Along the Coast

Unified license-tag checking system considered

By Rich Pollack

Police departments along the coast of southern Palm Beach County are studying the feasibility of cooperating on an automated system to scan the license plates of every car traveling along State Road A1A from Boca Raton through Manalapan.

For more than a year, representatives from several coastal police departments, and a small group of private communities, have been exploring the costs and benefits of implementing an automatic license-plate recognition system that scans license plates on passing cars and compares them to criminal and other databases.

Growing in popularity throughout South Florida, the automated license-plate recognition systems are already being used by police in Manalapan and also on a limited basis in Boca Raton and Delray Beach.

"Our goal with this initiative..." By Rich Pollack

Along the Coast

Sun sets on county lifeguard’s three-decade career on the ocean

By Jane Smith

Cathy Conlin does not see herself as a groundbreaking feminist.

When she retires Sept. 3 from Palm Beach County Ocean Rescue after 30 years of service, she will be South Florida’s first woman ocean rescue lifeguard to achieve that milestone.

No Florida department tracks ocean rescue lifeguards and years of service, said her immediate supervisor, Capt. Phil Wotton. He checked with other agencies and found another female lifeguard who retired in Volusia County after 30-plus years of service.

"So glad I am getting out in one piece without any chronic injuries," Conlin, 54, said. "You know the stuff they tell you about how to lift properly, bend your knees and not your waist. I try to be mindful of that every day."

She likes working outdoors and says every day is different from her tower perch at See LIFEGUARD on page 10

Along the Coast

Clues in the Crumbling Album

By Mary Thurwachter

In her search to learn the provenance of a century-old photo album, Janet DeVries uncovered stories of shipwrecks, sailors, suicide and a whole lot of coconut palm trees.

 DeVries — a historical researcher, author and president of the Boynton Beach Historical Society — calls her latest project “Clues in the Crumbling Album,” a takeoff of an old Nancy Drew title.

Indeed, she found several clues on the fragile pages of the old photo book she discovered on eBay. The photographs were See ALBUM on page 6

Photos by Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Along the Coast

Summer Arts Dramaworks’ production of The Most Happy Fella with Jessica Hershberg and William Michals was extended an extra week. Page AT6

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Health & Harmony
Art aids in healing at Harbour’s Edge in Delray Beach. Page H1

Plus: Prime Catch celebrates 10 years. Page 21

Around town
Not only are South Florida’s dragonflies beautiful, but they are prime ‘sketer eaters and indicators of a healthy ecosystem. Page AT1

Seeing red over charity fundraiser
Objections by residents cause Red Cross to cancel plans for a Designers’ Show House in Point Manalapan. Page 19
Delray’s charms front and center in Cannon’s interests

By Rich Pollack

Ann Margo Cannon can remember growing up in Delray Beach, so close to the in the big yard of her family’s 1928 home in what is now the Del-Ida Park Historic District. She remembers visiting shops that helped define Delray Beach in the 1970s and 1980s, such as Rodolfo’s Bakery and Neal’s Farm Market, and she remembers buying her first Brownie uniform at the Mercer Wenzel department store downtown.

She and her brothers often could be found on the beach with their father, John Peart, who started his Universal Beach Service in 1973. And when she wasn’t in the water, she’d most likely be wearing her dancing shoes at the Southern Dance Theater.

“My childhood was spent in a 1960s-era condo building, I lives with her husband, Chris, years ago, however, and now she’s most likely be wearing her dancing shoes at the Southern Dance Theater.

The new addition to the family is their first child, a 6-month-old son, John Cannon — named after both of his grandfathers and now the fifth generation of Kern offspring to call Delray home.

Throughout the years, Cannon, 36, has continued to be an active member of the Delray Beach community, serving on several boards and organizations, especially those focused on the city’s history and preservation.

Most recently, Cannon joined the board of directors of the Delray Beach Public Library.

“My mom would take my brothers and me to the Delray Beach Public Library all the time to check out books,” she said. “Now, I’m looking forward to bringing John there.”

The combination of a deep historical understanding of Delray’s past and Cannon’s focus on her son’s future helped lead to her selection as a new member of one of the city’s oldest institutions.

“Ann Margo is a great addition to the library board,” said board member Sarah Flynn, who recommended Cannon for the position. “She brings a unique perspective of someone who was born and raised here and is now living here with her young family.”

In addition to her work with the library board, Cannon is active in the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, serving on the board of governors, and its Young Friends Committee. She is also a member of the Delray Beach Preservation Trust, the Delray Beach Historical Society and Sandoway House Nature Center.

