Boca Raton

City Council member says negative ad backfired

By Tim Pallesen

Contentious campaign fueled with outside PAC money

The winner in Boca Raton’s city election credits his victory to an unprecedented TV commercial in which his four fellow council members asked voters to support his opponent.

Anthony Majhess believes the commercial backfired and won him the March 13 election with 56 percent of the vote over challenger Frank Chapman.

“A lot of the community was absolutely shocked by it,” Majhess said. “They didn’t want to see a council that always voted 5-0.”

Mayor Susan Whelchel, who spoke for the council in the TV ad, said she was motivated to do the commercial after seeing how much money firefighter and police unions from outside the city were contributing to Majhess’ campaign.

Whelchel criticized the role that political action committees — or PACs — played in Boca Raton’s election.

“I’ve never seen a municipal campaign before that had so much outside influence,” Whelchel said. “Super PACs are known on state and national levels, but they are rarely seen a little municipal election.”

“You just don’t know where the money is coming from and who is behind it,” she said.

Ironically, the TV ad that featured Whelchel and council members Susan Haynie, Constance Scott and Michael Majhess’ names was run by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Boca ELECTION on page 8

Highland Beach

Mayor tugs for support with new council in place

By Steve Plunkett

Surf show catches a wave at FAU

Visitors check out the exhibition ‘Surfing Florida: A Photographic History,’ open through May 12 at Florida Atlantic University. The exhibition has received statewide attention.

See HIGHLAND on page 8

Along the Coast

Life’s a beach and so much more at the Delray Beach Club

By Mary Thurwachter

Stretching out on a chaise lounge with a Kindle in your hands and the Atlantic Ocean as a backdrop is “a heck of a nice way to spend a day,” said Ron Nyham, a proud member of the Delray Beach Club.

Not that Nyham, outgoing president of the 43-year-old club, can spend all that much time lazing around the seashore. He’s a busy Florida Atlantic University professor, after all. But when he wants to kick back and get away from it all without having to travel farther than across town, he goes to the Delray Beach Club.

Truth be known, Nyham and his See BEACH on page 21
Editorial

When it comes to bicycle safety, share the message and the road

If you’ve driven down A1A lately (and who hasn’t?), you have to know what a hotspot the road is for bicyclists. Who can blame them, after all? It’s a lovely drive along our postcard-pretty shoreline. But it can be a perilous trek. A year ago, for example, a cyclist was killed when a truck struck him on A1A north of Linton Boulevard.

Motorists say bicyclists block the road. Many complain about packs of bicyclists riding up to four abreast, especially on weekends. Cyclists maintain that drivers need to recognize that they have as much right to the road as cars do. Recognizing the commonality of the problem for all coastal communities, Highland Beach police Lt. Eric Lundberg came up with a plan that could help everyone traveling A1A. He’s starting a task force with everyone traveling A1A. He’s with a plan that could help

Highland Beach police Lt. Eric Lundberg came up for all coastal communities, they have as much right to drivers need to recognize that they have as much right to share the road. The signs also advise vehicles that drivers must give a 3-foot leeway to bikers and that cyclists may not ride more than two abreast.

Enforcement will be important, too. Lundberg says, but first motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians must be clear on what the laws are and what responsibilities each has. As Lundberg says, “It’s going to be a repetitive thing,” with messages flashing alongside the road for as long as it takes.

It’s a commendable proactive step toward making the highway safer for all of us.

- Mary Thurwachter, Managing Editor

Film-music partnership delights devoted festival chair

By Mary Thurwachter

With the Palm Beach International Film Festival fast approaching, Yvonne Boice looks forward to doing some serious movie-watching. She is particularly interested in seeing Violins in Wartime, with the performance of legendary violinist Ida Haendel. The film — to be shown at Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center at 4 p.m. on April 15 Boice said, “will be a wonderful opportunity to experience the partnership between film and music.”

Boice, a Boca Raton philanthropist who owns Fugazy International Travel and the Shoppes at Village Pointe, has been with the PBIF as since its inception 17 years ago, and her position as chairwoman is a labor of love. It’s one of many volunteer positions she holds. She is serving as a board member on the trust of the National Endowment of the Humanities, board of governors member at Northwood University and is a foundation board member at Palm Beach State College.

Recently, she chaired the YMCA’s Prayer Breakfast, where more than 500 people attended the inspirational event designed to engage and excite the community while raising funds for the YMCA’s financial assistance programs. Volunteerism, she said, was something her family insisted on.

“’We were all required to give back,’ said Boice. She remembers raising money for the football team when she was a cheerleader in high school in New Jersey.

“I didn’t wait for people to come to me (with donations),” she said. “I went and asked them and I was determined to collect more than anyone else — and I did.”

Boice has an advanced degree in marketing from New York University.

Traveling has always been her passion, she said, and geography her favorite subject. After college, she took her first solo trip to London, Paris, Rome and Spain.

“It was in the ’60s and a woman traveling alone was a rarity,” she said. “I made long friends.”

Having traveled to all seven continents and 150 countries, Boice will tell you her favorite destination is South Africa, where she has been eight times. Next on her itinerary are St. Kitts and Mozambique.

But she enjoys her time at home, too, with her second husband, World Trade Center Palm Beach founder Al Zucaro. She has one daughter, Lauren, an attorney who lives in Boston with her husband, Randall Smith, an astrophysicist.

“Boca is a big, small town where you still have the feeling of a close-knit community,” she said.

While she enjoys her work, she has a two wishes few people know.

“I would love to be a stand-up comic and once aspired to be a Rockette at Radio City Music Hall,” Boice said.

Letter writer?

LETTERS: The Coastal Star welcomes letters-to-the-editor about issues of interest in the community. These are subject to editing and must include your name, address and phone number. Preferred length is 200 words or less. Mail to 5011 N. Ocean Blvd. #2, Ocean Ridge, FL 33435 or email editor@thecoastalstar.com.

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The Palm Beach International Film Festival

When: April 12-19
Where: Screenings will be held at the Movie Parisian 20 at CityPlace in West Palm Beach, Cobb Theatres in Downtown At The Gardens, Lake Worth Playhouse in Lake Worth, Debilzan Gallery in Delray Beach and Mizner Park Cultural Arts Centre in Boca Raton.

Tickets: Platinum passes are available for $500 and include priority admission to all films, VIP parties and the Silver Screen Splash event; Premiere passes are available for $200, which provide admission to the opening- and closing-night film and party, as well as all regular festival screenings; Gold passes are available for $150, which provide admission to all films and seminars. Individual tickets for special events are also available. Individual screening tickets, which are $10 general admission and $5 for seniors and students, will be available in advance at www.pbifilmfest.org or can be purchased at the respective theater’s box office during the festival. See www.pbifilmfest.org/
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Vital Flight provides special day for special-needs families

By Rich Pollack

Pilot Juan Plaza checked the instruments on his single-engine Cirrus, gave a thumbs up to the ground crew and got ready for his first flight of the day.

Sitting behind him, Scott Rubin, 20, of Boca Raton adjusted the headphone that connected him to the pilot and looked out the window with a wide smile across his face.

"He loves to ride in anything that goes fast," Scott’s father, Bob Rubin, said as they got ready for a short flight from the Boca Raton Airport that gave new meaning to the term "joy ride."

Scott, who is autistic, was one of almost 100 children and young adults with special needs who had an opportunity to go airborne in a private, propeller-driven plane or jet, thanks to Vital Flight, a nonprofit, South Florida-based pilots organization, which coordinates free air transportation for individuals with medical or humanitarian needs.

Since its founding just a few years ago, Vital Flight and its pilots have flown several hundred missions, shuttling passengers of all ages hundreds of miles without charging a dime.

"Our passion is flying and our mission is helping people," says Jonathan Steiner, Vital Flight’s executive secretary and command pilot.

During the organization’s Special Kids Day event held the last Saturday in March, the 15- to 20-minute flights were a lot shorter than most missions — and they came with a little less urgency.

But for the 20 pilots who took the young people with special needs and their families up in the air, these missions were no less important and certainly no less satisfying.

"It’s a wonderful thing to see a smile on a child’s face and to know you helped put it there," says Herb Dusowitz, a Vital Flight pilot who came up with the idea for Special Kids Day after learning about a similar event in California.

Now in its second year, the day-long event included everything from a bounce house and face painting to visits with pirates and a chance to get to know miniature ponies.

Of course, the highlight of the day for most of the youngsters was the chance to fly.

"Most of these kids have never been in or close to an airplane," Steiner said.

For many, finances can be the big stumbling block.

BOCA RATON BOATING & BEACH BASH
Spanish River Park, Boca Raton

Alex Laseter, 18, of Boca Raton enjoys a boat ride on the Intracoastal with his dad, Darrell, during the March 24 Boca Raton Boating & Beach Bash for People With Disabilities. The 4th Annual event drew a record-breaking 3,500 children and adults with disabilities, their families and caregivers. Kurtis Boggs/The Coastal Star

Along the Coast
All aboard for the Book

This year, voters in the sixth biennial Read Together campaign sponsored by the Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition have chosen Last Train To Paradise, by Les Standiford, as the book they hope everyone will read.

The book, available in local libraries and bookstores, chronicles the birth and death of Henry M. Flagler’s Key West Railroad and the changes it brought to the state.

The Read Together campaign, which kicked off March 30, continues through May 1. For more information, visit www.literacypbc.org

— Ron Hayes

Boca Raton

Red light cameras destined for several intersections

City officials are testing red light cameras at several Boca Raton intersections.

During a 30-day period that ends April 14, a warning notice will be issued to the registered owner of vehicles running red lights. There will be no fine for this warning.

Approval for red light cameras at certain intersections won approval from the City Council on Oct. 13, 2010.

Cameras operate 24 hours a day and capture still images and video of every vehicle running a red light at certain intersections.

After April 14, violations will be reviewed and approved by the Boca Raton Police Services Department prior to a citation being issued. The registered owner may review the images online, and has the option to pay the fine or appeal the citation in court. These citations do not result in any points on the driver’s record.

The safety cameras are located at:

- East- and westbound Glades Road at Northwest 15th Street
- Eastbound Glades Road at St. Andrews Boulevard
- Northbound St. Andrews Boulevard at Glades Road
- North- and southbound Federal Highway at Northeast 20th Street
- North- and southbound Military Trail at Spanish River Boulevard
- North- and southbound Congress Avenue at Clint Moore Road
- East- and westbound Glades Road at Northeast Second Avenue

For more information about the program, including a downloadable informational brochure and answers to FAQs, see Red Light Safety Program page on the Boca Raton Police Services Dept. website: www.BocaPolice.com.

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— Ron Hayes
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Pets Welcome!
Venus Williams has designs on One Thousand Ocean

When her tennis game is on, few players want to be across the net from Venus Williams. Just ask last year’s Wimbledon champ Petra Kvitova after her loss at Key Biscayne on March 23, or Aleksandra Wozniak, who had match point two days later and couldn’t convert, and then Ana Ivanovic, who took the first set and then could win only four games.

Ivanovic, who took the first set, couldn’t convert, and then Ana took the match point two days later and then lost to Venus, who studied at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. Design is organic and a matter of trust. “V Starr is me, and nothing happens that isn’t my style,” she said. “And my style is that you can’t do something just because you want to. You have to have reason, it has to be functional; it has to be beautiful.”

