Iguana nuisance prompts talk of eradication

By Hector Florin

The mayor has spotted them on his sea wall. One commissioner has dodged them while driving in his neighborhood. One resident blames them for the loss of his mulberry tree.

While no iguana pandemic exists in Manalapan, the slinky lizards are causing a bit of a stir, with sporadic reports of sightings in yards and on streets.

Town commissioners on Feb. 24 declared the iguanas a nuisance, and asked staff to gather information to possibly contract with an iguana trapper to remove the non-native creatures.

Commissioner Dr. Tom Coffman says he’s seen four or five iguanas near his home over the last year. He wants to avoid the common iguana sightings afflicting House of the Month

At this Manalapan estate, it’s all about the view. Page 34

Delray Beach

Two priests await sentencing in parish thefts

By Tim O’Meilia

On the day before Lent began — a season of penance and sacrifice for Roman Catholics — a former pastor of St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Delray Beach was found guilty by a Palm Beach County jury of stealing up to $100,000 from the Sunday collection plates over 19 months.

The Rev. Francis Guinan, 66, is the second clergyman from the parish who faces prison for spending offertory money on trips to Las Vegas, Ireland and the Bahamas, airline tickets for a female companion and tabs at restaurants and private clubs. The pastor

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Inside

Spring Break fun!
Take the grandkids to see beasts, butterflies and hummingbirds. Page 18

Know your candidates:
March 10 elections in Delray Beach and Lantana. Pages 10, 12

House of the Month
At this Manalapan estate, it’s all about the view. Page 34
Paws Up! for our furry friends

Flaco is a refugee. I don’t know any of his backstory or what dangers he may have endured to end up on my doorstep. I have suspicions, but nothing I can prove. I’ve harbored this refugee cat for about four years now — ever since he walked in the front door and sat down in front of the refrigerator. He’s elderly and ailing, but this odd creature has settled in and become part of our family. I’m as grateful for his arrival as he is for finding a safe harbor for animal refugees over the years.

Over the years, many beloved pets have come and gone, leaving our seaside community with indelible, shared memories. I myself have learned some neighbors’ names after first coming to recognize them by sight — at the tail end of a dog leash.

In this edition, I’m happy to introduce a former newspaper colleague who has built a successful career writing and talking about pets. She’s authored several books, hosts an Internet talk show and makes regular guest appearances on radio and TV. As you’ll read in her introductory column, she spent her early years as a journalist here in southern Palm Beach County. She, too, has provided a safe harbor for animal refugees over the years.

The launch of Paws Up for Pets! column to our pages, and feel free to let her know about any concerns you have with your own furry friends.

Editorial

Mary Kate Leming, Editor

Flaco the cat-napping feline sleeps through a photo session. Photo by Mary Kate Leming
SHIPWRECKS:
Continued from page 1

A barkentine, called the Oh Kim Soon, was sailing from Spain to Fernandina when it ran aground on Jan. 30, 1897, another ship wrecked on the same spot. A 142-foot barkentine, the Lofthus was left to the mercy of the shifting sands. Its crew of 15 spent two months trying to dislodge it, and by May it had begun to break apart. The cargo, however, washed ashore, to be stacked along the beach and finally auctioned.

Some of that lumber became the first Boynton Beach Woman’s Club, constructed at the corner of Ocean Avenue and Southeast Fourth Street. “We’ve tried,” says Pete Kendrigan, “but we’ve never been able to find any of the Coquimbo out there.”

But alas, lumber is not all that’s been lost to storms and coral reefs off Palm Beach County. On another Sept. 11, lives were lost. A 386-foot steel steamship, the Inchulva, was traveling from Galveston, Texas, to Norfolk, Va., when it met a hurricane off the coast of Delray Beach on Sept. 11, 1903. The hull split, the stern collapsed and nine of the 21-man crew were killed. In her definitive history of the wreck, S.S. Inchulva: A Florida Shipwreck, veteran diver Linda Reeves reports that the 12 survivors were brought ashore and spent about a week recovering at the Chapman House hotel on East Atlantic Avenue. When they left, each man signed the guest book:

“Shipwrecked in the S.S. Inchulva, September 11, 1903, landed on a raft September 12th and received every kindness and attention at the hands of Mrs. Chapman.”

For years, the Inchulva was known as simply “the Delray wreck,” until May 22, 1990, when a marker was placed on State Road A1A at Casuarina Road, paid for with $1,500 in private money raised by The Friends of the Delray Wreck. In 2005, the marker itself was damaged in Hurricane Wilma. It has been repaired and remounted in January. According to Reeves, the remains of 67 shipwrecks lie in the waters off Palm Beach County, some from the 1600s, and at least five bearing silver and gold. But Masterson says he has no great passion for silver goblets and gold doubloons. “Our treasure is the history,” Masterson says. “The history is the treasure.”

Local shipwrecks

**Oh Kim Soon**
- **Date of wreck:** Jan. 30, 1897
- **Location:** Approximately three-quarters of a mile north of Boynton Inlet and 175 yards east off Manalapan
- **Cargo:** Unknown
- **Remains:** None found at wreck site.

**Lofthus**
- **Date of wreck:** Jan. 30, 1898
- **Location:** Approximately three-quarter of a mile north of Boynton Inlet and 175 yards east off Manalapan, in the same location as the Oh Kim Soon
- **Cargo:** Lumber
- **Remains:** Three main sections scattered over an 8-by-14-yard area, including the bow and decking, hull frame and iron masts.

**Inchulva**
- **Date of wreck:** Sept. 11, 1903
- **Location:** Approximately 100 yards off Delray Beach from Casuarina Road
- **Cargo:** Wheat, cotton, brewer’s grain, pine lumber, cottonseed meal
- **Remains:** Five visible sections, including the boilers and two large sections of the ship’s ribs, one 40 and the other 50 feet long.

**Coquimbo**
- **Date of wreck:** Winter 1909
- **Location:** A half-mile south of present-day Ocean Avenue in Ocean Ridge
- **Cargo:** Long-leaf pine lumber
- **Remains:** None found at wreck site.

Sources: Contemporary accounts, Florida Department of Archeological Research, and S.S. Inchulva: A Florida Shipwreck, by Linda Reeves

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Local voices

By Robert W. Ganger

Readers of The Coastal Star may be unaware that a bill is percolating through the Florida Legislature that would “streamline” the state’s Growth Management Act — the rulebook by which the Department of Community Affairs has guided growth and development in our state since 1985. Who is backing the bill? The bill’s major legislative sponsor is a developer/contractor. In fairness, he and his professional colleagues may view the Growth Management Act as overburdened by red tape. On the surface, streamlining a regulatory process developed in the 1980s may seem to be prudent and overdue, and local mayors will certainly appreciate less interference from Tallahassee in local decision-making. Proponents of the amendment package claim that it will accelerate the process of getting approval for major development projects, and in doing, help to create jobs. Opponents point out that our economy and our environment have been victimized for years by the very overdevelopment that the Growth Management Act is supposed to regulate. Making the act weaker does not seem to be a good strategy. Building more condos along our coastline is a dubious approach to job creation, given our hopelessly overbuilt status. Why should we be concerned? There are several elements in the draft amendment that are troubling. As it now stands, the public has ample opportunity for input when a municipality seeks a matter change in its Comprehensive Plan, such as eliminating green space or increasing population density in a potential or mixed-use zoning. The proposed amendment could cut time for public comment in half, and eliminate entirely a key report required of DCA for objections, recommendations and comments. This OKs the bill is a critical step in proposal and implementation of major changes in the character of a given community. The proposed amendment also creates a waiver from transportation concurrency requirements for certain projects, particularly those that create jobs. Simplified, this says that a developer need not be concerned by the added traffic burden resulting from his project. For those of us living on the barrier island, doubling or tripling traffic on two-lane State Road A1A constitutes a major safety and quality-of-life issue. What can we do? Language in the proposed amendment is still being crafted, and it is not clear whether or how a major coastal community development, such as the rebuilding of Briny Breezes, might be impacted by a change in the Growth Management Act. Several major public interest groups have already commenced correspondence to the Florida Legislature about the proposed amendment to the Growth Plan Amendments. To stay abreast of the situation, we suggest visiting the Florida Coalition for Preservation Web site, www.preservationfla.org, for further details and actions available to us as citizens.

Robert W. Ganger is president of the Florida Coalition for Preservation, a grass roots organization championing responsible development in Florida’s coastal communities.

Letters to the editor

Motorists must understand cyclists’ rights

I found it interesting that in one issue of your paper there were the following two headlines: “Bicycle pack riders need to stick to their lanes,” and “Biking A1A: a scenic and scary ride.” I’m a 68-year-old man who has been cycling on A1A for over 40 of my life. I have lived in Ocean Ridge for over 27 years, and have been in disagreement with the town over its stance on bike lanes for years. Many of you may not know that the bicyclist finally won in court and the Florida Department of Transportation (D0T) now has to provide bike lanes as roads are updated. Unfortunately, our towns and cities were able to avoid the issue in court long enough to have A1A completed before the case was finally resolved.

I ride 50-plus miles a week and range between Deerfield Beach and Palm Beach. I ride by myself and have purposely been run off the road numerous times by cars. Almost every time I ride, I have cars pass within inches of me, which is illegal. In August 2007, I wrote the town of Ocean Ridge and asked if the Police Department was enforcing the Florida law that requires motorists to maintain a three-foot minimum distance from bicyclists. At that time I was told that no local police department had issued a ticket for a car passing too close to a bicyclist.

I inquired again in January 2009 and was advised that the Ocean Ridge Police had issued one ticket (Jan. 30, 2008) for passing too closely. Police in Delray Beach, Manalapan, South Palm Beach or Gulfstream had issued no tickets.

Between Deerfield and Palm Beach, only Boca Raton and Delray have bike lanes on A1A. Elsewhere bicyclists have to contend with cars that often will not give room and towns that no longer refuse to enforce laws that were put in place to protect us. I also ride a motorcycle; sadly, it is a lot safer than my bicycle.

I agree that bicyclists should obey the law where bike lanes are provided, but I also believe that motorists must understand that we have a right to use the roads and that the various towns’ police departments need to enforce the 3-foot minimum limit law.

Earl Jones Ocean Ridge

Bonus story slighted legal complexities

The Coastal Star’s Jan. 3 article on holiday bonuses for municipal employees, “Thanks! Holiday bonus traditions vary,” was comprehensive and informative. However, more issues involving public expenditures, this topic is more complex than it seems. The Coastal Star correctly reported my vote against bonuses as a stand-alone item at the December Town Commission meeting about the town of Ocean Ridge’s fiscal obligation “to stick to its budget.” Not reported was my expressed concern that extra employee compensation was being awarded in the absence of employee performance evaluations. Florida law requires that lump sum bonuses only be awarded based upon employee work performance that exceeds established standards. I raised this informational point at the December Town Commission meeting because Ocean Ridge has no established performance standards, nor any employee evaluation program. In fact, Florida law prohibits after-the-fact “extra compensation” unless there is a municipal ordinance that specifically provides for it. Ocean Ridge has no such authorizing ordinance. The article did not even mention whether any of the towns considered these legal requirements. Ocean Ridge did not.

It should be obvious that expenditure of taxpayer funds must always be in compliance with state statutes. At the February commission meeting, I initiated an action, adopted by a vote of 3, directing the town attorney to draft an employee bonus compensation ordinance. The ordinance, plus an employee evaluation program, will ensure that future bonuses stand on firm legal ground.

Terry Brown Ocean Ridge Town Commissioner

Publisher’s note: The opinions expressed in the various letters to the editor belong solely to the author of each letter and should not be presumed to state the opinion or point of view of The Coastal Star or its publisher.
Coastal towns investigate stimulus funds

By Hector Florin

Coastal cities are jockeying for a piece of the $787 billion stimulus package, with a focus on water utility projects, but many are not convinced their area will benefit much in the short term.

