End of Season

Celebrate Mom.

Pipers serenade club guest Susan Tomenson April 14 as part of the Founder’s Day End of Season celebration at St. Andrews Club. Jerry Lower/ The Coastal Star

The two-toned band will play both current and classic hits.

Inside:

Other events mark the end of season, pages 6-7 & 28-29

Manalapan

Officials spar over talks to replace town police with sheriff

Officers have been working without a contract for 2 years

By Steve Plunkett

The proposal to switch police services to the county sheriff got Manalapan neighbors talking, but town commissioners fear much of what’s being said is wrong.

“We are suffering from a dearth of facts. We are suffocating under a barrage of views and misinformation,” Vice Mayor Donald Brennan said at the April 24 commission meeting, a day after a standing-room-only workshop.

Commissioners ordered town manager to meet with police and county officials. A PBSO proposal will be heard at 6 p.m. May 8 at Town Hall.

Mattox to report back on whether Manalapan is now, what security issues it faces now and going forward, and if there is a gap, how the town can fill it and how much will it cost.

Mayor Basil Diamond summarized the options: Go with the Sheriff’s Office, which says it can do the job for $1.17 million a year, or stick with the Police Department, which has a $1.4 million budget this year.

Other possibilities Diamond included were increasing the number of Manalapan officers, increasing their compensation and adding a beach and marine patrol.

Other issues include whether to hire a consultant, whether to put the proposal up for a vote by law, or whether to postpone the matter until October.

“There isn’t a point in having another workshop just to do what we did yesterday,” Diamond said.

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Explore the art of tea as you celebrate Mom.
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Bradley Stewart has the buzz on beekeeping. Page 30

Briny says no to sale

The park’s board votes unanimously against selling out to developers.
Page 10

Tree removal sparks outrage

Gulf Stream residents cry foul over cutting of canopy banyan at former Spence estate. Page 9

Hurricane Season

Better forecast tools lead to new evacuation standards

By Tim O’Meilia

The next time a minimal hurricane threatens to slob ashore in south Palm Beach County, most coastal residents won’t be ordered to flee.

In fact, evacuation of the barrier islands from the Palm Beach Inlet to Boca Raton won’t be considered until a storm puffs itself up to Category 2 strength with the threat of a strong storm surge.

No more coastal evacuation required in Category 1 storms

That means that nearly 138,000 people who in the past would have been encouraged to find other shelter in a Category 1 hurricane can now stay home and ride out the storm.

The exceptions are those who live in mobile homes — that’s you, Briny Breezes residents — substandard housing or in extremely flood-prone areas. They still will be ordered to leave by emergency officials.

“We don’t want to unnecessarily evacuate anyone,” said county Emergency Manager Bill Johnson. “With evacuation, we can fill the day with planning and building a beach and marine patrol. Other issues include whether to hire a consultant, whether to put the proposal up for a vote by law, or whether to postpone the matter until October.

“There isn’t a point in having another workshop just to do what we did yesterday,” Diamond said.

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Playhouse set to raise curtain on 60th season

By Ron Hayes

On Dec. 1, 1951, somebody in Lake Worth said, “Let’s put on a show!”

Six decades later, the Lake Worth Playhouse is still putting on shows.

That first production was Springtime For Henry, and theater-goers had to climb three flights of stairs to the City Hall auditorium to enjoy the 1931 farce in non-air-conditioned discomfort. There wasn’t a lot to do here in 1951.

When the curtain opens on the community theater’s 60th anniversary season July 5, plays will see Hairspray, followed by The King of Kisses, The Drowsy Chaperone, The Foreigner and finally, Barnum.

In the 60 years between Henry and Hairspray, the Playhouse has produced 340 plays and musicals — everything from A Streetcar Named Desire to The Odd Couple, Annie Get Your Gun to Annie.

And the audiences have kept coming, so loyal that in 1975 the theater bought the 1924 Oakley Theatre building at 713 Lake Ave. for $60,000 and renovated it with a $15,000 Bicentennial grant. The first play in the new home — the oldest building registered by the county’s Art Deco Society — was The Last of Mrs. Lincoln.

“This is not Mom and Pop putting together a play. We put on quality performances that are world-class,” said Mayor Bradley Stewart.

No matter what the day may bring, if the Playhouse is what it is now, there will always be a tomorrow.

See PLAYHOUSE on page 12

Workers install the sign at the Lake Worth Playhouse in 1975. Courtesy of the Lake Worth Playhouse

Other events mark the end of season, pages 6-7 & 28-29
Editor’s Note
Stay up-to-date over the summer

School is still in session, but the auto transport trucks have been loading up for weeks and the clubs have been busy with their end-of-season gatherings.

Summer must be just around the corner.

You may think those of us who stay here during the summer months will be taking it easy, sipping piña coladas poolside while you’re away. Sounds good, but instead many of us will be busily involved as our towns make decisions that ultimately may have an impact on your winter lifestyle.

Preliminary property tax numbers will soon be shared with towns and final numbers will be available by July 1. Budget hearings typically begin soon, so it’s important to voice your fiduciary responsibility when you do. You can stay up-to-date on budgets and other issues with The Coastal Star in either of two easy ways: by mail (our subscription form is on Page 26) or online at www.thecoastalstar.com.

We’ll be around all summer. We hope you’ll stay in touch — and informed.

Correction
Because of a reporting error, The Coastal Star incorrectly reported that Greencorres has a contract with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office for police services. The error appeared in the April edition in a story about a Sheriff’s Office proposal to Ocean Ridge.

Barbara D’Errico is retiring after 20 years of supervising the Briny Breezes Memorial Chimes. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

A chimer existence: Briny rings in a new conductor for memorial bells

By Ron Hayes

Ring out the old! Ring in the new!

Barbara D’Errico had just moved to the community in 1992 when she offered to serve on the committee that oversees the Briny Breezes Memorial Chimes. Twenty years later, she’s stepping aside to welcome a new bell of the “I’m 80 years old,” says D’Errico. “It’s time for new blood.”

The new blood is Nancy Aceto, 56, a third-generation Brinnyite who inherits a memorial fund that has seen residents’ donations transform a primitive loudspeaker system into a sophisticated electronic carillon.

Six days a week, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., the new bell plays the same tune as the old: “Mr. Jones, you have a call!”

“Personally, I love September Song,” says D’Errico.

Donors to the memorial fund are welcome to make requests, she says, but few do. “The family in whose name the gift is made receives a gold-embossed card, the donor a thank you note.”

Now Nancy Aceto, who favors show tunes, will make the donations and sign the cards.

“Mr. Jones, you have a call!” That system was disconnected in 1971 to eliminate the overhead wiring, and swiftly missed. Sunday wasn’t Sunday without the sound of music.

One day, Abe VanDosten, a director, and resident Charles Stimet was lamenting the loss.

Beginning in the early 1960s, a memorial fund collected donations in memory of departed loved ones.

Over the years about $500 had been raised, and none of it spent. “They decided to spend some. Stimet bought a tape recorder and rigged it to play music through a new loudspeaker on the auditorium’s roof, the wiring underground.

Stimet was named trustee for life, and held the post until 1997, when he returned permanently to Vermont and D’Errico took his place.

His system endured until November 2011, when residents’ generous donations replaced the old analog tape recorder backstage in the auditorium with a brand new Schulmerich Bells Digital Auto-Bell Instrument with Digital Signal Processor. Oh, what a difference $16,272.70 makes!

In addition to the hourly chimes, digital memory cards hold about 2,000 songs, of which D’Errico has programmed about 300 to play in three- or four-day intervals.

Sunday mornings still ring with sacred music, but now Christmas carols echo each December, Irving Berlin’s Easter Parade every spring, Stars and Stripes Forever on the Fourth of July and college fight songs during football season.

“Personally, I love September Song,” says D’Errico.

Donors to the memorial fund are welcome to make requests, she says, but few do. The family in whose name the gift is made receives a gold-embossed card, the donor a thank you note.

Now Nancy Aceto, who favors show tunes, will make the donations and sign the cards.

“I’m honored,” she says. “But Barbara’s promised to be my consultant.”

Incidentally, the electronic bells that chime the hour in this tiny mobile home community are a digital recreation of a slightly more famous bell hanging in a clock tower high above London’s Houses of Parliament.

Yes, England can take pride in the knowledge that Big Ben plays the same tune as the Briny Breezes chimes.

And don’t worry about Barbara D’Errico. The bell has tolled on her trustee years, but she won’t be without music. Her cell phone plays the opening bars of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony.
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Local Voices

Business and building owners have big, green opportunity

Residents of Lantana, Ocean Ridge, Haverhill, Lake Worth and Boynton Beach have a right to be very, very proud of their communities. They’ve sought private-sector partners, found grants and made energy conservation rebates available to their residents — and now their businesses.

We’re trying to get something going. Something to create jobs. Something to improve the environment and something that makes a difference in our communities.

Our rebate program is coming to a close. We have returned over $108,000 to our residents through it. Our contractors helped engage residents, and our residents made smart purchases for air-conditioning units, insulation and programmable thermostats.

And, we’re just getting started.

In May, Florida Green Energy Works, along with Lantana, the Greater Boynton Beach Chamber and the Central Palm Beach County Chamber, is hosting workshops in two locations, aimed at helping businesses and property owners save money.

At these Clean Energy Financing workshops, businesses can learn about a new opportunity, called PACE, or Property Assessed Clean Energy. PACE provides businesses with up-front funding to help pay for energy-efficient tools and renewable energy.

The Clean Energy Financing workshops will be held May 24 in Boynton Beach and May 25 in Lake Worth. All workshops are from 8-9 a.m., are free, and include breakfast. Seating is limited. Pre-registering is the only way to guarantee your seat.

If you own a business or a building in Palm Beach County, register today at www.FloridaGreenEnergyWorks.com/Workshops. For more information, call 855-FL-WORKS (855-359-6757).

David J. Stewart
Mayor, Town of Lantana

Consider donation to Koi Fund

The koi pond at the Ocean Ridge Town Hall requires constant attention to make sure the fish are healthy and happy. This means the lily plants must be maintained to provide the fish shelter from the sun and predators.

Both Claire Doherty and I spend our time maintaining the pond. We rely on donations to defray the expenses associated with maintenance since the pond is not included in the town budget.

Without the kindness and compassion of our residents, the koi pond will not last. Please consider donating to the Koi Fund by contacting 523-5705 or 731-3335.

Jim Weege and Claire Doherty
Ocean Ridge

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On Mother’s Day, May 13, moms will receive a complimentary mimosa or glass of champagne and a special gift from the Seagate Spa.

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Scan for special offers and entertainment schedule.
Letters to the Editor

Police force worth extra in taxes

We moved to Ocean Ridge (twice) for several reasons: the unique character of the town compared to other barrier island communities, the small-town atmosphere and, most importantly, the availability of a local police and (in the past) fire/rescue force.

Transferring police protection to the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office is not what we want to see happen. The PBSO is a fine organization, already tasked with covering the largest geographic area of any county in Florida, and fighting serious crimes throughout the county.

In Ocean Ridge, we have a very low crime rate, almost entirely nonviolent. We benefit from officers doing mundane things like dark-house checks, traffic patrols, high-visibility patrols in our limited area and enforcement of solicitation laws that help protect our elderly citizens.

Regardless of commitments made in the PBSO offer, over time the ability to do these will abate as the PBSO is asked by the county to do more with less. Their mission will force them to prioritize more serious crimes over our mundane duties.

We realize no one likes to pay more taxes, but our Town Council was elected to do the right thing for the residents of Ocean Ridge, not just to save money. If the budget doesn’t balance, and there are no areas that can be trimmed, then explain this to the residents and ask for their support in raising taxes. If the cause is good, we believe the residents will respond positively. This cause is good.

We can’t get something for nothing. We should be willing to pay for things we need; and we need to appreciate the services we have. There is no place quite like Ocean Ridge; let’s keep it “small” and “local.”

Jim & Nancy Dunn
Ocean Ridge

Reader likes time spent with her Coastal Star

In our home we joke that newspapers have a 15-minute lifespan. They are perused cover to cover as soon as they enter the house and then put into the recycling bin before they can get dispersed all over the house. The Coastal Star is the exception! There are so many relevant and interesting local pieces that it takes a good several days to give the paper its due! It’s fair to say that the paper is read cover to cover (including the excellent ArtsPaper) by both myself and my husband.

Thank you for publishing a wonderfully local, high-quality paper. We don’t know how we ever lived without it.

Shaina Stolik
Hypoluxo Island

Delray Medical Center has a Comprehensive Stroke Center to help you prevent and recover from stroke.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States. Everything from your age to your ethnicity affects your chances of having a stroke. Immediate attention at onset and quality aftercare are important to maximize recovery. As a Comprehensive Stroke Center, Delray Medical Center is prepared to handle stroke emergencies and their aftermath.

The biggest stroke emergency could be the lack of awareness. Call 1.800.897.9789 for your FREE Stroke Warning Signs Magnet.
Old School Beerfest
a fine debut for local brew

At a former site of Benny’s on the Beach, the old Ruth Jones cottage has survived its six-block move and, if all goes as planned, will open in mid-June as ‘‘The Little House’’ that city officials hope will revitalize the downtown area. Christy Benoit, who opened Havana Hideout in Lake Worth, signed the lease on April 16. She plans a back-to-basics menu with prices under $10 and lots of draft beers.

‘‘Let’s not forget the raucous Old Key Lime House, nestled along the Intracoastal’s western shore on Lantana’s Ocean Avenue. Owner Wayne Cordero needs more room and wants to enlarge his parking lot by about 50 spaces on a lot he owns to the immediate west. But that property, about one-third acre with a house built in the 1920s, is zoned residential. The Lantana Town Council seems inclined to rezone, as do some of the Old Key Lime House’s neighbors, who also are urging the town to make empty lots on North Lake Drive available for parking. To arguments that the house was ‘‘historical,’’ Cordero countered that it was ‘‘hysterical’’ and in bad shape. He assured council members that he would not enlarge his building or add seating (now limited to 318).

Eight squeeze for Benny’s on the Beach. By a 3-2 vote the City Commission extended for 10 more years the lease for the café and bistro shop on the Lake Worth Pier. Under the previous lease, Benny’s paid the city 7.5 percent of its gross revenue, about $185,000 a year. The new lease gives the city a flat $240,000 a year. Suzanne Mulvehill and Christopher McVoy argued that they should be put to bid but were outvoted.

In Delray, the new Sandbar Rhm Shack outdoor bar on the south side of Boston’s on the Beach opened with SRO on Friday the 13th. Not a blade of grass in sight or any weeds, for that matter — the entire area is covered with packed sand that, unlike the beach variety across the street, is not supposed to blow away, wash away or stick like glue.

‘‘It’s kind of an adult sandbox,’’ GM Tom Walsh said with a smile, noting it’s only for the 21-and-over crowd. ‘‘If people want a big meal, they can eat inside and then come out.‘‘

A limited snack menu will be offered, and patrons can build their own mojitos or watch their whiskies with 12 draft beers or two dozen bottled varieties. A small stage will accommodate low-key entertainers, who, as with the food, will not compete with the action inside Boston’s. When necessary, guests can avail themselves of new restrooms, labeled ‘‘Inboard’’ and ‘‘Outboard.’’

The line of students hoping to get a seat in the gym at Florida Atlantic University stretched across the main road then snaked back and forth across the lawn near the student center. Those who finally made it inside to see and hear President Barack Obama were mostly enthusiastic, unusually polite for college students and unbelievably patient. Applause greeted anyone with a suit who entered the arena from beneath the giant flag, even the White House staff who attached the presidential seal to the front of the lectern.

On one wall hung a banner emblazoned with ‘‘An American Built To Last,’’ a presidential goal that could have been borrowed from a Ford commercial or possibly from a Grateful Dead album. The crowd didn’t applaud it, but they did give FAU President Mary Jane Saunders a big hand as she noted that FAU, the most diverse of Florida’s universities ‘‘looks like America.‘‘ They clapped for Student Government President Ayden Mahler as he led the Pledge of Allegiance and for sophomore Rebecca Guillaume after her rousing Star Spangled Banner.

No special treatment, by the way, for FAU trustees such as Tom Workman, Anthony Barbar and Dave Feder, who were squeezed into a corner of the bleachers behind the stage. Recently retired football coach Howard Schnellenberger also had a bleacher seat, directly behind the president, where he snapped lots of photos on his cellphone.

Obama urged congressional support for increased college student assistance and for his proposed Buffett rule — no connection with Jimmy. He made one sweep around the gym, hand-to-hand with hundreds leaning over the barriers and then barely an hour later he was gone.

The presidential visit was the first to FAU since Lyndon Johnson helped dedicate the school in 1964. (Coincidentally, one person who shook LBJ’s hand was 19-year-old University of Miami student Bill Moss, the West Palm Beach city commissioner who died on March 28.) Yet, surprisingly, no one knows why or how the White House picked FAU.

FAU’s University Relations office speculated that it was convenient, almost on a straight line from his fund-raising stop in Palm Beach Gardens to another at the Diplomat Resort in Hollywood and finally at a private home in Golden Beach. But nothing definite.

When the White House was queried, staffer Joanne Rosholm sent this reply: ‘‘It’s not entirely uncommon that we would pick a place like FAU that can hold a large number of people who want to see their President speak. Beyond that, I don’t know that there’s much more to say.’’

On the road again …

Michelle Bernstein, just departed as executive chef at The Omphry in Palm Beach, is headed back to the Palm Beaches from her Miami nest, but only for one night. Bernstein, who hosts Check, Please!, the restaurant review show on WPBT-Channel 2, has expanded her repertoire to include road trips.