And she is one of the founders of a networking group of younger people with Delray Beach ties, Preservation Generation, which was started in 2010 to help support history, nature and preservation in Delray Beach. The group has held several events and raised awareness for the Sandoway House Nature Center, the Delray Beach Historical Society and the Delray Beach Preservation Trust.

“It’s important that Delray Beach keeps its small-town charm by preserving the historical neighborhoods, buildings and stories that make this city such an interesting place,” she said. “It’s the reason people visit here and want to live here.”

Cannon will tell you that getting involved in the community and helping to make Delray Beach a better place is a family tradition that runs deep, one passed down by her mother, JoAnn Peart.

“I grew up going to all kinds of historical society and civic meetings with my mother,” she said. “One time my brother and I were playing in the trees outside City Hall, entertaining ourselves while our mother was attending some meeting.”

Through her work in the community, Cannon hopes to help Delray Beach maintain its unique character etched over the years.

“I have so much appreciation for what the people before us did for this city,” she said. ★
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Letters to the Editor

Recall contributions and lend elderly a hand

How often I see an elderly person struggling to navigate what used to be a familiar and comfortable world. Whether a trip to the bank, grocery shopping, a doctor appointment, all have become such a struggle and risk.

But what eclipses this ordeal is the ever-present apathy of younger generations to acknowledge their struggles, let alone offer a helping hand.

Remember, our aging population fought for, built and helped create the luxuries of life we are all so accustomed to enjoying.

L. Kim Jones
Ocean Ridge

Delray voters should approve charter change

Previously suspended City Manager Louie Chapman cost the residents of Delray Beach $15,000 a month due to the current requirement of at least four commissioners voting in favor of a city manager’s termination. As of the settlement, with Chapman agreeing to leave, it was reported the costs skyrocketed to $100,000.

To avoid this costly and detrimental effect to our city in the future, the three commissioners who voted to terminate Chapman (Mayor Cary Glickstein, Vice Mayor Shelly Petrolia and Deputy Mayor Jordana Jarjura) have proposed a charter amendment requiring just three commissioners’ votes to terminate a city manager.

We the people get to put our stamp on this one and I’ll be voting a resounding YES for its approval. I hope as many people as possible will do the same.

If people will not be in Delray Beach on Aug. 26 to vote, they can call the Supervisor of Elections at (561) 276-1226 for early voting information.

Benita Goldstein
Delray Beach

Along the Coast

Attorney seeks information on driver who hit bicyclist

A car hit Michael Russo while he was riding his bicycle along A1A in the early evening of March 20, and authorities have yet to bring the perpetrator to justice.

According to information released by his lawyer, Craig Goldenfarb, Russo, 46, of Boynton Beach, was riding his bike on the shoulder near 610 N. Ocean Blvd. in Delray Beach when the car struck him, causing multiple injuries to his back, including a fractured tailbone.

“You think about how audacious this person can be, that they just hit you and left you on the side of the road,” Russo said.

Witnesses described the driver as a 20- to 25-year-old man with dark hair and sunglasses, driving a white 2006-2008 BMW 3-series, possibly with a Connecticut or Kentucky registration tag. A witness attempted to stand in the path of the car to stop it, but the driver sped off after the collision, Goldenfarb said.

A passenger-side mirror housing was recovered at the crash scene, which has been used by investigators to identify the make, model and year of the car.

“This driver knew he struck Mr. Russo and decided to flee anyway,” Goldenfarb said. “It may be because he was nervous or afraid that he hurt the man, or maybe because he simply thinks he can get away with this crime. Let’s find this man, and hold him accountable for his actions.”

Leaving the scene of an accident with injuries, Goldenfarb said, is a third-degree felony and, unfortunately, not uncommon in Palm Beach County.

“In June, a woman was walking in Okeechobee Boulevard in West Palm Beach was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver,” he said. “Recently, a woman was in critical condition after being struck while walking in Boynton Beach by an unknown fleeing driver. That driver has since been identified.”

Even now, months after his accident, Russo has struggled to recover from his injuries and return to bicycling.

“I haven’t been able to get out and really go ride anymore,” he said. “I tried the other day and my back was killing me. It was too much. I had to bring the bike right back in the house.”

Goldenfarb said anyone with information about the driver or the car — which might have had damage and repair to the passenger side — is asked to call (561) 697-4440.

