” said Maria Quezada, who works at Bark Avenue Grooming. “Nobody wants to pay to walk around.”

Philippines high-profile followers include Oprah Winfrey and Paris Hilton.

One of his South Beach investors, former Miami Heat star Alonzo Mourning, also has a stake in the Boca venture.

Another famous name is that of Philippe Restaurant Group CEO Stratis Morfogen, younger brother of Max himself has jumped on the local-produce cart

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PHOTO BY JERRY LOWER
Boca Raton has installed parking meters at Mizner Park, but not in the parking garages. Photo by Lauren Lorichio

**Boca Raton**

**Real grass, not artificial turf, for DeHoernle Park**

By Steve Plunkett

Fields at a park being built in Boca Raton will have natural grass, not artificial turf, despite the stated goal of saving money, rather than saving money, with grass at DeHoernle Park, west of U.S. 1. The city has two soccer fields with artificial turf installed at DeLesseps Park. City parks officials say turf fields take less maintenance than natural grass, but those officials said it was the manufacturer's decision.

Palm Beach International Film Festival, the South County YMCA, the county Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Cultural Council, and Pugatory International Travel.

Steve Weagle's annual bike ride for the Red Cross is over, but the money's still coming in.

"The last figure I heard was $50,000," the Channel 5 weather anchor said of his 15th annual trip that started in Sebastian and wraps in Boca. "A last-minute donation of $5,000 put it above 50." Weagle modified his tour this year to stop for the first time in Delray Beach at Old School Square and was forced to move his Boca terminus to the Dubliner when ZED451 closed the week before. Boosted by favorable winds and temperatures, Weagle and four cycle-mates rode early enough to refresh with a beer at Bru's Room before making his 5 o'clock telecast.

A special surprise this year was a visit during Weagle's stop at CityPlace by American Idol's Taylor Hicks, a big Red Cross supporter who had helped with tornado relief in Alabama. And after the ride was over, an anonymous bidder put up $1,750 for Weagle's bike, donated by Stan Kubil of Wheels of Wellington.

Thom Smith is a freelance writer. Contact him at ThomSmith@yinmail.com.

Jan Norris contributed to this report.

Along the Coast

**A final bow for Florida Stage**

By Scott Simmons

The one-time cultural jewel of Miami is gone. Florida Stage shut down its final curtain in June, in nearly two decades after it came to Plaza del Sol and one season after it moved to the Kravis Center. The theater company was known for its daring-do in new works. That's something most companies cannot afford to do. But Florida Stage did it for 24 years.

For the company's founder, Louis Tyrell, that 24-year run "was a dream come true. Any opportunity was an aspiration for a career in theater, what we hope for is the opportunity to do the work we want to do when we want to do it. And to share it with the community over time, so that the contribution you make to a community can be part of the cultural personality of that place.

And after the last of the applause, for a matinee performance of The Chac Chac de the Camel Spider, cultural leaders are bereft.

When he heard about Florida Stage's decision to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, William Hayes shut himself away in his office and wept. "This was a real model and had been going on for 20-plus years," says Hayes, producing artistic director at Palm Beach Dramaworks, in downtown West Palm Beach. "It was risky. They were gutsy and they took that risk."

"It was very, very shocking. It was entirely unexpected. It was just like a bomb coming out of nowhere really," says Clive Cholerton, artistic director at Boca Raton's Caldwell Theatre.

Cholerton said he had always looked up to the company, and its founder, Louis Tyrell. "Vic was at their very last show. And I shook Louis's hand and told him how much I enjoyed his show. It's a void that will be felt on a national level, the men say. Rena Blades, president and CEO of the Palm Beach County Cultural Council, agrees.

"Really, I think, this was a very unusual arts organization. They were not just performing art or creating art, but creating art, " she says. "Creating new art is risky, and glorious and achievable."

Playwrights who were guided by Tyrell and Florida Stage will vouch for the impact their work received at Florida Stage. "The wonderful thing about Florida Stage was that they would commit to doing a play often with world premiere productions," says Andrew Rosendorf, the company's playwright-in-residence, and creator of last year's season opener at the Kravis Center, Gone. "It doesn't mean there's a finished product, but it's an opportunity to put it up and see where they are."

Actor Michael McKeever says Florida Stage helped him develop his career as a playwright.

"There's no question about it. I grew a lot as a young actor in the theater world," says McKeever, who lives in Davie. "To the national theater scene, Florida Stage was one of the most committed regional theaters when it came to new works." McKeever should know. Two of his recent hits, Running with Scissors and The Garden of Hannah List, received world premieres at Florida Stage.

Florida Stage came a long way over its 24-year history. It began in 1987 as The Theatre Center in West Palm Beaches, presenting plays at the Duncan Theatre Second Stage at what is now Palm Beach State College. The Theatre Centre was one of the first and most committed regional theaters when it came to new works.

The company moved its 50th anniversary celebration with a “50 on 50” fundraising gala in the stadium on Oct. 29. The $250 tickets will go to scholarships. Although FAU didn't enroll students until 1964, the Florida Legislature approved it in 1961, so school officials are tiring in that year with the stadium's opening. Alumini are asked to share their experiences at fau.edu/50th.

Talking of things Schmidt, the board of the Schmidt Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park, which presents the annual Festival of the Arts BOCA Schmidt, the board of the Arts Foundation of Boca Raton and the board of the Schmidt Centre for the Arts were other considerations when choosing the site.

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"I've had such a good run at Florida Stage. My last figure I heard was $50,000," the Channel 5 weather anchor said of his 16th annual ride, which started in Sebastian and wraps in Boca. "A last-minute donation of $5,000 put it above 50." Weagle modified his tour this year to stop for the first time in Delray Beach at Old School Square and was forced to move his Boca terminus to the Dubliner when ZED451 closed the week before. Boosted by favorable winds and temperatures, Weagle and four cycle-mates rode early enough to refresh with a beer at Bru's Room before making his 5 o'clock telecast.

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Jan Norris contributed to this report.
Weiser negotiates $125,000 a year contract

By Steve Plunkett

Town commissioners approved a contract that enabled their interim town manager to drop "interim" from her title effective June 30, the day after new state rules tightened pension requirements for public employees.

The decision by Kathleen Dailey Weiser town manager was 4-1, with Mayor Bernard Featherman dissenting. Featherman, who is Boca Town Attorney Tom Slaney negotiated the contract, opposed paying Weiser $125,000 a year and contributing more than the 6.2 percent the town will pay toward its other employees' pensions.

"It would be reprehensible if I said that I agree with everything in the contract even though I like the woman herself and she's done a good job," Featherman said.

Weiser defended the agreement, saying she told Featherman she would want a $125,000 salary the first week he was in office. "With the exception of the automobile allowance, all monetary items were negotiated downward from my initial proposal," she said.