On May 15, 150 guests paying $125 each, will visit five restaurants in Boca. After appetizers at Sushi Rock on Yamato Road, the group will board buses for stops at Josephine’s, Bogart’s, Casa D’Angelo and The Tin Mug Café. Co-hosting with Bernstein will be popular

Old School Beerfest
Old School Square, Delray Beach

Terry Cooper (left) of Delray Beach samples the bouquet of her friend Michael Budd’s wine during the Fifth Annual American Fine Wine Competition at the Boca Raton Resort & Club on April 19.

Kurtis Boggs/The Coastal Star

Above: Ocean Ridge and county pocket residents Greg Juisy (left), Chris Dick, Scott Hargash and Jim Connolly sample the brews at Delray’s Old School Beerfest on April 21.

Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

5th Annual American Fine Wine Competition
Boca Raton Resort & Club

Along the Avenues
The COASTAL STAR
May 2012

6

Along the Avenues
The COASTAL STAR
May 2012

Along the Avenues
The COASTAL STAR
May 2012

Along the Avenues
The COASTAL STAR
May 2012
2012 Proper Affair
Boca Raton Resort & Club

Palm Beach International Film Festival
The Lake Pavilion, West Palm Beach

radian host and vintner Paul Castronova. Proceeds support production of the show. To sign up, go to wpbt2.org.

Smart cookies. And tough. No better way to describe Rena Blades and Cynthia Allen Gracey, who received Women In Leadership awards at the Kravis Center May 3. Presented by the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches, the awards recognize women who have distinguished themselves as professionals, as leaders and as community servants.

As CEO of the Palm Beach County Cultural Council, now based in Lake Worth, Blades is well-known throughout the county for overseeing the council’s unprecedented growth, securing new funding, expanding services and strengthening cultural organizations.

On the other hand, Gracey, who lived in Delray before moving recently to Palm Beach, has worked in the background for more than three decades to empower women. Despite dealing with CMT, a chronic neuromuscular disorder, she has practiced law, raised two sons, been a caregiver to her parents. Oh, yeah, and to raise $60,000 for Diabetes Research Foundation and the Education Foundation of Florida.

What a party! Overflow crowd. Shari Gherman, president of the American Fine Wine Competition, had to add two tables — for 20 last-minute oenophiles — in the Grand Ballroom at the Boca Raton Resort & Club’s Mizner Center. Alan Kalter, with a week off from announcing for David Letterman, kept the crowd informed. Saxman Dayve Stewart and The Vibe rocked the 400-plus guests at $310 each, plus whatever they spent at auction.

Bam! Emeril Lagasse put on a show as he prepared roasted filet mignon, brown butter Gulf blue crabmeat, local mushroom fondu, spring field peas and black truffle butter sauce. Bam!

At auction, Theodore Bryant bid $15,000 for a dream dinner to be prepared at his home by several top area chefs, which helped bring the tally to $200,000 for Diabetes Research Institute and the Golden Bell Education Foundation.

Since it is the American Fine Wine Competition, there were winners: The 2009 Castello di Amorosa Il Passito Reserve Late Harvest Semillon, North Coast and 2009 La Follette Mendocino Ridge Pinot Noir, Mendocino Ridge. were judged the best white and red, from more than 600 entries.

Pity the judges. A lot of sipping, spitting and rinsing for two days, flight after flight,” said judge Stephanie Miskew, whose Gourmet Food & Wine blog is found at www.stephaniesavorthemoment.blogspot.com. “The split us into groups of four judges. We tried all the wines in our group, made our notes and then got together and tried to come to an agreement. “You definitely need to pace yourself.”

But late into the second day, as the judges drew closer to consensus, the tension began to dissolve. “There definitely was more sipping than spitting,” she said.

A day earlier, 350 guests had a Proper Affair at the Boca Resort. But instead of fête à l’hâte, the night was devoted to prêt à porter, as they bought raffle tickets, vied for silent auction items and bid on high-end fashions from Boston Proper that were modeled by spirited volunteers.

The local grass-roots project raised $160,000 for the Achievement Centers for Children and Families, a Delray Beach foundation that supports 700 low-income children.

Dr. Victor Martel DMD PA is an expert in cosmetic and implant dentistry and an Ocean Ridge resident. Please submit your questions to Martelvic@aol.com, Subject: Ask the Doctor

1525 North Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33401
561-659-2111 • www.drvictormartel.com

2012 Proper Affair
Boca Raton Resort & Club

Achievement Centers board member Barbara Murphy (right) of Gulf Stream watches the fashion show with Katherine Montana and John Logquist, both of Delray Beach, during the Proper Affair runway show at the Boca Raton Resort & Club on April 18. Kurtis Boggs/The Coastal Star

2012 Proper Affair
Boca Raton Resort & Club

Glamorous Gourmet With the permanent teeth in a day dental implant solution, denture wearers can enjoy the freedom and confidence of having completely stable and secure teeth. With a beautiful set of teeth attached to implants, you will have the confidence and freedom to enjoy any social activity you desire. Never worry about loose dentures again! If you are unhappy with your dentures or have been told you need to lose all you teeth, call us today for a consultation! There are few things more embarrassing than having your dentures flop out of your mouth while speaking to someone else. But that is precisely what many people who wear dentures are concerned about every time they open their mouths. Not anymore!

With the permanent teeth in a day dental implant solution, denture wearers can enjoy the freedom and confidence of having completely stable and secure teeth. With a beautiful set of teeth attached to implants, you will have the confidence and freedom to enjoy any social activity you desire. Never worry about loose dentures again! If you are unhappy with your dentures or have been told you need to lose all your teeth, call us today for a consultation!
PBSO
Continued from page 1

Stapled copies of a letter from the mayor, one from police officers and 35 pages of emails from residents were available at the workshop. Attendees included the mayor and two commissioners of Ocean Ridge, which will hear a sheriff’s proposal for that town May 8; Ocean Ridge’s police chief and lieutenant; three officers from Boynton Beach, which also has requested a bid from the Sheriff’s Office; and two representatives of the Police Benevolent Association.

Diamond’s letter warned that the emails held “misrepresentations” showing the writers have “a lack of understanding of the proposal or simply want to appeal to emotion rather than engage in a rational thinking process.”

Police officers support the switch.

“The town has postponed negotiations with the PBA and the officers have been working without a contract for almost two years, meanwhile we continue to slide further down the pay and benefits scale as our surrounding police agencies move ahead of us,” the officers’ letter said. “The fact is the Sheriff’s Office can add additional hours to our patrol time and provide our officers with a much higher pay rate and benefits package.”

Brennan said Manalapan was three different communities when it comes to crime: the homes along State Road A1A, those on Point Manalapan and the commercial properties at Plaza del Mar and the Ritz-Carlton.

“You’re going to have a point of view depending on what your street address is,” Brennan said.

A 2011 police log showed the ocean zone had 7,107 events while the point zone had 1,245.

The bulk of the ocean calls were for construction site checks (1,150), traffic stops (2,168) and traffic enforcement (855). But ocean residents also experienced 24 of the town’s 79 theft cases last year, all seven of its vandalism cases and its only fight.

“It has not changed from a security standpoint for the better,” Brennan said.

Mattox said Ocean Inlet Park just south of town had been the scene of four recent “gun-involved” incidents as well as an attempted sexual battery the weekend before. To solve the problems, he said, he would need a marine patrol and “more feet on the ground.”

Commissioner Louis DeStefano said the country’s decision to transfer Marine Patrol operations from Ocean Inlet Park to Peanut Island had not helped the situation.

“The Marine Patrol station closing in my mind sent a message,” DeStefano said. “We’re not here because we’re trying to take you over. That’s not how it is at all. We’re here because we feel we can offer you the service.”

Smith said “crime in Lake Worth is about cut in half” after the Sheriff’s Office put 13 officers on patrol instead of seven.

Resident Peter McLean asked commissioners to put the question up for a vote by residents. Former Mayor Kelly Gottlieb echoed his request.

“It do feel this is a vote that should be taken by the community,” Gottlieb said.

But Diamond said the Town Charter put that responsibility on the commission.

“There are a lot of emotional components to it. We want to provide what our residents feel they need, but part of being a commissioner is showing leadership,” he said.

The mayor asked Smith to explain the differences between the sheriff’s proposals to Manalapan and Ocean Ridge.

The proposal to Ocean Ridge, “price-wise, cost-wise was very similar to what we have here,” Diamond said.

“But it provided for 10 officers in Ocean Ridge and we have eight.”

The Ocean Ridge plan is $20,000 less than Manalapan’s.

Smith said how many calls for service each town has and what types of calls they are determine how many officers are needed.

“And also the actual comparison of pay for the police officers that are working there,” Smith said. “You have higher-end salaries.”

In related business, commissioners approved Stumpf to buy a $28,000 Dodge Charger police car. The Charger will be the department’s first of that brand.

The town last year bought two Ford Crown Victoria cruisers, the last year Ford made them, so it could save money transferring police equipment from old Crown Vic. The Crown is built for law enforcement and does not fit in a Charger.
Gulf Stream

Loss of canopy tree brings residents to meeting

By Steve Plunkett

Forget the day-in, day-out clank-clank-clank of bulldozers leveling the more than six acres of the former Spence estate. And the clouds of dust? Don’t even ask.

So when a developer chopped down a towering banyan tree on the land he is turning into a six-home subdivision, residents descended on Town Hall.

The tree’s branches spread more than 30 feet from the center in all directions, shading Hidden Harbour Drive, as well as Nancy Touhey’s driveway.

Touhey said an “ear-piercing” chainsaw woke her the morning the banyan was felled.

“I have pictures showing what has happened to the canopy,” she told Gulf Stream commissioners at their April 13 meeting in a Town Hall packed with residents. “The canopy is ... most areas are gone.”

Resident Tom Murphy, a lawyer, shared Touhey’s dismay.

“I am familiar personally with how fastidious this town is with something as simple as the color of a door, and yet one of the last, great beautiful parcels of land in this town is a scar right now,” Murphy said.

Developer Seaside Builders LLC promised the Spence property’s Hidden Harbour neighbors it would maintain the canopy over Hidden Harbour Drive to get them to agree to its subdivision plans.

It told the town it would leave a 15-foot buffer along the access road rather than the required 3-foot buffer to shield neighbors from the project.

The banyan was not in that buffer, although its branches shaded a large section of it.

Right after the meeting, Commissioner Fred Devitt III, Town Attorney John “Skip” Randolph and Town Manager William Thrasher went to the site to inspect the tree clearing.

That afternoon arborist Dave Bodiker counted all the trees in the buffer zone to make sure none had been harmed.

In a report to Mayor William Koch Jr. and commissioners, Thrasher said that at a subsequent meeting with town officials, Seaside developer Tom Laudani proposed to add native canopy trees to the area left open by the banyan’s removal once land is leveled in late June.

The developer will also pay Gulf Stream for water from a hydrant to keep dust to a minimum. Previously Seaside was pumping from the Intracoastal Waterway.

The canopy was not the only point of contention at the April 13 meeting. Residents Bill Boardman said there is a perception that Gulf Stream is “overly compliant” with the development process.

“We need a revision of these codes. There’s no question about that,” Boardman said.

“We have our hands tied with this,” Vice Mayor Joan Orthwein said. “They [Seaside] did nothing illegal. We followed everything by the book.”

Laudani, through his Harbor View Estates LLC, bought the Spence property for $5.6 million in October. Koch’s real estate firm listed the parcel asking $6 million. Koch recused himself from the subdivision vote. Orthwein, who has an active real estate license with Koch’s firm, also did not vote.

Bob Ganger, chairman of the Architectural Review and Planning Board, said his panel was devising changes to town ordinances on subdivisions, house designs and even “hammerhead” roads. The Seaside project will have a hammerhead road to reduce the number of driveway exits.

One of the things that “we’re looking at is the notion of not permitting a large sub-development to change the contour of the land,” Ganger said.

Representing the Delray Beach Preservation Trust, architect Dan Sloan suggested a historic preservation board be empowered “with the idea of keeping your historic fabric intact and not losing it to overly intense development.”

The home that Seaside razed was built around 1937 by Seward Webb Jr., a grandson of William Vanderbilt, once the richest man in the world.

Webb’s widow sold the estate to typewriter heiress Gladys Underwood James. It was designed by noted Palm Beach architect John Volk.

Residents also complained that the town could better alert them to meetings with important agendas.

“We have to be more informed,” Jim Walton said. “The way that you find out that there’s a meeting you have to walk over here [to Town Hall] and look on the board. That’s ridiculous. We all have emails.”

“You know what,” Orthwein said. “The commission meetings are always the second Friday of the month, 9 o’clock, always, every month.”

By Tim O’Melia

Briny Breezes’ neighbors can rest easy. The oceanfront town-mobile home park has scotched any thought of high-rise condos and oceanfront hotels and will focus on a more low-key future—at least for now.

The nine-member board of the corporation that owns the park unanimously decided April 11 not to pursue the proposal by a Long Island developer to buy the park at a price to be named later. “We did not have enough information on the sales price or the cost that would be incurred for going through all the permitting,” said Briny Breezes Inc. President Mike Gut.

Gut said he relayed the board’s decision to Kean Development Co. of Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., and the park’s commercial attorneys, Duane Morris of New York.

Kean had offered to pay the cost of seeking all the governmental approvals and land use changes with the promise that Briny would sell at a price based on appraisals done when the permitting was completed.

But if the shareholders—lot owners hold shares in the corporation—didn’t like the price “Briny would be on the hook for those expenses,” Gut said.

There was no discussion of the issue after board member Tom Oglesby read a prepared statement saying that Briny was not a distressed seller, the economic climate was not right for negotiations and the park would have no option on the sales price.

Oglesby said the park shouldn’t assume the developer’s business risk. The vote was applauded by most of the 50 or so residents at the season-ending meeting.

Duane Morris has a March 2013 deadline to bring offers to the shareholders before deciding the park’s future. The corporation’s strategic planning board is considering the cost of building the park’s seawalls, roads and buildings. The town is rewriting its comprehensive plan, including allowing more hurricane-resistant buildings such as modular homes.

“Whatever will be done will be done over a period of years. The bulldozers aren’t coming in town,” said park strategic planning board member Linc Musto.

With one exception: Shareholders are voting by mail now whether to spend more than $3,000 for repair of the Flamingo Drive seawall. Beyond that, the committee is trying to develop a long-range maintenance plan, including the eventual replacement of the five Quonset huts.

Musto said the changes probably will not require any special assessments.

The town has an April 2011 deadline to complete its comprehensive plan, which hasn’t been substantially altered since 1989.

The major changes being considered include loosening the restriction of only mobile homes in the residential areas to allow modular homes, which are more insurable, up to two stories high, especially on the larger west side lots.

The planning board also is studying a A1A business corridor that could allow small stories, low-rise condos and residential rentals.

Public hearings will be held in the fall.

Briny alderman leaves job

Briny Breezes Alderman Kathleen Bray resigned April 27, saying her husband’s out-of-state job prevented her from devoting the time necessary to serve the town. Spending time with her husband, Larry, in Pennsylvania forced Bray to attend several meetings by conference call in the past year.

“When I’m not here, I don’t have a feel for what’s going on in the town,” she said.

Bray was appointed to the council in August 2008, ironically, after her husband, an alderman, resigned for a certified public accountant position in Pennsylvania. Bray was town clerk, pro tem for three years and helped assemble the town’s annual budget.

“I am going to miss it terribly,” she said. “Our son is still here and I’ll be back checking on things. I hope to retire here.”

The council is accepting applications for that vacant position, which it may fill at its May 24 meeting. Resident Sue Thaler has filed a letter of interest.

— Tim O’Melia
Matching People With Properties

Delray Beach Elegance - $2,850,000
Built in 2007, this European-inspired chateau is 800’ from the sand and minutes to downtown. 6 BR, 6 BA pool home with over 5,000 sq. ft. of luxury living. Old world charm and uncompromising finishes throughout.
Terri Berman, 561-445-2229

Lake Ida - Delray Beach - $1,299,000
Completed in 2009, this beautifully appointed and spacious 3 BR, 2.5 BA pool home is situated on a 107’ x 140’ lot. Impact glass, plantation shutters, etched marias floors and security surveillance system.
Cheran Tauriello, 561-870-8855

Seagate - Delray Beach - $985,000
Currently the lowest priced home in this highly desirable beach neighborhood. Light & bright 3 BR, 2 BA home with a fully landscaped back yard. A secluded setting close to the beach and downtown.
B. Boyd Schoeller, 561-702-3359

JUST REDUCED

Villas of Ocean Ridge - $875,000
A rare opportunity to build your dream home in this gated community just steps from the ocean. The Villas of Ocean Ridge offer the perfect blend of privacy and beachfront living.
Mary Renaud, 561-440-0614

Ocean Ridge Yacht Club - $679,000
Beautifully renovated 3 BR, 2.5 BA home on the 1st floor of the Pirates Cove Marina. This unit offers a private entrance, updated kitchen and views of the Intracoastal Waterway.
Steve Hamilton, 561-944-0481

Seaside Dunes - Delray Beach - $675,000
This 3 BR, 2.5 BA two story townhome with a 1 car garage offers a beautiful view of the ocean, 3rd floor balcony, and a spacious floor plan.
Sue Taurello, 561-441-4200

Delray Dunes - $649,000
Beautifully renovated 3 BR, 2.5 BA home situated on a 1/2 acre corner lot overlooking the 12th fairway. Very close to the clubhouse, pool and 4th hole. Updated kitchen, wood floors, and many upgrades.
Dennis Ring, 561-441-6600

Town Place - $615,000
Live in the heart of downtown Delray! Elegantly appointed 4 BR, 4 BA tri-level townhome with 2 car garage. Custom wood cabinetry and granite countertops throughout.
Megan Bailey, 561-702-4003

Andover Lakefront - Delray Beach - $540,000
Beautiful and bright 3 BR, 2.5 BA pool home with a 2 car garage and abundant natural light. This open floor plan with over 2,000 sq. ft. of living area features cathedral ceilings and crown molding.
Ellen Stolz, 561-646-1914

Seagate Towers - Outstanding Views
Light & airy 2 BR, 2 BA southeast corner unit on the 9th floor in the south building. 1,950,000
Immaculate 2 BR, 2 BA southwest corner unit on the 10th floor in the south building. 1,450,000
Pat Calhoun, 561-701-6319

Deary Harbor Club - $499,900
Elegant 3 BR, 2.5 BA townhome with outstanding views of the Intracoastal ocean and marina. This beautifully renovated open floor plan boasts 2,778 sq. ft. of living with a loft and 2 balconies.
Sue Taurello, 561-441-4200

Deary Lakes Waterfront - $375,000
Rarely available 2 BR, 2 BA with a loft and a 2 car garage on the Intracoastal. Almost 1,000 sq. ft. of living area with first floor master suite, plus an upgraded kitchen with granite and stainless.
Susan Ring, 561-441-6150

Deary Beach - $349,000
Newer construction 3 BR, 2 BA with a 2 car garage in a great location, east of Federal Highway. Spacious front yard. Also available for rental lease at $1,800 per month. Call today for an appointment!
Cheran Tauriello, 561-870-8855

Deary Beach Club Condominiums - $345,000
Open and bright 2 BR, 2 BA southeast corner unit on the 10th floor offering outstanding Ocean and Intracoastal views. This unit is tastefully decorated with custom mirrors, Beach access and community pool.
Sue Taurello, 561-441-4200

Clearbrook - Delray Beach - $274,000
Well maintained 2 BR, plus den, 2 BA pool home with a 2 car garage. Light & airy 2nd bedroom plan.
Sue Taurello, 561-441-4200

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show on a shoestring budget,” says Theresa Loucks, the theater’s marketing director. Indeed, if the words “community theater” make you think of Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney in a barn, think again. “Nonprofit” does not mean inexpensive.