Aside from Delray Beach, coastal cities from Gulf Stream north to Manalapan are collectively eying a dozen or so improvements that city leaders believe could qualify for about $4 billion in state and federal funds — an estimate provided by U.S. Rep. Ron Klein’s office. The stimulus money could save or create 200,000 jobs in Florida, he said.

Municipal representatives met with Klein on Feb. 18 in West Palm Beach, and the Palm Beach County League of Cities discussed the stimulus package on Feb. 25. The early estimate shows just more than half of the $4 billion expected to trickle of Cities discussed the Palm Beach County League of Cities discussed the stimulus package on Feb. 25. The early estimate shows just more than half of the $4 billion expected to trickle down to Florida is dedicated to programs related to food security, said Klein.

Palm Beach County has $12 million in projects and renovation of the town’s main lift station and another two hydro-pneumatic water tanks. The tanks are two located at the water plant and another two at the library, totaling at least $500,000. The tanks are at least 35 years old, Dunham said.

“This is making sure some of our more valuable assets, if not our most valuable asset — the water facilities — are up to date,” he added.

Delray Beach

A $12 million recreation and fitness center, on city-owned land at the northwest corner of Congress Avenue and Lake Ida Road, tops the city’s wish list.

Downtown road resurfacing projects and other infrastructure improvements throughout the city also qualify as “shovel-ready projects,” City Manager David Harden said.

Briny Breezes

Is all rosy in Briny? "That’s the sentiment for now, as the town has not expressed any interest in seeking funds.

“We have nothing in the pipeline, so there was no sense to apply for anything,” Mayor Roger Bennett said.

Coastal towns stand on seeking stimulus money:

Ocean Ridge

Town Manager Ken Schenck identified three projects, all drainage-related, to the state.

At the top of the list is $500,000 for pumping water through a catch basin at the Coconut Lane cul-de-sac. Schenck said he would like partnering with Palm Beach County to perform some work at Ocean Ridge Natural Area.

Getting rid of non-native species and improving the mangroves area would enhance the 25-acre nature preserve.

Lantana

A well west of Interstate 95 is under construction, and the town will look into applying for money to build a second new well nearby, Town Manager Mike Bornstein said.

The estimated price tag is $750,000. Funds for drainage projects and renovation of the town’s main lift station might also be considered.

Gulf Stream

Town commissioners on Feb. 13 confirmed their interest in seeking funds to cover up to $4.9 million to build a sewer system, as the town relies on septic tanks. Miles of piping, 103 manholes and 9 lift stations are part of the project.

And commissioners asked Town Manager William Thrasher to express a desire for underground utilities funding, which became part of a $3.5 million request sent to Klein’s office.

Commissioner Chris Wheeler said at the commission meeting he considered it a “shovel-ready project.”

Manalapan

The town is confident a 2,000-foot water main project near Town Hall — already designed, and with a company already selected to do the work, estimated at $300,000 — would qualify for stimulus money.

Similarly, water treatment plant improvements and a reverse-osmosis well project — about $1.2 million worth of work — are ready for construction, Town Manager Gregory Dunham said.

Add the replacements of four hydro-pneumatic water tanks, two located at the water plant and another two at the library, totaling at least $500,000.
**Delray moves forward with downtown plaza project**

By Hector Florin

City commissioners again showered praise on Atlantic Plaza II, a downtown redevelopment plan, by unanimously adopting the rezoning of Northeast Seventh Avenue and getting rid of two existing alleyways. Residents and business owners offered mixed reaction to the development plans at the meeting.

Robert Victorin, president of the Beach Property Owners Association, worried the development’s density would result in eastbound traffic backing up over the bridge. Resident and city advisory board member Joe Snyder said city staff was bending over backward to accommodate CDS with time-consuming staff reports while the city was not getting enough from this project in return.

“I can’t really see what the city is achieving,” Snyder said. "What are we getting out of this?" Supporters questioned claims that traffic shut down the existing Seventh Avenue, making for an unsafe road, while others agreed new development at the location is needed.

“We need something there that is going to bring people in during day and night,” one resident said. Gulf Stream Civic Association President Robert Ganger also chimed in, saying it’s time to look at the details of the development plans. “Let’s get to work on what’s really important — what this thing will look like,” he said. According to the agreement with the city, CDS must obtain Site Review Plan Advisory Board approval by Dec. 1. Water and sewer lines will be removed and new pipes added.

The Seventh Avenue relocation will result in the road jogging slightly to the north. Traffic will run eastward from Federal Highway to the new Seventh Avenue inside the development.

And the number of entrances and exits into the property will dwindle from three to five, creating a better, safer traffic flow, said Michael Weiner, a representative for the project.

“I do believe that this developer has tried to have open communication with everybody,” Commissioner Gary Elieopolou said. “We all know that the previous project upset a lot of people.”

In all, commissioners unanimously approved the three conditions to move the project forward. Construction is scheduled to be completed for another three to five years.

“That’s a prime area of our downtown,” Commissioner Fred Fetzer said. “We’re trying to work with this developer to make it happen. (Right now), that’s an old suburban-style shopping center that’s never done well.”

**Spotlight on Delray Beach’s Old Calypso restaurant**

By Florence Kizza

Several city residents living on the Intracoastal Waterway were lit up last month thanks to an illuminating move by a local business. Old Calypso restaurant installed new lights on its building that ended up causing a stir among nearby residents.

“The lights were strobing like something out of the Las Vegas strip and shining in my window,” explains Delray Beach resident Jenie DePonte.

“I found it very disturbing.” Old Calypso is a three-star restaurant serving up New Orleans-style cuisine right on the Intracoastal Waterway near Atlantic Avenue. Live island music and steel drums create a festive ambiance in the establishment. Tom Blum is the owner of Old Calypso and its sister restaurant, Fifth Avenue Grill, on Federal Highway.

DePonte found the lights annoying, and she was not alone. Several of her neighbors along Marine Way shared the same sentiments, and one of them called the police. The lights were shut off immediately and have not come on since.

But that was not the end. DePonte wrote letters to the city attorney and the Code Enforcement Department. She recently got a letter from the city stating that the situation is in the hands of Paul Dorling and his Planning and Zoning Department.

“I’ll keep writing letters,” DelPonte insists. “It’s a question of the ambiance of Marine Way will be negatively affected by strobe lights from across the waterway.”

“I think it horrendous, it’s horrible, it’s not Delray.”

The restaurant confirmed that the lights have remained off, but no one was available to make an official comment.

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Briny Breezes

Parking tickets rile residents

By Hector Florin

Parking tickets are causing a fuss in Briny Breezes.

Corporation director Robert Purcell described the volunteer Boynton Beach group’s parking enforcement “an embarrassment — it’s harassment” at the Feb. 26 Town Council meeting. Purcell said he once inadvertently forgot to give a guest — parked in Purcell’s driveway — a visitor’s parking pass. A volunteer parking enforcement specialist with Boynton Beach wrote down a violation. Purcell said he approached the same volunteer specialist with his guest-parking pass. The volunteer still gave the $30 ticket, Purcell said.

Purcell also questioned where in the town’s laws it states it has authority to issue the parking tickets. Bennett reaffirmed that right belonged to the Town Council, which Boynton Beach Officer John Boczon to find the law and asked Alderman Nancy Bennett snapped as Purcell pointed out the corporation.”

“doesn’t have anything to do with the corporation.”

During a short exchange, Bennett snapped as Purcell approached the council dais and asked Alderman Nancy Boczon to find the law that gives the town that authority.

“You tend to be fairly belligerent,” Bennett told Purcell. “Would you sit down? We’ve had enough of this, please.”

Two residents offered milder criticism over the handling of parking tickets. One said she was “mortified” when one guest got a ticket last April for not immediately placing a parking pass on the guest’s car. The town should revisit its parking ticket policy, if it indeed has control of the issue, she said. Another resident suggested the town was becoming “a police state.”

Boczon defended the role of the volunteer police force. “They’re trying to do their job,” she said.

A special town meeting to discuss the parking concerns of Briny Breezes, Inc. was later scheduled for March 5.

In other developments from the Feb. 26 Town Council meeting:

• Traffic enforcement: Engaged in a question-and-answer session with a representative of Gatso USA, a company that could be chosen to install two cameras at the town’s street light on Briny Breezes Boulevard. Gatso is one company seeking to install cameras at intersections in the city of Boynton Beach, and Briny Breezes is leaning toward piggybacking on the city’s selection.

Mark Bedard, a regional sales manager for the 50-year-old Massachusetts-based company, said that according to initial studies, traffic on South Ocean Boulevard merits the installation of the cameras, which would photograph red-light runners. Installing the cameras would not cost the town money. Gatso would get about $30 from the money collected from any violations, whose price the town has not set but could be approximately $125. “Our purpose for this is not money. Our purpose is safety,” Bennett said.

The cameras are also capable of capturing photos of license plates when Amber Alerts are issued.

• Water meters: Discussed what to do to lower water leaks and overuse of water, and whether it’s feasible to install individual water meters at each home. Earl Harvel, president of Harvel Utility Construction, wrote in a memo that it would cost at least $738.50 per unit, a cost of more than $360,000 to the town.

• Council election and appointments: Due to lack of opposition there will be no official election on Tuesday. Mayor Bennett and Alderman Kathleen Bray have been automatically re-elected.

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Should dogs be prohibited from roaming private beaches? A kink in the town’s code forbids animals on public town beaches, but doesn’t specify all beaches, Commissioner Terry Brown said at the March 2 meeting.

“Virtually all of the beaches in Ocean Ridge are privately owned,” Brown said, but residents have approached him saying they’ve seen dogs, leading to various interpretations of the law.

Town Attorney Ken Spillias said there would be complications in identifying what exactly constitutes private beachfront land and setting a demarcation line, but Brown asked the town to look at changing its code to clarify the situation.

Signs along the public beaches state dogs aren’t allowed there. Some residents said many dogs appear on the beach during the winter population boom, and some waterfront homeowners allow their dogs to run down the sand.

The commission also discussed the following:

• Employee bonuses:Granted initial approval to allow Town Manager Ken Schenck to work with town commissioners in setting standards to determine whether town employees qualify for performance-based bonuses. Under the ordinance, Schenck would evaluate which employees surpass standards to become eligible for bonuses, but the commissioners would decide whether to award the bonuses at all each year, as well as the amount.

• No-see-um spraying:Informally decided to wait until the summertime budget process to see if no-see-um spraying will return. Commissioners Betty Bingham and Terry Brown mentioned allowing individual property owners to spray if they choose — and pay for it themselves — instead of having the town decide to reinstitute the weekly spraying.

“The ones that want it ought to pay for it,” Brown said. However, scientists have shown that it is one of the more ineffective methods to curb the impact of the pest.

“You can’t spray one house and expect there’s going to be an impact,” Mayor Ken Kaleel said. Added Brown, who said the spraying can harm “beneficial” insects like butterflies: “You’re never going to get rid of no-see-ums.” Commissioners cut the $62,000 spraying contract with Clarke Mosquito Control in September to trim town expenses.

• State Legislature:Discussed the potentially damaging ramifications of proposed Senate Bill 360, which could strip existing growth management laws and state planning oversight. Town commissioners revisited their battle over the proposed Redy Breezes development as an example where they might lose some clout if this bill passes. “It’s scary,” Brown said of the Senate bill. A companion House bill had not yet been drafted.
Boyard Beach

Commission seeks proposals for City Hall, police station

By Margie Plunkett

The City Commission called for developer proposals to fashion a new police station and City Hall at its Feb. 17 meeting, after contemplating a $30 million pitch to move the city complex to Renaissance Commons.

Earlier at the meeting, developer Compson Associates withdrew the Renaissance Commons proposal, which included refurbishing the nearby 1927 high school.