Commissioner Dennis Sheridan questioned why the contract was on the June 6 agenda if Featherman was not happy with it. "If it was not agreeable ... why should it be submitted to us at all?" he asked.

Effective July 1, town employees are paying 3 percent of their salaries into the Florida Retirement System and Highland Beach is paying 6.2 percent. In Weiser's case, the town will pay one and increase its contribution by 1 percent each year for five years. The state's new rules also limit severance packages to 20 weeks of pay. Weiser negotiated one month of severance pay for each year she works up to a maximum six months.

"Change is never easy, but I hope I have your support as together we continue to make the town of Highland Beach the best it can be," Weiser said.

Commissioners also decided to turn in the Nissan Murano the town had been leasing for suspended Town Manager Dale Sugerman when his contract expired June 30. The town was paying $500 a month on the lease and $280 a month on maintenance, fuel and insurance.

Weiser will get $600 as her monthly automobile allowance. Sugerman was suspended in January after commissioners learned he planned to put Town Clerk Beverly Brown on a one-month unpaid suspension for forwarding racist emails on the town's computer system. A hearing officer decided in April a written reprimand was enough punishment for Brown.

Sugerman continued to be paid $12,000 a month during his suspension and has since returned and kept the leased SUV. Weiser was named interim town manager Feb. 22 and paid $6,000 a month.

IBM: Continued from page 1

"I don't think Boca knew what hit 'em," says Anderson. "It's an understatement to say IBM made a huge impact on this area. Those first few years, those of us who came in early, it was probably the highlight of our lives: doing challenging work and changing the community. And change it did. Anderson had been working in the company's development lab in San Jose, Calif., when he was offered a managerial position at the soon-to-be Boca site — and given 24 hours to accept or not. He hurried to a bookstore and bought a Florida map. Boca Raton wasn't on it.

"I bought the idea it was in the Panhandle or near Orlando or what," he says. "I flew into Miami and rented a car, but I 95ed at Fort Lauderdale, I drove the rest of the way up Federal Highway. The houses were all boarded up then; the beaches were empty. It was like being a ghost town." The "small, sleepy town" he found in May 1967 woke up quickly once the new workforce began arriving and building homes, enrolling children in school, bringing a sophisticated appetite for good wines and gourmet restaurants, the list goes on.

Soon after his initial visit, he brought his wife, a California native, to Boca to look around. "When she stopped crying, I took her into Lam's for a sandwich and a beer," he says.

IBM Boca Raton: A Centennial Celebration Where: Boca Raton Historical Society (Town Hall) 71 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton When: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through July 8 How much: Admission is free. For more information: Call 395-6766 or visit www.bocahistory.org

"On Saturday, we bought a lot. On Sunday, we picked a model. I lined up a mortgage. It was one whirlwind weekend." An even bigger whirlwind came with IBM's technological advances. The Historical Society exhibit chronicles those in framed photos that line a hallway; original packaging saved by an employee; a roomful of computers that track its progression, each one smarter than its predecessor; memorabilia that includes the computer "Machine of the Year," the first time an object took the place of the magazine's "Man of the Year." The accompanying story, however, was a faux-foolish essay by Roger Rosenblatt, rather skeptical in tone: "Ever see one of these before, Mister? Yes, you. I'm talking to you, ma'am. Ever work one of these Commodores or Timex Sinclairs or Osborne Is or TRS-80 IIs? How do you like them Apples? Just a joke, son. Good, clean fun. But you look so skeptical, like you're from Missouri, and I want to sell you one of these beauties, 'cause you need it and cause you want it, no matter what you say."

Charlie Chaplin logo, a nod to his Modern Times film.

Sue and Glenn Anderson came to Boca Raton when IBM opened its plant in the city in 1967. When the company moved most of its staff out, the couple stayed. Photos by Jerry Lehman

Boca rode wave of PCs success

The firm introduced its piece de resistance in 1981: the IBM PC, the first pre-assembled personal computer, one that could be lifted from the package and plugged into the wall. "It's really exciting that it was developed right here in little Boca Raton," says Susan Gillis. "The glamorous era was the 1980s."

It was the massive-growth era, as well: IBM boosted more than 10,000 employees in that decade to keep up with the demand for PCs. "You could hardly bring people in fast enough," Glenn Anderson says. In 1983, Timé's Jan. 3 cover ran a "first." It named the

Librarians are "uniquely positioned to provide a wide range of services" to their communities, according to the American Library Association (ALA). But that's not just any library. The newest addition to the collection is the 42,000-square-foot Boca Raton Library, which will cost about $8 million to build. It will be situated two blocks north of the current library. Rendering provided by

The 42,000-square-foot Boca Raton Library will cost about $8 million to build. It will be situated two blocks north of the current library. Rendering provided by

LIBRARY: Continued from page 1

lot of elements of the pattern book," said Assistant City Manager Robert Woika, calling the design "Mizneresque." The building is a very tall, one-story space that takes advantage of glass and natural lighting, PGAL's Ian Nestler said. The designer is looking to incorporate the roofs found in Mizner's practices including solar-heated water, low-flush toilets, sensors on faucets, high-impact windows, and high efficiency lighting and mechanical systems. The building also uses a reclaimed water system for irrigation. "It's going to be quite a magnificent space," Nestler said.

But the new library won't use solar options for all its energy needs. "Our energy is less expensive, it doesn't pay right now," Nestler said. "It's a 17-year plus payback. We like to recommend those when you have a five-years-or-less payback."

To install such a system, the city would have to come up with more money now, "which means the library would have to suffer somewhere," he said.

The exterior includes two book drops, one that allows borrowers to park their car under cover of the entrance and another drive-up location. Betty Grimm of the Friends of the Library said that she was happy with how the group's gift was incorporated into the floor plan, "because of budgetary problems, the city) will not be forward enough thinking in lighting and windows."

The designers will look at the old library that they might want to incorporate into the new building. One resident at the public meeting asked whether stained glass windows would be moved to the new building.

The project is on budget and schedule as well as on track for LEEDS certification, Nestler said.

Nestler said the designer would continue to work with the community.

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Tropical Serenity

Stunning two-story home with dramatic entryway and Royal Palm trees is located on a lovely lot in the sought-after Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club. The grand entrance foyer shows off a custom designed staircase. The second story open balconies overlook the saltwater pool with cascading waterfall/spa. Mature, manicured grounds create a tropical oasis. This home has both style and elegance.

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The most desirable community of Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club boasts 24 hour security.
PELICANS: Continued from page 1

which can boast a 6- to 7-foot wingspan, were first placed on the state and federal lists in 1973 over concern that the pesticide DDT could thin the shells of nesting eggs.

making them more likely to be crushed or broken.