The Lake Worth Playhouse has an annual budget just under $1 million, but no endowment. The small band of about 20 full- and part-time salaried employees are paid from ticket sales and a few grants.

And Rodgers & Hammerstein don’t care that you’re a nonprofit, largely amateur playhouse. The rights to put on a popular musical, for example, are sold by the theater’s seating capacity, multiplied by the number of scheduled performances.

Fifteen shows at the 300-seat Lake Worth Playhouse total 4,500 seats, whether or not those seats are sold. Simply buying the right to put on a classic musical can cost $20,000 to $25,000. And then the musicians have to be paid.

Still, the ticket prices range from $23 to $32. “It’s real Broadway theater on a dime,” says Loucks.

The heart of the effort is the playhouse’s building. “The building’s building still has original details, starting with five musicals to put on, then, Dixon-Mears has one play opening night. But my biggest challenge,” Dixon-Mears says, “is finding people who will volunteer their time without any monetary payoff at the end.”

One of them is Michael McKeich, a telecom analyst for Palm Beach State College.

“I came on at the last minute,” McKeich says. “I’m keeping my fingers crossed,” she says, “because the cast is half black, half white, so I need actors. And then for Barnum I have to find circus performers.” She sighs. “Still, you do it all for free,” he says, “and your paycheck is the applause.”

The house will mark its “Diamond Year” with a gala celebration at the Palm Beach Zoo next March, but before then, Dixon-Mears has one play and five musicals to put on, starting with Hairspray.

“You have to commit to eight weeks of rehearsals and three weeks of shows,” says McKeich, “so I need actors. And then for Barnum I have to find circus performers.” She sighs. “Stilt walkers, fire-eaters, gymnasts, jugglers … tightrope walkers!”

But the show must go on, and at the Lake Worth Playhouse it always has, for 60 years. “In the 1950s and ’60s and ’70s, there was not a lot to do in Palm Beach County,” McKeich says. “Now there are a lot of entertainment options. But we’re still here.”

For more information, call 561-586-4410 or visit www.lakeworthplayhouse.org.

The Lake Worth Playhouse’s auditorium still has original details, like these carved cypress corbels and beams. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

An actor auditions for this summer’s production of Hairspray on the Lake Worth Playhouse stage, which was filled with sets for a production of The Music Man. Photo by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Crowds line Lake Avenue under the new marquee of the Lake Worth Playhouse. Photo courtesy of the Lake Worth Playhouse

The playhouse’s building was erected in 1924 as the Moorish-style Oakley Theatre. Photo courtesy of the Lake Worth Playhouse

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Judge hearing sober-house wrangle encourages compromise

By Tim Pallese

The Caron Foundation can’t sue Delray Beach for denying a Seaspay Avenue sober house because the request hasn’t been officially denied, an attorney for the city argued in court.

The surprising twist came during an April 16 federal court hearing where the city also argued that Caron can’t claim a loss of income because it hasn’t placed recovering alcoholics and drug addicts into a second house where the city has given approval to operate.

Federal Judge William Dimitrouleas promised to rule on Caron’s request for a preliminary injunction “as soon as I can” after the hearing in Fort Lauderdale.

Caron claims the City Commission violated federal laws on Feb. 21 when it approved three ordinances to make it more difficult for treatment providers to operate and on Feb. 22 when Caron says the city refused its request to open a sober house at 1232 Seaspay Ave.

“We contend that the city had no reason to deny us other than the hostile and organized community reaction to our attempt to locate in an affluent area near the ocean,” Caron attorney James Green told the judge.

Green claimed public comments by Mayor Woodie McDuffie and Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Cary Gluckstein show the city is intentionally discriminating against recovering alcoholics and addicts.

“We are willing to do all in our power to control the proliferation of these homes,” McDuffie said in a Feb. 1 email that Green gave the judge.

Gluckstein strongly urged commissioners to oppose sober houses before their Feb. 21 vote. “It is a cancer in this town,” he said.

But Matthew Mandel, an attorney representing the city, countered that Delray Beach is only trying to regulate transient housing. The ordinance is not discriminatory because it applies to all single-family dwellings,” he argued.

Mandel said the city is waiting for Caron to provide medical justification for its request to house seven clients at the Seaspay address. “They haven’t gotten a final decision from us,” he told the judge.

Caron wants the city to pay $55,000 per client in monthly damages because it can’t open the Seaspay house.

But Mandel countered that Caron has another house at 740 N. Ocean Blvd. to place its clients. “They have to explain how they’ve had that house available for a year and not put one person in there,” he said.

Dimitrouleas questioned the $55,000 monthly cost for treatment. “What if you can never get seven people who can afford to pay?” he asked.

Green said Caron has “more than enough” wealthy clients.

The judge encouraged the two sides to discuss a settlement, suggesting a compromise that would allow five rather than seven clients in the house.

“It wouldn’t crush me if you all got together and came up with some reasonable settlement,” Dimitrouleas said.

But such a settlement appears unlikely.

The nonprofit treatment provider didn’t get a response when it wrote city officials on April 2 offering three incentives if Delray Beach would allow it to place seven clients at the Seaspay house.

The nonprofit Caron offered to pay property taxes on both its houses for five years, waive its claim for damages and attorney fees, and pay for classes on prevention of bullying, alcohol and drug abuse in six Delray Beach schools.

Green also asked Mandel to discuss a settlement after Monday’s hearing, but the city’s attorney declined.

If Dimitrouleas doesn’t grant a preliminary injunction, Green said, Caron will either appeal that decision or prepare to argue for a permanent injunction at a future hearing.

In this market curb appeal is essential. Embarking on a few renovation projects before you put your house on the market will speed up the selling process and improve your chances of getting a higher price.

5 Home Renovation Projects Before You Sell

1. FRONT DOOR - If the paint is dull, faded, chipped or peeling give it a fresh coat. The condition of the front door tells a lot about what a buyer can expect to find inside.

2. WINDOWS - To improve the structural integrity and beauty of your home install energy efficient impact windows. They protect in hurricanes without the necessity of shutters, are shutter proof, noise resistant and can lower insurance costs.

3. YARD - Installing a fence or hedge around your house makes your home appear to have more privacy. It’s appealing to buyers, especially those with children and dogs. Additionally, a manicured lawn, colorful flower beds and shrubs in trim will increase the value of your home.

4. MAILBOX - Getting a new customized or upgraded mailbox adds great detailing to the front of your house. At the very least, paint the one you have and add new house numbers.

5. DRIVEWAY - Give that old cracked driveway a face lift. If it’s asphalt, resurface it. If it’s stone and chipped or peeling give it a fresh coat. The driveway makes your house look lean, add some gravel.

If Dimitrouleas doesn’t grant a preliminary injunction, Green said, Caron will either appeal that decision or prepare to argue for a permanent injunction at a future hearing.
Gulf Stream

A Leatherback sea turtle returns to the ocean after depositing her eggs at first light on the beach in Gulf Stream on April 6. Photo by Joan Lorne, Sea Turtle Monitor

Delray Beach

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Delray Beach Parking board supports meters for avenue

By Margie Plunkett

The Delray Beach Parking Management Advisory Board voted unanimously to recommend to city commissioners a metered parking system on downtown Atlantic Avenue, intended to shift longer-term parking onto secondary streets, lots and garages.

The board adopted a plan based on smart meters to allow patrons of downtown merchants enough time to shop, yet turn over the parking so that spots are available to short-term parkers. The system also was intended to encourage visitors who want to stay longer — say, for lunch, parking or a stroll — to park off the main drag.

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., motorists could park up to two hours on Atlantic Avenue, with an hour free parking and then $2 for the remaining hour in the area west of the Intracoastal to Swinton Avenue and from North Second Street to South Second Street, according to the plan.

From 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., the fee would be $1 an hour, with no time limit.

The price of parking would be reduced as motorists parked away from Atlantic. Secondary street parking would be $1.50 an hour; lots, $1 an hour; and the garages would be free or a nominal fee, under the board’s recommendation.

The panel also recommended adjusting the system based on seasonal changes and to provide employee and resident parking programs.

Smart meters would serve multiple parking spaces and make it unnecessary to locate a meter at each parking space. The technology provides several features, including the ability to be adjusted for parking times or parking costs as needed.

The recommendation, subject to commission review and approval, was tentatively scheduled to be presented at the commission’s May 8 workshop meeting.

The wide-ranging discussion touched on possibly tapping merchants for part of the cost of operating a metered system through an assessment district, as well as a plan that would have paid parking in lots collected by an attendant rather than meters.

Chairman Fran Marincola earlier pushed a plan that would cap daytime parking on Atlantic at one hour — but parking would be free, noting he was talking to merchant David Cook of Hand’s Office & Art Supply, who was in the meeting audience. “Merchants want to say we have free parking,” he said. “You can get your business done in an hour. If I need more time, I have to park on another street or in the garage.”

Second donation adds to pavilion fund

By Margie Plunkett

The new beach pavilion in Delray Beach is $23,700 closer to completion.

City Commission received a check in that amount as a community donation to build the replacement pavilion — a contribution that now totals $59,165 for the structure that will mark the start of beach master plan implementation, according to the Beach Property Owners Association.

The BPOA presented the check to support the pavilion in April, raised from its second fundraiser, Delray’s Got Talent: The Encore. The first donation — for $35,465 — was made by the BPOA about a year earlier.

Thanks to everyone who helped out — residents and businesses who have helped from the beginning on the beach pavilion and master plan, said Mary Renaud, BPOA president, when presenting a giant check at the April 17 commission meeting.

The thank-you list was long, including architect Bob Currie of Currie, Sowers, who donated the designs for the pavilion.

Renaud also noted that an unnamed builder is willing to contribute part of the work.

The design of the pavilion is much the same as when it was first presented to the BPOA as part of the beach master plan, Currie said. There have been changes, such as the planned canvas roof has been replaced with an aluminum roof to better withstand the elements, she said. Stripes will still grace the roof, she said.

The pavilion is hoped to be completed by the start of the tourist season. “We hope to get started in the next six months,” said Linda Karch, Parks and Recreation director. “The goal is to have it done by November.”

Before the city can get under way, however, the state has to sign off on the project and Delray Beach will bid it out. The city is awaiting word from the state. While Karch estimated the pavilion at a cost of roughly $150,000, the BPOA’s website lists it as $240,000 in total.

“The final cost will actually be lower since we have also received offers from local contractors and businesses to contribute landscaping, labor and other materials,” the BPOA said.
Delray Beach

Deal would open Hamlet club to Seagate guests, members

By Tim Pallesken

The owner of the Seagate Hotel and Spa has offered $7 million to buy the struggling Hamlet Golf and Country Club.

“We feel it’s a win-win for both sides,” said E. Anthony Wilson, president of the Seagate Hospitality Group, after making the offer to country club members on April 16.

The purchase already has been approved by the country club’s board of directors. Members will vote this month on whether to accept it.

Seagate would get golf and tennis opportunities for both its hotel guests and members of its private Seagate Beach Club at the closest private country club to downtown Delray Beach.

Wilson told club members their 300-acre country club on Atlantic Avenue west of Interstate 95 would be renamed Seagate Golf and Tennis at the Hamlet if the sale is approved.

He envisions corporate business meetings and special events such as weddings at the 38,000-square-foot clubhouse, which has a ballroom capable of seating 350.

Club members spent $10 million in 2007 to renovate the clubhouse and make improvements to their 18-hole golf course and eight tennis courts.

Memberships in the country club have been mandatory for owners of single-family homes at the Hamlet since 2003.

Homeowners must pay a $30,000 initiation fee, plus $15,300 in annual dues. An additional $3,500 annual fee was added in 2007 to pay for the $10 million in renovations.

Hamlet residents still will be able to purchase memberships to play golf and tennis if the sale is approved.

The club has 206 resident members and 65 non-resident members now.

But country club president Bill Redman said Seagate’s offer is attractive to Hamlet residents because memberships would no longer be required for homeowners.

Mandatory memberships made sense years ago, particularly for the smaller clubs to get members, Redman said. “But nobody foresaw the economic downturn.”

Golf communities built

Fire tax support move extinguished

By Margie Plunkett

The fire tax apparently is still too hot to touch in Delray Beach.

The assessment fee made its way back on the City Commission’s agenda as an item that would allow the property appraiser’s office to include it on tax bills if needed to support the budget next year or later.

But commissioners voted the move down 3-2 after discussing both the fee’s sensitivity as well as its possible necessity.

“I don’t think we’re quite ready to discuss its even in the form of approaching the property appraiser. We need to do that in more of a public discussion,” said Commissioner Tom Carney, after pulling the item from the April 17 consent agenda, where items are typically voted through without discussion.

Pulling consent agenda items, Carney said, commissioner discussion before a vote.

A fire tax, which had earlier been planned to generate more than $3 million in revenue for this year’s budget, met with strong public opposition when it came up for public hearing and a vote in January.

The fee ultimately was defeated and commissioners embarked on midyear budget cutting to compensate for the unrealized funding.

But as commissioners enter a new budget-planning cycle, discussion arose at an earlier workshop meeting concerning making preparations in the event the city determines it has to turn to the fire tax this year or next.

“My view is that because this item is so contentious, it warranted a discussion of what we are going to do,” Carney said at the later commission meeting. “It may not be the right time to allow any enabling legislation.”

Carney was joined by Commissioners Angeleta Gray and Al Jacquet in voting against the move. Both said that enabling the fee would discourage the effort to find cuts in the budget. Gray added: “I am not in favor of any new taxes.”

“I’ll vote for this to put the mechanism in place,” said Mayor Woodie McDuffie, noting that, if need be, by allowing the property appraiser’s office to include the tax, it could save the city $25,000.

As the city prepares for its annual budget exercise, the mayor, who pointed out that commissioners have had to cut from the budget for the last six years, reminded residents they are welcome to participate in meetings and discussions about the budget.
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there’s the problem of traffic congestion and the possibility of getting caught on the road in a storm.

Based on the newest technology, emergency managers have drawn five new evacuation zones, replacing the current two. Although the zones are tied to hurricane strength categories, the rules aren’t hard and fast. Evacuation zones are based on storm surge and flood likelihood, rather than wind strength.

That means a storm coming from across the state, like Wilma in 2005, might require fewer evacuations than a hurricane of the same strength from the east, since the storm surge from the western storm would presumably be less.

“The rule is: run from surge, hide from wind,” Johnson said.

Topography maps dating to 1982 and based on old-fashioned surveying sticks have been replaced in recent years with laser-guided measurements that have cut the margins of error from 5 feet to 6 inches.

The redrawn maps are then updated with the National Hurricane Center’s latest computerized model runs of individual storms to give managers far more precise information on timing and storm surge on which to base their evacuation decisions.

The result is less “err on the side of caution and evacuate” and more fact-based evaluation. “From a public safety standpoint, and that’s what counts, we have more pinpoint, more accurate information to make decisions down to the neighborhood level,” Johnson said.

The result: no one but the exceptions (mobile homes, easily flooded areas) evacuates under Plan A (Category 1). Last year, all of the barrier island residents would have been ordered out.

Evacuations don’t kick in until Plan B (Category 2), when barrier island residents and a few others would be asked to leave. Still, 64,000 fewer people countywide would have to find other shelter than under previous plans.

Only in a Plan E evacuation (Category 5) would more people be forced to leave than is required now. It would have the largest effect in Boca Raton, where nearly all of the part of the city south of Glades Road and east of Interstate 95 would be evacuated.

One of the problems in past storms is that many people refused to leave when ordered, believing they knew their local flooding likelihood better than the emergency managers.

Johnson hopes the more precise and more locally based decisions will result in better response from the public.

“I think we’ll see better compliance which, to me, is the ultimate goal,” he said.

The new hurricane evacuation zones won’t have any effect on flood insurance premiums, said emergency managers and insurance analysts.

The new maps used by Palm Beach County aren’t the same ones used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on which flood insurance premiums are based. For one thing, FEMA’s maps are decades old, although many are being updated.

Evacuation maps based on storm surge don’t necessarily reflect other flooding possibilities, insurance analysts said. “Evacuation maps have little effect on the actuarial tables derived from FEMA’s flood zone maps,” said Michael Barry, vice president of the Insurance Information Institute, a nonprofit, industry-based agency.