President Jim Comparato said it had become “politically charged” and that Compson would include its plan as part of the request for proposals. Commissioners voted at the meeting to seek three proposals: for a new police station on a city-owned tract at High Ridge and Gateway; for a police station elsewhere; and a joint project with both police station and City Hall.

They told planners to note the 1927 high school in the request for proposals as well.

The vote was the culmination of a meeting at which City Manager Kurt Bressner presented six options for the police station/City Hall development involving the Compson proposal.

That plan included a land swap between Renaissance Commons at Congress and Gateway and the current city site. Retail space and up to 376 workforce housing units would be built where City Hall is now. Fire Station No. 1 would be replaced.

The plan’s price tag of about $30 million was similar to an estimate for building a stand-alone police station without moving City Hall, the city manager’s report said.

Several residents spoke against moving City Hall, arguing it would kill the area’s economy.

“One major employer moves out, they’re really hard to replace,” said Victor Norfus. “City Hall is a major employer.”

The 1927 high school could serve a dual purpose, once refurbished, housing some city offices, Norfus suggested. “That will revitalize the downtown.”

The question is whether more affordable housing is still necessary, given lower housing prices in a market that still appears to be seeking bottom. One resident implored commissioners to take a trip around town to see all the empty housing units already.

Some commissioners and residents alike voiced reluctance to spend taxpayer money in a spiraling economy.

“In this day and age with the economy being what it is, I’m torn with the idea of moving City Hall,” said Commissioner Woodrow Hay.

“I don’t want to rush into anything,” Hay said. “It wouldn’t hurt us to wait a little longer and do it the right way.”

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Six candidates vie for three seats in Delray Beach

By C.B. Hainf

This sophisticated beachfront town is working hard to avoid its two-time All-America City charm. So it’s not surprising that economic issues dominate for the six candidates seeking the three City Commission seats being decided on March 10.

A desire to revamp the city’s power structure, however, is another priority for some residents. “I want to make an attempt to restore some faith and integrity in government here,” says first-time Seat 3 candidate Gary Eliopoulos. Meanwhile, others agree with incumbent Seat 1 Commissioner Gary Eliopoulos that town officials are addressing Delray’s concerns in “the correct and efficient way.”

Mary McCarty is not on the ball. With her shadow undoubtedly will follow some of the voters. The influential former Delray commissioner resigned from the Palm Beach County Commission last year, and plans to plead guilty to federal corruption charges. Two of her County Commission colleagues were already serving five year prison sentences on similar charges. The fallout could affect the composition of Delray’s newly elected commission and thereby more of such employees as City Manager David Harden.

See Joe Ferrer, a lawyer supporter, one said result of the county scandal is that “no body trusts anybody who is running for office.” He worries about a low turnout “because nobody believes in politics.” His opponent, Adam Frankel, questions the commission investigation into whether City staff inappropriate financial transactions. He chose McCarty’s husband for bond underwriting contracts. “They call it independent, but I call it semi-independent,” he said of the inquiry, because list of investigators from which commissioners chose “was compiled by the lawyer, as well as those of his former partner who has worked with the city for 20 years.”

In the Seat 5 race, however, Charles “Chuck” Halberg said he is fighting “the good old boy network” in Delray politics, and that “Mr. Harden is out of touch.”

Gary Eliopoulos, who is seeking the three City Commission seats, is running as Delray native, a Harden supporter. “I have been very loyal to him, only that he will always have an open door. Questions the man, was not endorsed by the police and firefighter unions because he promised the police and firefighter unions, which have endorsed him, only that he will always have an open door. Questions the commission are do you want to have jazz on the avenue or do you want to put up the Christmas tree. They have no other issues with which to come at politcally, so they say there must be conflict. It is at most minimal.”

Shelly Petrolia

PERSONAL: 45; married; four children; B.S. business and finance, risk management/insurance Florida State University; PROFESSIONAL: Health; trained dental assistant.

Robert Fleshman

PERSONAL: 45; married; four children; B.S. business and finance, risk management/insurance Florida State University; PROFESSIONAL: Health; trained dental assistant.

Gary Eliopoulos

PERSONAL: 46; married; three children; B.A. architecture Pratt Institute; PROFESSIONAL: licensed architect, Eliopoulos Architecture Inc.

Joe Ferrer

PERSONAL: 58; married; four children; B.A. history Indiana University, M.A. public affairs/urban planning University of Illinois; PhD humanities Five Towns College; PROFESSIONAL: Owner of Sunset Entertainment Group Inc., cultural arts program director;

PODCAST BACKGROUND: Member Police Advisory Board, ran unsuccessfully for commission in 2006.

Gary Eliopoulos that town officials are working hard to retain its appeal to resident of such employees as City Manager David Harden. Will listen to both sides of the McCarty bond scandal, endorsing her and other non-incumbents. But McCarty would look to see if the city still can afford to do it. Cites public safety as another priority, saying the budget calls for 156 officers but city has 146. Emphasized that the union said he promised the police and firefighter unions, which have endorsed him, only that he will always have an open door. Questions the commission are do you want to have jazz on the avenue or do you want to put up the Christmas tree. They have no other issues with which to come at politcally, so they say there must be conflict. It is at most minimal.

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POSITION ON ISSUES: Wants to Island Homeowners Association. Board; former president Hypoluxo Palm Beach County Water Resources Coast League of Cities; former member League of Cities; former chairman Gold former president Palm Beach County chairman Planning & Zoning Board; committee to help determine future of in 2000, 2003, 2006; on governor's Elected POLITICAL BACKGROUND: air conditioning/construction industry. PROFESSIONAL: Beach Community College. LANTANA / Hypoluxo Island A look at mayoral candidates

By C.B. Hanif

With fewer than 10,000 residents and a million in ad valorem revenue, the town is as vulnerable as any to the ongoing economic crisis.

In that climate, David Stewart is running on March 10 for a fourth three-year term as mayor against Caneste Succce, who also challenged in 2003. Both candidates emphasize the need to bolster the economic outlook. Succce describes himself as “a businessman looking to empower people in the community.” He sees business possibilities at the A.G. Holley State Hospital site, for example. Stewart says, “Everything I do is for all the people,” and he is intimately familiar with the town’s circumstances.

The voter-approved Amendment 1 that restricts local governments’ tax rates is fine, he said, when property values are going up and costs are staying the same.

But not now. When the town is as vulnerable as any, as whether a candidate’s qualifications to hold public office, the unions' preferred candidate was the most likely to win.

The union criticism is perceived as an attempt to make candidates focus on other issues, such as the lack of a qualified challenger. One change that the unions were pushing for was the implementation of a citywide public safety department and the elimination of the police and firefighters' political action committees.

QUOTE: “I hope the A.G. Holley plan happens in the next year. I feel Gov. Crist and the Cabinet control the land. But Lantana has a representative, its mayor, on the governor's advisory committee for the property, joining representatives from the state, county and health department.”

For voters, the election will be another referendum on retaining Stewart’s experience and expertise.

LANTANA CANDIDATES

David J. Stewart

PERSONAL: 55; married; one child; graduate of Lake Worth High School; attended Palm Beach Community College. PROFESSIONAL: Sales consultant for air conditioning/construction industry. POLITICAL BACKGROUND: Elected in 2000, 2003, 2006; on governor’s committee the last nine years; had to cut employees from 115 to 91, and was unable to give cost-of-living increases last year.

He says the town can’t continue doing that for very long before beginning to lose other valuable employees.

At 146 acres and one-eighths of Lantana’s landmass, the A.G. Holley State Hospital is a huge chunk of the town. What happens at the former tuberculosis facility, given the state’s decision to save money by closing the hospital and contracting out its services, is key to Lantana’s future. Gov. Charlie Crist and the Cabinet control the land.

But Lantana has a representative, its mayor, on the governor’s advisory committee for the property, joining representatives from the state, county and health department.

For voters, the election will be another referendum on retaining Stewart’s experience and expertise.

Caneste Succce

PERSONAL: 46; married; two children; B.A. business; American International University; B.A. criminology Barry University, A.A. business Palm Beach Atlantic University; A.A. criminology and business University of Phoenix. PROFESSIONAL: CEO and Founder of Good Shepherd Humanitarian, nonprofit organization that runs a limo service.

POLITICAL BACKGROUND: Ran for mayor in 2003.

POSITION ON ISSUES: Priority is continuing the managing of the town in a fiscally responsible manner. Is concerned about the future of ad valorem income for all cities in the state, given the Amendment 1 limitations on taxes. Will continue working to ensure services, despite relatively little tax revenue, by continuing to ensure that services pay for themselves.

QUOTE: “I hope the A.G. Holley plan will happen in the next year. I feel Gov. Crist wants it to happen on his watch. If it takes another year to get it right, I’d rather get it right than make a mistake that lasts for generations.”

DELRAY BEACH: Continued from page 10

Restaurant site at Atlantic Avenue and A1A should be kept as presentable as possible while the city encourages revitalization of the private property. But the economic issues and insider-politics concerns dovetailed last month, when the disgruntled police and firefighters unions endorsed newcomers Frankel over Ferrer for the open seat, Petrola over incumbent Eliopoulos, and Halberg over incumbent McDuflie. Each of the three received a $500 contribution from the police union’s and $1,000 from the firefighters political action committees.

It is not uncommon for a union to support the challengers because the incumbents are doing their jobs,” Eliopoulos says.

The union criticism is that commissioners targeted public safety departments and benefits, rather than waste in other departments.

The unions’ preferred candidates deny making any promises. Residents are concerned that the unions’ objectives are for the city to contract the safety services through the county.

The new commission takes up work March 26 amid such clouds. Before that, voters must decide such questions as whether a candidate’s experience with municipal budgets in a tight fiscal climate outweighs the chance for more of the new political watchword — change.

One change that won’t occur: Incumbent Commissioner Mackenson. “Mack” Bernard returns to the dais automatically, for lack of a qualified challenger. Bernard will serve the remaining year of the Seat 4 term to which he was appointed after former Vice Mayor Brenda Montague resigned last year. He will face re-election next March. His would-be opponent collected too few valid signatures to qualify for the ballot.
St. Vincent parishioners not swayed by defense argument

PRIESTS: Continued from page 1

Unfortunately for the Catholic Church in Palm Beach County,” said Linda Tomc, a former member of St. Vincent, who attended part of Guinan’s four-day trial before Circuit Judge Krista Marx. “First the pedophile bishops and now this. It makes you wonder whether you want to change religions.”

Other parishioners said the actions of the priests was disappointing but did not shake their faith in the church. “These are men who became priests to serve the people, not themselves,” said parishioner Steve Roman as he left a Tuesday morning Mass at St. Vincent. “I’ll pray for him. We’re human and priests are, too.”

Parishioner Tony Vari said that perhaps the temptation was too great for the priests to resist and that the Diocese of Palm Beach needs stricter financial procedures. The diocese has already enacted tighter accounting methods, including an audit every two years.

The Revs. John Skeehan and Francis Guinan routinely kept portions of the cash put in collection baskets at St. Vincent Catholic Church, bookkeepers said. Photo by Jerry Lower

The five-woman, one-man jury didn’t buy Barlow’s argument, returning in three hours with a guilty verdict of grand theft of between $20,000 and $100,000, a lesser amount than the $480,000 Guinan was convicted of receiving.

Parishioner Tony Vari said the diocese issued a statement saying it “is relieved that the verdict was reached. There is no one right or wrong answer to this. It makes you wonder whether you want to change religions.”

Other parishioners said the diocese’s lax accounting and the right of each pastor to spend $50,000 at his discretion was the center of defense attorney Richard Barlow’s argument for Guinan. “You might think it’s horrible, incredible and despicable but he had the right to spend it. Should Father Guinan benefit from it? Legally, yes. Morally, no,” Barlow said. Assistant State Attorney Preston Mighdoll argued that it was legally wrong as well. “A right of discretion is not a license for grand theft,” he said.