The Federal Fish & Wildlife Service removed the brown pelican from its Florida list in 1985, but the state commission has kept it listed, until now. We hadn’t evaluated its status since we put it on the Florida list in the 1970s,” says Haubold. “Now we will be.”

When the new evaluation began in 2007, Haubold’s group considered several factors, including the bird’s rate of decline, the size of its available habitat and the chances that it faced a 10 percent probability of extinction in the next century. Of 62 species evaluated, none of the 16 removed last month met the criteria.

And now you’re wondering just how many brown pelicans are left?

“Everybody wants the numbers, but that’s a really hard thing to get,” Haubold concedes. “We have a study that says in Florida we had an average of about 9,000 pairs of brown pelicans, 18,000 birds, between 1968 and 2001. But it’s not just about numbers. It’s about population trends, reproduction and how healthy the population is in general. What’s most important for people to know is that we have a new system for conserving threatened species, and it’s going to make a huge difference for them.”

When will the management plan for the brown pelicans be done, and our beloved birds officially removed from the list?

“We haven’t set a timetable,” says Haubold. “We’re working on 62 plans at once.”

But the management plan will be comprehensive, she promises, with input from FWC staff, independent scientists, developers and nonprofit stakeholders such as the South Florida Wildlife Care Center in Fort Lauderdale, which saves many of the injured birds rescued along Palm Beach County shores.

“We find it encouraging that the state has determined brown pelicans appear to be rebounding to the extent that they no longer meet the criteria for listing as a threatened species,” said Sherry Schlueter, the nonprofit organization’s executive director. But, she adds, while the FWC is developing its management plan, the average citizen has an ongoing part to play.

Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard.

“Floridians can do much to keep this magnificent neighbor safer by acting responsibly about disposal of fishing hooks, monofilament line, plastic trash and other debris,” Schlueter says.

Kenny Brown agrees. The founder of Brown’s Trapping & Wildlife Rescue estimates he’s brought about 300 brown pelicans to the Wildlife Care Center since 2001, when he found one injured at I-95 and Kanner Highway.

“The edge advantage.

“Sometimes they swallow more dangerous fare. “ Floridians can do much to keep this magnificent neighbor safer by acting responsibly about disposal of fishing hooks, monofilament line, plastic trash and other debris,” Schlueter says. Kenny Brown agrees. The founder of Brown’s Trapping & Wildlife Rescue estimates he’s brought about 300 brown pelicans to the Wildlife Care Center since 2001, when he found one injured at I-95 and Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard.

“Does seem they’re coming back,” says Brown, “but I don’t think they should take anything off the list.

“To me, every animal should be a protected species.”
Society Spotlight

Dinner by the Bite
Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center

Festival of the Arts BOCA held an encore “Dinner by the Bite” and fundraising concert May 21 at the Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center. Quartetto Gelato provided entertainment.

ABOVE: Jim and Helen Ballerano, Yvonne Boice and Al Zucaro Jr. RIGHT: Bill and Sharon Shubin and Dick Schmidt

Photos provided

Congratulations
Boca Raton High School Valedictorian

John Doyle, son of John and Andrea Doyle of coastal Boca Raton, has graduated from Boca Raton High School. John was one of the 2011 State Science Olympiad Champions, a Science Pathfinder nominee and a National AP Scholar. He plans to study biomedical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania.

Boca Raton
Snow Fund gives out record figure for student advancement

By Skip Sheffield

In troubled economic times, it’s tougher than ever to convince people to give to any charity. In its 29th year of operation, the George Snow Scholarship Fund defies the odds.

At an annual awards reception at Royal Palm Yacht Club, the George Snow Scholarship Fund gave out a record $433,000 to 63 Florida scholars. The heart of the gala event, attended by more than 300 adults and young people, was that it was produced at no cost to the fund, its scholarship recipients or their guests thanks to underwriters the Steve Bagdan Charitable Foundation, the R.A. Ritter Foundation, BNY Mellon Wealth management and other donors.

It began with a tragedy: a 1980 helicopter crash that took the life of teacher-turned-builder and developer George Snow. Tim Snow, George’s eldest son, founded the memorial fund in 1982 with brother Jeff and sisters Lisa and Jennifer. George Snow Scholarship Fund is now one of the largest sources of educational grants in Palm Beach County, with 266 four-year scholarship recipients currently attending college. The fund is a broad-based association of individuals, businesses and charitable organizations. Some perpetuate the memory of a deceased person. Others are religious, professional or civic groups. All are dedicated to providing educational opportunities to youth who may not otherwise be able to continue their higher education.

Not only does the George Snow Scholarship Fund give out monetary grants, it provides scholars with a backpack loaded with useful goodies, including an HP laptop computer. In addition, the fund’s management and volunteers provide year-round moral support, guidance and advice to its scholars, many of whom are leaving home for the first time.

The Snow Scholarship Fund, which has only four full-time staff, has become so successful it now administers scholarships for than 50 individuals, organizations and corporations.

One such organization is Propel, which awarded three scholarships to Tyrone Brooks, a junior at Florida A&M University; Kenneth Stephens, a sophomore at Bethel (Minn.) University; and Joselito Rivera, a junior at Bethel (New York).

Tolliver Miller, "Most small non-profit just don’t have the staff to do such a good a job. There are additional benefits for our kids, because George Snow Scholarship Fund is a year-round resource for education, funding opportunities and practical advice."

Miller is the sole paid employee of Propel, founded in 2003. Propel serves about 65 disadvantaged or at-risk youth in Palm Beach and Broward Counties. Through George Snow Scholarship Fund, Propel awarded three scholarships to Tyrone Brooks, a junior at Florida A&M University; Kenneth Stephens, a sophomore at Bethel (Minn.) University; and Joselito Rivera, an incoming student at Florida Barber Academy.

Tyrone Brooks is a perfect example of a bright, underprivileged youth who has overcome obstacles to earn an education taken for granted by many. Now 23, Brooks grew up in the Pearl City section of Boca Raton with his single-parent mother. He worked while attending Palm Beach State College and Tallahassee Community College. For the first time he has the advantage of being a full-time student.

"The way the scholarship is set up, it helps me with my rent too," says Brooks. "I feel blessed. The laptop and supplies will come in real handy too."

Most Snow Scholarship recipients have similar stories, but not all are from disadvantaged or single-parent homes. Some scholarships are set up for specific subjects or interests, such as medicine, banking, law or music.

Dreyfoos School of the Arts graduate Carly Gordon received two scholarships this year from musical foundations to offset her considerable expenses at Eastman School of Music in New York.

Ben Carter became the first recipient of a $10,000 George Snow Graduate School Scholarship to help him complete his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree at University of Florida.

"I have been working in veterinary clinics ever since high school," Carter told the audience of more than 300. "I will continue to work while attending the University of Florida graduate school. Work is what I do. I hope to return to Boca Raton when I get my degree and either go to work at a clinic or start one of my own. If it were not for George Snow Scholarships, I wouldn’t be where I am now."