So, the new evacuation maps may save an Ocean Ridge resident the price of a hotel night in Orlando, but not a reduced flood insurance premium.
South Palm Beach

County seeks unity in beach restoration efforts

By Tim O’Meilia

The on-again, off-again breakwater plan for South Palm Beach’s eroding beach may yet have a faint heartbeat of revival.

Palm Beach County commissioners are set to discuss the future of beach restoration after other local and state officials said they want to consider an inlet-to-inlet approach to solving beach erosion.

“Instead of each town asking for an individual plan, we would develop a plan to establish a regional approach, from the Palm Beach Inlet to the Boynton Inlet,” state Rep. Jeff Clemens told the South Palm Beach Town Council on April 24.

The beach protection plan would involve an agreement among the local oceanfront towns between those two inlets, including Palm Beach, Lake Worth, South Palm Beach, Lantana and Manalapan, as well as Palm Beach County.

The idea would be to develop beach profiles along the coastline in the plan so that when state officials consider approvals — and perhaps financial support — for each section, the studies need not be done again.

“It deals with the problem holistically rather than asking each town to come up with their own plan,” said Clemens, who added that state Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary Jeff Littlejohn likes the regional approach.

County commissioners shot down plans in February for a series of groins and breakwaters along a 1.3-mile stretch of coastline including South Palm Beach when they killed a Singer Island groin plan.

Commissioners said the Singer Island jetties would not do enough to halt erosion, might disrupt the natural southerly drift of sand and might interfere with sea turtle nesting. Similar concerns would apply to the South county project, which would cost an estimated $15 million to $25 million.

South Palm Beach already had spent $111,000 as its share of a half-million-dollar environmental impact study when the project was halted.

County environmental officials also said they would end even dune restoration efforts because the sand washed away too quickly.

South Palm officials continued to lobby county commissioners in hope of salvaging the work already done on the environmental study for possible future use.

Town officials were uncertain about the new approach. “We’ll see,” said Councilwoman Bonnie Fischer about the regional approach.

Town Manager Rex Taylor was concerned that starting over with the wider plan would cause more delay than simply reviving the current effort.

In other business, the council delayed a decision on buying a new police car after Councilwoman Stella Jordan said she wanted more information on the maintenance record and warranty on the 7-year-old Ford Crown Victoria that the town wants to trade in.

“Other towns are keeping their cars longer than we keep ours,” Jordan said, referring to North Palm Beach and Lantana, among others. “It’s our taxpayers’ money, it’s not ours. I don’t know that we have enough information to make a decision.”

The town would get an $1,800 trade-in on the police cruiser, which has 47,000 miles on it. A new Dodge Charger would cost $23,654.

Mayor Donald Clayman appointed Vice Mayor Joseph Flagello to research the purchase. The council considered buying a new police car during last fall’s budget session but decided against it.
By Antigone Barton

It can be a puzzling sight: mounds of newly arrived seaweed lying in the tracks of the truck that was just there, weaving across the beach, raking the sand.

But it’s been a common sight in recent weeks, as beach cleaners struggled to keep up with unusually dense seaweed, the result of strong easterly winds.

The seaweed comes from a line of vegetation that runs by the Gulf Stream — an underwater grazing site, so to speak, popular with fish, and deep sea anglers — said David Rowland, of The Beach Keeper, one of several services whose trucks tidy area sands.

His and other services aim to send seaweed back where it belongs, by raking it into the outgoing tide.

Lately that has been a Sisyphean task, however. "We can rake Lantana beach at 8 a.m., and at 9 a.m. it would look like we had never been there," Rowland said. Not quite: On a recent morning a Beach Keeper driver got out of his truck to pick out the plastic bottles, cups, buckets, pieces of tackle boxes, tangled in the seaweed, until the garbage can tied to his truck was nearly full.

And, in any case while the seaweed may once again be more abundant than usual, it’s not any worse than last year, or the year before, when a hard east wind ushered in what we call spring here.

There was a time, Rowland recalls, a few years ago, when the strips of seaweed that narrow the beach now were more like mountains. That seaweed surge, caused by an offshore hurricane, created an actual barrier between beach-goer and ocean, according to Tim Greener, of Beach Raker, a Pompano Beach-based beach cleaning company that serves beaches from Miami to Highland Beach. With stretches two feet high and several feet wide, it took two weeks to clear.

And, says Rowland, at levels like that, the seaweed poses dangers to turtle hatchlings, trying to make their way back to the water. "I’ve got pictures of turtles that died trying to get across it," Rowland said.

That in itself does not call for removing the seaweed, said Larry Wood, a conservation biologist at the Palm Beach Zoo. "That’s all part of nature," Wood said. He compares those casualties to ones that might come from predators that hatchlings might face. While heavy machinery was not part of nature’s plan, Wood says, rules and guidelines — keeping trucks from sand above the high tide line, and off the beach until volunteers have completed daily nest counts — help. "As long as there are a couple of rules to be observed," he said. "People want the beach to look a certain way, and if it doesn’t they want to change it."

Along the Coast

East winds, high tides turn beaches into seaweed labyrinth

Aidan and Sydney O’Connor and Les Machek look through the seaweed in search of sea beans while on the beach in Ocean Ridge. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

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Greenacres assistant manager hired to replace Bornstein

By Mary Thurwachter

After a day of interviewing seven candidates on April 13, the Lantana Town Council unanimously chose Deborah Manzo as the town’s new manager.

Although Manzo, who is Greenacres assistant city manager, won’t officially begin until May 7, she was introduced during the April 23 council meeting.

“Told me to forward to working with all of you, council, staff and residents,” she said. “I’ve been taking notes tonight.”

She will take over for Mike Bornstein, Lantana’s manager for 13 years, who took a similar post in Lake Worth last month.

Mayor Dave Stewart said there were many reasons he liked Manzo, including her 27 years of municipal experience with only two cities — Greenacres and Juno Beach.

“Has many qualifications and is well-versed on coastal communities,” he said. “She had a willingness to accept the current contract, which means a decrease in pay for her.”

And she was willing to commit to at least 10 years, Stewart said.

Another plus for Stewart was Manzo’s experience in working with FEMA and NIMS (the National Incident Management System).

All of the seven finalists (narrowed from 27 applicants) were asked the same questions.

“She blew away the competition with her answers,” Stewart said.

When asked if she was overqualified or underqualified, Manzo, 50, said “neither,” but that she was just the right fit for the job.

Manzo, who lives in Royal Palm Beach, will be paid $97,476 annually, the same as Bornstein and about $20,000 less than she makes in Greenacres.

She also will receive a $450 a month car allowance and 80 additional hours of vacation time.

Other town manager finalists, narrowed from a field of 27 applicants, were Michael Morrow, operations director in Palm Beach Gardens; Vincent Finazzo, former manager of Belle Glade and Pahokee; Cheryl Harrison Lee, former manager of Eatonville (near Orlando); former Manalapan manager Thomas Heck; former Highland Beach manager Dale Sogerman; and Anna Yeskey, director of the Palm Beach County Intergovernmental Coordination Program and special projects coordinator in Lake Clarke Shores.

The span on the west side has been removed as demolition continues on Lantana’s Ocean Avenue Bridge. Its replacement is expected to open in two years. Photo by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

18-year department veteran becomes police chief

By Mary Thurwachter

Commander Sean Scheller was officially sworn in as Lantana’s police chief on April 23, two weeks after former Chief Jeff Tyson was fired after DUI charges in Boca Raton.

Scheller, who has been with the Lantana Police Department for 18 years, told the Town Council and residents he would “have an open door policy” and “get this ship going in the right direction.”

He will receive an annual salary of $88,500, the same amount Tyson had received.

Scheller, 42, grew up in Clearwater and has a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Florida State University. He is a graduate of the Hillsborough County Police Academy.

He worked his way through the ranks of the 29-officer Lantana Police Department, starting as a road patrol officer in 1995, becoming a detective in 1997, and sergeant of support services in 2007.

Last year, Scheller became division commander of uniform and support services.

Since Tyson’s departure April 5, Scheller was acting chief until then-Town Manager Mike Bornstein named him chief on April 11.

Council members encouraged Bornstein to hire Scheller before Bornstein left to take the city manager’s job in Lake Worth. Toward the end of a lengthy meeting on April 9, a council member tried to make a motion directing Bornstein to hire Scheller, but Mayor Dave Stewart wouldn’t allow it, saying such a move would be violate the town’s charter.

Admittedly angry about the push to get Bornstein to hire a chief before he left, Stewart said his annoyance had nothing to do with Scheller.

“We do not tell him (Bornstein) who to hire,” Stewart said.

“I thought he was the right appointee, but it was the town manager’s decision and I thought the decision should await for the new town manager (Deborah Manzo, who will begin May 7).”

Tyson, 51, had been police chief since September 2010. He was arrested around 1 p.m. on April 4 by Boca Raton police responding to an accident on Military Trail in which Tyson’s Ford Explorer (a town-owned vehicle) rear-ended an unmarked Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office vehicle. Tyson’s blood alcohol tests (.229 and .234 percent) were almost three times the legal limit for intoxication.
Boynton Beach

Boynton approves plan for old school redevelopment

By Angie Francalancia

After 20 years of debating the fate of Boynton Beach’s Old High School, city leaders now are in a hurry to see it transformed into an events destination.

Boynton Beach City Commissioners voted 5-0 to negotiate over the next 120 days with Lansing Melbourne Group, who propose converting the 1920s-era building into an events venue.

Commissioner Bruce Sutka, other spaces already are booked. The team’s proposal also includes space for four "boutique" restaurants, and envisions spaces to accommodate small retail, a green market, and community programs. A private outdoor garden would provide an extension of the event space.

They envision community classes inside the building, as well as major events that turn the Old School into a “entertainment district.”

"Bruce Sutka bringing event after event after event is what will make it happen," Flotz said. The team estimates bringing an average of 150 jobs each year to Boynton Beach.

Lansing’s proposal had heavy support from several residents, including Voncile Smith, president of the Boynton Beach Historical Society and Barbara Ready, who said the proposal reflects what every community gathering said Boynton wanted — a place for the community to use.

Supporters of Lansing’s proposal also said they believed the second concept would make the city liable for too much money. While Lansing has asked for the tax value of about $318,000 annually for about 10 years — estimated to total about $750,000, New Urban’s proposal would need Boynton Beach to guarantee rent shortfalls estimated to be about $318,000 annually for about the same period.

The second proposal, a collaboration of New Urban Communities with the Palm Beach Museum of Natural History, would leave the Old School building as it is, converting it into about 9,000 square feet of exhibit space. But it would change much of the city blocks that now house the school, library and City Hall buildings. The plan included building 84 rentals to introduce live/work spaces into downtown.

"When the Louvre was remodeled, this is exactly what they did," Flotz said. "They put a glass cube entry way." But he added, "We don’t have their budget."

The concept would provide a destination for the market where, according to Sutka, other spaces already are booked. The team’s proposal also includes space for four "boutique" restaurants, and envisions spaces to accommodate small retail, a green market, and community programs. A private outdoor garden would provide an extension of the event space.

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**DELRAY DUNES**

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**DELRAY DUNES**

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Delray author was there for first Earth Day

By Emily J. Minor

They were different times back then, certainly, what with free love and the women’s movement and the Vietnam War. And for local resident and writer Kristin Alexandre, it was, in so many ways, the defining years of her life.

Young and newly married to an older man with social interests and some power, Alexandre hooked up with a group of college students at Columbia University in New York City and helped to organize — get this — the first Earth Day.

There she was, a French major just out of Virginia’s Sweet Briar College, working with the mayor’s office, getting Fifth Avenue shut down, reaching out to Barbra Streisand and Ali MacGraw and the Rockefeller family.


Forty-two years later, this prolific author, traveler, and entrepreneur still worries about the same environmental and conservation issues they worried about then.

“The No. 1 issue then and now is overpopulation,” Alexandre said. “After that, I would say it’s water.”

So, how do you start such a movement? Whom do you call? Where do you meet? How do you get the troops energized?

Alexandre, traveling out of state to discuss a possible cable TV series for her graphic novel series Nuncia, still loves to recall those heady times.

“Really, people who had been part of the anti-war movement were kind of refocusing their energies on the Earth Day movement,” she said. “They were organizing. There was just this protest group of people, and we kind of refocused.

It was in the winter of 1969 that this group first went to a Columbia auditorium to hear environmental activist Denis Hayes discuss plans for a possible Earth Day, a day that would pay homage — and bring attention — to Mother Earth.

Full of energy after Hayes’ speech, someone rented cheap office space to push along the effort. Pretty soon, they were meeting with then-New York City Mayor John Lindsay about logistics and sending out press releases to the network news.

There were Earth Day events all over the country that first year: April 22, 1970. Today, Earth Day is celebrated on the same date, but in 192 countries.

Former U.S. Congressman Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat from Wisconsin, is largely considered Earth Day’s true founder, since he held the political power to grease the wheels. But he has been widely quoted as saying the event took off, organically.

“It simply grew on its own,” he would say in later years.

Alexandre, who remarried after being with her first husband, William Hubbard, for just a short while, said “everyone was just so active at the time.”

And while Alexandre says she is hopeful about the future of the environment — The electronic media do so much to spread awareness, she says — she’s also worried about the graying of America’s environmental movement, and the movement’s shift to more political circles.

Issues like global warming and population “weren’t politicized back then,” she says.

And today, young adults seem burdened with so many serious challenges, they don’t feel much power, she said.

“It’s a sad thing today,” says Alexandre, who has lived in coastal Delray for about three years. “I have an 18-year-old, and she does not feel she has the power to change anything. The Baby Boomers, we felt like we could change it all.”
Owners appreciate Asian-style oasis amid subtropics

By Christine Davis

There are a few people in South Florida’s tropical paradise who live in literal Shangri-Las.

Take for example, Bruce and Muriel “Mert” Anderson, Charles and Anna Carlino, and most recently, Hillel Presser. No Mediterranean-style homes for them. All residents of Gulf Stream’s Place Au Soleil, they prefer architecture with a bit of an Asian flavor (think pagoda-like roofs with upturned edges), following the lead of Bob Reed, who developed the 50 acres in 1960. “Bob never said why, but he liked that look,” Mert said. “From what I understand, he had different developers come in and build here, but he had control of the design of our home (at 960 Indigo Point), which he built for himself, and two others on Avenue Au Soleil.”

“Bob told me that those two were the original sales offices,” Bruce added. Reed’s aerial photograph hangs in their home, and shows the development as empty parcels save for the two Avenue Au Soleil homes.

Coming from a Colonial home in Morristown, N.J., the couple bought their waterfront property 20 years ago, Bruce explained. “Our Realtor told me, ‘I want you to see something I just came across.’ I’ll leave the keys and you bring Mert and a bottle of wine at sunset. It will be an easy sale.’

“The house was owned by Bob Reed and his wife, Bessie, who had already moved over to Harbour’s Edge (a senior living community in Delray Beach). It was empty and overgrown, but we made an offer.”

At first, Mert said, they were going to give it a more Colonial look — the house façade does have a section made of old brick reclaimed from a Kingston, Jamaica, jail — but they grew to like the Asian style and decided to stick with it. “We were ready for something different,” Mert said, now a Gulf Stream town commissioner, explained.

Charles and Anna Carlino bought their home at 2745 Avenue Au Soleil from Eklund and Tetzlaff in 2007. “The design was more Japanese when we owned it,” Catherine Tetzlaff said. “The architect truly understood building for a tropical climate, and I always appreciated his vision.”

The Carlinos, though, love the Polynesian/Balinese style, and the house easily made the transition. “The open-beamed ceiling in the living room is original,” Charles Carlino said. “The whole house in the front had sliding glass doors. We framed them in wood and added the dark shutters — that goes with the Balinese design. We put in Mexican tile floors and added bamboo shades out on the loggia.”

Carlino, a real estate investor and decorator who owns Lorimar Designs, has filled the house with wicker, rattan, leather, Asian antiques and exotic wood furniture. He’s added a garage and guesthouse, a shallow meditation pool and pavilion, decks, walkways and lush landscaping.

“I was working on another house in the neighborhood, and I kept going by this property,” he said. “It was the roofline I liked. Everyday, I’d look at this house and say, ‘sometime, I’m going to own it.’ I showed it to my wife — she had just received her real estate license and this was her first sale.”

Across the street, at 2730 Avenue Au Soleil, Hillel Presser is putting the finishing touches on a cluster of buildings with pagoda-like roofs on the water that he bought in February 2010. “I didn’t want to sacrifice the roof or the French Polynesian look, he said. “My whole idea was to keep with the original design, but to give it a modern, beachy feel.”

Two outbuildings to the north and south are the guesthouse and the garage, which create symmetry and also define the courtyard. The main house features an open floor plan with a large living space and galley kitchen, as well as two bedroom suites.

To the rear of the house is a covered patio that offers views of the kidney-shaped pool, dock and water. “The property takes up an entire end of a short canal,” he said. “I get to enjoy looking at the Gulf Stream golf course and the Intracoastal Waterway without the noise or the seawall damage.”

“I first saw the house online, drove up, saw the half-acre lot and the view and bought it. I didn’t even care about the condition of the buildings.”

Presser, a lawyer, often buys investment condos and this is his first house project. Although he may sell down the road, he’s feeling attached, already picking out appropriate furnishings, and he and his fiancé, Ashley Martini, plan to move in soon.

“I like the style,” he said. “It’s a good feeling — Zen.”
Mary Elizabeth Sory

By Emily J. Minor

HYPOLUXO ISLAND — Hers was a life full of passion, people and laughter, the daughter of a country doctor born in the little town of Cedar Hill, Tenn., on April 30, 1913, she was one of six children — three boys and three girls.

When Miss Sory came south, she had family here. All three of her brothers were doctors, practicing in Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach.