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Dr. Luis Vinas is a plastic surgeon, M.D., F.A.C.S., with a large, local patient following. Out of his extensive work with breast cancer survivors he invented and developed Reforma, a nipple/areola prosthesis he has given away to thousands of women seeking reconstructive surgery. The product is now being sold in the United States and Europe.

Since 2001, he has performed free plastic surgery on deformed children in poverty-stricken areas of Central America. For his volunteer efforts, he has been recognized both locally and nationally.

Most recently, Dr. Vinas is realizing a professional dream by creating his own state of the art plastic surgery and med spa center to open in May near CityPlace in West Palm Beach. He lives in Ocean Ridge with his wife, Terry, and three children, Matthew, Marissa and Eric.

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

A. I was raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, by Spanish parents. I went to a private Catholic school until high school, when I left to attend Portsmouth Abbey School, a Benedictine prep school in Portsmouth, R.I.

My dad is a retired OB/GYN, and had a busy practice in San Juan. I was always involved in his medical conventions and parties with his doctor friends.

My father was very involved in business: owning his own private Catholic hospital. He was also the founder of a very large and successful insurance company in the Caribbean and Latin America. I must have all that, because I learned my drive for success and growth from him. I am always looking to improve myself. Optimism is my friend and ally.

I knew I was going to be a doctor at age 12 and my dad helped me open my eyes to plastic surgery and business.

Q. How did you come to choose your surgical specialty?

A. Early on, I thought I wanted to be an OB/GYN like my dad. After a few summers and sleepless nights working with him during medical school vacations, I knew I wanted to do plastic surgery instead. I could be more artistic and find it is mostly a positive field. Patients coming for cosmetic procedures and treatments are usually very happy.

Q. What is your favorite part of the work you do?

A. Looking at a body part like a face or breast or a cleft lip in a baby, figuring out the problem or need and proceeding with a plan to make it better.

When I am done with a procedure, I am happy and the patient will be very happy. That is very powerful and fulfilling. It just makes me feel good to help someone else feel better.

Q. What advice do you have for a young person heading into medical school today?

A. Learn all the basic medicine the best you can. Your personality and drive is what will make the difference in the future, when you become a full attending physician taking care of your own patients. Be yourself; patients can read your face, expressions and manners.

Q. What has inspired your humanitarian and charity work?

A. I have been very lucky with my career. My first trip to Central America many years ago was an eye opener. The children and families I have witnessed are undereducated and very poor. That’s when you realize that the color of your car or the view from your house is not important.

When I carry a baby back to the family after a cleft lip repair, I can see the joy in their eyes. They are so simple and so caring for each other. I have learned a lot of humility and also zest for life. We are so lucky to live where we live and to have all the comforts anyone one could dream of.

When I go on my annual mission for a week, it is sometimes not enough time to help everyone that came through difficult mountain trails to get assistance. It hurts, but there is always another trip. Every one should volunteer and give the most precious gifts of all: health and love.

Q. What has been the highlight of your professional career?

A. I have become involved with incredible new technologies that are changing the way we do surgery and providing an improved recovery experience for patients.

The Harmonic scalpel technology by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, a Johnson & Johnson company, is doing just that. I have become one of the first plastic surgeons for the company. I have taught hundreds of other plastic surgeons in its use and safety. I use it in most of my surgeries, because it reduces healing time and discomfort. That has been a highlight for which I am very grateful.

Q. How did you choose to live in Ocean Ridge?

A. My wife, Terry, picked me up from the airport one early morning back in 1993. She told me she had discovered this great, quaint and quiet town by the Intracoastal in Boynton. I was very tired after taking my boards and studying for two full weeks prior. When we drove through town, we both fell in love with it. It was only 10 minutes away from the children’s school. We immediately went to a Realtor and found our home. Location, location, location. That’s what Terry said after we bought a very old home in a great spot. The rest has been history. Now we have a beautiful home in a great location in a great town.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Ocean Ridge?

A. I love living east of I-95. The view from our backyard is unique with the most beautiful sunsets I have ever seen. Sitting in our backyard is very tranquil and exciting. The sense of safety is important. It is good to know in today’s world that we are taken care of by our own efficient Police Department, less than a minute away.

Q. What book are you reading now?

A. Over The Edge: Death in Grand Canyon, by Michael P. Ghiglieri and Thomas M. Myers. It is a true account of all known fatal mishaps in and around the Grand Canyon. It is thrilling, educational and historical.

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

A. Absolutely.

“Flaring enthusiasm, backed by horse sense and persistence, is the quality that most frequently makes for success.” — Dale Carnegie

Meet your Neighbor:

Dr. Luis Vinas

Dr. Luis Vinas, an Ocean Ridge resident, plans to open a state-of-the-art plastic surgery and med spa center. Photo by Tim Stepian

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Bob Montgomery wants to take a break from two decades as a Florida real estate broker. So the 69-year-old is reaching into his bag of tricks to lure a buyer for his Hypoluxo Island home.

Montgomery is dropping the price of his waterfront property by $5,000 a day. While no fake Lotto billboards update the latest asking price (now at about $1.55 million), signs planted on swales along Ocean Avenue announce his stunt. It kicked off Feb. 1, with the Barefoot Lane home listed at $1.7 million. Montgomery, of Ocean and Intracoastal Properties, was itching to take his luxury RV on a cross-country trip, and decided it was time to try and sell his home and property — even in such a meager market.

“I’ve gotta find out where the bottom is,” Montgomery said.

Following the home’s fifth Sunday home showing on March 1, Montgomery sounded cheerful about the turnout, though he didn’t indicate any serious offers at hand.

“It seems to at least pique their curiosity,” he said.

Hypoluxo Island has not been immune to the massive drop in real estate prices that has blanketed South Florida. Palm Beach County appraisals have dropped the market value of Montgomery’s home and land 10 percent in the last two years, to just under $1 million.

But that’s nothing like the plummeting prices and deals available farther inland, said Steve Presson of Corcoran Group in Palm Beach. And in a suffering economy, there are few contenders for homes floating above the seven-figure price tag.

“Clients aren’t buying the property. They’re buying the deal,” Presson said.

Diana Reed of Illustrated Properties in Palm Beach said she’s seen an uptick in calls and showings recently.

“I’m hoping that helps translate into sales,” says the 10-year real estate agent and Hypoluxo Island resident. Inquiries have come from western communities in Broward County, as well as Northeasters. “They just look at [waterfront living] as the trophy when living in Florida,” Reed said.

Montgomery predicts any buyer would very likely knock down the 1960 home, as the value is in the land. And he thinks his work ethic will result in his beating the real estate doldrums and jumping into his RV.

By Hector Florin
Lights out for sea turtles

March 1 marked the official beginning of sea turtle season in Palm Beach County. Please be aware of your beach activities and night lighting during the coming months.

These special visitors to our shores are threatened and endangered species. They were here long before we were. Please show them respect.  

Mary Kate Leming, Editor

Voracious reptiles invade coastal communities

IGUANAS:  
Continued from page 1

Cities such as Boca Raton and Delray Beach by addressing their removal as quickly as possible.

“I’ve actually had to stop on the street to avoid them,” he said.

They ravaged town resident Howard Falcon’s mulberry tree about five to six months ago, eating the tree’s leaves and killing the tree, and have taken bites out of unripe avocados and mangos from his trees. The retiree would like to see the iguanas removed from his property.

Aside from the damage they leave behind, “these animals are very agile,” Falcon said. “They’re a little intimidating to anybody.”

In an e-mail to the town, Falcon said he’s seen iguanas up to 7 feet long over a three-year period.

Mayor Tom Gerrard’s 40-pound Australian shepherd dog cornered an iguana that climbed on his sea wall some months ago then dunked into the Intracoastal Waterway. “That guy was pretty long,” he said.

“I saw him and he hauled butt. Boy, they’re good swimmers.”

From what he’s heard, the iguanas are more prevalent in The Point, where Falcon lives, Gerrard said. “There is no doubt that they can be a nuisance,” the mayor said.

Town staff will get quotes from trappers under two scenarios: The cost of the town contracting with a trapper, or the fee a trapper would charge an individual to remove the iguanas.

Coffman supports having the city remove the animals instead of putting the burden on residents. Discussion is expected at the March 24 commission meeting.

“I think it’s more of a city responsibility,” Coffman said, because the iguanas move from property to property. “It shouldn’t be too expensive.”

William Bernstein poses with his “campaign dog,” Quinn after winning a seat on the Manalapan Town Commission March 3. Quinn actually belongs to William and Joan’s son Seth and spends the season with them in Manalapan. Bernstein won Seat 5 on the Town Commission with 67.88 percent of the vote. Incumbent Dr. Thomas Coffman took 32.14 percent. Photo by Jerry Lower

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THE OBVIOUS CHOICE
Hypoluxo Island. Newly built West Indies Estate home features superb architecture & every fine detail with 8,000 SF under air on 130’ of Water Frontage & Dock. $3.95M

OWNER MOVING MUST SELL!
Manalapan. Prices are at their lowest! Buying this estate home is better than playing the stock market! 5BR/5.5B w/4,600SF+/- on the Water. Only $2.45M

BEST WATER BUY IN OCEAN RIDGE
Ocean Ridge. True Florida style home filled with charm & character featuring 2,300 SF+/- nestled on a interior point lot with 190’ of Water Frontage. Priced for quick sale. $1.595M

LAKE BLOCK EL CID
West Palm Beach. Expertly renovated in 2005 w/ 2nd floor addition this forever home/location has everything 5 BR, 4.5 bth plus study, wood floors, gourmet kitchen. $1.995M

26 NORTH HARBOUR DRIVE
Ocean Ridge. Recently built custom Key West Style 4BR + study home with all the extras including high ceilings, impact glass, customer gourmet kitchen, marble floors & salt water pool. $1.25M

WORTH A LOOK
Ocean Ridge. Turnkey Ocean Block 3BR + study beach house completely renovated including custom gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, new roof, new Trane A/C, & impact windows. $849K

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

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The grandkids are visiting and how you love them. But they can only hang out at the beach or in the pool so long before becoming restless and sunburned.

Send them off on their own, if they’re old enough, or tag along and have some fun yourself. Here are 10 ways to entertain your Spring Breakers.

1. Pedal around Palm Beach: Oil baron Henry Flagler built the Lake Trail so his hotel guests would have a place for walking, skating or pushing a baby buggy, but it’s also a great place to ride bikes. Park your car near Publix (265 Sunset Ave.) and walk a block west to the Intracoastal. You can start pedaling around the 5-mile trail there (or 8 and a half miles if you add on two shorter trails). Expect to see Flagler’s first house, the 1886 Sea Gull Cottage, Whitehall (also known as the Flagler Museum), Royal Poinciana Chapel, plenty of gorgeous mansions and lush gardens.

Don’t have bikes or in-line skates? You can rent them at Palm Beach Bicycle Trail Shop at 233 Sunrise Ave.; call 659-4583.

2. Go on a strawberry-picking expedition: Here’s a good old-fashioned field trip with yummy benefits. Stroll around a strawberry patch, pick some, buy some, bring them home and eat them. Strawberry patch, pick some, buy some, bring them home and eat them. Strawberry U-pick, you don’t even have to bend or kneel if you don’t want to. That’s because the fruit is grown in hydroponic containers and the paths are easy to negotiate.

Besides the strawberries, you and the kids will find swans, fishponds, exotic birds, goats and a miniature donkey. Yee haw! Before you leave, do a little shopping in the gourmet country store and garden homemade ice cream and jams are hard to resist. The store and garden also happens to be the only store and garden homemade ice cream and jams are hard to resist. The store and garden.

3. Make a splash on Diva Duck: This funny-looking 48-passenger bus swims and, in the process, gives riders a fun and entertaining tour of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach and the Intracoastal Waterway.