While she had to start at the bottom, just as she did in tennis, Williams concedes she had some advantages in the design game because of her name. But when it comes to signing contracts, customers want to see something concrete. “Because of my high profile, people say OK, we’ll talk to her, but that doesn’t mean they’ll let me do the job,” Williams said.

“Once they meet me and my team and really see the picture, they realize this is really serious design, that we can do the job.”

The Boca party never stops; it just moves. Head to Monument Piazza at Royal Palm Place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on April 18 for the 3rd Annual Fine Wines and Canines. Dogs are welcome to compete or to chill and for $25 their owners can sample wines and the fare from restaurants including Anatolia, Biergarten, Café Auribeau, Caruso’s, Chops, Estia Greek Taverna, The Funky Biscuit, Fusionarie, Jake’s Stone Crab, Kin Noodle Bar, Lemongrass, Raffaello, Spicy Ginger, Super Dave’s Diner, The Spaniard, Tucci’s and Yakitori. Proceeds go to ProPEI (People Reaching Out to Provide Education and Leadership), which provides educational and vocational assistance for underprivileged communities.

The party will move back to Mizner Park in early June with the opening of a Yard House restaurant in the space vacated by the cartoon museum and the Epic Theatres just across the alley. A California concept professional” category.

Stephane is a Frenchman who ran Le Comptoir, then moved to Normandie, where he worked his magic at Paris’s best restaurant in the late ‘80s, then moved to L’Etoile, where he worked his magic with Stephane. He has just opened a new restaurant in the space vacated by the cartoon museum and the Epic Theatres just across the alley. A California concept professional” category.

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Curiouser and curiouser. Of course, Alice has nothing on David Manero, whose restaurant wonderland in Delray Beach has turned into a nightmare. Oh sure, the restaurants he ran — Vic & Angelo’s, The Office and Burger Fi — seem to be doing fine, but David is nowhere in sight. The Atlantic Avenue rumor mill has been working overtime with claims that his partners had him banned from the premises and that the FBI wanted him for illegalities — not so, said spokespeople in the West Palm and Miami offices.

Manero did acknowledge an “ugly” split in published reports that said his partner John Rosatti reports that said his partner John Rosatti’s ex-wife, Jennifer, was involved in an “ugly” split in published reports that said his partner John Rosatti’s ex-wife, Jennifer, was involved in a “de facto” divorce, followed by a divorce suit that resulted in a settlement worth millions.

John Rosatti reports that said his partner John Rosatti’s ex-wife, Jennifer, was involved in a “de facto” divorce, followed by a divorce suit that resulted in a settlement worth millions.

**Showcase of Homes**
Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, Boca Raton

Eileen Callian, Cliff Mays, Valerie Newman and Tom Callian check out one of the dozens of homes presented by Royal Palm Properties during the Showcase of Homes event in Boca Raton in early March. Curtiss Boggs/Coastal Star

**Vonnie Boice** is chairman of the Palm Beach International Film Festival, don’t look for much action down here. The festival opens April 12 at Muvico Parisian in CityPlace with a screening of Robot & Frank, a Sundance entry starring Frank Langella. It wraps April 19 at Cobb Theatres in Downtown at the Gardens with a screening of Sassy Pants (Haley Joel Osment and Anna Gunn). A lifetime achievement award will be presented to actress June Lockhart at Silver Screen Bash at The Lake Pavilion on the Waterfront in West Palm Beach on April 15. Lockhart, who became a cult figure as Maureen Robinson in Lost in Space, is 86 and still acting. She co-stars in the comedy Zombie Hamlet, which will premiere at PBIF. Short films will be screened at the Lake Worth Playhouse’s Stomzke Theatre on April 13, 14 and 15, at Delray’s Debilzan Gallery on April 15. Several documentaries are set for Mizner Park’s Cultural Arts Center: Money and Medicine and Genius on Hold (April 13); Lunch Hour, Free China: The Courage To Believe, True Gods Have Bones (Los Dioses De Vandel), Tien Huesos), Crocodile in the Yangtze and Happy You’re Alive (April 14); My Mother’s Idea, a student film showcase, John Portman: A Life of Building, Violins in Wartime, Follow Me and a local film showcase (April 15). Tickets are $10, $60 for the opening night party, $40 for the closer.

At the corner of Linton Boulevard and Federal Highway in southern Delray something new — and fresh — may be on the horizon. According to merchants in the mall now anchored by Carrabba’s, Las Vegas Cuban Restaurant, Panera Bread and SeaView Optical, a complete revamp is planned with the addition of a 20,000-square-foot Fresh Market. Merchants say they’ve been notified of the plans, but mall management referred our call to the owners in Alabama, and neither would comment or confirm.

**Thom Smith** is a freelance writer. Write him at thomsmit@email.com.
Boca Raton

Gumbo Limbo to receive an additional $370,000 for rehab, exhibits

By Steve Plunkett

Ailing sea turtles won't have to worry whether they were right the day of the week to be rehabilitated at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. Beach and Park District taxpayers will pony up $120,000 to fund a full-time rehabilitation coordinator along with $250,000 to put educational exhibits at the turtle tanks being installed at the nature center.

District commissioners told their staff to draw up the appropriate papers at the March 22 meeting.

"This is not so much to take care of the sick turtles, which it does do, but rather it promotes the educational objectives of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center," District Chairman Earl Starkoff said. "It's tangible evidence of the interaction of the environment with the life around it."

Commissioner Dennis Frisch worried that if the beach-park district approved the expenses it would be seen as the "deep pockets" for other requests.

He also was concerned that there is no long range plan for Gumbo Limbo. "Let's make believe that we approved the tanks and now we approve a supervisor. And then Gumbo Limbo says we want to make this even bigger and they want to bring in another professor. And maybe they can't afford that," Frisch said.

"And then that professor needs a secretary. And then maybe they can't afford that, so they come back to [us]. And now they have a secretary and a supervisor and they need another building, and they can't afford that."

Robyn Morigerato, vice president of the Friends of Gumbo Limbo, said her group raised $250,000 to stock Gumbo Limbo's tanks with sea creatures.

The second $250,000 infusion from the beach-park district "would transform our new tanks and habitats into a true learning center," she said.

Moneys for the rehabilitation coordinator was also needed, she said. "We look to you for additional help," Morigerato said.

Gumbo Limbo's seven-bed sea turtle rehab facility opened in late 2010. The Friend's organization organizes both interactive and interpretive exhibits surrounding the nature center's four new tanks.

The first tank was supposed to open in time for this year's Sea Turtle Day in early March but fell victim to construction delays. It is now supposed to open in early May. An exhibit showing a mangrove habitat should be in place about the same time followed by habitats showcasing a tropical coral reef and an artificial reef/shipwreck in the fall.

Boca City Council members watch as Anthony Majless is sworn in by the Rev. Rick Gardner. Susan Hayne was reappointed deputy mayor. Constance Scott was sworn in, too, and reappointed as chairwoman of the CRA. Jerry Lower/ The Coastal Star

Boca ELECTION

Continued from page 1

Mullaugh was paid for by a Tallahassee-based PAC called Restore Florida. The mayor said she's never heard of it.

restore Florida isn't mentioned in Chapman's campaign contribution reports. But the PAC itself listed two contributors for the $55,000 commercial in a separate report required by state law.

Ken Griffin, a billionaire who heads the Citadel hedge fund, gave $35,000. The Chicago Tribune reported three days before the election that Griffin and his wife have given $1.5 million to Americans for Prosperity, a super PAC that's become a lightning rod for advocates of campaign finance reform because it doesn't disclose its donors.

Griffin, who grew up in Boca Raton, declined to comment for this story.

Marc Bell, the CEO of a Boca-based company that owns Penthouse magazine, gave another $20,000 to Restore Florida. He is considering a run for the U.S. Congress in District 22, which covers portions of Broward and Palm Beach counties.

Bell said he was asked to contribute by Boca Raton developer Mark Guzzetta. "He called me up and asked if I would give some money and I said OK," Bell said.

Guzetta clarified that he contacted Bell only after a Chapman campaign worker first called him. "I told Marc that maybe I'd do it if you do it," recalled Guzzetta, who then chose not to donate his own money.

Restore Florida wasn't the only Tallahassee-based PAC involved in Boca Raton's election.

Another named Voters Response spent $28,378 to send mailings, make phone calls and set up a website to criticize Chapman's past business dealings.

Voters Response listed three other PACs — Floridians for Preserving Sight, Save Our Internet Access and Citizens for Housing and Urban Growth — as contributors in its report.

David Ramsha, the Tallahassee attorney for all four PACs, declined to comment.

"A lot of money was dumped into the race on both sides from outside interests that aren't clearly identified," said County Commissioner Steven Abrams, a former Boca Raton mayor. "It's when they start dredging up past histories on both sides that voters get lost."

The $237,539 spent in the election averaged $34.70 per voter.

PAC money began flowing into the campaign last December when the county firefighters union contributed $1,000 to Majless, a county firefighter and incumbent on the council.

Majless' contribution reports show he collected more than $7,000 from police lodges and firefighter PACs from Miami to Jacksonville.

Individual firefighters living in Broward and Palm Beach counties gave him another $2,500.

The flow of money raised concern that fire and police unions were trying to influence the election to negotiate more favorable pension benefits during a difficult economy, Whelchel said.

"Firefighters are my friends," Majless said in defending the contributions. "First responders shouldn't be villainized. They want to be part of the solution."

Chapman, an attorney specializing in personal injury, real estate and bankruptcy, loaned himself $50,000 to launch his campaign in January.

Voters Response, the first called him. "I told Marc that maybe I'd do it if you do it," recalled Guzzetta, who then chose not to donate his own money.

"I didn't engage in the election until I realized that Tallahassee was engaged," Whelchel said.

"High-powered PACs aren't the best way to weigh the issues," she said. "They put the voters in muddy waters."

HIGHLAND

Continued from page 1

the Charter Review Board," Stern said. His statement was echoed by Commissioner Dennis Sheridan, Brown and Commissioner Doris Trinley.

Featherman then asked that the board's inaugural meeting scheduled for the next day be postponed because not all its members were residents of Highland Beach. Sheridan asked him to identify the non-resident; the mayor said it was Town Clerk Beverly Brown, who lives in Deerfield Beach and was Trinley's nominee.

At the commission workshop six days later, Feldman said a lettereland said a letter sent out backing Brown and Stern read in part: "I also feel they will be of great support to me on this commission."

"I hope what I'm reading into this is not correct—in that you were planning on doing a bloc vote by saying they will be a great support to you on this commission?" Feldman asked during public comments.

"Absolutely not," Sheridan replied. Featherman read the qualifications of his new charter review choice first—owner and operator of two exercise facilities, member of Braemar Isle condo board of directors, head of committee that revised Braemar Isle employee handbook. His nominee: Deanna Kelvin, George Kelvin's wife.

Commissioners made no comments on the choice or on Trinley's replacement, Board of Adjustment & Appeals member Ruth Samuel. But

at the April 3 meeting Featherman's nominee had the same result.

"Can I have a motion to appoint Deanna Kelvin to the Charter Review Board, and is there a second? Mr. Sheridan?" the mayor asked.

"No comment," Sheridan replied. "I would prefer not to make the motion," Stern said.

"No motion," Brown said. "I also pass," Trinley said.

Samuel's nomination was approved 4-1 with Featherman dissenting.

Other charter review members are Planning Board member Ronald Clark, Board of Adjustment & Appeals Chairman David Stern and Beaches & Shores Advisory Board Chairman Rosalind Svenstrup.