In her early teaching days, Miss Sory worked in the Florida sun. In those days, gym class was almost always outdoors.

At Lake Worth Junior High School, she took a job as a guidance counselor at Lake Worth Junior High School.

Miss Sory’s niece described her aunt as soft-spoken, silly and full of adventure.

She loved to travel. She loved the University of Tennessee Lady Vols basketball team, attending the NCAA tournaments until very recently. She loved her nieces and nephews. She was the matriarch to five generations," her niece said.

And she loved playing cards and board games, particularly backgammon. Indeed, Miss Sory was known for her ruthless tactics at the backgammon board. She would take incredible risks," Ehlers said, “and she would whup my butt.”

Miss Sory was known for her spirit and feistiness, and she valued those attributes in others. For her 90th birthday, her family and friends reached out to four notable women she admired, and arranged for their birthday wishes to arrive with all the others. Hillary Clinton, Paula Deen, Pat Summit, and the Lady Vols coach who just resigned because of early-onset Alzheimer’s disease, and soap opera star Deidre Hall — they all sent photos with a personal note.

Miss Sory is survived by nine nieces and nephews, 18 great-nieces and -nephews, numerous great-greats and one great-great-great niece.

Her long, happy life was celebrated on April 30, which would have been her 99th birthday. Family asks that donations in her memory be made to Lake Worth School Dollars for Scholars Foundation, P.O. Box 1166, Lake Worth, FL 33460.

Thomas Browne

By Ron Hayes

DELRAY BEACH — During his retirement years, Thomas Browne did not play golf or bridge, racquetball, shuffleboard or tennis.

Mr. Browne walked. And walking.

Every morning he rose at 5, had breakfast, left his home in southern Delray Beach, turned north on South Ocean Boulevard and walked the eight miles to George Bush Boulevard and back.

Walking was his passion, his pastime and his exercise, and it was good exercise. He lived to be 91, and died peacefully on April 8, Easter Sunday.

“He always wore a pith helmet, and everybody knew him because he would say hello to everybody,” recalls his widow, Claire. “Some people called him the mayor of A1A. Everywhere he went, he’d want to walk.”

After his daily walk, he’d go for a swim, then indulge his second passion, reading The New York Times in depth.

“I’d been reading the Times since he was 15, and he’d take the rest of the morning to read it, every day, faithfully.”

Thomas F. Browne was born on Aug. 5, 1920, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Third Army 10th Infantry Regiment, participating in the Battle of the Bulge, during which he was wounded on Christmas Day 1944.

“He served from 1942 to 1945, but he always said his career in the Army was very short, because he was only involved in combat on the day he was shot,” his wife said. “He spent three months recuperating in England.”

Mr. Browne was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his service, then went on to earn a degree in business administration from Fordham University.

A resident of Upper Saddle River, N.J., he managed a manager of Institutional Commodity Services for 37 years and retired in 1987. Mr. and Mrs. Browne, who were married 55 years, moved to Delray Beach in 1990. In addition to his widow, Mr. Browne is survived by four children and their spouses: Anthony and Margaret Browne of Ridgewood, N.J.; Bradley and Susan Browne of Ho-Ho-Kus, N.J.; Barbara and Kenneth Windland of Medford, N.J.; and Kilby and Marizete Browne of Union City, N.J.; a brother, James, of Normandy Beach, N.J.; and seven grandchildren.

The family asks that donations in Mr. Browne’s name be made to Autism New Jersey at www.autismnj.com.
The Plaza Theatre has jumped into the ring to help patrons of Boca Raton’s beleaguered Caldwell Theatre. The Manalapan theater, which opened in February, will honor tickets to Caldwell’s production of *Our Lady of Allapattah*, which first was postponed, then canceled, as Caldwell struggled amid foreclosure proceedings on its $10 million Count de Hoenle Theatre in Boca Raton.

The 37-year-old company has been unable to make payments on its $5.9 million mortgage. A court-appointed receiver is monitoring the theater’s business operations. Options include reorganization, filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection or shutting down.

Alan Jacobson, one of the founders of the Plaza Theatre, said the ticket exchange will help Caldwell and help introduce audiences to his theater, which opened in the former Florida Stage space at Plaza del Mar.

“We’ve gotten a few calls about the Caldwell tickets,” Jacobson said. “We’re glad to do it. I’ve asked the box office to track the calls.”

Plaza Theatre will exchange Caldwell tickets for tickets to the shows *I Am Music — The Songs of Barry Manilow* (May 10-27) or *Don’t Rain On Our Parade*, a tribute To Barbara Streisand, Bette Midler and Carole King (June 7-17).

Palm Beach Dramaworks also has agreed to honor Caldwell tickets. Ticketholders may exchange Caldwell tickets for tickets to the downtown West Palm Beach company’s production of David Auburn’s *Proof* (May 25-June 17) or the theater’s production of *The Fantasticks* (July 11-Aug. 5).

At the time Dramaworks made its offer, Caldwell artistic director Clive Cholerton issued a statement of gratitude, saying, “As much as we wanted to personally honor our ticket holders, it simply wasn’t feasible. We continue to explore all of our options and will make a formal announcement when all of the facts have been addressed.”

Subscribers and ticketholders were to have been contacted by Caldwell, the theater said.

Telephones at Caldwell have been disconnected, and Cholerton did not return a call to his personal line for comment on the Plaza Theatre offer.

For information on Plaza Theatre, call 588-1820 or visit www.theplazatheatre.net.
Celebrations

$100,000 grant awarded to the Parent-Child Center

The women of Impact 100 Palm Beach County championed the “power of giving as one” on April 24, voting to support a program that helps children who are abruptly removed from their homes and placed into foster care.

Impact 100 members came together at their inaugural annual meeting at Lynn University in Boca Raton and awarded their first $100,000 grant to the Parent-Child Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes the social and emotional well being of children and families.

“Impact 100 PBC is thrilled that our ‘power of giving as one’ is doing exactly what it intended — being part of creating transformational solutions,” stated Cindy Krebsbach, co-founder of Impact 100 PBC. “We are truly excited to support the Parent-Child Center’s trauma team with our first transformational grant.”

Impact 100 was created with the idea that every woman gives $1,000 annually, their contributions are pooled together and a nonprofit organization is selected to receive a $100,000 grant. Sixty-six applicants applied for the grant within five key funding categories: Arts and Culture, Education, Environment, Family, Health and Wellness. Five nonprofits were selected to present to the Impact 100 PBC members at their annual meeting, where an electronic vote was cast and counted. Runner-up organizations were The Milagro Center, Anti-Defamation League, Florida Fishing Academy and the Urban League of Palm Beach County. They each received a $12,000 grant.

— Staff report

For more information on Impact 100 Palm Beach County or to become a member, contact 302-4996 or impact100pbc@cfpbmc.org.

Impact 100 founders Cindy Krebsbach (left), Lisa Mulhall and Tandy Robinson raise a toast during their annual meeting and grant presentation at Lynn University. Photo provided

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St. Paul’s Garden Seasonal Closing

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Delray Beach

Grass River Garden Club member Susan Vicinelli shows Paul’s Place after-school student Tanicha Emilcar (center) an edible flower during the April 10 closing of the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Community Garden in Delray Beach. Students Jovante Pierre Louis, Ange Cyril and Vanessa Pierre also check out the garden. Kurtis Boggs/The Coastal Star

Boca Delray Music Society Luncheon

Delray Beach Club

Frances Curtiss (seated, from left), Regie Moorcroft and Sylvia Hinges; with Cindy Hopkins and Jeanne Strong, enjoy the March 20 Boca Delray Music Society’s musical social, ‘Hats & Harps Luncheon’ at the Delray Beach Club. Photo provided

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Celebrations

Celebration of Old Delray
The Colony Cabana Club
Delray Beach Historical Society members and guests enjoy cocktails during the second annual Celebration of Old Delray Cocktails on the Beach fundraiser at The Colony Cabana Club on April 12. Kurtis Boggs/The Coastal Star

Sacred Heart fifth-grader Adrianna Smigiel and her mom, Marcela, of Lake Worth, pick up treats during the April Showers Bring Sacred Heart Flowers Afternoon Tea at St. Andrews Club on April 11. The fundraising event was hosted by The Friends of Sacred Heart School and benefitted the “Educate a Student” fund at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Lake Worth. A similar event is being planned for 2013. Kurtis Boggs/The Coastal Star

Brianna Ritota has recently accepted scholarship offers for both her academic and athletic achievements from Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y. She plans to attend in the fall to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine. Brianna is graduating from Boca Raton Community High School where she has been inducted into the National Honor Society and has received the President’s Award for Educational Excellence. An avid athlete, she is graduating with five varsity letters, four in water polo and one in swimming. As captain (for the second year in a row) she helped lead her water polo team to victory over St. Andrew’s to claim a first district championship for Boca High. She is the eldest daughter of Dr. Ted and Lisa Ritota of Ocean Ridge. Photo provided

Wayside House Spring Boutique
The Colony Hotel, Delray Beach

Sandoway House Nature Center Gala
Oceanfront, Ocean Ridge

Heading to College
Ocean Ridge

Sandoway House Nature Center’s Earth Day Gala was held under the stars April 14 at a local beach club. Legendary football coach Howard Schnellenburger served as Honorary Chairman. More than $20,000 was raised for Delray Beach’s only nature center. Pictured above are Carl DeSantis (l) and Fran Marincola. Photo provided

The Lupus Foundation of America’s Southeast Florida Chapter hosted its Annual Closet Couture Luncheon at Benvenuto’s on April 10. The event raised over $25,000 to help support the LFA’s mission of finding the causes of and cure for lupus and providing support, services and hope to the over 100,000 Floridians living with lupus and their loved ones. ABOVE: (l-r) Mary Walsh, Chris Davies, Elaine Morris and Jay Davies. Photo provided
B eekeeper Bradley Stewart minds his own beehive, although you’ll find him doing that in other people’s yards. Condos just aren’t the place to set up beehives, he points out, so thanks to friends and neighbors throughout the county, he farms his 17 hives out for production of his “Backyard Honey,” which he often gives away. “When people come back for more, sometimes they insist on paying me, so I call that a donation,” he said.

But for him, not only are honeybees a hobby (he has about 90,000 in each hive), they are serious business.

“Bees are so important to our wellbeing,” the South Palm Beach resident said. “If you go to Publix and look at the produce, without honeybees, one-third of those shelves would be empty.”

“Then I went to California and worked in a plant on my porch. I am, though, raising a tomato plant on my porch. It was an ‘green’ person. I’m not a student of nature, but I enjoy the life work of the bees. I’ve been close to nature. I’ve been to Florida where people are closer to nature. I’ve been close to nature my whole life, although I don’t consider myself a ‘green’ person.

Q. Have you had other careers (or hobbies); what were the highlights?
A. I worked for Delta Airlines for 30 years in marketing. I’ve also done all kinds of part-time jobs. I was a bartender in college, worked on a shrimp boat one summer out of Fort Myers, was a teacher for two years right out of school, and I also went out to California and worked in a factory.

I’m a ballroom dancer. In elementary school, we had folk dancing. My wife, Gloria, and I started taking art in the senior citizens center — it was free — and they also had a dance class, and the rest is tragedy. I’ve been dancing for four or five years. You can legally bug the girls. I take lessons on Monday and Friday and I go once a week to the Gold Coast Ballroom in Coconut Creek and there’s also the Grand Ballroom in Delray Beach. Jane Mueller teaches locally. She charges five dollars an hour and at the Mid County Senior Citizen’s Center in Lake Worth. We need men. For art lessons at the same center, the teacher is Chief Johnson and he’s a superb artist. He teaches for free. We have a little dance/artist community and we go in groups to do things.

Q. How did you choose to make your home in South Palm Beach?
A. We lived in West Palm Beach, and after retiring from Delta, we moved to South Palm Beach. My wife didn’t want to do yard work, so she said she wanted to live in a condo and I found this one for $85,000, and that was 25 years ago.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in South Palm Beach?
A. I know people here. It’s very convenient living in a condo. Although I don’t like condos, this is a great place to live, but I can’t keep bees here. I am, though, raising a tomato plant on my porch.

Q. What book are you reading now?
A. I don’t read very much and fiction doesn’t grab me too much. I do like to keep up with my magazines on the honeybee world.

Q. What music do you listen to when you need inspiration? When you want to relax?
A. I’m not a student of classical music, but I was exposed to it in elementary school, so I do enjoy classical music when I want to relax. For inspiration I listen to my cha-cha, rumba, ballroom samba, merengue and big band music. I feel the beat.

Q. Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?
A. I tell my kids, ‘moderation,’ but I don’t practice it.

Q. Have you had mentors in your life? Individuals who have inspired your life decisions?
A. I had a regional marketing manager at Delta, Ed Bishop. He was a staff of about six sales reps and he was always on the go and ahead of the pack with all sorts of new ideas, so I tried to pattern after him. He got lots accomplished in short periods. I’ve always had energy, too, but it was channelling my energy that I had to learn to do, so I’d observe him.

Q. If your life story were a movie, who would you want to play you?
A. Johnny Carson. He asked questions and gave people a chance to answer them. He was funny and he enjoyed people. He never swore and he poked fun at himself. He didn’t sacrifice other people to make himself appear popular.

Q. Who or what makes you laugh?
A. People, particularly politicians. Break it down one more time, Democrats.

Bradley Stewart raises Italian bees in the backyards of friends. He says bees travel up to six miles. There are about 60,000 bees in each hive. Photos by Tim Stepfen/The Coastal Star

The buzz on bees

Interesting facts about the “bee” part of the bees and beekeeping.

During its lifetime, a honeybee will produce a twelfth of a teaspoon of honey, so if you eat a teaspoon of honey, you’ve just enjoyed the life work of 12 honeybees.

Beekeepers buy bees by the pound with a mated queen. To produce worker bees — the females — the queen fertilizes the eggs. Non-fertilized eggs become the drones (males).

Stewart can’t say how long bees live. “Up North, they tend to agree. “I am a ballroom dancer. In elementary school, and I started taking art in the senior citizens center — it was free — and they also had a dance class, and the rest is tragedy. I’ve been dancing for four or five years. You can legally bug the girls. I take lessons on Monday and Friday and I go once a week to the Gold Coast Ballroom in Coconut Creek and there’s also the Grand Ballroom in Delray Beach. Jane Mueller teaches locally. She charges five dollars an hour and at the Mid County Senior Citizen’s Center in Lake Worth. We need men. For art lessons at the same center, the teacher is Chief Johnson and he’s a superb artist. He teaches for free. We have a little dance/artist community and we go in groups to do things.

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school? How do you think that has influenced you?
A. I grew up in Bowling Green, Ky., where I attended public school. It was an excellent system with good teachers. Then I went to Western State College, also in Bowling Green. It was primarily a rural community, where people are closer to nature. I’ve been close to nature my whole life, although I don’t consider myself a ‘green’ person.

Q. Q. Have you had other careers (or hobbies); what were the highlights?
A. I worked for Delta Airlines for 30 years in marketing. I’ve also done all kinds of part-time jobs. I was a bartender in college, worked on a shrimp boat one summer out of Fort Myers, was a teacher for two years right out of school, and I also went out to California and worked in a factory.

I’m a ballroom dancer. In elementary school, we had folk dancing. My wife, Gloria, and I started taking art in the senior citizens center — it was free — and they also had a dance class, and the rest is tragedy. I’ve been dancing for four or five years. After you read this, go to Google and type in ‘Hurricane Katrina’ and you’ll find something that isn’t a honeybee. It might be a bee, but not a honeybee. My wife didn’t want to do yard work, so she said she wanted to live in a condo and I found this one for $85,000, and that was 25 years ago.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in South Palm Beach?
A. I know people here. It’s very convenient living in a condo. Although I don’t like condos, this is a great place to live, but I can’t keep bees here. I am, though, raising a tomato plant on my porch.
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270 feet of direct Intacoastal Waterway.
Mile-long views south of endless yachts.
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Meticulously maintained residence.
5,500 square feet. 5 bedrooms.
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Expansive views. Impact glass.
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Intracoastal Trophy Compound • $5,500,000
370 linear feet of water frontage.
Protected dockage on side canal.
Across from Ocean. Tennis Court.
More than an acre of property.
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Direct Oceanfront Gated Estate • $5,950,000
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4 luxury suites. Wide open floorplan.
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Incomparable finishes and millwork. 9,800 SF
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Oceanfront Beach Bungalow • $4,500,000
100 linear feet of beach frontage.
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OCEAN-TO-INTRACOASTAL ESTATE
$19.95 MILLION WEB #R3211054
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DELRAY BEACH
VILLA PROVIDENCIA INTRACOASTAL ESTATE
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Jilly Cammissa 866-502-3058

DELRAY BEACH
VISTA DEL MAR ESTATE
$2.49 MILLION WEB #R3241530
Lukens/Lekas 866-502-4174

OCEAN RIDGE
TROPICAL DEEP WATER ESTATE
$1.75 MILLION WEB #R3267059
Valerie Cox 866-502-6824

DELRAY BEACH
NORTH BEACH ESTATE
$1.599 MILLION WEB #R3247470
Lekas/Lukens 866-502-4386

DELRAY BEACH
TROPICAL ISLE DEEP WATER ESTATE
$1.599 MILLION WEB #R3268179
Jilly Cammissa 866-502-3058

DELRAY BEACH
OCEANSIDE TOWNHOME
$1.01 MILLION WEB #R3174136
Lukens/Lekas 866-502-4174

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Local authors’ novel approaches
Writers spin a mystery and a science-fiction fantasy. Pages 37-38

Much ado about Shakespeare
Gulf Stream School teacher stars in work by the Bard. Page 44

House of the Month
This Ocean Ridge home offers casual elegance on the water. Page 51

Pets
Woman rescues abandoned dogs from the Everglades. Page 40

Health & Harmony
The nose knows how aromatherapy works. Page 39

The art of Tea and Company
Brew up a special blend for Mother’s Day
By Antigone Barton

There’s something about tea: Soothing and restoring, a comfort and a tradition, it provides both a lull and a lift to the day. Let fathers celebrate their day with tee times. Mother’s Day tea is an occasion for finger food and flowers. And tea, of course. What is it about tea that brings people together? There’s something salubrious about tea, says one local tea specialist, who goes by the name of Barbara the Tea Specialist. It extends beyond the medicinal properties, the list of which, she says, continues to grow daily: Studies credit tea with curbing high blood

See TEA on page 36

Delray Beach residents Tandy Robinson and her daughter Gracie take a moment for a hug during last month’s annual Mother and Daughter Garden Tea Party at the Boca Raton Museum of Art. Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Photo courtesy of Barbara the Tea Specialist
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rheumatism, heart, liver and kidney diseases, and warding off some cancers.