George Snow Scholarship Fund is at 1860 N. Dixie Highway, Boca Raton. Call 347-6799 or visit www.scholarship.org.
Beer, birds & Botswana

By Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley

Even if you can’t leave South Florida during these hot and humid summer months, it’s a good time to plan a future getaway. South Florida companies offer a variety of niche tours and accommodations in very different destinations.

Here’s a toast to beer, birding and Botswana.

Hop on board for a sudsy good time

Bon Beer Voyage
Boynton Beach, 888-U-Go-Beer (888-846-2337); www.bonbeervoyage.com

A passion for travel and a taste for craft beers have combined to form a second career for Ruth Berman and Mike Arra.

They have created Bon Beer Voyage, a beer-oriented travel company.

“We love what we do,” Berman says. “People get crazy when we take them where the best beers in the world are made. It’s like bringing them to mecca.”

And a visit to their website may give you some Father’s Day ideas for that beer-lover in your life.

The husband and wife team, who are chiropractors in Boynton Beach, met when they were going to school in Atlanta. From there, they moved to Florida where they opened their practice 22 years ago.

Over the years, Berman became so interested in travel that she worked with a travel agency to arrange high-end travel packages and went to school to become a certified tour director, leading groups in Washington, D.C., and Miami.

“We love to travel,” she says with great enthusiasm.

In 2009, the couple were vacationing in the Dordogne region of southwest France before embarking on a bike/barge trip. Seeing an outdoor market in the town where they were staying, Berman decided to explore. Here she found a brewery selling his Cross of the Rat beer.

“It was at 8:30 a.m., and I was drinking beer. I wondered who am I and how did I get here?” she laughs.

She bought four big bottles of different beer styles and packed them on the barge trip.

It turned out it was their tour guide’s first time leading this itinerary, and he was well-coordinated, and they made the travel easy and enjoyable. We also got into breweries we wouldn’t have been able to on our own,” he says.

Bon Beer Voyage also offers weekend Beer Safari tasting tours in places such as St. Augustine and Tampa. And it hosts local events where craft beer lovers can taste special brews, make new friends and talk about their first love — beer.

“We’ve gone on private tours by ourselves,” says Maria McFee. “But going with Bon Beer Voyage is like a travel party. They make it so easy because you don’t have to think. Just go.”

The art of roughing it with refinement in Africa

African Gems Travel Inc.
Delray Beach, 243-2119 888-290-1099; www.africangemstravel.com

If destinations such as Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and the Seychelles beckon, you might want to meet Ann Rene McDonnell. She’s owner of African Gems Travel Inc., which she runs out of her condo in east Delray Beach.

Although she specializes in ecologically friendly luxury travel, she says, “We work with all budgets and our clients’ wishes.”

For example, Sharon Dick who lives near Baltimore wanted to go on night hikes in remote jungle areas to see frogs. McDonnell made it happen.

“She customizes and personalizes,” says Dick, who has planned two trips online through AGT.

McDonnell has been in the travel-to-Africa business since 1991. She started her own company in 2006 that books hotels, resorts, camps and lodges.

“Hands down, people go to Africa for the animals,” she says. So she also books safaris in Botswana, Kenya and Tanzania. These feature private tours in four-wheel-drive vehicles. At night, you can stay in lodges or in tents.

But don’t think the Boy Scout variety.

The 10 white tents at Joy’s Camp in the Shaba National Reserve of Kenya are decorated with native fabrics and handmade glass. Each sits on a raised platform and includes a bedroom, a bathroom with stone floor, flush toilet and shower with hot running water. You can step out onto a private veranda to see the surrounding hills.

And the five tents at Sanctuary Baines’ Camp near the Moremi Game Reserve.

Guests stay close to nature — and elephants — at Sanctuary Baines’ Camp, near the Moreminelake.

Africangemstravel.com offers luxury accommodations including the Moremi Game Reserve.

A variety of packages are offered, from tours in Africa for the animals, to tours in Botswana, or Victoria Harbor in the Seychelles. There are also cabins available on crewed trips.

Elsewhere on the continent, oenophiles enjoy a wine tour of the vineyards outside Cape Town in South Africa.
Bird watchers can enjoy the caw of the wild

Caligo Ventures
Key West, 800-426-7781 (305-292-0780); www.caligo.com/

If you are big into birding, you’ll want to know about Caligo Ventures Tour and Travel, based in Key West. In business since 1983, the company offers packaged trips for those who want to get close to nature.

“We are for birders who want to see stuff they haven’t seen or who want to see something again,” says co-founder Mark Hedden.

Some past clients who have enjoyed their tours include the Boston Museum of Science, the Louisiana Ornithological Society, the National Audubon Society, the New York Botanical Garden and the Burpee Museum.

Simon Calle of Highland Beach, a birder for 25 years, went to Trinidad, Tobago and Costa Rica with the company. “You can go wherever they go and count on having a good time,” he says. “They leave nothing to be desired.”

Their most popular destination is the Asa Wright Nature Centre in Trinidad. “It’s the kind of place you can sit on the front porch of the lodge with a cup of locally grown coffee and see 40 species of birds before lunch,” says Hedden, who has visited the center a dozen times.

But Caligo also offers trips to Tobago, Panama, Costa Rica, Belize, Peru, Guyana, Ecuador and Mexico. And it teams up with partners in France, Scotland, England, Spain, Iceland, Hungary and Turkey to arrange your visit to those countries.

Hedden, who has bird-watched for 20 years, favors Guyana. “People can hardly find it on the map, but it’s the greenest place I’ve ever been. There are thousands of acres of pristine rainforest that isn’t about to be developed,” he says.

Trips are organized for groups of up to 14 people or for as small as a single person or a couple. Guests are paired with local guides who are rooted in the community.

“They have the expertise that comes with living in the country they are showing, and they can give you an idea of the local culture,” Hedden says. Caligo guides in Trinidad are second and third generations of the same family leading people into the preserve. Accommodations are comfortable but not luxurious.

“Birders don’t tend to be as conscious of luxury as some other travelers,” says Caligo co-owner Larry Lebowitz. “They are more interested in habitat preservation and access to the birds.”

For example, the Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge is set at 1,200 feet above sea level on the grounds of a former coffee plantation. The ecologically conscious accommodations include twin-bedded rooms with private baths in the main estate and in nearby cottages on the garden-like grounds.

Meals featuring local foods are included with the tours. At the Asa Wright Lodge, the food reflects the diversity of the local cuisine including West Indian, Creole, Asian, Indian and European dishes. Meals are served family-style, and people with vegetarian diets are easily accommodated.