The commission presented plaques of appreciation to Zwick and Pagliaro for their years of "dedicated and loyal" service to the town.

Brown, president of the Bel Lido Property Owners Association, said there was no secret to his victory. "It was just a good name and a change and I happened to be running," he said. "I'm not sure that I'm the big saving grace."

T. Stern credited his win to a "gorgeous" brochure, upbeat campaign T-shirts and personal phone calls by him or his team to every voter in Highland Beach.

"Everybody got a phone call or a message left on their machine as opposed to a robot," Stern said. "The other team did it [robot calls] two days in a row... and it obviously didn't help them."

Pagliaro said he also made phone calls supporting Stern and Brown.
Along the Coast

New group aims to educate riders, drivers and walkers on A1A

By Steve Plunkett

A new task force aims to smooth relations between pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists along coastal A1A. Highland Beach police Lt. Eric Lundberg got the idea after realizing that communities as far south as Pompano Beach and north to Ocean Ridge face similar problems keeping the peace along their main highway.

Besides crosswalks and bicycles, “Every community has their different variation of motorists as well,” Lundberg said. “You can have some elderly motorists; you have people from out of state, out of country.”

He has met with colleagues from neighboring Boca Raton and Delray Beach, and Gulf Stream and Ocean Ridge as well as Deerfield Beach, Hillsboro Beach and Pompano Beach from Broward County’s coast.

The group’s first goal is to plant flashing message boards on A1A in each municipality, so drivers, cyclists and walkers will see them “no matter where you transit,” Lundberg said. Delray Beach already has one, just north of Linton Boulevard, and lent another to Highland Beach in February. “It’s going to be a repetitive thing,” Lundberg said.

“It’s basically so everybody’s on the same sheet of music,” Lt. Hal Hutchins of the Ocean Ridge Police Department said. Highland Beach returned its loaner message board and on March 27 set up a smaller, company-demo version on A1A. “Share the road! Vehicles must give 3 feet distance to bikers. Bicycles may not ride more than two abreast,” it flashes.

Lundberg said education is the task force’s main purpose. “There will be elements of enforcement, of course, but what we’re targeting is to educate all the different variations of motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians in what the laws are and what each has as far as their responsibilities,” he said.

“We’re very lucky we don’t have collisions between the different groups,” Hutchins said.

The group hasn’t picked a formal name, but is leaning toward Broward-Palm Beach Coastal Community Traffic Coalition. They hope to meet at least quarterly and have invited the Florida Department of Transportation, which has jurisdiction over A1A, and the west Boca Raton-based Dori Slosberg Foundation, which promotes traffic safety, to their April meeting.

Highland Beach

Survey results in, commissioners discuss what now?

By Steve Plunkett

Residents are mostly pleased with the way their town is run, according to Highland Beach’s official survey this winter.

“I think overall, the results that you got from your residents is that the majority are very happy with the service that you’re providing,” Town Manager Kathleen Weiser told commissioners. “I think you can all pat yourself on the back.”

Some of the survey’s 14 questions drew lopsided results: 133 feel municipal staff is knowledgeable and responsive while 2 do not; 143 are satisfied with Highland Beach’s water while 30 are not; 49 would support a separate tax to clean the beaches while 124 would not. Respondents were split more evenly on whether they had visited the beaches while 124 would, while 30 are not; 49 would with Highland Beach’s water and 143 feel municipal staff is very happy with the service they got from your town for help on an issue (107 yes, 71 no).

Commissioner Louis Stern (left) and Vice Mayor Ron Brown were sworn in to office March 21 in Highland Beach. Kurtis Boggs / The Coastal Star

The wish list for “What do you wish to improve your quality of life?” included adding lifeguards on the beach, building a children’s park, building a fishing pier and expanding the library. One person complained of a whistling noise coming from the town’s water tower on windy days.

“We can show that to people now,” Mayor Bernard Featherman first raised the idea of polling residents last summer.

Moments after accepting the numbers, commissioners differed over its usefulness.

Talking about whether to put meetings of the Financial Advisory Board on cable TV and the website, Commissioner Doris Trinley noted that 33 survey respondents said they attend town meetings and 104 did not. Twenty-nine said they review meetings on Channel 95 or online, 72 said they sometimes do and 68 said they do not.

“I think this discussion about how important it is to televise this, I think we’re overdoing it,” Trinley said. But after citing those results, Trinley pooh-poohed the survey.

“We’re a town of almost 4,500 now year-round. These are little, little, little numbers,” she said.

Featherman agreed the results could not always be trusted, but for a different reason.

“There are a lot of people who didn’t respond to that because they didn’t want their name on it and it was required that it have a name on it,” Featherman said. “So we’re also talking about people who didn’t respond that are very interested in our community endeavors.”

4,500 now year-round. These are little, little, little numbers,” she said.

Highland Beach hosts first League of Cities meeting

By Steve Plunkett

The Palm Beach County League of Cities held its first meeting in Highland Beach on March 28.

“We thank you to the Town of Highland Beach and St. Lucy Catholic Church. Our first visit to the town was memorable,” the league said on its website.

The league’s board of directors appointed South Palm Beach Councilman Robert Gottlieb to the county’s Impact Fee Review Committee. Monthly league meetings are held in member municipalities. This month’s will be in Atlantis.

— Steve Plunkett
Volunteers

Janice Rubin of Highland Beach is one of 85 people who volunteer for Listen to Children. Kurtis Boggs/The Coastal Star

Listen up: Adults give younger students an attentive ear

By Ron Hayes

Every week, about 85 men and women arrive at 53 elementary and middle schools in Palm Beach County. They stay perhaps 40 minutes each, meeting with students in an empty classroom, a guidance office — somewhere quiet and private.

They do not help the students with their math homework. They do not tutor their reading.

They listen.

"And listen and listen and listen," says Janice Rubin of Highland Beach. "When you think you can say something back that would be helpful, you do so. But sometimes all you really need to do is listen, and let them express themselves."

For the past two years, Rubin has been one of those 85 volunteers who support Listen to Children, an outreach of the Mental Health Association of Palm Beach County.

Founded in 1989, Listen to Children pairs students who may be having problems at home or school with a friendly, disinterested adult who is not a parent, teacher or guidance counselor.

"They're not necessarily behavioral problems," says Val Santiago Stanley, the program's coordinator, "but perhaps just boisterous, or introverted, or their grades are declining for no apparent reason."

All volunteers undergo criminal and reference checks before they're assigned to a school, as well as a two-hour training session, during which they vow to keep their conversations with students confidential, unless the child threatens violence against him or herself or others.

"After that, the kids pretty much run the conversation," Stanley says. "From academics to family issues to love interests."

Marilyn Freedman of Boynton Beach has been listening for 12 years. A retired elementary school educator from Fairlawn, N.J., she received the program's Mentor of the Year award in 2011. "I go to Crystal Lakes Elementary School one morning a week and meet with four children," she says, "and I love it. I've learned not to give too much advice, but just to listen carefully."

Sometimes she brings games, or modeling clay, but her main tools are her ears — and her heart.

"I remember a child who was having difficulties because of a step-parent, and suddenly he realized there were nice things about that step-parent," she recalls. "Sometimes you get a child who's very shy and has difficulty making friends. These aren't all children from troubled homes, by any means. Sometimes it's the parent who initiates our involvement."

Every Tuesday, Rubin meets with two children at Poinciana Elementary School in Boynton Beach.

"The most important thing we bring is unconditional acceptance," she says. "We're not there to criticize them or disapprove. You may not accept all their behavior, but you have to be able to accept these children unconditionally."

And soon, another Highland Beach retiree will be getting an earful.

Anne-Grethe Parkin has completed her training and expects to begin meeting with students at Orchard View Elementary in Delray Beach this month.

"I figured if I can help only one or two children, that will be better than nothing," she says. "I may be a little nervous at first, but I feel good about it.

Most of the volunteers are retirees, often former teachers, and overwhelmingly female — an imbalance Stanley would like to correct.

"We're not there to put the blame on where the ball was dropped in the child's upbringing," she says. "We're here to help catch the ball."

For more information about volunteering, call the Mental Health Association of Palm Beach County at 832-3755.
Volunteers
Network helps match nonprofits and volunteers

By Rich Pollack

Jodi Lane wanted to volunteer and give back to her community, but she just wasn’t quite sure where to start.

So the 28-year-old Florida Atlantic University student went online and, almost by accident, discovered a one-hour training course offered by the Boca Raton-based Spirit of Giving Network.

The course, offered to the public at no cost, led Lane to the Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center in Boca Raton, where she now volunteers two days a week, often working directly with the center’s clients.

“I love it, I really love it,” she says. “I’m really happy I found it.”

Lane is one of about 70 people who have learned more about volunteering and connected with opportunities to share their time and talents — thanks to the Spirit of Giving Network’s new Community Volunteer Training program, which began last fall.

“In seven months, it’s really grown,” says Natalie Warren, volunteer program manager for the Spirit of Giving Network, an umbrella organization of 60 nonprofits that come together to share resources and information.

Unique in South Florida, the training, placement and screening program serves as a conduit connecting qualified nonprofit organizations with people who want to donate their time.

“I’m a volunteer matchmaker,” Warren says.

What sets the Spirit of Giving Program apart is that it provides names of prospective volunteers to nonprofit organizations, which can then reach out to those individuals who best meet their needs.

“The day after I went through the training, I started getting emails from nonprofit organizations,” Lane said, adding that the Memory and Wellness Center opportunity came the closest to what she was looking for.

Offered twice a week — at 5 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m. Thursday — the one-hour training program includes an overview of volunteerism, providing participants with an understanding of the value of volunteering and a general understanding of what will be expected of them in terms of conduct and reliability.

During the session, participants fill out an application, detailing their areas of interest and the type of work they like to do, which could include everything from helping with grant writing and administrative work to mentoring, working directly with an agency’s clients or assisting at special events.

The application, which is standardized for use by nonprofit organizations, also includes background information about the applicant that can be helpful to agencies looking for volunteers.

“Once we have the information, we compile it and send it in an email to the nonprofits,” Warren said. “They go through it and then contact the volunteers that best fit their needs.”

Warren says that nonprofit organizations also contact her when they need volunteers for special events or on a continuing basis.

The program also offers, at a reduced rate, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement background checks required for some volunteer positions.

A long-term volunteer herself, Warren says the volunteer training was born out of a shared need among all of the Spirit of Giving Network member organizations.

“They recognized that they needed one central program to focus on getting the appropriate volunteers to the right nonprofit organization,” Warren said.

For volunteers like Lane, the program is simplifying the process of finding a place where they can make a difference.

“I think a lot of people really want to help but they just don’t know how,” she said. “This program makes it easier for them to get involved.”

For more information, visit the Spirit of Giving Network website at www.spiritofgivingnetwork.com/ volunteer, call 299-1205 or email Warren at natalie@spiritofgivingnetwork.com.
Students appreciate nudge they get from talented teacher

By Mary Jane Fine

There’s an art to teaching art. Sometimes, it begins at the beginning with basic shapes and forms; sometimes, it’s a mere nudge toward this color, that technique.

“I’m a better teacher than I am a painter,” says Christopher Burlini, who teaches novices and near-professionals and anyone in between at his 2-year-old Burlini Studio on Boca Raton Boulevard.