The act of having tea and the ceremonies that have evolved around it have their own benefits, Barbara says. “You have to pause. It’s very meditative, a release from the everyday,” she says.

Then there are the memories. “Remember when you were little, and you weren’t feeling well, and your mother brought you a cup of tea?” asks Maryana Matiesic of TeaLicious Tea Room in Delray Beach. “I remember when mine did.”

In mid-April, TeaLicious was already taking reservations for Mother’s Day tea, a high tea. Barbara takes her expertise on the road, helping businesses as well as party-planning individuals to gather around tea — Mother’s Day teas, wedding shower teas, tea tastings, tea talks — even after-yoga raw-food tea gatherings.

For those planning their own teas, Barbara has this advice: “You don’t have to be a traditionalist to have fun with a tea party. You have to be able to be creative and mix it up. Let your imagination soar.”

Specialist favors flexibility

A former travel agent who accompanied groups on tours, Barbaraodayed her philosophy of tea, as well as her knowledge, in her travels. She says the secret to enjoying tea and the treats that go with it is making it your own, and that means including your favorite finger foods.

To the one constant, she allows, “Whatever tea you like to drink, because you will drink the most of it.”

That being said, when she says tea, she is talking about white, green, black or oolong. “Anybody that’s brewed with water is tea to a lot of people,” she says. In reality, it comes from the tea plant — camellia sinensis — it is not tea.

Flavored tea popular here

How to make a perfect cup of tea

The rule of thumb is one teaspoon of loose tea for each 8 ounces of water. Some mugs are 12 ounces.

In that case, you would want to add a heaping teaspoon.

Loose tea can be re-brewed two or three times. All tea is brewed differently. The amount you use is pretty universal, but the steeping time varies.

Black teas are brewed with boiling water (boiling is 212 degrees). Wait until it boils, take it off the stove and let it sit for five minutes, and use an instant-read thermometer to tell you the temperature.

White and green teas use lower temperatures: 160-175 degrees — basically when it just begins to boil.

As the rules for tea and its accompanying treats are flexible, so is the order in which it can be consumed, Barbara says. While she teaches etiquette, and says many who consult her for mother-daughter teas cite passing on the etiquette as part of the experience, she also is just as willing to dispense with the etiquette.

“It’s under debate — you eat your scones first, then you eat your tea sandwiches, then you eat your desserts,” she says. “But I’ve heard tea aficionados challenge that, and say, no you never eat your scones first — that’s why I say, shake it up, relax. Luckily we’ve gotten away from the rigidity of having to have etiquette.

“However you like to drink, drink it. Whatever food you like to eat, eat it,” she says. The more you know, the greater the variety, she adds.
A.C. Brooks has continued his series with his second book, *Dead on the Dock*, which follows a former TV fishing-show host and his friend. Much of the activity in the book takes place at Lantana’s Old Key Lime House. Photo provided

**Waterfront duo hopes to hook readers’ interest in second outing**

By Steve Pike

Shagball and Tangles are back.

Lantana author A.C. Brooks’ second book, *Dead on the Dock*, follows the former TV fishing show host and his pint-sized friend (and former Elvis impersonator) through a labyrinth of adventures that includes one sinking boat, a contract killer, the FBI, two dead mobsters and “three freaked-out guys wondering what the hell we got into.”

What they, and readers, are into is the second of a series of books Brooks has for the duo and their friends — some of whom are pure fiction and others based on people from the coastal corridor between Lantana and Delray Beach.

“It’s not hard to figure out who’s who,” said Brooks as he sat at a booth inside The Old Key Lime House restaurant in Lantana.

As in Brooks’ first book, *Foul Hooked*, the Old Key Lime House is the hub for the characters in *Dead on the Dock*. But unlike the first book, the restaurant is referred to by its real name. In his first book, Brooks called it “The Ole House.”

Other restaurants, along the Intracoastal Waterway and in West Palm Beach, remain fictionalized in *Dead on the Dock*, although it’s not difficult for anyone who has spent even a few weeks along the coastal corridor to figure out the logistics.

The Old Key Lime House also is central to Brooks’ marketing. Restaurant owner Wayne Cordero is a big Shagball and Tangles fan, and each book can be found in the Old Key Lime House’s gift shop.

“We’ve sold a lot of books here,” Brooks said. “The second book (published in December) has been doing great. It’s also helped sell more of the first book. Everybody who read the first book has read the second book. It’s funny. Older women — in their 60s and 70s — seem to love these characters.”

As with *Foul Hooked*, Brooks self-published *Dead on the Dock*, through CreateSpace, an Amazon.com company that helps writers without traditional publishers.

Brooks is using author John Locke as a model for self-publishing. Locke, creator of the “Donovan Creed” series of thrillers, is a sort of godfather of self-publishing. He was the first self-published author to sell one million Kindle ebooks.

“He’s funny. He says, ‘I’m a part-time author and a full-time day jobber.’ In selling books, he says, ‘People want to buy books from authors with multiple titles. They like to follow characters and stories.’

To that end, Brooks already is at work on his third Shagball and Tangles book, *Weed Line*, much of which will take place in the Caribbean.

In that book, Brooks says, Shagball and Tangles will lose their boat, the “Lucky Dog.” So to help promote the fourth book, Brooks is planning to have a contest for readers to name the characters’ new boat. He’s working with a boat manufacturer to supply Shagball and Tangles’ next boat. Sort of a literary version of product placement.

Brooks has recently started doing more book promotions on his Facebook page and Twitter account and recently started blogging. He also plans to soon post some chapters of *Dead on the Dock* on his website, acbrooks.net.

Brooks is planning to have a book signing May 5 at the Old Key Lime House. “Fortunately, I have some friends who like to promote me.”

He’s also fortunate to have characters like Shagball and Tangles.
Local Authors

Imagined realm not so far from author’s Earth

By Steve Pike

Stuart Malin’s home is in the county pocket, but he lives much of the time in a world called Atria. It’s the world of a young man named Ahmenar Ishtam, whose journey ultimately leads him to confront his enemy and his destiny. Along the way, Ahmenar must uncover secrets, fight for a birthright denied, and make choices between love and loyalty.

It’s the world Malin first envisioned in 2002 and like Ahmenar, he’s been on his own personal journey to complete and publish the first in a series of books.

The first book, Rituals, will be launched on its own website, www.ossaya.com, and on Facebook. The first 20 chapters are on the website. “I’m building an engine using latest and greatest technology,” said Malin, at one time a software developer for IBM at its old Boca Raton headquarters. “I love new technology. I’m a big Java script developer and I’m using Node.js, which is new technology for building a high-performance website. I’m going to build the website so it integrates with Facebook, so you’ll be able to download the first 20 chapters for free.”

Malin is publishing Rituals and its sequel through his own Zhameesha Publishing LLC in Boynton Beach.

Those first 20 chapters are approximately 120 pages. Malin writes in short, concise chapters in order to keep the reader fresh and motivated to remain immersed in Atria, a Tolkien-esque world inhabited by humans who have depleted their natural resources and poisoned their planet’s biosphere.

“Their condition could be our near-term future,” Malin said. “They fell over the cliff of biosphere degradation and resource depletion. Their population went into massive decline. Their condition could be our near-term future.”

“Optimists might think that’s not going to happen here on Earth, but I’ve studied a lot of deep ecology. Every species consumes its own resources and produces its own toxins. I’m fearful of what human beings are headed for unless we learn to manage our actions. Right now I see no signs of self-control. Atria is a warning.”

Despite first impressions, Rituals and the Atria series aren’t science fiction. Malin describes his work as “social fiction.” He takes the classic mono-myth (hero’s journey) storytelling of Joseph Campbell and the archetypes of Carl Jung and brings them into relevance of our world if we were to fall off that cliff.

“I always wanted to build a world,” said Malin, who holds a master’s degree in motion control robotics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. “I have a very creative side. On Dec. 18, 2002, I took out a sheet of white paper and doodled out the social structure of Atria. “For the next three months I doodled in my notebook. I don’t really know what I was doing — it was kind of like a dissociative split. I would call.php sessions downloads — it was kind of like a dissociative split. I would call those sessions downloads — of names, people, and history. I had an encyclopedia; I had maps and a back-story. I was learning science I never knew.”

Stuart Malin takes readers into another world in his book Rituals. He lives in the county pocket. Photo provided
Aromatherapy: Get a whiff of this

In an era when everything from pet shampoos to plug-in air fresheners are advertised as "aromatherapy," it’s easy to dismiss the concept as so much marketing hype. But local aromatherapists hope you don’t turn up your nose at their profession. They emphasize the plant-based science behind aromatherapy, and point to its centuries-old role in healing.

True aromatherapy involves the use of essential oils derived from plants to treat a variety of physical and emotional conditions, explains Gerry Whidden, owner of Nature’s Symphony Inc. of Boca Raton. During her 30 years in the business, she has taught aromatherapy to thousands of students, including doctors and nurses.

Whidden’s retail store just south of Mizner Park has an apothecary-like wall of tiny bottles containing organic essential oils. The oils are distilled from the petals, leaves, seeds, roots and bark of plants, and Whidden is considered an expert at blending these oils into fragrances that treat insomnia, joint pain, chest-rattling coughs into treatments for insomnia, joint pain, chest-rattling coughs.

“Some oils work in two ways,” she says. “For example, lavender essential oil applied to the skin can take down inflammation. And when you inhale lavender, it stimulates serotonin in the brain, which helps relieve pain. So you’re getting a dual effect.”

Here’s the theory behind aromatherapy. When molecules of essential oil are inhaled, they travel, with their chemical messengers, past the olfactory bulb to the limbic system in the brain, which in turn influences both the autonomic nervous system and the endocrine system. As a result, practitioners say, physical, psychological, and even spiritual changes can occur.

Mary Rosi, a professional aromatherapist and owner of Yoga Earth studio in Delray Beach, sprays a mixture of essential oils around the room at the start of her yoga classes (sage, bergamot, lemon grass, and other oils) to encourage deep breathing and help students center themselves. At the end, when students are in the final, relaxed posture, she rubs spruce oil on her palms and briefly embraces each student’s head with her hands.

“Spruce oil has anti-inflammatory properties,” Rosi says. “The French use it for arthritis. But I use it to ground my students, to balance them emotionally.”

If that sounds like New Age hoo-ha, consider that aromatherapy dates back to ancient times. In the first century, Greek military physician Dioscorides (40-90 AD), considered the Father of Pharmacology, wrote about using infused aromatic oils for healing. Today, medical doctors in Europe and Asia actually prescribe aromatherapy. But in the United States, it is still considered alternative medicine.

Cary Caster of coastal Delray Beach hopes to change that. A trained botanist who studied aromatherapy in the U.K. and France, Caster raised three children without using over-the-counter medications, not even aspirin — just essential oils.

Three years ago, she developed “21 Drops,” a line of conveniently portable aromatherapy roll-ons (www.21drops.com). Each of the 21 essential oil blends is designed to treat a particular condition, from headaches to PMS to indigestion.

“It’s all about understanding the active components within the oils that address certain characteristics,” she says. “For example, black pepper is mucolytic, breaking up mucus, so that’s in our decongest blend. German chamomile is an anti-spasmodic, so we put that in our PMS blend to alleviate cramping.”

While the product line is enjoying plenty of mass-media coverage (Prevention, Oprah, Ladies Home Journal, Real Simple), and gaining traction in the high-end retail market (Sephora, Henri Bendel in New York, and luxury hotel spas), Caster is looking ahead. She’s currently in discussions with Janet Konefal, Ph.D., assistant dean for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine, about developing an aromatherapy program for their education series.

“That’s my dream, to bring aromatherapy into more medical programs, just like nutrition has found its way in,” Caster says. “That’s how basic this stuff really is.”

Paula Detwiller is a freelance writer and lifelong fitness junkie. Find her at pdwrites.com.
Paws Up for Pets

‘Pet Hero’ throws herself into rescue efforts

Meet Amy Restucci, a self-described big-mouth, low-maintenance chick who never complains when she makes the trek down I-95 in bumper-to-bumper traffic from her West Palm Beach home to rural Miami. She doesn’t mind the drive because she possesses an unparalleled drive when it comes to rescuing abandoned, skinny strays roaming the Everglades and rural, impoverished areas in south Miami-Dade County. Her life took a dramatic turn last September when she agreed to drive down to rural Homestead with a friend to help feed some hungry, homeless dogs. Then she spotted an emaciated pit bull with a rope dangling around her neck. She looked closer and noticed bite marks and wound scars. She then saw giant-sized mosquitoes and wound scars. She then drove to the meeting place, rescue in April, Restucci was the first recipient of the Pet Hero accolade presented by The National Enquirer, based in Boca Raton. She has been profiled in daily newspapers and other media outlets.

Amy Restucci tends to puppies saved by volunteers while on a rescue mission in the Everglades. Photo provided

They coaxed this dog into the car and drove straight to a supportive veterinarian in Miami, who provided needed medical care. A call to a rescue group called Big Hearts for Big Dogs resulted in placing the dog in what Restucci describes as “an amazing home.”

The connection with this dog who dubbed Debbie was instant and powerful. It marked the start of Restucci’s single-focused quest to rescue and find homes for stray dogs. Since September, she has led a growing group of volunteers on regular rescue missions to Miami. At last count, they have rescued more than 300 dogs. She launched a Facebook page called 100+ Abandoned Dogs of Everglades Florida that has attracted more than 13,000 fans and raised more than $100,000 to feed, provide medical care and place many of these strays.

At a recent organized rescue in April, Restucci drove to the meeting place, a shopping mall in south Miami, expecting to see a few fans and raised more than $2,000 pounds of food.”

Restucci’s dogged efforts are making headlines. She was the first recipient of the Pet Hero accolade presented by The National Enquirer, based in Boca Raton. She has been profiled in daily newspapers and other media outlets. At 43, she says she has found her calling: to help the helpless. “I’m not a religious person, but I believe in God and am very spiritual,” she says. “I’ve never felt such a connection. When I feel like I am at the end of my rope, I ask God to give me a sign and it always comes to me. I feel like I’m surrounded by positive energy and that when I set my mind to something, there is no stopping me.”

When she isn’t making the long drive down to the southern tip of this state, she shares her modest home with her husband, Ralph, and their four rescued pets: a blind senior Portuguese water dog named Lincoln; a terrier mix named Maggie, blind in her left eye; Red, an affectionate cat plucked from the streets; and Patches, a pudgy cat who was surrendered to a shelter at age 6.

“My husband works four jobs and I’m a low-maintenance chick who never needed expensive jewelry,” says Restucci. “Because of my big mouth, our group has been on every big news station and newspaper here and beyond. “With everything I’ve seen, our cause should be called 1,000 Plus, not 100 Plus. Dogs on the street starving to death. Dog-fighting rings. Distemper outbreaks. Yes, we can rescue dogs, get them healthy and find them good homes, but the real solution is to offer free spaying and neutering for dogs in this poor area and to educate the uneducated. This is my calling. I’m going to be there for these animals.”

Arden Moore, founder of FourLeggedLife.com, is an animal behavior consultant, editor, author, professional speaker and certified pet first aid instructor. She happily shares her home with two dogs, two cats and an overworked vacuum cleaner. Tune in to her Oh Behave! show on PetLifeRadio.com and learn more by visiting www.fourleggedlife.com.

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Church turns over building to new congregation

By Tim Pallesen

One church is a rapidly growing congregation of young people. The other is a dying congregation of older members.

In a display of Christian faith, the 80 members of Grace Community Church have given their $2.5 million sanctuary in downtown Boynton Beach to the 1,500 members of the Journey Church.

“We wanted to see a happy growing church instead of one that was shrinking,” explained Elwood Holley, an elder in the Grace Community congregation.

“Journey’s church is hopping,” Holley said. “It’s up and coming and they minister to youth. That’s what we wanted at our church.”

Scott Baugh, the Journey Church’s senior pastor, announced the gift to his congregation on April 15. “Grace Community could have sold this property for millions of dollars and put the money in their pocket,” he said. “But they were more concerned about touching people’s lives.”

Baugh asked his congregation to contribute $2 million to assume a $600,000 mortgage and pay for renovations at Grace Community’s church building at 715 S. Federal Highway.

“It’s going to take a miracle because we don’t have $2 million,” Baugh said. “But this is a test that God gives us.”

Journey Church now worships at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday at Park Vista High School, where attendance has doubled in the past year.

More than 2,800 attended three Easter services last month.

Plans are to continue the Park Vista services and add a 10:15 a.m. service at the east campus, Baugh said.

Attendance at Grace Community has been dropping this past year after a longtime pastor retired. “We visited six other churches, not telling them what our situation was,” Holley said. The congregation decided to offer their building to either Christ Fellowship, a mega-church that has three other campuses, or to Baugh’s lesser-known congregation.

They chose the Journey Church, he said, because it reminded them of their beginning 18 years ago when they bought a former A&P Grocery store and spent $750,000 to renovate it.