The 75-minute excursion begins at CityPlace and highlights historic neighborhoods, gorgeous mansions, Centennial Fountain, Clematis Street shops, and the subtropical wildlife around Peanut Island. It splashes into the Lake Worth Lagoon at Currie Park, as unwitting onlookers gasp. Don’t be surprised to see manatees, herons or pelicans.

Be prepared to be pummeled with puns, because the jokes are as corny as they’re quacked up to be! The Duck gets the Diva name in honor of its opera-singing owner and guide, Judy Davis. She frequently breaks out in song along with Captain Eric Shalloway. Tourists are encouraged to sing along as well as make use of quacking noisemakers. Tickets are $25 for adult, $22 for seniors, $15 for kids 4 to 10 and $5 for those under 3. Call 547-9453.

3. See the Duck’s Web site, www.divaduck.com, for a $3. coupon. Call 844-4188. 4. Find out what’s new at the Palm Beach Zoo: What’s new is a 10-year-old Komodo dragon named Hannah. She’s 7 feet long and tips the scales at 83 pounds. But even if the kids aren’t big fans of big lizards, there’s so much to see and do at the 23-acre attraction. There are more than 1,500 animals, including Malayan tigers, Jamaican fruit bats, river otters and monkeys; and a colorful carousel, an interactive water fountain, a good restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, and daily bird shows. Kids under 12 must be accompanied by an adult, and pets need to stay at home. The zoo is at 1301 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach. Admission is $12.95 for adults, $9.95 for seniors, $8.95 for kids 3 to 12 and free for ankle biters under 3. Call 547-9453.

5. Explore the Kennedy Bunker on Peanut Island: Built in case of nuclear attack while JFK was visiting his family home in Palm Beach in the 1960s, the Kennedy bunker is open for weekend tours. In shambles when the Palm Beach Maritime Museum acquired it in 1995, the bunker had turned into a hangout for homeless people. But that’s all changed since. In an attempt to dramatize the tensions of the Cold War era, the museum installed a red hotline telephone on a executive desk and
painted the presidential seal on the floor. It’s worth a visit and the water taxi ride to and from is entertaining, too. The captain points out mansions of the rich and famous.

Take the water taxi from the Riviera Beach Marina (339-2504) or from Currie Park in West Palm Beach (346-9389). Reservations are a good idea. Call for dates and times. Tickets for the bunker tour are $10. Water taxi rates range from $10 to $30, depending on departure point. For more information, call the Palm Beach Maritime Museum, 540-5147.

Surround yourself with butterflies, tropical plants and hummingbirds at Butterfly World:

Thousands of butterflies fly around you as you walk through the tropical rain forest or outdoor gardens at Butterfly World in Coconut Creek, the first and largest butterfly house in the country. Kids especially love it when they discover a butterfly landing on their shoulders or on top of their heads. Bring your camera because the Kodak moments are many. Besides 10,000-plus butterflies, Butterfly World has hundreds of hummingbirds, a bug zoo, a gorgeous English rose garden and a café. Admission is $24.95 for adults, $19.95 for kids ages 3-11, and free for those 2 and under. Butterfly World is in Tradewinds Park, 3600 W. Sample Road, Coconut Creek. Call 954-977-4400.

Take a hike at Gumbo Limbo:

This environmental complex with the name that sounds like a Cajun dish or a party dance actually takes its moniker from its dominant tree. Sometimes called the tourist tree because the bark resembles a peeling sunburn, the gumbo limbo is just one reason to hang out here. A sturdy boardwalk provides easy-to-navigate hiking and the 40-foot tower gives visitors a great view over a canopy of trees. Kids will enjoy the aquariums, insect tanks and butterfly garden. In spring or early summer, staffers lead nighttime turtle walks and if you’re lucky enough to go on one of them, you can see nesting females come ashore to lay their eggs. Admission is free, although there is a charge for turtle walks. Gumbo Limbo is at 1801 N. Ocean Blvd., Boca Raton. Call 338-1473.

See what the birds are up to at the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge:

The Everglades is a national treasure right here in our back yard, and many people don’t even realize it exists. What remains of the northern Everglades, known for its tree islands — a key habitat for deer — can be found here. You may see deer when you visit, but it’s more likely you’ll get to watch some of the 257 species of birds that hang out here. The 0.8-mile Marsh Trail, an earthen dike around a freshwater impoundment, is perfect for bird watching. Another good route is the quarter-mile Cypress Swamp Boardwalk, which begins and ends at the visitor center. The refuge is on U.S. 441 about two miles south of Boynton Beach Boulevard. Admission is $5 per carload. Call 734-8303.

Learn about local sea life at the Sandoway House Nature Center:

Find out what Atlantic reef fish, nurse sharks and Florida spiny lobster eat for breakfast at this historic beach home in Delray Beach. Guided tours and coral reef shark feedings are held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. But you can go anytime to see displays of sea creatures, exotic birds, turtles and shells. Learn about local history in the Old Florida Room and get a magnified look on sea life in the microscope lab. Admission is $4. The center, open Tuesday through Saturday, is at 142 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach. Call 274-7263.

Go bar hopping on the water taxi:

College-age and older grandkids may want to try Liquid Launch, a water taxi owned by Rick Vannec. The boat ferries guests to the Banana Boat and Two Georges and Prime Catch in Boynton and Busch’s Seafood and Old Calypso in Delray and, sometimes, The Old Key Lime House in Lantana. Call for rates: 436-9696.
The pizza puzzle
Which South County purveyor of pies is best? Our taste test

By Jan Norris

There's been a veritable pizza explosion in and around South County, with a number of new pizzerias opening. Striving to set themselves apart, they tout coal-fired ovens, imported water for crusts, organic ingredients and off-the-chart toppings.

We decided to put a few to a taste-test to see how they stacked up and off-the-chart toppings. The tasters knew which pie they were eating, but only a couple of them were familiar with the South County pizza makers. We asked all pizza makers for their best or “signature” pie, and if they didn’t have one, we asked them to make their best-selling pizza for our taste-test.

The most expensive came in last — demonstrating that cost doesn’t equal quality. And we learned that pizza eaters care as much about the appearance and crust as they do the toppings — this group liked the thin, flatbread-like ones, but gave a nod to those slightly thicker, mainstream crusts.

Salt was a major setback for a couple of the pizzas; certain combinations create a saltier overall pie, and those without a tomato sauce to cut the sodium suffered lower scores. Most of the pizzas had sufficient toppings, but tasters were picky about the balance among the cheese, the sauce and the extras. We should note that the one with the “burned” crust — Anthony’s — prides itself on this trademark for its pies, calling them “well done.” In other words, it’s not a mistake.

The pizzas were judged for each of our three criteria on a scale of 1-10, and the 12 tasters’ scores were averaged. Overall score reflects the totals of the averages. Here are the results:

NYPD
121 S. Third St., Lantana
(561) 202-9111
Pizza: Large sausage and pepperoni
Cost: $18.06
Overall score: 22.2
Appearance: 7
Texture: 7.5
Taste: 7.7
Comments: Good crust, nice balance of cheese, spicy sausage and pepperoni. Great flavor.

Josie’s
1602 S. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach
(561) 364-9601
Pizza: Large special (everything) pizza
Cost: $22.35
Overall score: 20.2
Appearance: 6.3
Texture: 6.9
Taste: 7
Comments: Full pizza, plenty of toppings. Crust good; flavor could be spicier. Looks appetizing.

Anthony’s Coal Fired
115 NE Sixth Ave., Delray Beach
(561) 278-7911
Pizza: Large sausage, peppers, mushrooms
Cost: $21
Overall score: 20.1
Appearance: 6.5
Texture: 6.8
Taste: 6.8
Comments: Smoky flavor enhances the meat, but is the crust supposed to be so burned? They don’t skimp on toppings.

Pizza Rustica
1155 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach
(561) 279-8766
Pizza: Large sausage and peppers
Cost: $20.77
Overall score: 19.5
Appearance: 6
Texture: 6.7
Taste: 6.8
Comments: Thin, crisp crust; good flavor; sausage could be more flavorful.

Cafe Frankie’s
640 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach
(561) 732-3834
Pizza: Large arugula and prosciutto
Cost: $24.50
Overall score: 19.1
Appearance: 6.7
Texture: 6
Taste: 6.3

Mellow Mushroom
25 SE Sixth Ave., Delray Beach
(561) 330-3040
Pizza: Large portobello and feta cheese
Cost: $27.16
Overall score: 16.6
Appearance: 5.4
Texture: 5
Taste: 6.2
Comments: Cheese is too salty; whole-wheat crust is tough. Mushrooms are hearty. Good for vegetarians, maybe.

The good, the bad and the ordinary

The pizza puzzle: Which South County purveyor of pies is best? Our taste test

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Jan Norris is the producer and editor of the Food and Florida blog www.JanNorris.com.
Pairing beer, pizza: It’s tricky any way you slice it

By Dan Oliver

Beer and pizza. Pizza and beer. There seems to be a consensus among the multitudes that this is one of the most compatible combinations of food and beverage in the known world. But is this pairing really in the league of dynamic duos like milk and cookies, peanut butter and jelly, or even green eggs and ham?

I decided it was high time we put this widely held view under the microscope for a closer examination.

OK, actually, The Coastal Star asked me to join in on its pizza tasting and I said, “I’ll be over in five minutes, and I’ll bring the beer.” There. Full disclosure. I feel better. The taste test was on.

Before we jump into it, let’s consider a bit of biology. Pizza and beer share three fundamental building blocks: yeast, grain and water. From there they branch out in myriad different directions, but having such a similar foundation gives beer a leg up in compatibility with pizza, compared with other beverages such as wine.

But (and there’s always a but) there are thousands of different kinds of beers and perhaps an equally varied number of pizzas out there on the planet. They can’t ALL go together, can they? No, probably not. So before starting my experiment, I consulted a few experts and as in almost any area of science, they didn’t all agree.

At Brewzzi in CityPlace and Boca Raton, brewmaster Fran Andrewlevich usually pairs the pies with his Boca Blonde Lager. For some of the meatier pizzas, he will recommend an amber ale hybrid; the amber was the malty Brooklyn Brown Ale; and for the hoppy, I went with the Dogfish Head 60 Minute IPA.

The results? All over the map, to a degree, but there was some consensus: The Reissdorf Kolsch was the favorite with pizza about by a six to four margin over the Brooklyn Brown Ale. Only one taster thought the 60 Minute IPA was the best match with pizza.

While a few others thought it did fairly well with spicy sausage and pepperoni pies, just as many thought it was a good beer but too bitter and overpowering for most of the pies.

So what did we learn? Pairing pizza with beer isn’t necessarily a slam-dunk, and if you’re not a fan of a beer’s style, you’re not going to like it with your pie either. If you are a big fan of hoppy IPAs, you’re probably more likely to enjoy them with pepperoni or spicy sausage pizzas than a light beer drinker would. In Dan the Beer Man’s humble opinion, the Brooklyn Brown was probably the best match for such a variety of pizzas, the Kolsch a close second and the IPA third.

Your charge now is to conduct your own pizza/beer tasting and judge for yourself. A trip to your local beer seller should bring you some interesting finds.

If you can’t find Reissdorf Kolsch, don’t panic. Any quality light lager will be a suitable substitute. And if you need anyone to help out with the tasting, I just might be available.

We tested the Brooklyn Brown Ale, Dogfish Head 60 Minute IPA and the Reissdorf Kolsch. Photo by Tim Stepien

Lagers with pizza, citing the slight malt sweetness as a perfect match to the same sweetness in most pizza sauces.

Armed with this information, I decided to offer three beers (light, amber and hoppy) to go with a variety of different pizzas being consumed by 10 tasters. For the light, I chose the Reissdorf Kolsch, a light, clean German classic lager/ale hybrid, the amber was the malty Brooklyn Brown Ale; and for the hoppy, I went with the Dogfish Head 60 Minute IPA.