But no, no, no, look there, insists Marcy Appelbaum, gesturing toward a Burlini surrealist piece — a fish with fat red lips, a woman’s leg encased in fishnet stockings, and more, much more — that hangs on a wall of his studio. In this warren of rooms, just before a wall of his studio. In this warren of rooms, just before

“...a striking 12-by-40-inch acrylic abstract. “He’s got a great eye.”

But Burlini doesn’t encourage following his style. Each painter must find his or her own. And, here, no two pieces by this morning’s dozen or so students bear any likeness to one another.

Madeline Millman is outlining, in a marine-blue acrylic, two mirror-image vases: a floor cloth for her Polo Club home. She’s out of wall space, she says, so concentrates on floor space.

This is her first year with Burlini, and she’s most pleased. “What I’m getting from Chris is technique,” she says. It was his idea to draw the bowl in charcoal, then mirror-image it, use tracing paper to transfer the images to her canvas.

Arthur (“Archie”) Cogan, a snowbird down from Ottawa, a confident and experienced painter, is likewise a Burlini fan. “Chris has real knowledge with regard to form, composition,” he says, stepping back from a striking 12-by-40-inch acrylic abstract. “He’s got a great eye.”

Burlini’s great eye led him to approach the Cornell Museum at Old School Square in Delray Beach to request a student art exhibit; some 87 of his pupils each displayed a painting in last month’s “A Night at the Museum.”

Museum President/CEO Joe Gillie responded with a note: “Your passion and devotion is clearly evident in your students’ work and I trust they understand what a rare treasure it is to have you as their teacher.”

Burlini, in turn, gives the nod to his students. “If you stick with it,” he says, “you get a high moment.”
**10 Questions**

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR:** Rick DuPuis

I f there’s a pattern to Rick DuPuis’ life, it’s that he always tries to do things a little differently, a little better. Rather than simply following the status quo, he strives to improve upon it.

You see the evidence in DuPuis’ business life: He’s a financial adviser whose company was named No. 2 in Florida last year in percentage growth of assets per client. You see it in his volunteer life: as president of his homeowner’s association at the Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, he’s making valuable improvements.

At an age when most people are thinking of retiring, DuPuis is showing no signs of slowing down.

He began his career with Dean Witter in San Francisco. But he found out soon that being a broker didn’t suit his personality. The emphasis was always on selling, “and that didn’t work so well for me,” he says.

“So I very quickly got into being a certified financial planner before most people even knew what it was,” DuPuis says. “As a CFP, you’re not just selling anymore, you’re working with people, consulting with them about their insurance, their estate plan, their future. It’s a long-term relationship.”

In the early 1990s, DuPuis got the idea to do something “a little different, a little better” by sharing his investment knowledge on television. He developed and started in a TV talk show called Inside Money, which ran on public television from 1991 to 1996. He is the author of five investment books, including *Money Matters: What Stockbrokers Don’t Always Tell You.*

Since opening his own Boca-based company, Royal Capital Management, in 1997, DuPuis has applied his “do it better” mantra in several other ways. He was one of the first in his industry to work on a fee basis rather than a commission basis, which he believes is fairer to the client. In addition, he acts as an independent fiduciary, holding himself to a higher legal standard of putting his clients’ interests first.

And, as a gift to visual learners everywhere, DuPuis developed and trademarked a diagram called the Four Component Portfolio Plan. It helps clients understand how and why their investments are diversified.

“It’s too easy to do the ordinary thing, the average thing,” DuPuis says. “I find that boring. So for me, the key is to always be tweaking things to be a little bit better.” — Paula Detwiller

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school?
A. On top of Michigan. In Staut Ste. Marie on the Canadian side of the border. (I am now an American citizen as well.) When it came time to go to college, my brother and I pooled our money and bought a red GTO and drove down to the University of Florida. Keep in mind, I-75 was only partially built and I had never been south of Detroit. I still remember the snow flying off the car as we headed south.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club?
A. That’s easy. The people are the best. Everyone is so friendly and happy. I think they all know what a great place we live in and how lucky we are and appreciate it. There is a real neighborhood feeling. And with everything you want so close by, a tank of gas lasts at least two weeks.

Q. Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?
A. Growing up as the youngest of four children (later a younger brother was born), I seem to have developed the propensity to absorb from everyone around me. I do believe seeing how hard my father and mother always worked to help the family get ahead has rubbed off on me. And one brother in Ottawa has always seemed to have wise things to say when needed.

Q. What’s the last book you read and would you recommend it?
A. I mostly read financial/economic material, but I did just recently read *The Precious Present.* I am trying to learn how to live more in the present and not always reflect on the past or project into the next days, weeks or future. Again, my work requires me to always be thinking about what’s coming, but my wife keeps telling me away from work I need to be living more in the moment. So I’m trying.

Q. Who or what makes you laugh?
A. I like quick banter back and forth among friends and family. But I must say, George Carlin was always a favorite. And then at times our little cat, Tiramisu, with our dog, Cappuccino, will just do something so cute or funny. ⭐
Cache a wave:
Exhibit recalls Florida’s surfing history

By Ron Hayes

Paul Aho started surfing off Ocean Ridge in 1964. His parents owned Henry’s Motel, a block from the ocean. He borrowed boards from Ron Heavy-side, who went on to found the Nomad Surf Shop in the county pocket. He was 11 that year.

Aho is pushing 60 now. A former adjunct professor of printmaking at Florida Atlantic University, he’s currently the head of photography and digital imaging at Kentucky’s Paducah School of Art. And, yes, he still surfs.

Now Aho’s two great loves have come together in “Surfing Florida: A Photographic History,” on display at FAU’s University Galleries through May 12.

“Surfing began as a culture for renegade youth,” he said recently, taking a break as assistants scurried about. “You used to see bumper stickers that said ‘Surf, Suds and Sex.’ But now it’s transformed itself into a very popular and publicly embraced occupation, both recreationally and professionally.”

Working with Galleries director W. Rod Faulds and supported by the Florida Humanities Council, their exhibit documents that transformation.

You’ll see wall panels packed with photos and text, media stations showing video clips from classic Hollywood surfing movies such as Gidget and vintage 8mm and oral histories constructed by Melbourne Beach documentarian Will Lucas. The panels offer the first comprehensive look at surfing in Florida, from Miami to Cocoa Beach, Daytona to the Panhandle and St. Petersburg south.

More than 500 years of surfing experience is represented in this group of surfing pioneers attending the opening reception. From left: Bill Yerkes, Tom Warnke, George Miller, Cecil Lear, Juan Rodriguez, David Reese, Steve Pezman, Rene Whitman, Dick Catri and Joe Twombley.

As Aho spoke, a student employee majoring in graphic design bustled nearby, helping to put the finishing touches on the exhibit.

Andrew Santoro is 22, a native of Boynton Beach who started skateboarding in 2001. He was 11 that year.

“Working on this project, I’ve learned that there’s a lot more to surfing than just the stereotype of the slacker who doesn’t do anything,” Santoro said. “It’s not as easy as it looks, and it’s got a rich tradition. And surfing is looked on as universally cool. People who walk by the gallery look in and stare, and then they get a big grin on their face.”

“Surfing Florida: A Photographic History” will remain on display at the University Galleries in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters at Florida Atlantic University through May 12. The galleries are open 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 1-5 p.m. Saturday. For more info. call 297-2966.

Along the Coast

Artist Paul Aho has blended his two loves of surfing and photography.
New library moves through city bureaucracy

By Margie Plunkett

Despite a thumbs down from the Community Appearance Board, the new Boca Raton Downtown Library plan progressed a few pages in March, as City Council introduced land use ordinances that are set to be heard April 10.

Also expected at the meeting is the council’s determination of what the next step in the process will be for review of the library, which has a design prepared with public input and endorsed by City Council, but that the CAB has not embraced, according to Boca Raton Assistant City Manager Michael Woika.

The CAB, an advisory board that considers whether project exteriors meet the city’s aesthetic standards, reviewed the library in pre-design and recommended several modifications, including a more urban appearance, Woika said.

The plan that emerged from community meetings, however, had a more suburban look, and while the city had the architect add urban elements to create a cross of the two styles, the result still did not alleviate CAB’s concerns, according to the assistant city manager.

The $8.7 million library is planned to be a 42,000-square-foot building at the old Causeway Lumber with an open design that features natural lighting, 25-foot ceilings and LEED Silver certification.

At the CAB’s March 6 meeting, the panel prepared for a postponement after learning it was reviewing a plan of only the library’s building shell rather than a complete plan with landscaping components, among other things. The plan was expected to return to CAB for site plan and landscape review after Planning and Zoning and Council approval, staff member Carrie Seltzer explained to the board.

The Planning and Zoning Board later approved the library site plan at a March 22 meeting.

CAB members said at their March 6 meeting that they shouldn’t review the project without the complete site plan and expressed concern that the city would give the panel that direction, according to meeting minutes.

Both the library designers and community proponents pushed the CAB to vote rather than delay the project, which was presented to CAB by architect Ian Nestler and Ann Fils of PGAL.

During public comment, Judith Teller Kaye, the Friends of the Library liaison to the City Council, said the public has participated in the design and the architect has incorporated the public’s recommendations. She said the library meets the needs of the community and asked CAB to either approve it or vote it down so it could be appealed to the council.

The CAB unanimously voted down the plan. The CAB has the desire and skills to participate in the design process, said board member Kriso Stamatovski prior to the vote, but the concerns it offered months ago were not addressed by the architect.

Board member Greg Miklos said CAB’s goal was to ensure the best project — not to cause delays. And most of the board members said the city and library designers weren’t interested in CAB’s input; their intention was to have CAB vote the design down and bring the appeal to the council.

Later, on March 27, City Council introduced ordinances that would change the land use plan and rezone the library’s property at 400 NW Second Ave., from light industrial to public land. That followed Planning and Zoning Board approval on March 22, when the Planning and Zoning Board also approved a site plan for the library that allowed a reduction in the number of parking spaces from 210 to 171 and included driveway modifications.

Downtown business help considered

By Steve Plunkett

Five members of the Downtown Boca Raton Advisory Board will guide efforts to create a Business Improvement District to further revitalize the area.

City Council members will choose who is on the steering panel following their adoption March 27 of an enabling resolution. Advisory board members will apply for the steering spots.

“It’s a good idea just to do anything like this,” City Council member Michael Mullagh, sitting as a Community Redevelopment Agency commissioner, said at the March 26 CRA meeting.

Ruby Childers, the city’s downtown manager, said the steering committee will spend up to $25,000 of CRA money on a consultant to analyze how to set up the improvement district.

Glen Gromann, vice chairman of the Downtown Advisory Board, said the panel will just steer development of an improvement district and reach out for additional expertise.

“Of the models that we used was the BID that was done successfully in Coral Gables, where there were business people and outside business leaders that were also included on the BID,” Gromann said.

The steering committee will hold meetings to gather public input and build support among landlords, property owners and businesses for the improvement district. It will also propose boundaries for the district and rank possible improvements, including promotion and marketing, parking options and a shuttle or trolley system.

In addition, the committee will recommend how to fund the district and develop an action plan for the City Council to consider.

The council called for a funding strategy for downtown at its 2011 goal-setting session.

Coral Gables’ 15-year-old business improvement district expects to collect $815,000 in tax assessments this year from more than 200 retailers and 70 restaurants. That district’s latest marketing effort, “Tuesdays for Neighbors,” offers discounts to residents and employees.