“It may not be the Ritz-Carlton,” says Lebowitz, “but it’s perfect for people out to see the more than 400 bird species that live in the preserve. Expect to see squirrel cuckoos, toucans, parrots and tufted coquettes. And that’s just from the lodge. Although birding does require some walking, most Caligo tours are not physically demanding. “Birders tend to move slowly and quietly so they can see nature. We do some walking but not a lot,” Hedden says. Most are conducted with the use of wheeled vehicles. And they attract a variety of people from ages 20 through retirement.

“Our tours are for people with a little time and a little money,” Lebowitz says.

Disclosure: Coastal Star publisher Jerry Lower owns a minority share in Caligo Ventures.
Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival marks 20th season of summer sounds

In 1992, the cultural scene in South Florida was on the verge of a new phase of growth. The Kravis Center for the Performing Arts opened that year, a year after the Broward Center for the Performing Arts opened in Fort Lauderdale. The Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, which had assumed that name only about a year earlier, was making plans for its first recording.

That same summer, three woodwind-playing members of the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra came together to play some chamber music, ostensibly as nothing more than a friendly gathering. But the Duncan Theatre offered the three — flutist Karen Dixon, clarinetist Michael Forte and bassoonist Michael Ellert — a hall for public performance, and a concert series was born.

This month, the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival will open its 20th season of summer sounds with an interesting show with a nod to history and a look to the future. Founded by Michael Forte in 1992, the festival has become a mainstay of the cultural landscape in South Florida. The dozen core members are based in Boca Raton, joined by musicians of the Symphony of the Americas.

“We haven’t even actually played yet, but we’re very, very excited about this season,” Dixon said. “There’s something special to listeners and players alike, Ellert said, and it’s been a guiding principle of the festival since that first concert in July 1992.

“It’s not fair to the audience, it’s not fair to the musical world, to just play Mozart, Brahms and Beethoven. And that would be really easy to do,” said Blackwood.

The concerts are scheduled for July 7-10, 11-17, 22-24, and 29-31. Tickets for the concerts are $25 apiece, with a four-week subscription for $85, a $15 discount. Call 800-330-6674 or visit www.pbcmf.org.

This also is a milestone year for the Boca Raton Museum of Art, which this month is hosting the 60th edition of its all-Florida juried show. The exhibit, which features 101 artworks by as many Florida artists, opened June 29 and runs through Sept. 3. The museum is in Mizner Park.

The museum’s senior curator, Wendy Blazer, said interest in the competition has grown in the past four years, which is when the museum switched its application method to email. This year, 583 artists from across the state submitted 1,840 works, a 30 percent increase over last year, she said.

“Beethoven, And Brahms and Beethoven. And that would be really easy to do,”

It boosts our attendance every summer, and it’s always an interesting show with a broad variety of styles and approaches,” Blazer said of the exhibit. “It’s a way that we can provide for the inclusion of area artists in a museum setting, where their work can be reviewed and judged by a professional in the field.”

The art was judged this year by Valerie Ann Leedes, an expert in the Aspen School painter Robert Henri, who is an adjunct curator at the Flint Institute of Arts in Flint, Mich. Blazer said the process of getting the juried show together takes the museum about six months, and was overseen by Assistant Curator Kellie Bodle.

But while other museums have dropped juried shows, Boca’s remains a central part of the museum’s educational mission, Blazer said.

“Part of that education, we believe, is creating awareness and appreciation for those rare individuals in South Florida who are artists. It’s a difficult thing, an extraordinary direction, that an individual takes,” she said. “And the museum plays a primary role in providing support. It’s very, very important in any community that there be an institution that shows support, and continues that support, for the artistic community.”

Tickets for the juried show are $8, $6 for seniors 65 and older, and $4 for students. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and until 9 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month. Call 392-2500 or visit www.bocamuseum.org.

Arts notes: Delray Beach’s Arts Garage has added a ceramics exhibit to its home at 180 NE First St. The exhibit, viewable by appointment (info@delraybeacharts.org, or call 243-7129). Clay From Earth is open through July 30 and features the work of 13 artists including Jeff Leedy, whose credits include ceramics for the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. … The Museum of Lifestyle and Fashion History in Boynton Beach has announced its Saturday summertime tours of historic Delray Beach. The first one was June 25; the next two are set for July 23 and Aug. 27. The tours board at the Boynton Beach Mall at 11 a.m. and last two hours as the buses travel through Delray’s five historic districts (email tour@delraybeachbustours.org, or call 243-2662).
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Susan K. Epling

Highland Beach residents who awaken on the Fourth of July to a sea of red, white and blue flags, have Susan K. Epling to thank. She and her son, Brandon, began the patriotic tradition 20 years ago, and haven’t missed a single year since.

Brandon, 23, was just 4 when they began pitching American flags in front of residents’ homes.

“I wanted to teach him patriotism and giving back to his community,” said Epling, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate on Ocean Boulevard in Boca Raton.

Brandon and I have put flags in yards, on the docks and the entire 3½-mile stretch of A1A in Highland Beach,” she said. “We planted about 2,500 flags one year, but on the average about 1,500 are put out every year. This is a ritual we both look forward to every year. The residents of Highland Beach call us and send us thank-you notes. They love to see old glory waving proudly!” (If you’d like to thank the Eplings, email Sep clingl@aol.com)

“The mother-son team’s efforts have not gone unnoticed by town officials. There was an offer for the town to help pay for the flags, but Epling said she and Brandon, a student at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale studying video/film production, want to do it on their own, although Brandon’s friends sometimes help place the flags.

Residents are welcome to keep the flags, but some are retrieved and recycled, if they’re in good enough condition. The town collects those that remain and stores them.

“We’re very particular about them,” Epling said. “I’ll iron them if they need it and if they’re tattered they will be replaced” with hundreds of new flags she buys each year.

Born and raised in Akron, Ohio, Epling, a Baby Boomer who enjoys arts and crafts, said she has always been very patriotic.

“My two brothers were both in the Army," she said. “My youngest brother served in secret intelligence. I can remember when they came home on leave. It was such a happy occasion, but when they had to return, my heart would go out to all of the men and women who were keeping us safe. I have always felt a strong appreciation for those that serve our country.”

One year, she and her son, with the help of some of his friends, put the flags on A1A, too, but this year, like most years, they concentrated on the entrance to the town from Delray Beach and Boca Raton, the Town Hall, and all the side streets.

“This year is the 10th anniversary of all those who lost their lives in 9/11," Epling said. “We honor them, as well." — Mary Thurwachter

Susan Epling’s son Brandon was 4 when the pair first began planting flags throughout Highland Beach to mark the Fourth of July. It’s been a patriotic tradition for 20 years now. Photo by Tim Stepien

Q. What got you interested in real estate?
A. In growing up, my family owned a Century 21 real estate firm in Ohio, which was very successful. Because I was around it all the time, I was quite intrigued with the interaction with people and the sales aspect. I also worked for a real estate investment trust that gave me great knowledge of the real estate industry.