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We tested the Brooklyn Brown Ale, Dogfish Head 60 Minute IPA and the Reissdorf Kolsch. Photo by Tim Stepien
A PEEK INSIDE: EAU SPA

In addition to facials, the Ritz-Carlton’s Eau Spa also offers manicures and pedicures.

Need Ritzy pampering without a long drive?

Just say spa ...

By Mary Thurwachter

Classically elegant and newly renovated — to the tune of $100 million — the Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach has an extra reason to celebrate this month. Its $30 million addition, Eau Spa, opens at last. The hammering has stopped, the paint has dried, the furniture has been thoughtfully arranged and now it’s time for guests to “pause, play and perfect.”

That “three-P” philosophy is evident throughout the 42,000-square-foot spa with an emphasis on sensory experiences with touches of wet and whimsy and blended with Baroque designs with strong modern accents. Eau Spa guests can pause to light a candle and send it sailing into a large copper Wishing Well and relax on a waterfall bench allowing the cascading water to massage their shoulders. Another option: lazily swinging from a wire basket chair as their toes stir up waves in a shallow pool. They can belly up to the scrub and polish bar, where a mixologist stirs up personalized blends of aromatic herbs, gritty sea salts and soothing oils. Spa director Amal Elbahnasawy refers to this as scrub couture.

“You can experiment with the mixture and discover a perfect combination of skin detox and polishing, resulting in a customized body cocktail they can play with in the bath lounge and later bring home to ensure the Eau Spa experience lingers even longer,” Elbahnasawy says.

When it comes to play, spa customers will find plenty of opportunities, from playing chess or singing in the showers to finding themselves surrounded by thousands of stars, the result of a disco ball on the ceiling in the steam room. Any of the spa’s 19 villas can be customized to the taste of the customers.

Color therapy through LED lighting defines wall colors with shades outlined by ancient cultures that evoke specific moods, says Elbahnasawy. Blue tones are used for those looking to relax (pause); red for those interested in energizing (play); and gold for those seeking balance (perfect).

Results are also achieved through choices of oils, aromatherapies and musical selections. Choose lavender aromatherapy and dreamlike music to relax; pick tart lime aromas and upbeat lounge music to energize; or select rosewood aromatherapy and mellow jazz if you’re seeking balance.

Twelve of the villas come with outdoor gardens and three villas are designed with couples in mind. Oversized tubs, rainfall showers and lavish gardens with herbs and orchids are all part of the décor. Specially designed wine glass chandeliers, at $40,000 apiece, will sparkle in the men’s and women’s relaxation areas.

A pretty, full-service salon offers six chairs, including a master chair for special occasions and weddings, as well as manicure and pedicure stations.

The fitness center, only open to hotel guests (for now, at least; this may change) offers a complete state-of-the-art workout center with exercise equipment, kickboxing, spinning and step classes, as well yoga, Pilates and meditation. But don’t be surprised if you’re offered a cupcake. You’ll have plenty of time to work it off on the elliptical! Come for a treatment and you’ll be tempted (and welcome) to lounge around all day in a thick, white, hooded terry robe and slippers, says public relations director Christine DiRocco.

“The spa’s focus on water — ‘eau’ in French — encourages guests to relax and enjoy ancient spa rituals in a spontaneous setting, says Simon Lewis, owner of the Manalapan hotel. “Our vision for Eau Spa was centered on the guest’s sensory awareness and ability to be present,” he said. “Eau Spa is about letting yourself have a good time in a completely carefree and open environment, not necessarily a sacred place where you have to whisper.”

Eau Spa is located at the Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach, 100 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan.

Spa is open to the public from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily, with treatments beginning at $40.

For reservations, call (561) 540-4960.

www.eauspa.com

If you go

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For reservations, call (561) 540-4960.
You’ve driven up the Seaside Paspalum grass driveway. Along the way there was a water grotto and bamboo-clad guesthouse, swimmable water gardens and a palapa.

In the front courtyard, there’s a floating deck, infinity pool (with windows), 16-person spa with a fire pit, and a Tahitian cocktails balé supported by moose-pole pine columns.

Now, you are about to enter Frank McKinney’s brand-new, LEED-certified, South-Pacific-resort-style mansion, “Acqua Liana.”

But, this is not just any entry, real estate entrepreneur McKinney points out. This is an all-out “significant front-door event.”

Take a close look at the door itself. McKinney’s signature door-within-a-door is 1,200 pounds of compressed reeded bamboo, which can open with a mere touch of your pinky.

Now. Go ahead. Use your pinky and push either of the doors open.

Inside is a glass floor over a tiled lotus pond, water cascading down a two-story glass wall, and a coconut-wood-and-glass serpentine stairway. At the heart of the room, a 671-piece hand-blown chandelier releases water for a “cool melting effect.” In the wall separating the entry from the living room, a double-sided fireplace boasts a serious mother-of-pearl mantel. “Fire and water,” McKinney said. “There’s a lot of feng shui in this house.”

Then, out of the corner of your eye, you glimpse the entry from the living room, a double-sided fireplace boasts a serious mother-of-pearl mantel. “Fire and water,” McKinney said. “There’s a lot of feng shui in this house.”

Builder Frank McKinney stands within the compressed bamboo ‘door within a door’ at his Manalapan project. Testing. Since McKinney’s house is large — 15,000 square feet with seven bedrooms and 11 bathrooms — it was penalized and started with a minus 21. After the testing was done, Acqua Liana scored 79 points. That’s 2.5 points away from the LEED Silver certification. “If it wasn’t for that penalty, I’d be knocking on the door of Platinum,” McKinney said.

Gary Shlifer, the LEED-accredited professional who led the project’s design and construction team, gives some specifics on the green construction:

- 75 percent of the construction waste was diverted from the landfill and incineration.
- The use of low- or no-VOC (volatile organic compounds) paint, adhesives and materials, provides healthy indoor air quality.
- The house would consume 45 percent more energy if it weren’t built “green.”
- Rainwater collection allows for a 68 percent reduction in the use of potable water for water features.
- Mold- and termite-resistant construction materials were used and the flooring material is 100 percent reclaimed or renewable.
- Then, there’s the solar power system. “Solar is not required by the LEED system,” explains Eric Martin, senior research engineer for the Florida Solar Energy Center. That’s the research institute selected to test.
MEDITERRANEAN ESTATE
Gulf Stream. Estate home with 215’ of private deepwater. Features include five bedroom, large eat-in kitchen, outdoor dining pavilion, orchid house and new dock for large yacht. Nearly an acre of land. $4.875M
Candace Friis 561.573.9966

ONE ACRE ESTATE
Gulf Stream. This stately 5 BR, 6.1 bath renovated and expanded compound is set on one acre complete with private beach access. New master suite, library with stunning millwork, office, eat-in kitchen, and 50’ pool. $4.95M
Wendy Overton 561.702.4033

DIRECT INTRACOASTAL
Gulf Stream. Built in 2002, this restored 5 BR, 5.2 bath pool home has 106’ on the Intracoastal and golf course views. With new dock, lift, outdoor living room with fireplace, home generator, impact glass. $5.25M
Wendy Overton 561.702.4033

DIRECT INTRACOASTAL HOME
Gulf Stream. Renovated 4 BR, 4 bath home. Gourmet kitchen, LR, dining room, guest room and master bed and bath have water views. Living quarters feature guest quarters with sitting room, gracious lanai, pool and patio. $2.895M
Tina Smith 561.414.3177

EUROPEAN INSPIRED OCEANFRONT
Delray Beach. Direct oceanfront estate on over one acre features 6 BR, 6 bath with first floor oceanside master. Offers an outdoor pool cabana, alfresco dining pavilion, and oceanside pool/spa. $7.785M
Candace Friis 561.573.9966

NEW LISTING IN DELRAY BEACH
Delray Beach. Privacy abounds in this 4 BR, 4.1 bath courtyard pool home with separate guest house. Features upgraded, new baths, new floors, bedroom, custom office, and Chicago brick patios. $2.5M
Wendy Overton 561.702.4033

CLASSIC BERMUDA HOME
Gulf Stream. 5 BR home with 5,000 SF and beach access. Includes state-of-the-art kitchen, oak floors, coffered ceiling, loggia with cypress ceiling, hurricane windows, generator, pool and spa. $2.785M
Barbara Whittaker 561.271.3317

PRIVATE LOCATION-THE ESTUARY
Delray Beach. Popular Megalania Model located on South Lake. Extra side windows, outdoor spa, modified master bath with walk-in closet, custom built-ins and impeccable condition. $975K
Wendy Overton 561.702.4033

BERMUDA WATERFRONT
Gulf Stream. Classic Bermuda 4 BR, 4 bath home with expansive water views. Features vaulted ceilings, chef’s kitchen, split bedrooms, cypress paneling, private dock, pool and lushly landscaped garden. $2.495M
Candace Friis 561.573.9966

POLO RIDGE
Gulf Stream. 4 BR townhouse with beach access. Includes French doors, faux finishes, detailed moldings and state-of-the-art kitchen, hw floors, elevator, 2-car garage and private swimming pool. $1.5M
Barbara Whittaker 561.271.3317

DELRAY BEACH CLUB
Delray Beach. Spacious double apt with ocean views. Features keyed elevator to private foyer, 5 BR, 4 bath, 2 kitchens, bar, library, and a large master suite. With pool and ocean amenities. $750K
Tina Smith 561.414.3177

BERMUDA CLUB OF GULF STREAM
Gulf Stream. Spacious 2 BR apt in with beach access. LR and Florida room offer cypress paneling, and tile floors throughout. Only 8 units with a wide expanse of lawn and a large heated pool. $450K
Barbara Whittaker 561.271.3317

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ACQUA LIANA:
Continued from page 23

by the USGBC to be a LEED provider and responsible for the third-party evaluations.

"McKinney’s house uses a relatively large solar array for a residential project — 10 kilowatts. That’s big. A lot of renewable energy can be produced by that house."

Shlifer gives the visual:

What is a LEED rating, and how does it work?
The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Homes, or LEED-H is a voluntary rating system of the U.S. Green Building Council that promotes the design and construction of high-performance green homes. A green home uses less energy, water and natural resources; creates less waste; and is healthier and more comfortable for the occupants.

Benefits of a LEED home include lower energy and water bills; reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and less exposure to mold, mildew and other indoor toxins.

The USGBC, a non-profit organization, is composed of more than 15,000 organizations from across the building industry. LEED-H attempts to provide national consistency in defining the features of a green home and represents a consensus standard for green homebuilding, developed and refined by a diverse cadre of national experts and experienced green builders. The LEED-H rating system measures the overall performance of a home in eight categories:

1. Innovation and Design Process — Special design methods, unique regional credits, measures not currently addressed in the rating system, and exemplary performance levels.

2. Location and Linkages — The placement of homes in socially and environmentally responsible ways in relation to the larger community.

3. Sustainable Sites — The use of the entire property so as to minimize the project’s impact on the site.

4. Water Efficiency — Water-efficient practices, both indoor and outdoor.

5. Energy and Atmosphere — Energy efficiency, particularly in the building envelope and heating and cooling design.


7. Indoor Environmental Quality — Improvement of indoor air quality by reducing the creation of and exposure to pollutants.

8. Awareness and Education — The education of homeowner, tenant, and/or building manager about the operation and maintenance of the green features of a LEED home.

The LEED-H rating system works by requiring a minimum level of performance, through prerequisites, and rewarding improved performance in each of the above categories. The level of performance is indicated by four performance tiers: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Information from the United States Green Building Council
March 7

Saturday - 3/7 - The Coastal STAR Community Calendar


March 8

Friday - 3/6 - Artsy Afternoon: Finding Stories in Nature Photography; $725 (members), $825 (non-members) & $895 (non-members) + $130 materials fee. 3/6-3/20, 9:30 am-12 pm. 742-6010 or spadymuseum.org.