Along the Coast

Vote for favorite sites in architecture contest

By Mary Thurwachter

The most popular Florida building may be in South Palm Beach County. Results of an online poll of the state’s top 100 architectural buildings in the “Florida Architecture: 100 Years, 100 Places” competition will be revealed in mid-April, says Deborah L. Nichols, chapter director for the Palm Beach Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and coordinator of the contest in this region.

The competition identifies 100 buildings (actually 109, narrowed down from 256 entries) and places across the state that represent the best in architectural achievement. They range from the Wentworth Museum in Pensacola to the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami.

The list includes four buildings in Coastal Star territory — Boca Raton Town Hall, Gulf Stream Golf Club in Gulf Stream, the Colony Hotel and Virginia Courtney’s house both in Delray Beach. It’s all is part of AIA Florida’s 100th anniversary celebration.

“We hope to open a dialogue on the architecture in our community,” said Nichols, a West Palm Beach architect.

Anyone can vote at vote.aia10000.org through April 6. People can vote for as many buildings as they choose and as often as they like.

AIA Florida will develop a mobile tour of the top 100 buildings for Florida residents and visitors to download. This will be an additional opportunity to garner interest for these historic structures.

The top 100 also includes six buildings in Palm Beach — The Breakers, the Episcopcal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, Concha Marina, the Mar-a-Lago Club, Palm Beach House/Mack Residence and St. Edward Catholic Church.

Other buildings in the county on the list include Grace Episcopal Church, Payne Chapel A.M.E. and Temple Beth El, all in West Palm Beach.

Nichols said voting, which began on March 5, had really taken off, especially locally. That may be due to a “get out the vote” effort by supporters of some of the buildings, such as the Old Town Hall in Boca Raton.

“We are very excited,” said Mary Csaar, executive director at Boca Raton Historical Society.

“We are encouraging everyone to vote often and to vote multiple times — which is OK. We want Town Hall to have a good showing. We are sending email blasts to our members and we have contacted the Chamber of Commerce to send out the info.”

Boca Raton’s Old Town Hall is among the contest candidates. Photo provided
Selling your stuff

Shop the options before parting with possessions

By Paula Detwiller

G ot stuff? Sure you do. Stuff your kids left behind. Stuff your parents left behind. Stuff you bought but don’t use anymore.

Whether we’re downsizing, settling an estate, or just cleaning out the garage, we’ve got stuff we need to get rid of. The natural question arises: Can I sell any of this?

Well — maybe. If your stuff has market value, you’re in luck: There’s an entire service industry here in South Palm Beach County built around selling used goods. We visited coastal-area consignment stores, auction houses, and one busy eBay selling assistant to give you a taste of your options.

Consignment:

No two shops are alike

A 4-foot-tall silver Buddha stands prayerfully in the front window of Great Stuff Previously Enjoyed, a high-end consignment store just west of the Intracoastal in Delray Beach. Like all of the pre-owned treasures inside — the pink satin loveseat, the Pang Jen paintings, the mounted African antelope head — Buddha is living here temporarily until a buyer comes along.

Owner Susie McTighe has been running this shop for the past 15 years. She splits the proceeds of her sales 50/50 with her sellers, as do most consignors. But if you brought McTighe something valued at more than $5,000, she’d gladly reduce her cut rather than have you sell it elsewhere.

Prices are based on research into the value of the item, and then negotiated with the seller.

“My pricing model is kind of opposite the auction houses. The auctioneers start low and let the bidding move the price up. I start the price up here,” she gestures, “and I’ll work down if I have to.”

With six rooms to display her eclectic mix of consigned items, McTighe doesn’t have a hard-and-fast time limit for how long things can stay. “I’ve sold things that have been here for a year,” she says.

At Off the Wall Consignments in downtown Lake Worth, the merchandise is just as eclectic, but tends to be more affordable.

“Sellers agree to a three-month consignment period here. If their stuff doesn’t sell, they must pick it up or arrange to have a charity do it,” says owner Liz Lipman. On this day, two white midcentury modern leather chairs sit in the middle of the store next to tables, lamps, and décor from various vintages. Sellers agree to a three-month consignment period here. If their stuff doesn’t sell, they must pick it up or arrange to have a charity do it.

At Way Too Cute boutique down the block, the consignment period is 60 days, and the merchandise is distinctly different.


When it comes to selling used clothing, shoes and handbags on consignment, opportunities are plentiful in our coastal area.

See CONSIGN on page 17
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CONSIGN

Continued from page 17

In Boca Raton, a favorite store is Dzines Consignment Boutique on Federal Highway near Spanish River Boulevard. Owners Paula Adams and her daughter Melissa sell everything from ball gowns to blue jeans. You’ll even find consigned Lilly Pulitzer items hanging from a rack labeled “Lilly’s Pad.”

Paula Adams says sellers need to understand consignment-store principles of supply and demand. “For instance, we have plenty of size 8 pants right now,” she says. “Even if you brought me wonderful size 8 pants, I couldn’t take them.” Adams and her daughter price items at 30 percent of estimated retail cost. “If the clothes have brand-name tags, or are the hot color of the season, we’ll move up the price,” she says.

Under their 60-day contract, if an item doesn’t sell by Day 30, the price is cut 30 percent; at Day 45, they may mark it down 50 percent. If it doesn’t sell, you must pick it up within three days or else it’s donated to Boca’s Hospice by the Sea Chest thrift store. You’ll get a receipt for the tax deduction.

Auction houses:

Going once, going twice ...

There’s a public auction once a month at Bill Hood & Sons Art & Antique Auctions in Delray Beach. Over at Bruce Kodner Galleries Inc. in Lake Worth, they hold three or four auctions a month on the premises. But here’s the best part for sellers: Both auction houses list their items on websites that enable bidders around the world to participate as if they were present.

“...The three most important words are exposure, exposure, exposure,” says Bill Hood Sr. “You have a lovely item, and the more people who are exposed to it via Internet live auction, the more people we have bidding.”

At a recent auction, an Internet bidder somewhere in the world jumped the bid hundreds of dollars ahead, beating out all competitors for a flawless Art Deco Rosenthal figurine.

“If you’re a buyer, you hate it when the auctioneer Bill Hood II. ‘But if you’re the seller — wow!’

Local auction houses charge a commission of between 30 and 40 percent of the final bid price. Both Hood and Kodner emphasize they are willing to negotiate that downward, depending on the value and amount of the items you have to sell. And both have secondary options for items that get no action: The sellers have quarterly tag sales, and the Kodners run an antique mall next door staffed with vendors who may buy consign your stuff.

Assisted eBay sales:

Skip the learning curve

You could spend a lot of time and energy trying to sell your own stuff on eBay. Or you could have Gus Enos do it, from his humble “e Drop & Sell” shop on the corner of Federal Highway and George Bush Boulevard in Delray Beach. “It’s one of the few outlets of its kind still in business. If Enos believes your item will fetch at least $100, he’ll do extensive pricing research, take the photos, write the description, and set up an eBay auction or a fixed-price listing, whichever is better for you.

He asks for a 30 percent commission on the final sale price of the item. You must also pay eBay 15 percent. But oh, the convenience. “I answer all the questions, handle payment processing, and take care of shipping. You simply get a check,” he says. Among his biggest sales: the mint-condition Hermes handbag he sold for $9,000, and the grand piano he sold for $12,000. He is proud of his eBay status as a Top Rated Seller with 100 percent positive feedback. But be forewarned: He turns away about half of the items people bring in.

“They come in with Beanie Babes and Barbies, and most of the time there’s just no market for it,” he sighs. “I tell them, maybe you should put it on Craigslist, or have a yard sale, or donate it to charity.”

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A sampling of businesses...
Delray Beach

Farming to charming: Flowers gave way to paintings of flowers

By Mary Jane Fine

To say that the Delray Affair grew from the ground up but has flowered over the decades would be to tell the story via pun. But it would be entirely true, as well.

Just flip the calendar back to the post-World War II era — 1947, if you will — and picture the Delray Gladioli Festival as it was then, a melding of frivolity and flowers, culture and commerce.

That first-ever fest gathered beaucoup bouquets of gladioli from farms that spanned from Congress Avenue west to U.S. Highway 441. It allowed farmers to display (and sell) armloads of flowers. And sell they did. As surely as crocuses announce springtime, Delray's gladioli festival said, "February." It said it all through the 1940s, continued saying it into the '50s.

"It was an exposition that attracted flower buyers from all over the country," Roy Simon said in a recent news release. A native of Delray Beach, Simon was a gladioli festival volunteer who helped nurse the event into the Delray Affair.

This year's Delray Affair — the 50th — will line Atlantic Avenue from April 13th through the 15th, the weekend after Easter.

Artist and gallery owner Ora Sorensen is a long-time Delray Affair booster and, this year, a first-time commemorative-poster artist for the event. Her poster gives a proud nod to the past with a stalk of mauve gladioli in the foreground and the Colony Hotel just behind.

"I love the Colony," Sorensen says on a recent afternoon, in her Atlantic Avenue gallery. "And they make the best martini in town. It gets so crazy here; I like to go there around 5 p.m. and sit at the lobby bar. It's like going back in time."

Going back in time can explain how the Affair evolved from what it was to what it now is: an arts-and-crafts extravaganza that attracts 700 exhibitors (up from 24, back in 1962), draws an attendance of close to 300,000 and, over the years, has generated some $21 million in revenue for the city of Delray Beach, according to event organizer Nancy Stewart-Franczak, executive director of Delray Beach Arts Inc.

Development in the city's western reaches, combined with a shift in farming from flowers to vegetables, turned the Gladioli Festival into a small Agricultural Expo. It was Roy Simon who suggested expanding on that, taking inspiration from the Winter Park Art Festival. In 1962, community leaders organized a committee and, with then-chair John Bordeman, chose "The Delray Affair" as the name of the bigger, better arts-and-crafts-and-agriculture event.

The committee was money-minded, too. By scheduling the festival later in the year, they could effectively extend the tourist season by tempting snowbirds to postpone their homeward migration until after Easter, and extend the tradition of frivolity and flowers, culture and commerce.

Ora Sorensen expresses delight at her role in it all. "I've been 20 years in this location and, this year, they picked me, and I think I cried," she says, "because I feel that Delray is my town. I love Delray."

This year, she submitted sketches that combined landmark and flowers, and it proved a winner — with one requested change.

"I submitted a drawing with hibiscus in the foreground." The committee, of course, wanted gladioli, and Sorensen was happy to comply. And happy to be a part of the city's signature event.

"It's really just huge," she says, "and it's fun."
**Health & Harmony**

**Stem-cell treatment has fans among recreational athletes**

What’s the hot topic on senior-league tennis courts these days? Two words: stem cells.

More and more aging recreational athletes with painful, worn-out knees are saying “no” to knee replacement surgery and “yes” to outpatient treatment in which their own stem cells are used to regenerate (theoretically, anyway) the knee joint. Many are getting positive results, and they’re spreading the word.

“I’ve heard from a couple of people that it’s like a miracle,” said one 78-year-old coastal resident who plays tennis frequently at local clubs.

Listen closely to the courtside buzz, and you’re likely to hear two other words: “Dr. Purita.”

That would be Joseph R. Purita, M.D., of Malanapel, director of the Institute of Regenerative and Molecular Orthopaedics in Boca Raton.

The institute is an offshoot of Purita’s longtime surgical practice at Boca Raton Orthopaedic Group.