Q. Have you had famous clients over the years?
A. Yes, several NFL players, Leona Helmsley and Robert De Niro. Baseball legend Carl Yastrzemski used to live on my street.

Q. If someone made a movie of your life, who would you like to play you and why?
A. Julia Roberts, because she is adventurous, daring and gutsy! I have truly had circumstances in my life that are novel/movie material. It would be No. 1 on the charts!

Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?
A. Inspirational music to make me keep going — Chariots of Fire — love the movie and the story. Relaxing — I have a collection of antique music boxes, love to wind them up and listen to them, string instruments, piano — Kenny G a favorite.

Q. Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?
A. A risk so small is worth a reward so great!
**Obituaries**

**Jeanne Bice**

By Emily J. Minor

BOCA RATON — Jeanne Bice, who took her love for glitter, paired it with a young widow's instinct to provide for her children and then parlayed all that into QVC fame and fortune, died June 16. Mrs. Bice was 71.

While the family has not come forward with a cause of death, several of Mrs. Bice's followers posted online tributes, testifying that Mrs. Bice had been suffering from uterine cancer and blood clots in her lungs. Her last QVC appearance was by Skype interactive video over Memorial Day weekend.

A resident of coastal Boca Raton since 2005, when she bought a home on Spanish River Road, Mrs. Bice started her fashion wear after her husband, Butch, died at 42. A housewife from Wisconsin, Mrs. Bice moved herself and her two children, Tim and Lee, to Florida and began selling her wares at flea markets. She is survived by both her children, and it appears from property records that her son lives in Delray Beach. But neither could be reached.

In 1995, Mrs. Bice broke into the QVC market and was an immediate hit. Callers — and shoppers — loved her can-do attitude, her self-deprecating humor and her jewelry.

After her death, QVC posted a eulogy on its website: “Jeanne chose to love. She loved what she did — creating Quacker Factory clothing, with ‘sparkle and shine’. Clothes that made people happy. She loved QVC. Everything about it. She loved the people: the executives who ran it, and the producers from who worked so hard to make every show perfect. She loved the famous stars who appeared there, and had to pinch herself when others considered her one.”

The New York Times obituary declared, “She died of breast cancer, and the diagnosis had her family considering her Christmas sweaters.” But her fans — called “Quackers,” who would often quack like a duck when they called to talk to her live, on QVC — knew the truth.

Jeanne Bice could sparkle any occasion; Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, Fourth of July. And how she loved to celebrate Halloween, wearing her orange and black sequins. Mrs. Bice’s funeral was June 14 at St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church in Boynton Beach.

**James T. Heverin**

BOCA RATON — Gumbo Limbo Nature Center was near and dear to James T. Heverin’s heart. He spent many hours there as a volunteer. So when Mr. Heverin died last month, the family asked that donations in his memory go to the nature center.

Mr. Heverin, 70, of Boca Raton, died at Hospice by the Sea on June 3.

Before moving to Boca Raton, Mr. Heverin lived in Bergenfield, N.J., where he was known for his volunteer work. He coached basketball, soccer and Little League, and was a volunteer with the Cub Scouts and the town’s ambulance service.

A graduate of St. Francis College in Brooklyn, Mr. Heverin worked at CIT Group in New York, where he retired as vice president. A devout Catholic, Mr. Heverin was active with the Knights of Columbus at St. Joan of Arc Church and a member of the men’s club at St. Ambrose Catholic Church. He was a volunteer at the Boca Raton Police Department.

Survivors include his wife, Anne; son, Tim, with his wife, Allison, of Chicago; daughter Anne Marie Heverin of Hoboken, N.J.; and grandchildren Patrick, Katy and Nora.

**Glick Family Funeral Home, Boca Raton, was in charge of arrangements.**

Mr. Heverin had been held on June 7 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Deerfield Beach.

To donate in Mr. Heverin’s memory to Gumbo Limbo, see gumbolimbo.org or call 338-1473.

--- Staff Report

**Along the Coast**

Supporters organize with aim to buy WXEL-TV

By Jenny Staletoivich

A group of WXEL-TV supporters, including its president and CEO, its chief fundraiser and area education and media executives, have until Dec. 31 to work out a purchase agreement to buy the station from Barry University before the sale is opened to other bidders.

“We’re very optimistic,” said WXEL-TV President and Chief Operating Officer Steven Henneberg. “There are people here who want to keep WXEL local. They don’t want us to go away.”

Henneberg said he first approached the university about a management-led acquisition after the state Board of Education agreed in December to grant a controversial lease transfer of the radio station to Classical South Florida. The Federal Communications Commission approved the transfer of the license — sold for $3.85 million in May. In the transfer, local supporters objected to the sale, saying it put control of the station in the hands of a media company and signaled the end of local programming.

Classical South Florida is owned by Minnesota-based American Public Media, the nation’s largest operator of public radio stations. Barry and Classical South Florida, however, argued that CSF was the best choice for the community and believed splitting the licenses gave both the beleaguered radio and television stations the best chance of surviving.

At its June 10 board meeting, Henneberg laid out his plan to trustees and asked for exclusive rights to negotiate and raise $2.5 million by the end of January.

Barry had purchased the station — started 40 years ago to educate local migrant workers — when it was at a value that had shrunk to $350,000. Over the years, the university pumped $5.3 million into both the radio and television stations before Barry’s trustees decided it no longer fit the school’s mission and started entertaining potential buyers.

Henneberg said his group has received a “very positive” response.

In 2004, New York’s WNET-TV teamed up with the Community Broadcast Foundation as its community-based partner to buy it, but the deal fell through when the FFC failed to consider the license application.

Then, Barry spokesman Michael Lederman explained, the university “took a little time off” until Classical South Florida surfaced as a suitor for the radio station.

Potential buyers emerged but never led to a sale.

Henneberg said his group has formed a nonprofit organization.

They need to raise at least $2.5 million to keep the station as well as working capital and money to purchase some equipment.

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**Boca Raton**

**House party parents escape conviction**

By Steve Plunkett

The parents charged with hosting an “open house party” crashed by hundreds of beer-toting high school students in the gated Sanctuary enclave ended their day in court with adjudication withheld.

Shlomo and Jeannie Rasabi, who pleaded no contest to the misdemeanor charge, will not have a conviction on their records. Judge Barry M. Cohen assessed each $253 each but no jail time or fine.

“Good luck to you both,” Cohen said after sentencing them June 20.

Violations of the state’s “open house party” law carry a penalty of up to 60 days in jail and a $2,500 fine. Neither has an arrest record.

The previous investigation said at worst, the Rasabises should be given six months probation, ordered to serve on a victim impact panel, work 100 community service hours and pay $100 each in court costs.