Saturday - 3/7 - A.N.T.H.U.M Jazz Band performs at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 205 Royal Palm Way, Boynton Beach. 7:30 pm. Free. 742-6390.

Sunday - 3/8 - The Cortez Museum Tour is not recommended for children younger than 12. RSVP required. 395-6766, Ext. 100.

March 9

Saturday - 3/7 - Culture & Cocktails at Café Boulud, located in The Brazilian Court, 205 Royal Palm Way, Palm Beach. 4-5:15 pm; Youth (ages 7-9) held on Monday & Friday afternoons at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 205 Royal Palm Way, Palm Beach. 4-5:15 pm. Youth (ages 7-9) held on Monday & Friday afternoons at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 205 Royal Palm Way, Palm Beach. 4-5:15 pm.

March 10

Saturday - 3/7 - The Cy Schonberg Memorial Concert Series at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum, 129 E. Ocean Avenue, Boynton Beach. 7:30 pm. Free. 742-6481.


Saturday - 3/14 - The Coastal STAR Community Calendar


Monday - 3/16 - Peripheral Arterial Disease: What to Do if You Have It. City of Delray Beach Senior Center, 3115 Old Dixie Highway, Delray Beach. 10:30 am. Free. 263-6800 or spadymuseum.com.

Saturday - 3/21 - The 4th Annual Sunrise Kiwanis Night Time Track Lighting & Masquerade Ball held at Palm Beach Jewish Hospital. 4:30 pm. Free. 731-2273.


March 11

Saturday - 3/14 - Bob Roberts Society Orchestra presented by Arthur K. Albruzze, M.D. at the Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 4:00 pm. Free. 726-0123.

Sunday - 3/15 - A.N.T.H.U.M Jazz Band performs at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 205 Royal Palm Way, Boynton Beach. 7:30 pm. Free. 742-6390.

March 12

Saturday - 3/14 - A.N.T.H.U.M Jazz Band performs at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 205 Royal Palm Way, Boynton Beach. 7:30 pm. Free. 742-6390.


March 13

Saturday - 3/14 - Bob Roberts Society Orchestra presented by Arthur K. Albruzze, M.D. at the Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 4:00 pm. Free. 726-0123.

Sunday - 3/15 - 16th Annual Reach for the Stars ballroom dancing competition with gourmet food and fine wines at the Kravis Center, West Palm Beach. 3:00 pm. Free. 266- 2409 or spadymuseum.com.

March 14

Saturday - 3/14 - Bob Roberts Society Orchestra presented by Arthur K. Albruzze, M.D. at the Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 4:00 pm. Free. 726-0123.

Sunday - 3/15 - A.N.T.H.U.M Jazz Band performs at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 205 Royal Palm Way, Boynton Beach. 7:30 pm. Free. 742-6390.

March 15

Saturday - 3/14 - Bob Roberts Society Orchestra presented by Arthur K. Albruzze, M.D. at the Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 4:00 pm. Free. 726-0123.

Sunday - 3/15 - A.N.T.H.U.M Jazz Band performs at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 205 Royal Palm Way, Boynton Beach. 7:30 pm. Free. 742-6390.

March 16

Saturday - 3/14 - Bob Roberts Society Orchestra presented by Arthur K. Albruzze, M.D. at the Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 4:00 pm. Free. 726-0123.

Sunday - 3/15 - A.N.T.H.U.M Jazz Band performs at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 205 Royal Palm Way, Boynton Beach. 7:30 pm. Free. 742-6390.

March 17

Saturday - 3/14 - Bob Roberts Society Orchestra presented by Arthur K. Albruzze, M.D. at the Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 4:00 pm. Free. 726-0123.

Sunday - 3/15 - A.N.T.H.U.M Jazz Band performs at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 205 Royal Palm Way, Boynton Beach. 7:30 pm. Free. 742-6390.

March 18

Saturday - 3/14 - Bob Roberts Society Orchestra presented by Arthur K. Albruzze, M.D. at the Bethesda Memorial Hospital. 4:00 pm. Free. 726-0123.
2.43-7350.
Veterans Park at 11:30 am and returns at 5
3/19 - Marlins Spring Training Day Trip
Mukherjee at the Delray Beach Public Library.
Jasmine
by Bharati
presents
Pot or Mosaic?
3/18 & 19 - South Africa as a Democracy
742-6390.
the Boynton Beach City Library. 7 pm. Free.
Master, brings the Harling Irish Dancers to
Maureen Welty, a certified Irish Dance
or 266-0194.
reading will be held at the Cohen Pavilion
the Palm Beaches to analyze the first 60
Research Center joins The Forum Club of
Blvd., West Palm Beach.  Exhibits by more than 100 of the nations distinguished craft
County Convention Center, 650 Burtcheese Blvd., West Palm Beach. Exhibits by more than 100 of the nations distinguished craft
painting, clowns, a mega mural and games.
will be presented by George
3/21 - Lit Live! is a daylong series of author
speaks and signs new
3/20-22 - 6th Annual Palm Beach Fine Art Craft Show will be held at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, 660 Burtcheese Blvd., West Palm Beach. Exhibits by more than 100 of the nations distinguished craft artists. 10 am - 6 pm (3/20), 11am - 5 pm (3/21, 3/22) (members), $25 (non-members). 404-2031.
Saturday - 3/21 - The Ocean Ridge Garden Club Banquet Sale will be held at Ocean Ridge Town Hall, 434 N Ocean Blvd, Ocean Ridge. Proceeds of the sale will be donated to horticulture camp as well as projects to help beautify the community. 8 am - noon. The sale will be open for 3/21 and 3/22.
1/21 Breastfeeding Prenatal Class is taught by lactation consultants at Bethesda. Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 pm. 266-9490 or 266-0194.
3/21-22 - Women's Night Out at the American Hyatt Regency Pier 66, 2301 SE 17th St., Fort Lauderdale. 7-9 pm. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. 723-3656.
3/22 - Relay for Life is a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. Teams will camp out on the beach.
3/24, 3/26, 3/29 - Gourmet Tastings are held at the American Cancer Society. 7-9 pm. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. 723-3656.

3/24 - Terry Griffin speaks and signs new
3/20 - Robert Macomber -
3/18 - Robert Macomber -
3/19 - Tom Corcoran
3/20 - 2nd Annual Cattle Baron's Ball
Delray Beach. 6:30 pm.  $125. 732-2045.
3/20 - 2nd Annual Cattle Baron's Ball
celebrates Spring at
3/20-22 - 6th Annual Palm Beach Fine Art Craft Show will be held at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, 660 Burtcheese Blvd., West Palm Beach. Exhibits by more than 100 of the nations distinguished craft artists. 10 am - 6 pm (3/20), 11am - 5 pm (3/21, 3/22) (members), $25 (non-members). 404-2031.
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May 17, 2009

The COASTAL STAR
Obituaries

Elizabeth Adams Sligh

By Ron Hayes

DELRAY BEACH — A resident of the coastal town since 1941, Elizabeth “Betty” Adams Sligh died peacefully Jan. 30 at Hospice By The Sea in Boca Raton. She was 88.

Born May 3, 1920, in Latrobe, Penn., Elizabeth Adams was an identical twin, born minutes before her sister, Barbara.

They were called the terrible twins because as children they were always in trouble, recalled her daughter Elizabeth Wigan of Oestreich of Delray Beach.

“They were so glamorous, those two twins, the life of the party, so this is the end of an era for us,” Oestreich said.

In 1941, Mr. Sligh married William David Wiggins Jr., the father of her four children. Following his death, she wed Charles R. Sligh Jr. of Holland, Mich.

The couple began spending winters at the TSAR series of thrillers featuring Alex Hawke. His newest work is the spy novel TSAR, the result of an extensive research trip to Russia in 2007. J. Turner Moore Library, 1330 Lands End Road, Palm Beach. 8 am - 1 pm. Free. 734-9128.

Saturday - 4/4 - Oceanside Farmer’s Market is held each Saturday at Lake Worth Beach (A1A and Ocean Avenue) from 8 am - 1 pm. Free. 364-9501.

Sunday - 4/5 - Sunday Sunrise Service is held at the Brazilian Court’s Cafe Boulud, 1010 S. Federal Hwy, Boynton Beach. Hosted by the Museum of Lifestyle & Fashion History, celebrity chef Anna Mosesson of the Four Arts. 7-8:30 am. Free. 737-7733 ext. 4688.

Monday - 4/6 - Breakfas...
Cold weather increases manatee sighting

By Lucy Whitmarsh

Some 3,807 manatees were counted in January by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, a record high number since it began the annual surveys in 1991.

The survey found 589 manatees in Palm Beach County. Buddy Powell, a biologist at the Sea to Shore Alliance, an environmental organization based in St. Petersburg, said that an aerial survey in February spotted about 400 manatees tightly collected in the output of the Florida Power and Light plant in Riviera Beach. The mammals, he says, have been going there to get warm “for more than 30 years.”

Jim Reid, a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, said the animals tend to congregate in large numbers around the FPL plant when it is very cold, and then spread out when it is warmer. “While FPL is often a stopover point for those on their way further south, it is also a destination for many,” Reid said. “Not only do they get warmth from the discharge of the plant, but the vicinity of Port of Palm Beach, in general, is warmed by the Gulf Stream.”

Manatees are frequently found at Peanut Island, the Earman River near Lake Worth Lagoon. They collect in the northern part of the lagoon, which is also warmed by the Gulf Stream, and often forage in the southern part. According to Reid, they commonly look for food at Munyon Island and south in Manalapan. “During warm-weather periods, they go on mini-migrations north to the Jupiter Inlet and the South Indian River,” Reid said.

Due to a current revamping of the FPL plant in Riviera Beach, the emissions there have been greatly reduced, even though the plant is required to release output when the water temperature falls to 61 degrees. According to Dr. Holly Edwards at the FWRI, many of the manatees that collect around the plant have gone south, most likely to the plants in Broward. “That is a good sign,” she said. “Often, manatees get so used to the warm water at a plant that they become fixated and do not know to go elsewhere. The fact that many are going south shows that they know of alternatives.”

According to 2009 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission records, as of Feb. 22, 29 deaths statewide were caused by cold stress. That is 30 percent of the total of 95 mortalities, the highest in six years. The FWRI reports seven deaths in Palm Beach County, two resulting from cold stress.
Local color: Briny Art League mounts 57th annual show

By Ron Hayes

“When I was young, I wanted to be an artist,” Marion Roddin recalls. “I could have gone to the Fashion Institute of New York, but my mother didn’t want me to become a hippie.”

After her husband’s early retirement and their move to Florida, Roddin joined the Briny Breezes Art League and started taking watercolor classes. That was 15 years ago, and come the weekend of March 21, you’ll see proof that youthful dreams can blossom with age at the league’s annual art show.

Roddin’s watercolor Nantucket is a delicate rendering of that New England island’s weathered clapboard cottages, summery warm and thoroughly professional. “I all do stained glass and teach knitting and crocheting,” Roddin adds. “I’m painting now like I never painted before. And you know what’s funny? My mother wanted every painting I made.”

Compared to the league itself, Roddin’s 15 years of painting make her a youngster. This month’s exhibit will be the 57th annual show and sale, and the league’s 59th anniversary.

Founded in 1950 with a class of about 20, the league held its first classes in a cottage, now long gone, where the town’s beauty parlor stands. In 1953, the league moved to a newer building at the site of the current swimming pool, which arrived in 1967, forcing another move to the current location in a Quonset hut just behind the beauty parlor.

In fact, the art league has been around so long it can boast a second-generation teacher. In the early days, Mildred Miller, a retired fashion designer and illustrator, taught oil and acrylic painting. Miller died in 1997, and for the past six years her daughter, Janice Vizino, has taught watercolors.