Purita is considered an expert in the use of adult stem cells for orthopedic repair. He’s lectured around the world, and taught his technique free to doctors from as far away as Australia. He has treated 4,000 patients ranging in age from 40 to 70, including many high-profile professional athletes, and he claims an 85 percent success rate for the knees.

Here’s how it works: The doctor harvests mesenchymal stem cells (the type that repair and regrow muscle, bone, cartilage and tendons) from a patient’s fat and/or bone marrow. Fat samples are taken via mini-liposuction of the patient’s midsection; bone marrow is extracted from the back of the pelvis. While the patient waits, the samples are spun in a centrifuge to isolate the stem cells, which are then injected into the patient’s joint the same day. Four to six weeks later, platelet-rich plasma (PRP) spun from the patient’s own blood also is injected into the joint.

“Think of the platelets as fertilizer for the stem cells,” Purita explains. “They release growth factors that give the stem cells signals to start working to repair things.”

PRP injections alone can help some patients, Purita says, by releasing growth factors and signaling proteins that may summon stem cells from elsewhere in the body to repair the joint. In these cases, a bit of the patient’s fat is injected to serve as scaffolding for the incoming stem cells.

Purita’s technique fits within FDA guidelines for stem cell therapy, but is not covered by insurance. He charges $660 for PRP only; and $4,800 for the complete treatment (stem cell injections from fat and bone marrow, scaffolding-fat injections, and three subsequent PRP injections).

One of Purita’s satisfied customers is Joyce Joyner, 60, who also sought Purita’s treatment to quell the pain in both of her arthritic, bone-on-bone knee joints.

“It worked great for me,” says Joyner. “I’m putting off knee replacement as long as possible.”

To date, however, there is little hard science proving the stem cell treatment really works. Some physicians, like Freddie H. Fu, M.D., chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, remain skeptical.

“Basically, there’s no evidence to show one way or the other that it makes any difference,” Fu says. “Why don’t we test it more vigorously before we shoot it into everybody?”

Purita emphasizes that not everyone is a candidate for stem cell therapy, and about 15 percent of the time, it just doesn’t work. But he feels strongly that “it’s not going away.”

“The arthroscopic revolutionized sports medicine and orthopedics,” Purita says. “Stem cells are the next big revolution. Some day we’re going to look back at knee and hip replacement surgery and say, how could we have done such barbaric operations?”

---

Injections of her own stem cells helped Mary Ellen Cook of Delray Beach (right) avoid knee-replacement surgery. Cook plays tennis twice a week with other senior players like Joyce Joyner of Delray Beach, who have also found pain relief through stem-cell therapy. Kurtis Boggs/The Coastal Star

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Joy Banton of Delray Beach (left) and Sherry Woolfery of Highland Beach celebrate after coming from behind in a doubles tournament at the Delray Beach Club. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

By Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley

You don’t need to reserve a seat or pack a suitcase to board the Boca Express. Just bring your love of history and your imagination.

At the Boca Express Train Museum, you start your 30-minute tour in the original station built for the Florida East Coast Railroad. It was built in the Mediterranean Revival style during the 1930s.

"This building is a real survivor," says Susan Collins, curator of the Boca Raton Historical Society, who oversees the museum.

Follow the docent and you’ll discover two refurbished Seaboard Air Line Railroad cars. These streamlined beauties built by Budd Co. went into service in 1946. They were part of the Silver Meteor that whisked travelers over almost 1,400 miles from New York to Miami in 25 hours.

Of course, today you’ll never leave the station. But you can still journey through history with this and other tours made available through the BRHS. Here are some options:

**Boca Express Train Museum**

Where: FEC Railway Station, Count de Hoernele

Pavilion, 747 S. Dixie Highway, Boca Raton

When: 1 to 4 p.m. April 20

Admission: $5 adults; $2 students; free for children under 6 years and BRHS members

**The Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum**

Where: Boca Raton Town Hall, 71 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton

When: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday

Admission: $5 adults, $2 students, under 5 and BRHS members free

What: The current exhibits include "Sentimental Journey: Boca Raton During WW II" and "Mizner Industries/ Mizer Style."

**Trolley Tour of Historic and Contemporary Boca Raton**

Where: From Boca Raton Town Hall, 71 N. Federal Highway

When: 10 a.m. April 12

Admission: $15 for BRHS members

Reservations required

What: This 90-minute tour on a little red trolley begins with a short video on Boca Raton’s history and a tour of the BRHS current exhibit. Docents share information on both historic and contemporary Boca Raton.

**History Tour of the Boca Raton Resort & Club**

Where: 501 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton

When: 2 to 3 p.m. April 15

Admission: $15 per person; $12 for BRHS members; there is a $10 per-car valet fee at the hotel

Reservations required

What: Learn about Boca Raton’s historic Mizner Inn, Boca Raton’s most historic building and the original portion of the Boca Raton Resort & Club. This 90-minute walking tour takes you through the resort’s past and present, and is perfect for children under 12.

For information about or reservations to any event, call 954-248-0644.
Pets share people’s susceptibility to skin cancer

A

h, April. The month typically signifies the departure of snowbirds and the arrival of persistent hot weather, where temperatures registering in the mid-80s and up are not uncommon in Palm Beach County.

OK, so that statement is not worthy of making front page headlines, but this one is: One-third of all dogs and cats will be affected by cancer in their lifetimes. In fact, cancer will be affected by cancer in dogs 2 and older.

One reason for this is that skin cancer is a growing concern. According to Morris Animal Foundation, one out of every three pets will develop skin cancer, typically on a pet’s face, ears and eyelids. White cats and dogs sporting pink noses and bellies as well as hairless breeds are at greatest risk due to this light pigmentation.

Paws Up for Pets light-colored dogs.

Tinted windows help protect cats like Zeki who are at a higher risk of skin cancer from overexposure to the sun. Dark-nosed pets with brown or black coats, however, are not risk-free from developing skin cancer. Certain breeds, including bichons, boxers, bulldogs, Dobermans, poodles, schnauzers and weimaraners are predisposed to developing skin tumors. So are active dogs who join their people on boats and on hikes.

Fortunately, solar-induced cancer can be cured if caught early, says Phillips. "Unfortunately, as an oncologist, I see these pets after the cancer has developed. Veterinarians in small animal practices need to have conversations with families with pets at risk for skin cancer.

Here are some tips to protect our pets from the harmful UVA and UVB rays:

• Establish what’s normal for your pet’s coat. Work with your veterinarian to learn how to do a thorough nose-to-tail examination of your pet’s skin. Report any new bumps, lumps or suspicious lesions to your veterinarian right away.

• Apply veterinarian-approved sunscreen products on your pet’s vulnerable areas, especially the nose, inner ears and belly.

Brenda Phillips, DVM, a veterinary oncologist at Veterinary Specialty Hospital of San Diego, seen with her dog Leo, offers tips to protect pets against skin cancer. Photos by Arden Moore.

sunscreens. Consult your veterinarian for sunscreen products safe for use on your pet’s coat. A buzz cut will only increase his exposure to UV rays and led to sunburn or, worse, skin cancer.

• Dab on the sunscreen.

• Install solar shades or honeycomb shades. In particular, install these shades for all interior east- and west-facing windows to block UV rays. Select shade materials offering protection levels of at least 90 percent. Both types of shades come in top-down or bottom-up options for opening and closing.

• Tint your windows. Various commercial companies make glare-reducing, insulating or privacy films that can be applied on windows to offer up to UV filtering protection while still maintaining a nice view. Look for companies serving Palm Beach County that have earned Better Business Bureau high rankings.

• Dab on the sunscreen.

• Apply veterinarian-approved sunscreen products on your pet’s vulnerable areas, especially the nose, inner ears and belly. Epi-Pet Sun Protector, for example, is endorsed by the American Animal Hospital Association and is effective as a sunscreen for dogs, but is not to be used on cats. It is waterproof, quick drying and non-greasy, providing the equivalent of a 40 SPF found in human sunscreens.

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• Tint your windows.
Egg hunts and kosher dining mark Easter and Passover season

TWO of the most creative and most food-centric holidays of the year are right around the corner. The Easter Bunny brings eggs and chickens to our doorsteps, while the Rev. Roger Richardson becomes its pastor nine years ago. Now, as Richardson prepares to retire, it’s a different place. “We’ve opened to everybody since he’s been here,” church trustee Frank Nikischer said. “He’s very missionary minded and he has us more open to cultures, creeds and race.”

Richardson, 63, says he appreciates how the Delray Beach congregation has responded. “We wanted to make sure that everyone knows they are welcome because God views us all as precious in his sight,” he said. “The church has encouraged and supported me.”

Church of the Palms has added a multicultural praise service on Saturday nights and a Creole service on Sunday mornings. A worship service in Portuguese is its newest effort in diversity.

Women in the congregation sew comfort dolls that Delray police officers carry in patrol cars and Richardson distributes them to women in need.

How can the pastor of a large congregation have the time to listen to everyone in need?

Representatives from six congregations met March 10 at First Presbyterian Church in Delray Beach to celebrate the opening of three churches in Haiti named Church of the Palms. With support from home, Richardson also has traveled to Kenya, South Africa, Brazil and Appalachia to spread the gospel.

Church of the Palms has opened up to new ideas with a strong interest in mission both locally and in the world, “We wanted to make sure that everyone knows they are welcome because God views us all as precious in his sight,” he said. “The church has encouraged and supported me.”

How can the pastor of a large congregation have the time to listen to everyone in need?

Representatives from six congregations met March 10 at First Presbyterian Church in Delray Beach to learn how lay people can assist their pastors by becoming caregivers, too. “The problem is, based in St. Louis, has trained lay people in 11,000 congregations to minister to those in need. “The idea is just to listen,” said First Presbyterian associate pastor Rev. Jo Garnett, who organized the workshop. “They are Christian friends who walk with a person who is hurting during a difficult time.”

First Presbyterian currently has 20 Stephen ministers who each received 50 hours of training to become caregivers for an hour each week. One is Jim Whittaker, a Stephen minister for four years. “If I can help one person, it’s worth all the time in the world to me,” Whittaker said.

Photo provided

April 2012

PASSOVER & EASTER

Friday - 4/6

Community Seder - Presented by Chabad of East Boca, 2991 S. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Experience the Exodus of Egypt as Rabbi Hae Nou chans insights into Passover traditions. 5:45 (children), 7:30 (adults). $15 children 3-12, 475-7729 or www.chabadseaday.com.

Saturday - 4/7

Passover Dinner - St. Joseph’s Table Restaurant, 1030 Champlain Blvd., Boca Raton. Couples and singles are welcome to this casual, non-religious dinner. 5 p.m. closing. 538-6757-4441 or www.josefstable.com.

The Great Vigil of Easter - Presented at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 165 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. The ancient service celebrates an Easter Sunrise Mass on the beach. All of faith and passions gathered for this event. 6:30. $50-8172 or www.stpaulsdelray.org.

Easter Sunrise Service - Held at the Beach Parkside located at Atlantic Avenue and A1A, Delray Beach. Presented by the Delray Beach Interfaith Clergy Association. Rev. Linda Middleby from Cason United Methodist Church with music by the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Jazz Ensemble. All are welcome. 6:15. 276-4541 or www.stpaulsdelray.org.