Cohen said he did not want to clog the probation system with NORTPS (normal, ordinary record possibility). He said the Rasabises did not purchase, arrange for or have prior knowledge of the party at the Oct. 10 party. The pre-sentence report said the Rasabises had already suffered.

“The economic costs resulting from this incident to the couple has been great, and the publicity generated by the media has cost them dearly in terms of stress and difficulty with the children’s school and parents of children at American Heritage,” the report said, referring to the private school where the Rasabises’ sons attended.

The report included an example of hate mail the Rasabises received.

After the sentencing, Jeannie Rasabi revealed how her son’s classmates marveled at the home in the Sanctuary they were borrowing for the after-homecoming event. They found pictures online and said, “Oh, we have to go to this,” Rasabi said.

“Obviously we care about teen, underage drinking,” Jeannie Rasabi said. “We didn’t suspect they would be intoxicated in our home.”

Shlomo Rasabi, who lives with his family in Plantation, is the property manager of the house and asked its owner for permission to hold the party. About 100 guests were expected to arrive in two chartered buses, but at least 500 teenagers in four buses arrived. The Rasabises asked security to call the police.

The Rasabises complained that when Boca Raton officers took them to the police station, they left 26 teens at the house with no adult supervision and also left the alcohol there, the report said.

The Rasabises’ son graduated from American Heritage in May, but they could not keep their younger son there “because of the financial burden associated with defending themselves,” the pre-sentence report said.

Neither boy was found to be drinking at the party.

Paul and Ingrid Paolino, the raspabises’ neighbors, whose house was the gathering point for the following weekend with a hosting a similar though much smaller party on Spanish River Road, said they had adjudication withheld and paid $225 each in court costs.

Both required the house owner to pay $2,500 by a plea deal in May, just hours before their attorney was prepared to argue that police searched the house primarily without a warrant.
Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. The Good Earth features materials found in nature by author/ artist Nadine Meyers Sattler. Through “creative photography,” award winning photographer Eva Asaro gives you a re- moral character, irony or symbolism in the seemingly ordinary. Raina-Gene’s journey as an artist is complemented by watercolors, collages, non-objective and abstract works. Journeys as an artist is presented in her exhibit at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Open until 9/15/$ 7/7-8, 9 am-6 pm. Fri-Sat. 347-3900.

F Isabel Bishop Art Collection at the Children’s Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. This exhibit is the branchaud of Richard Newman, who founded High Tech Productions over 35 years ago. Richard Newman’s vast collection of the world’s largest private collection of authentic historical space art works (1960-2010). Weekends/ holiday: 10 am-5 pm. 557-3412.

9 - 12/7 - Charlie Chang Concert at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Chang’s works include traditional Chinese music, stories, fan fire plays and action songs stimulate learning at this weekly program at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. Adults must accompanied by a child. 10-11 am. 393-7968.

7/7 - Judo Class - 22nd Annual – Judo Class - held at the Children’s Science Explorium, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. All ages accompanied by an adult. Held the second Saturday of the month. 9:30-11 am. $5/child. 393-7968 or www.bocalibrary.org.


5th Annual Juried Art Exhibition - Pictures of Paradise at Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Exhibit opens through 7/18. Hours: M-F 8 am-noon, Sat. 8 am-5 pm. Sun. 10 am-5 pm. 544-9001.

July 4th of July Events

4th of July Celebration – AIA and Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach. Sand sculpting contest on the beach (8 am-noon), Surfari Memorial (2 pm), Cars As Art Parade (5 pm) – $10 fee per vehicle to participate, Fatbike and Scooter Parade (2pm), Beautiful Baby Bathing Suit Contest (2 pm). Held on the beach. Dine & Hamburger Eating Contests (7:10 pm), live concert, food and fireworks. The Downtown Roundup will offer free shuttle bus running a modified route with service continuing until 11 pm. Free. 279-5380 Ext. 1 or www.downtowndelray.com.

Saturday, July 7th – Yoga Workout at the Beach - Held every Saturday and Sunday at Red Reef Park, 100 S. Inlet Drive, Highland Beach, Boca Raton. Registration can be done at the Boca Raton Public Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd, or on-site before a class begins. Classes are held on the grass overlooking Intracoastal Waterway. Cash will not be accepted on-site. $10-15/members, $25-50/non-members per class, or 60 day membership begins. 8-9 am. Free. 393-7968.

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7/20 - Arts and Crafts Summer Camp: Create your own small floral arrangement with spray paint and glue. Held again 7/27, 8/3 & 8/10.

7/24 - Thursday - 7/24 - Cool 6-8 Year Olds: Chinese Animal Costumes - Held again 8/4. 2-3:30 pm. $9/members, $12/non-members. Registration and what to if you find one. Ages 7-12. 7/24 and 8/4. 2-3:30 pm. $9/members, $12/non-members. Registration required. 391-8707.


7/26 - Boca Raton - Second & fourth Tuesday of each month at Boca Raton City Hall, 201 S. Northeast 7th Avenue, Boca Raton. Call 278-5455 or www.bocalibrary.org.


8/6 - Joan Miro, Surreal Prints at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. For ages 9-14. Registration deadline is 7/30. Call 278-5455 or www.bocalibrary.org.

8/6 - Monday - 8/6 - Reptile Rocks! at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. Registration deadline is 8/6. Call 278-5455 or www.bocalibrary.org.


8/9 - Monday - 8/9 - Meet Me at the Train Depot, 747 S. Dixie Highway, Boca Raton. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. 11 am. 51 admission includes popcorn and a $10 Souvenir. Registration required. 391-8707.


8/30 - Monday - 8/30 - Meet Me at the Train Depot, 747 S. Dixie Highway, Boca Raton. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. 11 am. 51 admission includes popcorn and a $10 Souvenir. Registration required. 391-8707.

9/5 - Tuesday - 9/5 - The Invisible Bridge by Julie Kruger - Presented as part of the Beryl & Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium at the Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Registration deadline is 9/5. Call 278-5455 or www.bocalibrary.org.


Vet a veritable font of advice on dog care

Cars, flat-screen television sets and even iron come with owner’s manuals to explain how they operate and how to make them perform at their best. Alas, our pets do not. But Marty Becker, D.V.M., best known as “America’s Veterinarian,” is on a mission to change that.

He just completed a six-week national bus tour called “Healthy Pets Visit Pets” that included three stops in Florida. He also just penned “Healthy Pets Visit Pets,” a book that can be identified in its early stages are far cheaper and easier to treat than those that are left to fester and worsen before a veterinarian can intervene and take action. If your dog needs a medication, work with your veterinarian on how to shop around for the best price. Veterinarians can write prescriptions and you may find considerable savings at a pharmacy, especially for generic drugs.

Becker provides hundreds of more canine-care insights in his book, which ceters to both the seasoned owner as well as those adopting a puppy for the first time.