Among those early members was Bill Strucker, who had just opened the Gulf Stream Pharmacy in 1956 when he and fellow painters Guy Helps and Peter Colean started taking painting classes. “There was nothing there except Briny Breezes,” remembers Strucker, 78, who still works part-time at the pharmacy. “It was a pretty isolated area, so painting sort of became a hobby. We’d go over there and paint the old Boca bridge and a few scenes around the area. They have some good artists now. It’s come a long ways.”

Strucker’s worked in oils. Today, most of the league’s 74 members favor watercolor or acrylics, but one member, Terry Welty, is devoted to the world’s oldest known form of painting.

A painter for 20 years, Welty works in encaustic — literally, “to burn in” — fashioning her large, colorful paintings from blocks of pigmented beeswax that are melted and applied to the canvas, hardening so fast that the distinct colors don’t merge. The ancient Greeks heated the wax on an open fire. Welty has a more modern approach.

“My palette is a pancake griddle,” she jokes, “and a very messy one.”

Cont’d from Page 30

IF YOU GO

What: 57th Annual Briny Breezes Art Show

When: Saturday & Sunday, March 21-22

Hours: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: On A1A, just south of Woolbright

Admission: Free

Call: (561) 276-7405 or (561) 274-3597

The Affordable Art Show In Palm Beach County.

Legend has it that, back in the early days, a proud husband altered the price tag on his wife’s work from $20 to $200 — and it sold. Last year, 37 artists displayed 127 paintings ranging in price from about $50 to $300. But no one seems to be entertaining dreams of getting rich off their art.

“When don’t I play golf?” says Jim McCormick, a retired newspaperman. “Well, I was never good with any kind of ball.”

Not long after moving to Briny, he struck up a conversation on the beach with an art teacher named Maureen Burton.

“Oh, I used to like to paint,” he told her. Of course, that had been 50 years before, in school. Ten years earlier, McCormick is still not playing golf.

But don’t look to buy his paintings.


“I give it all away to family and friends.”

One day, when Malcolm Roddin was visiting, Roddin showed him a painting of England island’s weathered cottage, now long gone, where the town’s beauty parlor stands.

“Sure to sell out every year are Barbara Mulvey’s cartoon-style impressions of Briny Breezes itself. A retired art teacher, Mulvey creates cheerful montages that capture the beach umbrellas and the palm trees, the sunsets and trailer homes that make up the community.

“I can get $30 for one, if it has a frame on it,” she says.

Indeed, the league likes to think of its annual exhibit as The Affordable Art Show In Palm Beach County.”

John P. Rittota, D.D.S.

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Brimy Breezes Art League mounts 57th annual show
Lantana / Hypoluxo Island

Sea wall nearly complete

Construction of the town’s sea wall, which began under an emergency order, is expected to finish by mid-March, Town Manager Mike Bornstein said. The pouring of a concrete “cap” over the wall panels is the last major step. Equipment was scheduled to be moved off the beach by March 1, the beginning of turtle-nesting season.

A Jan. 15 e-mail from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission addressed the potential harm of building a sea wall too close to turtle nests led Town Council members in January to shift the design of part of the wall farther from the shoreline.

"The changes we were able to effect without any additional cost," Bornstein said.

Erosion that endangered beach businesses and structures led to the town’s seeking an emergency order to build the wall. A state Department of Environmental Protection permit is pending. “I fully expect to get one,” Bornstein said.

Project contractors have been in touch with the state since receiving the Wildlife Commission e-mail, and the town has not heard of any other problems. “We’ve tried to address this the best we can,” Bornstein said. “The wall’s in.” - Hector Florin

Delray Beach

Special bond practices meeting set

City commissioners have scheduled a special meeting for 5 p.m. March 23 to meet with Usher Brown, who was chosen by commissioners to conduct an internal investigation of the city’s bond underwriting practices.

Past city decisions came to light in the federal charging of former County Commissioner Mary McCarty. Brown has reviewed thousands of pages of documents and is scheduled to interview city staff, said City Manager Mike Bornstein.

"We fully expect to get one," Bornstein said. "I think you are going to be pleased with the depth he has gone into." - Hector Florin

Gulf Stream

Underground power lines discussed

Aside from debating whether to enact an ordinance that would ban dogs on leashes, the Town Commission recently approved a request by David and Patricia Knobel to build a 11,571-square-foot home at 1255 and 1267 N. Ocean Blvd. at 1255 and 1267 N. Ocean Blvd.

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Mack Bernard absent, changes to pave the way for an expansion of the Marriott Residence Inn at 1111 E. Atlantic Ave.

The hotel is seeking to build a two- and four-story addition on the 1.65-acre northwest portion of the property. Expansion of shops and the hotel’s restaurant are also planned.

Commissioners also voted to abandon a 5-foot water easement on the property to make room for construction. - Hector Florin.
Pets 33

Animal behavior consultant Arden Moore with three of her furry fab four — cat Murphy and dogs Cleo and Chipper.

Photo provided

Paws up for pets!

She thawed and saw a pussy cat.

Now our pet expert is ready to take your questions

Once people find out what I do for a living, they unleash their questions.

Why does my dog…? How can I get my cat to stop…?

No place is off limits when it comes to fielding pet queries — weddings, supermarket lines and even public bathrooms.

A friend jokingly called me Dr. Doo — short for Doctor Doolittle — due to the number of times she has witnessed me walk through solutions with a confused cat owner or a frustrated dog owner.

Of course, I’m not a doctor. I don’t even play one on TV. But I am a pet expert who has worked with the very best in the fields of veterinary medicine and companion animal behavior.

I’ve hosted dog parties on CNN, prepared marvelous mutt meatballs on Fox and offered insights into the three pet P’s: pee, poop and puke during two national book tours that included stops in West Palm Beach and Boynton Beach.

I first arrived in Palm Beach County in 1988 — this month — grateful to thaw from yet-another bitter Chicago winter.

Brought my leash-walking cat Samantha and let a street cat named Little Guy talk me into adopting him off my porch in Lantana.

For the next nine years, I carved out bylines as a reporter for the Sun-Sentinel in the Delray Beach office with a view of steady traffic on I-95.

I covered space shuttles and Super Bowls, Palm Beach schools and far too many parades in my quest for bylines.

 Ended up swapping the small home in Lantana for a bigger one in Lake Worth before opting to move to San Diego and launch my career in pets.

Today, I happily share my Oceanside, Calif., home with a furry fab four of second-chance pets — and one overworked vacuum cleaner.

My dogs, Chipper (a golden retriever-husky mix) and Cleo (a miniature poodle-basset hound mix — confirmed by a DNA test) live by the motto “have leash, will travel.”

My cat, Murphy, lives by the modified motto “have leash, will lead.”

My other cat, Callie, is the one with Florida roots, having been plucked off Biscayne Boulevard in Miami 14 years ago.

My ties to South Florida remain strong. So when The Coastal Star editors talked me into penning this pet column, I responded like an obedient Lab and eagerly said yes.

Each time I return, I feel back at home.

Now that I have shared who I am, I hope to hear from you and what frustrates and fascinates you about why your dogs and cats do what they do.

Let me unleash practical tips and tactics to improve harmony in your pet household. The legendary Doctor Doolittle could talk to the animals. I’m here to deliver straight talk to you.

Together, we can make Palm Beach County a place that is truly going to the dogs … and cats.

Each month, The Coastal Star features a home for sale in our community. The House of the Month is presented as a service to our advertisers, and provides readers with a peek inside one of our very special homes.

The formal entry to this Manalapan home flows to the double black lacquer doors with transom above, leading to the foyer, living room and the Intracoastal beyond.

Renny Reynolds’ transformed Manalapan masterpiece

Known for his fabulous garden designs with works featured internationally in Architectural Digest, House & Garden and House Beautiful, Renny Reynolds reworked this spectacular six-bedroom, 7 1/2-bath home at 1630 Lands End Road to an unparalleled level.

Offered for sale at $5,200,000, the home brings magnificent vistas and the best in locations for the South Florida lifestyle.

All the important amenities abound in this comfortable retreat, as well as such features as hurricane-impact windows and doors, full house generator and a new concrete tile roof.

The new owner will receive gratis membership to the Ritz-Carlton La Coquille Club. Stop by to visit each Saturday in March from 2–4 pm.

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Recently updated, this light, bright beach cottage is sure to charm. Updated granite/stainless galley kitchen, large Florida room, wainscotting, and brand new baths, all on a 10,000 sq. ft. lot and steps to deeded beach access on one of Ocean Ridge’s prettiest streets. $795,000

THE BEST OF EVERYTHING
This is THE dream house! 17,000 sq ft lot, 8,000 sq ft of luxury living and relaxing space, 4 bedroom main house, 2 bedroom guest house, 6 car state of the art garage with hydraulic lifts for the car collector, game room, office, gourmet kitchen with true butlers pantry and wine room. New construction with the style and design everyone desires. $2,950,000

TURN KEY LUXURY IN OCEAN RIDGE
This ocean block one story 3/2 with den and heated pool has been completely updated from the inside out. Situated on a private, oversized corner lot, features include: impact glass throughout, saturnia floors, granite/stainless kitchen, volume ceilings, more. $1,300,000

EAST BOYNTON BEACH
Just 2 blocks from Ocean Ave and an easy stroll to the marina, Two George’s & The Banana Boat, this 1/1 condo has a brand new kitchen and bath. Low HOA and central location make this a great starter home, getaway or staff housing. First floor, corner unit. Price reduced to $98,000

SECRET GARDEN BY THE SEA
East of A1A in Ocean Ridge’s best beachside neighborhood, this authentic Bermuda home has been meticulously maintained. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, fireplace, vaulted cypress ceilings, covered loggia. Private deeded beach access, 3 homes from the sand. $1,599,000

SOUTH PALM BEACH CHARMER
Lovely 2/2 with screened & covered patio, this 1st floor charmer at the intracoastal complex of Palm Beach Villas features tile floors, new plantation shutters, small pets ok, and no age restrictions. $250,000

5 STAR LUXURY: SINGER ISLAND
Stunning views from this 17th floor condo in the Resort at Singer Island. Designer furnished with all the amenities. Terrace views north with wide vistas to the ocean and the intracoastal. Two master suites complete the package. Also available for short or long term rental. $899,000

DIRECT OCEANFRONT TOWNHOME
Turnkey 3 bedroom townhouse directly on the beach with fabulous views from all major rooms. This home has been professionally updated with the best of everything - huge master suite with fireplace, gourmet cooks kitchen, spa style baths, hardwood floors throughout - see it and fall in love $1,599,000

BEACHSIDE LUXURY ESTATE
Ocean Ridge traditional 2-story Key West style home built in '02 and features 7 bedrooms, 7.5 baths and a gourmet cook’s kitchen with marble countertops and center island. Butler’s pantry. Dumb waiter. Outdoor entertainment area with heated pool, spa and pergola. Three car garage and Chicago brick drive and patios. Owner financing available. $ 2,395,000

BEACH LOVER’S DELIGHT
East of A1A in neighborhood of multi-million $ homes, walk to the beach from this classic 3/3 ranch on 14,000 sq ft lot. Original terrazzo floors, large covered patio, high elevation, new metal roof, new AC. Also available for rent, please inquire. $1,100,000

RENTAL
Ocean Ridge traditional 2-story Key West style home built in '02 and features 7 bedrooms, 7.5 baths and a gourmet cook’s kitchen with marble countertops and center island. Butler’s pantry. Dumb waiter. Outdoor entertainment area with heated pool, spa and pergola. Three car garage and Chicago brick drive and patios. Owner financing available. $ 2,395,000

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VALE COZ
Realtor Specializing in Coastal Properties
Ocean Ridge Resident Since 1985
Direct: 561-386-8011
vcoz@fiteshavell.com

561.655.6570
101 N. County Road, Palm Beach, FL 33480
FITESHAVELL.COM