Easter Sunday Services and Annual Easter Egg Hunt - At First of Delray Beach, 107 W. N.W. 22nd St. The Rev. Nancy Norman will conduct the Easter services. Special music and singing for the season with Zach Collier playing the piano and organ. Services 9:30 & 11 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt will follow 9:25 am Sunday School. All ages are welcome to watch the services, with the highlight being the arrival of the Easter Bunny. Free well offering. 276-1796 or www.unitedfbcdelray.org.

10th Annual Easter in the Park Worship Celebration - At Mizner Park Amphitheater, 100 Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Family Easter event featuring music, an uplifting Easter message and a live butterfly release for children. Free parking at both First United Methodist Church lots on Mizner Blvd. across from the Amphitheater, as well as parking lots and garages in Mizner Park. 9 a.m. From 395-1244, www.fumcbocaraton.org.

Easter Sunday Services and Annual Easter Egg Hunt - At Unity of Delray, 251 N. Dixie Hwy., Delray Beach. Join the Easter festivities with the Rev. Donna Lewis. All are welcome. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 276-0552 or www.unitydelray.org.

Easter Sunday Services and Annual Easter Egg Hunt - At First Presbyterian Church of Boca Raton, 276-5796 or www.firstpresbocaraton.org.

At Josef’s Table

Passover Dinner - 6-14 stay.

At the GreenMarket

Egg hunts and kosher dining mark Easter and Passover season

The Church of the Palms was strictly white and traditional when the Rev. Roger Richardson became its pastor nine years ago.

Finding Faith

An egg hunt and butterfly release are on tap for April 7 at the Chapel of St. Andrew in Boca Raton. Finding Faith

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Report highlights storm threats to coastal communities

By Antigone Barton

If the rewards of life by the sea are immeasurable, a report released last month showed the risks, at least, are calculable.

Global warming, rising sea levels and storms all add up to odds of flooding that will redraw the map of Florida from the bottom up, according to the maps that show Boca Raton as the city likely to be most affected by storm surges in Palm Beach County during the coming decades.

Interactive maps released with the Surging Seas report by Climate Central, a nonprofit environmental research and education group, predict 1,212 Boca Raton homes would be vulnerable to flooding from a 3-foot storm surge that has a 1-in-6 chance of occurring by 2030. The area faces 1-in-2 odds of such an event by 2050.

The interactive maps at http://sealevel.climatecentral.org show the estimated effects of rising sea levels to more than 3,000 coastal towns, cities, counties and states in the contiguous United States.

Highland Beach

Yom Hashoah commemoration planned in Highland Beach

The film La France Divisée will be the center of Highland Beach Library’s Yom Hashoah commemoration.

Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, is marked on the Hebrew calendar’s 27th day of Nissan, corresponding this year to April 19. On that day, the 6 million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust are remembered as well as the experiences of those who survived.

The film explores the two sides of France during WWII: the side that collaborated with the Germans and the side that resisted. Included are interviews with Janine Banet Godkine, a “hidden child,” Lucie Aubrac, a member of the French Resistance, Serge Klarsfeld, a French Jewish lawyer, poet, and Holocaust survivor, and videotaped by George’s wife, a journalist and filmmaker, Vivian Auslender.

Call or stop by today:
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Submit applications to Publisher@thecoastalstar.com
Lillian Rose Palladino Merciantante

By Ron Hayes

BOCA RATON — When Father John Merciantante, pastor of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Palm Beach, was told that the $1 million he’d raised was not enough to start construction on a new church, his mother stepped in.

“My mom got on the phone, and her friends sent me another million,” Father John recalled. “She had good friends.”

And so a new St. Mary’s is under construction and scheduled to open in June. A statue titled Prayer, also donated by her mother, will grace the entrance to the mission-style church.

Mrs. Merciantante died Feb. 29. She was 93 and had lived at La Fontana condominium for 22 years.

“She was a very elegant lady, and very sincere and very frank,” recalled her son. “She would tell you exactly what she thought and you had to deal with it.”

Lillian Rose Palladino Merciantante was born in Boston on Sept. 14, 1918, the first daughter of Joseph and Mary Palladino, who owned the city’s famed Latin Quarter nightclub.

In fourth grade, she met John Merciantante Jr., who would become the love of her life and her husband of 48 years.

In Winchester, Mass., where Mr. Merciantante was an executive with the Ford Motor Co., the couple enjoyed tennis and boce at the Medford Boat Club.

The couple retired to Florida in 1990 and, after 10 years in Fort Lauderdale, moved to Boca Raton.

In addition to her son, she is survived by three daughters, Diana LaMarca, of Boca Raton; Debra Anzalone, of Lighthouse Point; and Lillian Simeone; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 1200 E. Main St., Palm Beach, FL 33476.

Obituary

Nancy Bayzar Toumayan

By Emily Minor

BOCA RATON — Nancy Bayzar Toumayan, who moved to Florida in 1998 and spent many years as a home health-care nurse, caring and cooking for the lonely and aging elderly, died March 21 of complications from pulmonary fibrosis.

“She had a zeal for life, and she wanted to be happy,” said her daughter, Sylvia Toumayan. “She didn’t have a bad bone in her body.”

Born in Istanbul, Turkey, Mrs. Toumayan, who was 74, came to the United States with her parents when she was about 18, her daughter said, and dreamed of being an interior decorator.

Instead, she met Peter Toumayan, and started a family. The professional dreams were put aside so that she could be a full-time mother and wife. (The couple eventually parted and he preceded her in death.)

Mrs. Toumayan did work for many years selling Singer sewing machines, her daughter said. Through the years, she was able to put her interior design eye to the test, overseeing the building, furnishing and design of two family homes in Lexington, Ky.

In 1998, she moved to Boca Raton where she immersed herself in her church and social service community.

Besides her children, she is survived by her lifelong friend and life partner, Mike Dabosh.

An active and devoted member of the Armenian church, Mrs. Toumayan was the former chairperson of St. James Women’s Guild, past member of the Daughters of Varten and St. David’s Women’s Guild of Boca Raton. She was buried in Lexington, Ky.

Besides Sylvia Toumayan, three more children survive her: Shirley Toumayan Miller, MarianneFullam and Samuel Toumayan. All three of her daughters live in the Boston area; Samuel Toumayan lives in California.

Four grandchildren also survive her — and they all loved her bright personality, undying love and her spectacular cooking. For them, her home health-care clients would beg for her specialty dishes.

“She was an incredible cook,” said her daughter. “She cooked with love, and it was very evident.”

The family asks that any donations in her memory be made to the Armenian church, or the American Diabetes Association, 10 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01702.

J. Ernest Brophy

By Ron Hayes

BOCA RATON — J. Ernest Brophy, a retired resident of Boca Raton for 35 years, died March 19. He was 87 and had battled lung cancer and heart disease.

Mr. Brophy died peacefully at his Coconut Road home, surrounded by family and friends, including his wife of 60 years.

“And we were very happy all that time,” Betty Brophy recalled recently. “My only grandson used to say, ‘Don’t you guys ever fight?’ and we both said no. We always agreed. I know it sounds like we were making that up, but it’s true. We had the same values, but anything I felt really strongly about, he was willing to see I got.”

Mr. Brophy was born Aug. 24, 1924, in Shortville, N.Y. After serving as a radio operator in the U.S. Army during World War II, for which he was decorated, he was graduated from Niagara University, summa cum laude, and earned a law degree from Fordham Law School.

Mr. and Mrs. Brophy were married in 1952 and raised four children.

“When we were bringing up the children, they always deferred to me,” she said. “He respected my authority there.”

Mr. Brophy was also a certified public accountant who opened his own firm in Rochester, N.Y., specializing in estate and tax planning.

He loved to tackle complex solutions to almost any problem.

“He was absolutely brilliant,” said his wife. “People from all over called him for advice.”

After his retirement, the couple enjoyed playing contract bridge in both Boca Raton and Pompano Beach.

“I don’t think any husband could have been any better than he was,” Mrs. Brophy said. “It’s hard now but the memories are wonderful.”

In addition to his widow, Mr. Brophy is survived by a daughter, Linda Sorg of Boca Raton; two sons, Joe, of Jupiter, and Brian of Canandaigua, N.Y.; and four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Dennis.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Ontario ARC Development Dept., 3071 County Complex Drive, Canandaigua, NY 14424, in honor of his son.

Intimate setting appeals to jazz artists and fans

By Steve Pike

Jazz and baseball typically aren’t thought of in the same sentence — except that one could argue each is an acquired taste — but here’s an analogy:

In his classic book Shoeless Joe, author W.P. Kinsella penned the famous line “If you build it, he will come.”

A disgraced baseball legend and an Iowa cornfield were the farthest things from Jacqui Wyatt’s mind when she conceived of the Royal Palm Jazz Series in Boca Raton, but nevertheless, the analogy holds true.

“When I first came up with the idea in early spring of 2010, there weren’t many places for people to go to hear jazz,” Wyatt said. “Look at the demographic of South Florida and Boca Raton in particular. It’s not a hip-hop demographic, not a rap demographic and certainly not a South Beach club demographic.

“I thought it would be good to have a classy place where people could go and listen to good jazz music in a nice atmosphere.”

As director of operations and marketing for Boca Raton-based Investments Limited, Wyatt knew of the perfect atmosphere: the company’s Royal Palm Place dining and shopping complex in downtown Boca Raton.

“I thought, at least, if we bring it and see who comes. If nobody comes, then we tried,” she said. “If they do come, then let’s try and build on it as much as we can.”

Wyatt’s instincts were correct. That is, she has built the Royal Palm Jazz Series and people certainly have come. The festival is in its second season, having already had two concerts this season, with the next on April 21 featuring the electro-jazz band Four0East. All of the concerts are held at the Funky Biscuit in Royal Palm Place, a popular venue for a variety of acts from jazz to country to rock to big bands.

The previous jazz series concert — Matt Marshak and Marcus Anderson this past January — attracted 120 people.

That number might sound small, Wyatt said, “but don’t let it fool you.

“It’s an intimate venue,” said Wyatt, a lifelong jazz fan. “When we started the series, the first two concerts (November and December 2010) were outside on the plaza. The weather wasn’t cooperative. It was cold and windy. So we decided to move it indoors.

“Jazz by nature is genre of music that really lends itself to a more intimate atmosphere. If you think back to the old clubs, people like being up close to the stage. I’ve seen Dave Koz and his Christmas concert at the Broward Center. It was great, but it was on a big stage. At the Funky Biscuit the performers come down off the stage and interact with the audience. It’s just a much more welcoming atmosphere.”

Welcoming for each side. The audience likes the coziness of the Funky Biscuit, Wyatt said, and the musicians like the opportunity to perform at one of the few venues for jazz in South Florida.

“The musicians themselves are so intense about their love of the music,” Wyatt said. “I had a limited budget and some of these performers command huge amounts of money. Once they understood what we were trying to accomplish, they really stepped up to the plate. It’s just sort of snowballed from there.”

BOCA RATON — When Father John Merciantante, pastor of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Palm Beach, was told that the $1 million he’d raised was not enough to start construction on a new church, his mother stepped in.

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In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 1200 E. Main St., Palm Beach, FL 33476.