You can learn more by tuning in to Dr. Becker’s guest appearance on my Oh Behave! show on PetLifeRadio.com and by visiting www.drmartybecker.com.

And, to get your “paws” on an autographed copy of his book, Your Dog: The Owner’s Manual, come out later this year.

Each time he intercepts it and returns the ball, your dog can be significantly rewarded with a treat. Other fetch game variations: Hide the ball and toss, roll or kick the ball and reward your dog with a treat each time he intercepts it and gives it back.

Keep yourself dry at all costs.


Let me share with you some of his creative tips and strategies designed to bring out the best in dogs all over America:

- Ditch the food bowl — on occasion. Face it, our dogs aren’t grabbing our car keys and sneaking out to chew down on super-sized meals at a fast-food restaurant. Too many dogs have more waddle than wiggle and struggle with being overweight. Becker’s solution: bring out a dog’s natural hunting skills by replacing the food bowl a few times a week with food puzzles designed to dole out small amounts of food when the dog makes the puzzle move or open in some way. Becker recommends the Kong Wobbler, Busy Buddy line and Nina Ottosson’s Dog Pyramid.

- Jazz up that game of fetch. For dogs who love to chase after balls, try tossing the ball up or down a hill or in the water for an extra fulfilling workout. For little, active dogs, select a right-sized stuffed animal that can be tossed safely in the house without knocking over a lamp. Other fetch game variations: Hide the ball and then let your dog find it. Or play “monkey in the middle” by having family members toss, roll or kick the ball and reward your dog with a treat each time he intercepts it and gives it back.

- Keep yourself dry at all costs.

- Keep your dog healthy and fit. He can’t shake. Towel him dry and then usher him to a “shaking-allowed zone” and your clothes won’t be drenched.

- Keep your dog healthy without taking a big bite out of your wallet. To accomplish this, Becker urges you to never skip your dog’s wellness exams. The reason? The majority of health problems that can be identified in their early stages are far cheaper and easier to treat than those that are left to fester and worsen before a veterinarian can intervene and take action. If your dog needs a medication, work with your veterinarian on how to shop around for the best price. Veterinarians can write prescriptions and you may find considerable savings at a pharmacy, especially for generic drugs.

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The Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan performed recently at Abbey Delray North. Photo by C.B. Hanif

Singing teens make musical impression for Israel

The Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan rolled into Abbey Delray North on a June morning, 10 teens showing off great voices while singing of love for their country through a medley of songs in Hebrew, English and Yiddish.

Their energy was amazing, their routines deftly choreographed beneath exquisite harmony and outstanding solos.

Also present, and trying not to look like a proud papa, was Shelly Weil, who for 38 years has been hosting the exemplary cultural program.

"Every year I look forward to getting a new group of scouts because they’re 17-year-old kids, and I don’t see them again unless they come back as a leader," said Weil, of Delray Beach.

"We have four such caravans that are going to cover the United States, probably about 35 to 40 different states, as ambassadors, and that’s their prime purpose of being here," said the member of the Israeli Scout International Board.

To pull off the visit of the scouts, or Tzofim, each year, “I make a lot of calls, visit a lot of people, bring them pictures, CDs and so forth, and try to get them to a diverse population rather than just going to synagogues, where obviously people know Israel,” he said.

"For example, we’ll take them to a church on Sunday morning. Sometimes I like to bring them to a Baptist church or an Episcopal church. On Saturday we’re going up to Palm Beach Juvenile Detention Center.

Said Ori Zeltzer, one of the caravan’s leaders, “Though our main thing is to put on as much of a show as we can for the communities that we pass through, the main issue here is being the best ambassadors Israel can get, and showing people here that sometimes Israel is much more different than what you see in the newspapers, or TV, or the local media. These are the kids of Israel.”

Zeltzer said he too was a scout from age 9, then at 18 went for six years to the Israeli army, from which he was discharged two months ago. Similarly, for these youths, “Next summer they’re going to be recruited to the army,” and, after multiple years of service, “Maybe one of them will become a caravan leader.”

From their Abbey North audience of more than 100 the troupe garnered rave reviews, such as Scott Wang’s: “It was upbeat, nice, pleasant, positive, no political messages. Young people, I think they just want to enjoy life, and have peace.”

If there wasn’t a subtle message in the choice of one of the closing songs, there at least was a hint of future possibilities.

“I learned in Tzofim,” said the youth who introduced the tune, “that there is no such thing as a change that is too hard to make. And the lyrics of the next song say it all. ‘If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself, and then make a change,’ he said, as the troupe moved into Michael Jackson’s ‘Man in the Mirror.’

When the teens concluded with the Israeli national anthem, there was a contrast between the mainly gray-haired audience and mainly dark-haired youths, yet solidarity in that most seemed to know the lyrics.

Afterward, the teens accepted donations and sold T-shirts and CDs of their music.

It makes one wonder what ambassadors we’re sending to other countries. And why other countries’ ambassadors aren’t working as hard as Shelly Weil.

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.

It’s all about the design at this waterfront masterpiece

It has five bedrooms, 5½ baths and killer views. And this Lighthouse Point estate, a Prism Award winner for design, shows like a work of art.

The sleek, contemporary design includes floor-to-ceiling impact-glass windows to capture the views, limestone floors throughout and 21-foot-high ceilings to accentuate the air of spaciousness.

A water feature runs throughout the house, creating the look and feel of a river.

Speaking of water, this interior point lot home boasts an infinity-edged pool and 229 feet of deep-water access. There is an outdoor grill for ease of entertaining, and a firepit to highlight the water views.

It’s just minutes to the either inlet and the Atlantic Ocean beyond.

Walls of glass offer views from the sleek gourmet kitchen, with exotic Wenge wood (above), and from the landing (left), with its 21-foot ceilings.

This Lighthouse Point home has a 72-foot infinity-edge pool.

Joyce M Schneider,
Castles By The Beach Inc., 889 E Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton. Office: 392-8770.
Direct: 212-4403. Fax: 392-8744

This new home has limestone flooring throughout, including the master bath, which boasts a glass-enclosed water closet with Purist hatbox toilet and Hansgrohe Axor Stark faucets.
The Best New Joint in Town.

Our Orthopedic Institute offers the most sophisticated and innovative joint repair, spine care and sports medicine available in healthcare today.

We provide state-of-the-art total knee replacement and minimally invasive surgical techniques, like anterior hip replacement, which gives patients a faster recovery, less pain and enhanced mobility. We specialize in joint resurfacing, an alternative to total joint replacement. In fact, we’re a leader in clinical research on the procedure.

Our advanced preoperative navigation system gives our orthopedic surgeons added precision in the operating room. Our pain management protocols and team approach to care are considered best practices in the field. All in an orthopedic unit that features newly renovated private rooms with patient amenities such as flat screen TVs and WiFi.