The property includes 6,000 square feet of retail now occupied by a Thai restaurant, a laundromat and a beauty salon in addition to the 20,000-square-foot sanctuary.

Grace Community attempted a youth ministry in a fourth storefront, but the older congregation’s effort was unsuccessful.

“We saw the youth at Journey and got excited,” Holley said.

About 200 adults volunteer each month to make the Journey Church appealing to children. A bounce house and bubble machines create an atmosphere “where kids drag their parents to church,” Baugh said.

“We want children to associate church with having a blast,” he said. “We call it organized chaos.”

The Journey Church began eight years ago as a Bible study group for 17 people in Baugh’s home.

Baugh formed his own nondenominational congregation after he became frustrated trying to find a traditional church where his friends felt comfortable.

“Traditional churches are a culture shock to people who have never been to church,” he said. “I wanted to build a church that was relevant where they could be everything that God created them to be.”

Sunday worship services were held at the Lake Worth Christian School until 18 months ago, when the congregation moved to the larger gymnasium at Park Vista High School.

“We don’t have a lot of traditional church people,” Baugh said. “It’s what I always dreamed church would be like.”

To live their faith, church members volunteer time and contribute money for ambitious outreach efforts both locally and overseas.

The congregation gives $7,000 each month to provide food, clothing and education for 200 children in Haiti. More than 100 church members will travel to Mexico in July to build an orphanage and school at a cost of $150,000.

The members of Grace Community have joined forces to feed the homeless in Boynton Beach.

The new east campus will also serve recovering alcoholics and drug addicts through a 12-step program called Celebrate Recovery.

“We’re bringing the church into the heart of the recovery community,” Baugh said.

The Journey Church will seek approval from Boynton Beach for its renovation plans this month. The congregation hopes renovation work will be completed by October.
Finding Faith

Greeting the sunrise on Easter Sunday

A woman greets the dawn on Easter Sunday at Oceanfront Park.

ABOVE: Crowds gather for the Easter Sunrise Community Worship Service presented by the Boynton Beach Ministerial Association at Oceanfront Park.

LEFT: The Rev. M. Randall Gill leads services.

Photos by Charlie Crawford/ City of Boynton Beach

ABOVE: Janik Berkley uses a toy butterfly to illustrate the Rev. Joy Levy’s ‘kids sermon’ during the Delray Beach Interfaith Clergy Association’s Easter sunrise service.

RIGHT: Laura Simon photographs the sunrise over the ocean in Delray Beach.

Photos by Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star
Caring Kitchen nourishes stomachs, souls

Feeding the poor is a challenge for people of faith. Volunteers responded by serving 88,091 hot meals last year at the Caring Kitchen in Delray Beach.

That’s a 50 percent increase over the 59,034 meals served in 2005, and the need continues to grow.

“Scripture calls us to respond to people in need in our community,” said the Rev. Pam Cahoon, executive director for the nonprofit Christians Reaching Out to Society, which operates the kitchen at 196 NW Eighth Ave. “People won’t come unless they’re really hungry.”

In addition to hot meals, C.R.O.S. Ministries also distributed emergency food last year to 47,055 people from food pantries in Delray Beach and five other cities. That’s a 58 percent increase since 2005.

The overall effort requires over 2,000 volunteers each year from more than 100 congregations.

“We work ecumenically, recruiting volunteers from congregations,” Cahoon said. “They won’t volunteer unless they are good, caring people.”

Volunteers at the Caring Kitchen serve breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday plus dinner four days each week.

“I came 12 years ago to pitch in on Christmas Day and I’ve been here ever since,” volunteer Doug Fischer said. “I get more out of it than I give. I feel good when I leave here.”

“It’s become the highlight of my week,” Sheila McLachlan said. “I have made friends who will last a lifetime. My husband became infected by the enthusiasm and jumped in to give a hand.”

Volunteers also deliver hot meals to shut-ins three days a week. Cason United Methodist Church distributes bag lunches on weekends.

“I’m so proud that we never had to close our kitchen or a pantry for a lack of food,” Cahoon said. “We’ve never run out.”

But the recession nearly made that impossible. So Cahoon appealed to churches and synagogues to increase their food donations by 20 percent to 50 percent.

“Because the need went up so quick, we called them all and asked them to stretch,” she said. “Most of them did.”

Calvary United Methodist Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of Lake Worth’s first baptism on April 15 by performing more baptisms for descendents of the congregation’s charter members.

James and Myrtle Haney were the first to present their children Fay and Everett for baptism on April 14, 1912. The Haney family and other farmers had moved from the Midwest to raise strawberries in Lake Worth. They built Calvary’s church the next winter.

Calvary’s centennial begins the celebration of all of Lake Worth’s 100 years of history.

The architect for the first church, G. Sherman Childs, also built an ocean bathhouse in 1912 north of what is now Lake Worth Beach. The city of Lake Worth was incorporated in June 1913.

“We’re happy about the joys of our past 100 years and looking forward to the next 100 years,” long-time church member Helen Gilmore said.

Gilmore’s great-grandson, Brett Lamar Howard III, was one of four who were baptized at the centennial celebration.

Rabbi Ruvi New promises to reveal Jewish bedroom secrets in his Art of Marriage course that begins this week at the Chabad of East Boca.

The provocative six-week course explores marriage from both the spiritual and psychological points of view.

Lessons are from both modern and ancient Jewish texts such as the Talmud and Zohar.

Individuals contemplating marriage are invited, along with newlyweds and couples who have been happily married for 25 years or more. Call 417-7797 for details.

The soccer season under way at First United Methodist Church in Boca Raton rewards players for their Christ-like behavior.

“It’s a combination of ministry and sports,” says Melissa Wells, director of children’s ministry. “A lot of the players don’t go to church, but they want to come because of the sports aspect.”

About 200 children ages 4 through sixth grade participate, experiencing Christ through game-day prayer and halftime devotions.

Every child gets equal playing time, unlike in the city’s soccer league. Coaches award colored stickers to players for soccer skills, memorizing Bible verses and their behavior toward others.

“We have players who normally wouldn’t play because of a disability,” Wells said. “If the other players rally around a disabled child to help him make a goal, they’re showing an attitude that Christ would.”

The Boca Raton soccer league is part of Upward Sports, a national Christian organization that oversaw 550,000 children playing soccer, basketball, flag football and cheerleading in 5,000 leagues and sports camps last year.

First United Methodist joins with Spanish River Church to sponsor a basketball league each winter.

Tim Pallesen writes about people of faith, their congregations, causes and community events. Email him at tcpallesen@aol.com.
By Rich Pollack

Niki Fridh is a master at multi-tasking.
A theater-arts teacher and a kindergarten assistant at Gulf Stream School, Fridh’s world revolves around the stage. When she’s not instilling wonder, creativity and confidence in her young charges, Fridh is performing in the Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival’s production of Arsenic and Old Lace and rehearsing for her roles in the Take Heed Theater Company’s novel approach to Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing, debuting at the Old School Square outdoor pavilion later this month.

Oh, and in her spare moments, Fridh is searching for a permanent home in Delray Beach for the Take Heed Theater Company, which she leads along with her husband, Matt Stabile, and good friend David Hyland. Theater is a 24/7 lifestyle for Fridh, who has been teaching at the Gulf Stream School for five years. "My mom put me in a show when I was 5 and I fell in love with it," she says. "I've been doing it my whole life."

An actress first and foremost, Fridh began teaching at the school part time while still studying at Florida Atlantic University. After graduation, she moved into a full-time position. "The job at Gulf Stream just fell into my lap," she said. "It’s a great fit and a wonderful school. I can’t imagine teaching anywhere else."

Her students, including those who perform in the fourth-grade holiday show extravaganza that she produces for her roles in the Take Heed Theater Company’s novel approach to Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing, debuting at the Old School Square outdoor pavilion later this month.

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As to the production, there will be held outdoors as part of Old School Square’s Shakespeare at the Pavilion program, with the audience seated on blankets or folding chairs and enjoying a picnic dinner. As to the production, there are only six actors, each taking on a multitude of roles. Fridh, for example, plays the female lead Beatrice, the villainous Don John and the watchman. Actors need to cleverly switch from role to role and from costume to costume in this production, which is fast-paced, fun and perhaps a little irreverent to the bard while still paying respect to the master playwright. "Shakespeare doesn’t have to be boring," Fridh says. "I’ve really learned to love it."

The production, according to Joe Gillie, Old School Square’s president and CEO, is light enough for younger audiences and impressive enough for audiences of all ages to enjoy, in part because of the unique interpretation. "This is a great way to study Shakespeare," he said. "The whole family can come, have a picnic and enjoy a fun show." While Take Heed Theater Company has been performing regularly — at the Stage West Theater at Palm Beach Community College, where Hyland is the chairman of the theater department, and also at the Black Box Theater at the G Star School of the Arts, where Stabile is head of the acting program — the nonprofit company is hoping to find a permanent space in Delray Beach.

"We’re looking for a home," Fridh says. Fridh says that she and her cohorts at the theater company all enjoy being educators and can look past the long hours and hard work that comes with being teachers and performers simultaneously. "We do it because it’s our passion," she says. "It’s a collaborative art, and we all need that creative outlet."

By Rich Pollack

Niki Fridh relaxes during a fundraiser at Crane’s Beach House in Delray Beach. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

"Much Ado." 'Tis a skirmish of wit not to be missed!

Gulf Stream School teacher Niki Fridh (left) is part of the cast of Take Heed Theatre Company’s production of Much Ado About Nothing, which will be performed in Delray Beach. Photo provided

If You Go
Shakespeare at the Pavilion:
Much Ado About Nothing
Take Heed Theater Company
Old School Square Cultural Arts Center Outdoor Pavilion
Dates:
Friday, May 18, to Sunday, May 20
Friday, May 25, to Sunday, May 27
Time: 8 p.m.
Preview performance Thursday, May 17, during downtown’s On The Ave celebration
Cost: Free, although donations are appreciated.
Additional info: The performance is family-friendly, and guests are encouraged to bring a blanket, chairs and a picnic dinner. No pets, please; they just don’t appreciate Shakespeare.

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COASTAL STAR
May 2012
44 Arts

OFFER ENDING JUNE 9TH
Plaza Theatre founder has had a long affair with the arts

Alan Jacobson in his new home, The Plaza Theatre in Manalapan. He has opened the theater with a series of revues. Kurtis Boggs/
The Coastal Star

Music notes: The Grammy-nominated concert choir Seraphic Fire ends its 10th season with a concert of music from Baroque Latin America (7:30 p.m., May 10) at St. Gregory’s Episcopal Church in Boca Raton. The choir will be returning to St. Gregory’s for a second season in October. Call 888-544-FIRE (3473), or visit www.seraphicfire.org.

Baroque music is also on the May calendar for Keith Paulson-Thorp’s series at St. Paul’s Episcopal in Delray Beach, when his Camerata del Re performs an all-Telemann concert at 4 p.m. May 20. Tickets are $15-$20. Earlier in the week, St. Paul’s welcomes the choir of Marywood University, a Catholic college in Scranton, Pa., which will give a free concert at 7 p.m. May 16. Call 278-6603 or visit www.stpaulsdelray.org.

Not far away at the Arts Garage, chamber musicians associated with the South Florida Symphony perform chamber music including the Trout Quintet of Schubert and the String Quartet No. 2 of Dvorak, both featuring pianist Jeffrey Chappell (7 p.m. May 16), and cellist Ian Maksin is joined by vocalist Susana Behar for a recital with crossover flavor (7:30 p.m. May 18). The Gay Men’s Chorus of the Palm Beaches performs two shows (7:30 p.m. May 11-12) with widely varied music and an appearance by the Mandyess Sisters, and the Garage’s jazz series continues all month with percussionist Sammy Figueroa (8 p.m. May 5), saxophonist Troy Roberts and his Nu Jive Quartet (8 p.m. May 12), pianist Joe Negroni and his trio (8 p.m. May 19) and trumpeter Chris LaBarbera (8 p.m. May 26). Call 450-6557 or visit www.artsgarage.org.

And if you’re looking for something a little more reminiscent of an old-fashioned concert in the park on a holiday, then for Memorial Day it’s the Robert Sharon Chorale and the New Gardens Band in a free patriotic concert at 7 p.m. May 28 at Mizner Park Amphitheatre. Call 393-7964.

Art notes: In an unprecedented move, the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach has extended for a second time its showing of Bill Koch’s extensive Old West collection, Recapturing the Real West. It’s the most successful show the Four Arts has mounted since its founding in 1936, society officials say, with more than 20,000 visitors since it opened Feb. 4.

The show will now run through May 13, and with an admission price of only $5, it’s a unique opportunity to see a vast trove of memorabilia that for the most part has not been seen anywhere else. Call 655-7226 or visit www.fourarts.org.

Meanwhile, the Boca Raton Museum of Art ends its exhibit of the works of the 100-year-old American master Will Barnet on May 20 (he turns 100 five days later), and on May 30 opens the 61st annual All Florida Juried Competition and Exhibition.

Covered this year by Valerie Oliver of the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston, the exhibition will feature more than 100 works by Florida artists chosen from about 1,500 entries.

The juried show runs through July 8. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is $8, and $6 for seniors, or you could go see the Barnet exhibit on May 19, which is International Museum Day, when admission is free. Call 392-2500 or visit www.bocamuseum.org.

Art

Ilan Jacobson loved acting so much that he left the garment industry in his mid-30s to make the rounds of the off-Broadway theaters and the soap-opera casting calls of New York. But before too long, he realized he’d rather be producing, and in 1991, he turned his hand to behind-the-scenes work. He’s produced dozens of shows throughout South Florida, including If You Ever Leave Me I’m Going With You, which starred Joe Bologna and Renee Taylor, and his own Food Fight, which premiered at the Malza Theater in 2007 and has since been renamed Waitswatchers: The Musical.

Jacobson also ran the Florida Jewish Theatre for five years, and this past December, he took over the other theaters in Manalapan and named it The Plaza Theatre.

“When I took the opportunity to take the space, I looked to see what the other theaters in Palm Beach County were doing, and wanted to try to do something different,” said Jacobson, 57. “I feel if we can create our own niche, then it’ll be good not just for us, but for the other theaters as well.”

The 252-seat theater in the Plaza del Mar shopping center opened in February with a revue starring Broadway veteran Donna McKechnie, and last month, it offered Jacobson’s 50th jukebox show Music! Music! Music! Music! This month, he’ll present a Kevin Black penned revue of songs by the man who called I Am Music. It runs May 10-27.

“It’s got four fabulous singers, and four fabulous dancers,” he said, the hoofers being critical for Copacabana.

Next month, the theater mount Don’t Rain on Our Parade, a tribute to Barbara Streisand, Bette Midler and Carole King (Feb. 7), and The Way We Were, a tour of popular songs from the 1970s. Other shows on the horizon are Driving Miss Daisy (Nov. 2-18) and the 2010 Tony Award-winning musical Next to Normal (Jan. 17-Feb. 10).

Jacobson’s wife, Melissa, performs in the shows and also runs the theater’s conservatory.

“They’re looking for donor support for the Plaza, which he said he said is crucial for its survival. And despite his current focus on jukebox musicals and revues, if the money was right, he said he’d go edgy. “I’d do Angels in America in a heartbeat,” he said, referring to Tony Kushner’s 1993 epic chronicle of the AIDS crisis. “No one’s done it in South Florida.”

Tickets for I Am Music are $42. Call the box office at 561-533-0867 or visit www.thelplazatheatre.net.
M iddle school students at St. Joseph’s Episcopal School’s Academy of the Arts presented The Elves & The Shoemaker to students and the community April 25-27. This is the seventeenth year the school has performed a public production. Shoes used as props in the play were collected and donated to Aid to Families of Addicts. Photographed above is Fredericka Evans.

The Elves and the Shoemaker
St. Joseph’s Episcopal School, Boynton Beach

• Heritage Hen Farm AWA Farm Fresh Eggs
• Green Cay Farms Pastured Raised Pork
• Alderman Organic Farms
• Sanchez Farms
• Bistro Blends Olive Oils & Balsamic Vinegars
• Papparadelle’s Pasta
• Independent Seafish
• Capt. Red Hot Barbeque
• The Orchard Gardener
• Ambrosia’s Cupcake Company
• Amazing Creations
• Sensory Flow Soaps
• Mozzarella Fresh
• Italian Cheese
• The Happy Pickle
• Local Raw Honey
• Stone Crab
• Gluten Free Products
• Old School Bread Co.
• Fresh Flowers
• Arrowhead FL Grass Fed
• Peruvian Empanadas
• Off Shore Crab Co. Fresh
• Conch, Conch Fritters, Conch Fritters
• Golden Crabs
• Taste of Africa
• Fresh Coconut Water
• Crazy Hart Limes
• Fresh Milk & Frozen Yogurt
• Tepin’s Organics

The Irish Theatre of Florida; The County at The Centre, ST. NITON VENANT, DELRAY BEACH. An intimate portrait of a local family’s life and city: living examines the problem of emigration and the effects it has, not just on those left behind, but the country as well. Ages 18 and over only. 312-5023. 244-4444.

• The Sensation Show is presented by the Teal Team from the Ikeda Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Featuring singing, dance and modeling competition. 4 pm. 356-7469 or www.ikeda.org.

• Teen Car Club - Held Saturday at the “50’s” house with 50’s 50th Ave., Delray Beach. Hands-on learning on the basics of how to keep up on the maintenance of your vehicle! Workshops include: tire pressure, tire rotation, brakes, oil changes, tune ups, radiator flush, replacing radiator, air filters, and car safety kits. Girls are welcome. Ages 12-18, 6-7 pm, 55+ members free, students 201-235.

• The Coconut Derby Goes Pink - Presented by the Elliston Foundation at Boetger’s Bar & Grill, 3209 Airport Road, Boca Raton. Benefiting the Go-Pink Challenge, which supports the Christine E. Lynn Women’s Health & Wellness Institute at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. 6-8 pm. 888-454-4042 or www.bwh.com.