OBITUARY
Society Spotlight

Art Show Opening Night of Women in the Visual Arts
Highland Beach Library

Patti Max (co-owner of Max’s Grille) of Boca Raton dropped into the 5th Annual Boca Raton Concours d’Elegance event Feb. 25 to oversee her table and chef who assisted with sponsoring the event. Photo provided

5th Annual Boca Raton Concours d’Elegance
Boca Raton Airport

National Society of Arts and Letters Afternoon Tea
Jay & Marilyn Nelson’s home in Royal Palm

School of the Arts Foundation Gala
Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts

Festival of the Arts Boca
Mizner Park

Boca Bacchanal Grand Tasting
Mizner Park

Boca resident Ann Marie Dufresne and her daughter Lindsay discuss the differences of the available wines with Darcie Kent’s on-site wine rep.

Oliver and Morgan Green, Melissa and Jay Whelchel, Kelli Bloechinger and Brandon McCleod. Photos by Tim Stepien/ The Coastal Star
4/7 - Yoga Class - at the Train Depot 10 am-4 pm; Sat.: 9 am-1 pm. Free. 278-5455.

4/7 - Animal Encounters: Snakes - at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Hear your favorite science inspired stories. For ages 3 and up. Be accompanied by an adult. For ages up to 3. Registration required. Held every 4/7, 2/10, 5/1. 3:00-4:00 pm. 390-7928.

4/7 - Beginnings Yoga Class - at the Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd., Boca Raton. Free. 329-3807.

4/8 - Science Demonstrations - at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Non-resident. 16 classes: $96/residents, $120/non-residents. 9:40-10:30 am. 347-3950.


4/9 - Art Exhibit: Blue Man Group Making Waves is an interactive exhibit that features a playful and accessible work of WITVA (Women In the Visual Arts). Exhibits continue through 4/27. Fri.: 1-8 pm; Sat.: 9 am-4 pm. Free. 278-5453.

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4/9 - Bookworm Story Time - at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Held every Tuesday. 7:30-8:00 pm. 390-7928 or www.highlandbeachlibrary.org.

4/9 - The Amazing Story of Delray Beach, Roca Raton & Baywatch is presented by Alexander “Sandy” Simon as part of the Author’s Series at the Delray Beach Public Library, 595 N. Dixie Hwy., Delray Beach. Free. 393-7930 or www.delraylibrary.org.

4/9 - Small Fry Storytime for ages 1 and up - at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Features songs and craft project. Held every Tuesday. Please register one week in advance for each program. Free. 4 pm. 278-5453 or www.highlandbeachlibrary.org.


4/10 - Animal Encounters: Snakes - at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Hear your favorite science inspired stories. For ages 3 and up. Be accompanied by an adult. For ages up to 3. Registration required. Held every 4/7, 2/10, 5/1. 3:00-4:00 pm. 390-7928.

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4/10 - Bookworm Story Time - at the Highland Beach Library, 3618 S. Ocean Blvd. Held every Tuesday. 7:30-8:00 pm. 390-7928 or www.highlandbeachlibrary.org.
Boca Raton. For ages 4-6 yrs. Under the instruction of direct contact classes, children explore rhythm, melody, and improvisation. Children learn to identify sounds, take part in storytelling, play simple instruments, and participate in various movement activities. The $60 fee includes $20 in materials. 393-9787 or www.boca-arts.org.

- April 15, 2012 - FAU Symphony Band at FAU. Boca Raton campus, University Theatre, 777 Glades Road. Boca. Tickets are $10 for general admission, $8 for University Theatre members, $7 for FAU students and $6 for FAU staff and faculty. 392-2500 Ext. 106 or www.bocamuseum.org.

- April 15 - Seining the Lagoon: A Social Tasting Tour. 4/17. 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. $10 members, $12 non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required. 734-3900.

- April 16 - Just for 6-8’s: Reading Adventure. 4/16. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration required. 393-7800.

- April 16 - Beginner Dog Obedience Class at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. Great dogs and training adventures make the perfect pair! The $65 fee includes $20 in materials. 393-9786 or www.boca-arts.org.

- April 16 - Dog-Obedience Classes at the Tree Tops Park, 747 S. DeTea. Boca. The sessions run from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. The fee is $45 per session. 393-7800.

- April 16, 2012 - FAU Jazz at the Grille: Blues Therapy is presented by Florida Atlantic University’s Jazz Ensemble and the Swing and Jazz Preservation Society. 2400 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Presented by the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Boca Raton Arts Center. $10 general admission, $20 for seniors and students and free for FAU students. 395-3999 or www.chabadbocabeaches.com.

- April 17 - FAU Astronomical Observatory Public viewing day observations at FAU’s Boca Raton Campus, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton. Guests must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations and pre-payment required. 392-2500 Ext. 106 or www.bocamuseum.org.

- April 17 - Seining the Lagoon. Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum at the Addison Mizner Building, Addison Mizner’s Cloister Inn, which is a 1.5 mile walking tour takes you to see the different styles of architecture in Boca Raton. 4/17. 9:00 am-noon. Free. 734-3900 or www.bocamuseum.org.

- April 17 - Children’s Nature Series: Beach Treasures at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. Boca. The program is free and open to children ages 5 and up. 4/17. 3:30 pm-5 pm. Free. Pre-registration and pre-payment required. 393-7800.


- April 17 - Thursday - History Tour of the Boca Raton Resort & Club® at 12800. Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum at the Boca Resort & Club. This 1.5 hour guided tour takes you on a historical journey through the Resort’s history and culture. 4/17. 2:00 pm-3:30 pm. Free. 734-3900 or www.bocamuseum.org.

- April 18 - Just for 6-8’s: Reading Adventure. 4/18. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration required. 393-7800.

- April 18 - Seining the Lagoon: A Social Tasting Tour. 4/18. 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. $10 members, $12 non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required. 734-3900 Ext. 106.

- April 18 - Tahitian Dance Workshop at the James A. Rutherford Community Center, Park Reef Park, 2000 North Bay Road, Boca Raton. Boca. Tahitian dance is a spontaneous dance. Tickets are $15 per person. For groups of 10 or more, the event is $20 per person. 393-7800.

- April 19, 2012 - FAU Art Film - Wild at Heart: Featuring the telling of the story of Sailor, played by Nicolas Cage in the film directed by the Oscar-winning David Lynch. 4/19. 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. Free with paid Museum admission. 734-3900 or www.bocamuseum.org.

- April 19 - Intermediate Dog Obedience Class at the Boca Raton Public Library, 200 NW Boca Raton Blvd. The $65 fee includes $20 in materials. 393-9786 or www.boca-arts.org.

- April 19 - Art Film - Wild at Heart: Featuring the telling of the story of Sailor, played by Nicolas Cage in the film directed by the Oscar-winning David Lynch. 4/19. 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. Free with paid Museum admission. 734-3900 or www.bocamuseum.org.

- April 19 - Art-E-Ology: Will Barnet, Dancing with the Stars. Presented by Florida Atlantic University’s Art-E-Ology program. 734-3900 or www.bocamuseum.org.


- April 19 - Seining the Lagoon: A Social Tasting Tour. 4/19. 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. $10 members, $12 non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required. 734-3900 Ext. 106.

- April 20, 2012 - FAU Jazz at the Grille: Blues Therapy is presented by Florida Atlantic University’s Jazz Ensemble and the Swing and Jazz Preservation Society. 2400 Yamato Road, Boca Raton. Presented by the Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Boca Raton Arts Center. $10 general admission, $20 for seniors and students and free for FAU students. 395-3999 or www.chabadbocabeaches.com.

- April 20 - Just for 6-8’s: Reading Adventure. 4/20. 3:30-4:30 pm. Free. Registration required. 393-7800.

- April 20 - Seining the Lagoon: A Social Tasting Tour. 4/20. 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. $10 members, $12 non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required. 734-3900 Ext. 106.

- April 21 - Tahitian Dance Workshop at the James A. Rutherford Community Center, Park Reef Park, 2000 North Bay Road, Boca Raton. Boca. Tahitian dance is a spontaneous dance. Tickets are $15 per person. For groups of 10 or more, the event is $20 per person. 393-7800.

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JLB 40th Anniversary Celebration
Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, Boca Raton

The Junior League of Boca Raton’s 40th Anniversary Celebration is April 13 at the Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club in Boca Raton. Enjoy dinner and open bar, dance to live entertainment, and take a trip down memory lane as tribute is paid to the club’s 40 years of service to community impact. The event is open to all JLB members—past and present—and to the community. The evening starts at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available for $15 per person at JLB or by calling 620-2553. Above: 40th Anniversary Task Force members Kristin Calder, Kathy Adkins and Nicole Mugavero. Photo provided

4/19 - Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony

4/19 - American Fine Wine Competition Gala Dinner at Boca Raton Resort & Club, 2001 Royal Palm Way, Boca Raton. This wine-capped evening in the main event of the Festival of the Arts Boca for Boca Raton’s 20th annual wine competition. The evening features food, art galleries, jewelers and a live auction. For reservations call 291-9678 or www.paradeproductions.org. Advance reservation and payment required. 7:30-10 pm. $100.

4/19 - Creation Station at Daggett Ringer Center, 2102 North Park Access Road, Boca Raton. Roast beef, salad, desserts, punch, coffee/tea and tour tickets to the new museum. Live music. For reservations call 291-3374. Admission is $20 for adults and $12 for students. Advance registration and payment required. 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

4/19 - Boston Proper runway show and silent auction at The Funky Biscuit, Royal Palm Place, 303 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Two shows: 7 pm & 10 pm. $22-$77. Advance reservation required. 5:30 to 11:30 pm. $9/members, $14/non-members - per child. All proceeds benefit the Children’s Museum of Boca Raton. 

4/19 - An Evening of Entertainment Featuring Exceptional Women presented by the Women’s Choral Ensemble of South Florida at the Palace Theatre, 3861 North Military Trail, Boca Raton. Ten choirs will rally together for an evening of wonder and joy. Ticket prices vary. 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Free. For information call 791-2500 or www.bocamuseum.org.

4/19 - RRR - Playing a play game and one new movie presented by the Commercial Music Ensemble/World Music Ensemble at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1380 North Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Create a beautiful bag that will be used over and over again. For ages 7-11, adult must participate with each child. Advance registration required. 10:30 am-noon. $25/members, $30/non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required. $38-454-9693.

4/19 - Gator Tales at Daggett Ringer Center, 2102 North Park Access Road, Boca Raton. Go undersea through story, both fiction and non-fiction, about animals and nature. Ages 2-5 without adult. Advance registration required. 11:30 am-12:30 pm. $30 (residents), $35 (non-residents) - per child. Advance registration and payment required.

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West Indies style on the Intracoastal in Boca Raton

One of Boca Raton’s sensational Intracoastal properties is to be found in the coveted Northeast Fifth Avenue estate area. Built on 1.62 acres, the property is accessed via a gated entrance leading through a meandering, shellstone-embedded drive complete with a specimen tree-canopied landscape.

Ultimately, you come to the grand, yet inviting, tropically-inspired residence fronting on 222 feet of ‘no wake zone’ deep water, just minutes from the Boca Inlet.

The property’s overall design was conceived by Affiniti Architects, AIA (Boca Raton) who planned the entire plot, including an integration of a vintage boathouse on the site, originally built to house construction vessels for the U.S. Coast Guard. The extensive renovation and transformation of the former one-story CBS home was completed by Bloomfield Construction (Boca Raton) in 2009, into the two-story luxury resort compound it is today.

The main living level is accessed by a dramatic staircase. There also is an elevator.

Dockage for multiple yachts and 222 feet of serene Intracoastal frontage make this haven a yachtsman’s paradise.

For more information contact Carmen D’Angelo/Joseph Liguori, Premier Estate Properties, 561-394-7700.

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