• Annual Kentucky Derby Event presented by the Boca Raton Park in partnership with Boca Delray at the Boca Greens Country Club, 19642 Trophy Drive, Boca Raton. Ladies encouraged to wear a desk and men their finery. Open bar, full dinner with carving station, bag pipe T.V. with live simulcast of the Kentucky Derby, as well as other races offered throughout the day. 6:30-10 pm. 954-4953 or www.bwh.com.

• The Kentucky Derby Goes Pink - Presented by the Elliston Foundation at Boetger’s Bar & Grill, 3209 Airport Road, Boca Raton. Benefiting the Go-Pink Challenge, which supports the Christine E. Lynn Women’s Health & Wellness Institute at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. 6-8 pm. 888-454-4042 or www.bwh.com.

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May 2012

The COASTAL STAR

Calendar Community 47

Municipal Meetings
S-7 / Ocean Ridge - First Monday of each month at the Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 450 N. Ocean Blvd. 5 pm. Agenda available at www.oceanridgeflorida.org.
S-7 / Gulf Stream - Second Friday of the month at the Gulf Stream Town Hall, 701 N. Ocean Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda available at www.gulfstreamflorida.org.
S-14 / Lantana - Usually second and fourth Mondays of each month at Lantana Town Hall, 5050 Old Dixie Hwy. 7 pm. Agenda available at www.lantana.org.
S-14 / Boynton Beach - Second Monday of each month at the Boynton Beach City Hall, 100 NE 1st St. 5 pm. Agenda available at www.boyntonfla.gov.
S-22 / South Palm Beach - Fourth Tuesday of each month at South Palm Beach Town Hall, 202 South Palm Beach Blvd. 6 pm. Agenda available at www.southpalmbeachfla.gov.
S-26 / Briny Breezes - Fourth Thursday at the Briny Breezes Community Center, 4802 N. Ocean Blvd. 4 pm. Agenda available at www.brinyybreezes-fl.gov.

S-4 / Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar & Grill - Thursday, May 3 at 7 pm at the Chesterfield Hotel, 363 Cocoanut Row, Palm Beach. A mock performance of Billie Holiday’s last show at a famous Philadelphia nightclub. Free admission. 5:30-9:45 pm or www.westonplayhouse.org.
S-5 / Tai Chi for Beginners - Held at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Old School Square, 511 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Exhibition hall, classroom spaces, pirates, myths and legends through the imaginative paintings of celebrated artist Ben Mant. Runs through 10/19. Tues. 10-11:45 am; Sun. 1-3 pm. $10/General, $5/Students (13-21), $10/Children (3-12), $15/Free: Children’s ages 3 and under, or 243-7835 or www.vetarts.org.
S-5 / An Evening at the Old School - Held at the Old School Museum, 500 NE 21st St., Delray Beach. Knowledge of the game is necessary. All levels welcome. Held 7 & 10:30 am. Free with $4/person. 243-6780.
S-5 / Chess Club - At the Veterans Community Park, 802 NE 5th St., Delray Beach. Knowledge of the game is necessary. All levels welcome. Held 7 & 1/2 am. Free. 205-0578 or www.junon为大家提供。
$5/Special Night with Moms is hosted by The Boynton Beach Recreation and Parks Department to celebrate Mother’s Day at the Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave. A night of music and dancing just for moms and their sons and daughters, 6-7:30 pm. $5/person. 742-6733.

5/10 - Mother’s Day Party at the Senior Center, 1021 S. Federal Hwy., Boynton Beach. 5 pm-7:30 pm. Free.

5/11 - The Amazing Mom and Son Challenge- Celebrate Mother’s Day at the Boynton Beach Community Center, 50 NW 1st Ave. Mom & Son teams “tow” around the city of Delray Beach looking for clues and performing challenges to be the first team to cross the finish line. Appetizers will be served. Flights of beer will be available for purchase. Mothers (13 years old and up) and sons will pay $25 per team. Registration begins at 8 am and the event begins at 9 am. Registration is $25 per team. 742-6246.

5/12 - Mother’s Day Tea at Café des Beaux Arts at The Flagler Museum, One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. Guests enjoy panoramic views of Lake Worth while dining on the café-style tea buffet with a range of teas and teas. Book signing and complimentary drinks included. $35/person. Reservations required. 743-5370.

5/13 - An Enchanted Afternoon for Mothers’ Day is held at Cornell Museum of Art and Cultural Center, 73 NE 1st St., Boca Raton. Enjoy an afternoon of enchantment, myths and legends and create a special gift. 1:30 pm-3:30 pm. $15/person, $25/couples. 742-6886 or www.boyntonlibrary.org.

5/14 - An Enchanted Afternoon for Mothers’ Day is held at the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. 10 am-2 pm. $5/person, $10/families. 742-6886 or www.boyntonlibrary.org.

5/15 - Movie: Memories of the Greatest Generation is presented by Delray Beach resident Fred Singer at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. The film showcases eight veterans and their spouses discussing their experiences during the war and what they’ve taken home with them. 2 pm. Free. 736-8044 or www.delraylibrary.org.

5/15 - Spring Festival of Fine Arts is held in conjunction with the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. The festival features arts and crafts, kid’s activities, music & prayer, green offerings and the annual Children’s Art Auction. Free. 742-6886 or www.boyntonlibrary.org.

5/16 - Big Top On The Ave is held in conjunction with the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. The festival features arts and crafts, kid’s activities, music & prayer, green offerings and the annual Children’s Art Auction. Free. 742-6886 or www.boyntonlibrary.org.

5/17 - Kiwanis 31st Annual Fishing Tournament is held at the Palm Beach Yacht Club, 3800 Ocean Dr., Delray Beach. Held in conjunction with the Kiwanis 75th Anniversary Celebration, this tournament is open to boys and girls ages 8-16 with a donation of $25. Registration begins at 7 am; fishing begins at 8 am. Guest and junior lunch tickets are $5. For more information, call 1-888-FISHFEST or visit www.kiwanicfishingtourney.com.

5/18 - Party with the Pack is presented by Lendos Endowment, Inc. at Leeds Custom Home’s 3rd Annual Wine & Spirits Gala. Doors open at 6 pm. The evening includes music, dancing, live and silent auctions, food, drinks and more. Tickets are $200 per person or $350 per couple. Registration begins at 5 pm. 742-6246.

5/19 - Free Concert - Presented as part of the Ocean Avenue Concert Series at the Ocean Avenue Amphitheater, between Seaview Lane and Royal Street. $5 for non-residents, $25 for members. Call 742-6246 to reserve chairs or blankets. No pets. 6-9 pm. Free.

5/20 - Broadway Rocks! at Shirwein Performing Arts Theatre, 501 SE Mizner Blvd., Boynton Beach. Registration is $35 per adult and $25 per child. 742-6246.

5/20 - Beach Bootcamp at the Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 701 S. Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Registration is $45 per person or $40 for students ages 12-17. 742-6246.

5/21 - Beach Bootcamp at the Mizner Park Amphitheatre, 701 S. Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Registration is $45 per person or $40 for students ages 12-17. 742-6246.

5/22 - South Florida Gardening with Garden Ridge is held at Old Vines, 225 NW 12th Ave., Boynton Beach. Learn to grow beautiful annuals, vegetables, herbs and perennials. 9-11 am. $20 per person or $30 per couple. 736-8044 or www.delraylibrary.org.

5/23 - Wine Tastings is held at Old Vines, 225 NW 12th Ave., Boynton Beach. Enjoy a delicious little bite paired with a fantastic selection of wines. 6-7 pm. $15 per person. 736-8044 or www.delraylibrary.org.

5/24 - Nisei Week - Passport to Japan is a celebration of the culture of the Japanese American community. This annual event includes games, music, food and a variety of activities. 10 am-5 pm. Free. 742-6246.

5/25 - Southeast Asia Awareness-Based Interactive Experience: Nob Hill is held at the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. Children learn about the history of Southeast Asia and its connection to the United States. $5/person. 742-6886 or www.boyntonlibrary.org.

5/26 - Mattel’s Day is sponsored by Mattel, Inc. at the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum & Learning Center, 129 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach. The event features a Mattel-themed craft, an art station, engineering activities and a visit from the Mattel character. $5/person. 742-6886 or www.boyntonlibrary.org.

5/27 - 50 Years of Song: Broadway Classics is held at the Carolyn Sims Center, 2121 SE Mizner Blvd., Boca Raton. Registration is $25 per person, $45 per couple. 742-6246.
Recognition Evening
5/19 - 24th Annual Pro Bono
Includes cookout and awards with raffle and live entertainment and casual waterfront at Boynton Beach City Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd. Grades 5-12. Create and decorate Asian-inspired paper lanterns. 6-7 pm. Fee: 742-6390.
Monday - 5/21 - Downkeeper by Alice Hoffman is presented as part of the Teen Book Discussion group at the Boynton Beach Public Library. 100 W. Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. 266-8940 or www.boyntonlibrary.org.
Sunday - 5/20 - Becoming a Better Half by David Macinnis Gill is presented as part of the Teen Book Discussion group at the Boynton Beach Public Library. 100 W. Atlantic Ave. 2 pm. Free. 742-6390.
Centennial Celebration
Delray Beach Public Library

The Delray Beach Public Library celebrated its 99th birthday on April 11 by kicking off a year of centennial activities. More than 785 members of the community, including city officials, library board members and volunteers attended. ABOVE: Librarian Kathleen Hensman (left) and volunteer Susan Goodreds. Photo provided

Green Markets
Boynton Beach Community and the City of Boynton present the Boynton Beach Community Market is held in the parking lot at the southeast corner of Boynton Beach Boulevard and Federal Highway. Locally grown artisan food, fresh baked goods, specialty oils, handmade jewelry, and more. Visit us every Wednesday from 7:30 am - 11:00 am. (561) 723-8090.

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2012 Community Calendar
MAY 2012

Saturday - 5/26 - Safe Boating Classes are offered by Coast Guard Auxiliary Fishtail 54 at Harvey Oyer Park, 201 N. Federal Hwy., Boynton Beach. Last Saturday of each month. Class satisfies the Florida Department of Natural Resources Boating Operation Requirements. 8 am. $15 includes materials. Reservations: 734-8821.

5/26 - Sea Angels Beach Cleanup is held at Ocean Inlet Park, 6199 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge. 8-10 am. Last day of season 5/12. Free. 367-7070.

5/26 - Beach Walk and Talk presented by Dr. Angela Wittern at the Sandoway House Nature Center, 142 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Investigate plants on the dunes and animals found on the beach and in the water. For all ages. 9-10 am. $5/person includes admission to the nature center. 274-7263.

5/26 - From Stage to Screen: Matthew Farmer in Concert: Negrino’s Trio at the Arts Garage, 180 NE First St, Delray Beach. 5:30-5:30. 3 pm. 245-7129.

5/26 - 27th Annual Downtown Delray Beach Craft Festival is held at the Delray Beach Tennis Center, 201 W. Atlantic Ave. Juried outdoor craft showcase. 10 am-5 pm.

5/27 - Boca Ballet Theater - Presented by the City of Boca Raton at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 500 Plaza Real. A mixed repertory dance concert. No coolers, pets, umbrellas, strollers, outside food or beverages, or backdrops. 7:30 pm. Free. 397-1767.

5/27 - Boca Ballot Theater - Presented by the City of Boca Raton at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 500 Plaza Real. A mixed repertory dance concert. No coolers, pets, umbrellas, strollers, outside food or beverages, or backdrops. 7:30 pm. Free. 397-1767.


5/28 - The Lottery is discussed as part of the Great Books group at the Boynton Beach City Library, 204 S. Seacrest Blvd. Meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of each month. 10-11:45 am. Free. 742-4886.


5/28-30 - Call Me Mr. Abbott: The Life and Career of George Abbott is performed at The Delray Beach Playhouse, 950 N.W. 4th St. Held again 4/6- M W & 6-8 pm. 530-2282, Ext. 1. Entertaining - Beach Treasures - Meet for an introductory talk about seaweeds at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton, then caravan over to Red Reef Park to walk the beach in search of ocean treasures. Open to all ages. 10-11:30 am. Free. 243-7129. 7:30 pm. $5.00. 

5/29 - Rutha Yoga is held at the Boynton Beach City Library, 204 S. Seacrest Blvd. Grades 5-12. Join instructor Jessica for an introductory teen class. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers and bring a towel. 5-6 pm. Free. 742-6390.

5/29 - Danger Ahead is presented as part of a six-week series on the “Art of Marriage” produced by the Ruth Lehr Learning Institute and offered by Rabbi Leibel Stolik at Chabad Plaza del Mar, 242 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. This lesson shows ways to form and fortify an exclusive and powerful relationship. 7 pm. $35. Reservations: 889-3499.

5/29 - Thursday - 5/31 - Alzheimer’s Educational Conference is presented by Alzheimer’s Community Care at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, 501 Plaza Real. Running in conjunction with the 61st Annual All Florida Senior Competition and Exhibitions, this exhibition presents works by the professional artists of the Museum Auxiliary Guild. Runs through 7/19. T & F 10-11 am; W: 10-11 am; Sat: 10-4 pm; Noon-5 pm. $15/adults, $10/senior citizens, $9/students with ID; free/children 12 and under. 397-2500.

5/30 - Art Exhibit: Boca Museum Artists’ Guild Biennial Exhibition at The Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Running in conjunction with the 61st Annual All Florida Senior Competition and Exhibitions, this exhibition presents works by the professional artists of the Museum Auxiliary Guild. Runs through 7/19. T & F 10-11 am; W: 10-11 am; Sat: 10-4 pm; Noon-5 pm. $15/adults, $10/senior citizens, $9/students with ID; free/children 12 and under. 397-2500.

5/30 - Seining the Lagoon is presented as part of a six-week series on the “Art of Marriage” produced by the Ruth Lehr Learning Institute and offered by Rabbi Leibel Stolik at Chabad Plaza del Mar, 242 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan. This lesson shows ways to form and fortify an exclusive and powerful relationship. 7 pm. $35. Reservations: 889-3499.


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5/30 - 2nd - Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup is held at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N. Ocean Blvd. in Ocean Ridge. 8-10:15 am. Free. Registration: 734-9128.

5/31 - 6/1 - Friday Night Lights: Walkway to Waterway “Summertime Fest” - Presented at downtown Boca Raton on Palmetto Park Road, between Mizner Boulevard and 5th Street. First Friday of each month showcases live themed entertainment, gourmet food trucks, and more. 6:30 pm, live entertainment begins 7:30 pm. Free. 367-7070.

5/31 - 6/2 - Sand Sifters Beach Cleanup is held at Oceanfront Park, 6415 N. Ocean Blvd. in Ocean Ridge. 8-10:15 am. Free. Registration: 734-9128.

6/2 - Feast, Pass & Kick Challenge is at the Canajoharie Sims Center, 225 NW 12th Ave., Boynton Beach. Ages 6-12 compete. Trophies awarded to the top two players in each division. 9:15 am. $30/resident, $35/non-resident. Registration: 742-6441.

6/2 - Kinder Turfies - Parents and kids learn how to play soccer is similar to us at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. For ages 5-6 with an adult. 10-10:45 am. $35/children, $15/adults. Free for accompanying adults. Reservations: 339-1542 or www.gumbolimbo.org.
Comfort and style with a view in Ocean Ridge

In the delightful Ocean Harbor Estates gated community of only 19 homes, this newly customized 4-bedroom, 4½-bath waterfront home backs cozily to a private cove just off the Intracoastal. A light and airy two-story residence with more than 5,400 square feet of living area, it also has 70 feet of dockage with electric, water and wrapped pilings for easier maintenance.

The upstairs master suite has his and her closets with built-in maple cabinetry. A private balcony overlooks the pool and the cove. The luxurious ensuite bath has a whirlpool tub and a beautiful glass block shower. Next to the suite is a separate exercise room.

Magnificent custom-designed stainless steel staircase railings in the foyer were featured in Florida Living and are just the introduction to the numerous design details that make this home a waterfront masterpiece.

$2,200,000. Call Linda Lake, Tauriello & Company Real Estate Inc. (561) 702-4898. Llake1@bellsouth.net or Tauriello.com
1695 LANDS END ROAD
Fantastic views from stunning 9700 SF waterfront 6BR/6.5BA estate with dock. Gourmet kitchen, impact windows & doors, pool with spa. Web ID 993 $4.49M

11 SABAL ISLAND DRIVE
Elegant 4BR/5.5BA Mediterranean estate overlooks wide stretch of Intracoastal Dock with 35,000 lb lift. Just minutes to Ocean access. Web ID 994 $2.395M

UNDER CONTRACT

1225 LANDS END ROAD
Best waterfront buy in Manalapan! 135’ frontage on Intracoastal with new dock. Neo-contemporary 3BR/2.5BA with gratis beach club membership. Web ID 523 $1.675M

4 LITTLE POND ROAD
Designer renovated single story villa with 2BR/2BA and fine finishes. Rarely do these come on the market. Gratis Ritz Carlton Club membership incl. Web ID 1097 $775K

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Located on SE point of Pt. Manalapan. 6BR/6.5BA home with 265’ of water frontage and long views down the Intracoastal. Web ID 1111 $6.795M

1445 LANDS END ROAD
Traditional 6BR/6.5BA estate on beautifully landscaped lot with amazing Intracoastal views. State of the art appliances and custom finishes. Web ID 1114 $5.995M

1675 LANDS END ROAD
Just completed 5BR/5.2BA home on 150’ of wide Intracoastal. Marble & wood floors, elevator, pool, outdoor kitchen plus 30’ boat dock. Web ID 1112 $5.695M

1690 LANDS END ROAD
Mediterranean style 5BR/4.5BA waterfront home with 110’ on the Intracoastal. High wood beamed ceilings, library with fireplace and dock. Web ID 1113 $3.295M

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