Benita Goldstein
Delray Beach

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Along the Coast

Loggerhead habitats get new federal protection status

By Cheryl Blackerby

Loggerhead sea turtles will get another layer of federal protection Aug. 3 when 685 miles of coastal beaches in six states—including all of Palm Beach County’s beaches—are designated “critical habitats” for loggerheads.

The new designation will not affect beach renourishment projects, beach access or beach recreation, said Chuck Underwood, spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s North Florida office.

“During the public-comment period, there was concern that there would be a change in business such as tourism and beach renourishment,” he said. “In this case, it doesn’t really change a lot. It won’t stop people from enjoying the beaches.”

“Critical habitat” is a term in the Endangered Species Act that identifies areas essential to the conservation of a listed species. Designations also inform the public of areas that are important to the species’ recovery.

“The designation is an additional layer of scrutiny,” said Underwood. “It identifies that part of nesting beaches that has the greatest impact on loggerheads. But just because a beach is not in a designated habitat doesn’t mean it’s not important. Those nests are still protected, but we’ll focus our efforts on the critical habitats.”

Specifying habitats essential to the conservation of loggerheads helps federal agencies identify where to use their authority. The designation also helps focus the conservation efforts of state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations and individuals.

Coastal residents won’t be affected unless they need a federal permit. Underwood said. In those cases there will be two questions: “Is the impact high enough to have an adverse impact on this particular species and will it jeopardize the beaches?”

These questions are already asked, but it will bring a sharper focus to the nesting areas. “We already consult on all those critical habitats,” he said.

Critical habitat designations do not create preserves or refuges or affect land ownership, and only result in restrictions on human activities in situations where federal actions, funding or permitting are involved.

In those cases, the federal agencies work to avoid, reduce or mitigate potential impacts to the species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated 88 nesting beaches in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, which account for 48 percent of an estimated 1,531 miles of coastal beach shoreline used by loggerheads.

Newly classified critical habitats also include the gulf and ocean. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service designated offshore marine critical habitats, including nearshore reproductive areas directly off of nesting beaches from North Carolina through Mississippi, breeding habitat in Florida and constructed migratory corridors in North Carolina and Florida.

The Sargassum habitat, home to the majority of juvenile turtles in the western Gulf of Mexico and in U.S. waters within the Gulf Stream, is also included in the designation.

“Protecting endangered and threatened species, including loggerhead sea turtles, is at the core of NOAA’s mission,” said Eileen Sobeck, assistant NOAA administrator for fisheries. “Given the vital role loggerhead sea turtles play in maintaining the health of our oceans, rebuilding their populations is key as we work to ensure healthy and resilient oceans for generations to come.”

The Endangered Species Act requires that NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the two federal agencies responsible for administering the act, designate critical habitats.

The loggerhead is the most common sea turtle in Southeastern United States, nesting along the Atlantic Coast of Florida, South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina and along the Gulf Coast. It is a long-lived, slow-growing species, vulnerable to threats including alterations to beaches, vessel strikes and fishing nets.★
There also or just for a short trip into the plane rides to Cuba, Bimini give those who could afford his seaplane. (He would come Curtiss in Palm Beach with portraits aviation pioneer Glenn of coastal Palm Beach County. The images portray a Florida lost to time and development and provide a glimpse into the flora and fauna of coastal Palm Beach County pre-1926 and 1928 hurricanes.

The book came to her wrapped in tissue. It is literally falling apart,” she said. Each time she turns a page to look at a picture, paper fragments fall into her hand. She already has scanned each photo for preservation. Texas archaeologist Bob Wishoff, who grew up in Florida and sold the album to DeVries, found the photographs at an estate auction in Texas several years ago.

“I realized they were pretty historically relevant and I wanted to find out who the people were,” he said. “I didn’t think I would be able to find out myself and it was important to me to sell them to someone who would appreciate their value.”

What initially piqued DeVries’ interest in Wishoff’s find was an image of the old Boynton Beach Hotel. That photograph, which actually was of some cottages connected to the hotel, was part of another, smaller album. While talking with Wishoff about these pages, she learned of a larger “crumbling” album and another collection of old pictures taken in Florida and other states.

“The Boynton Beach Historical Society does not purchase artifacts,” she said. “The organization relies on donations. Occasionally, I purchase postcards and other ephemera with my own money to share with our (Historic Boynton Beach) Facebook fans. I like to think of it as ‘brining these items home.’

The purchase was a splurge for her ($150), but her friend and fellow researcher, Ginger Pederson, encouraged DeVries to buy the book as a birthday gift to herself.

“With the artifact was delivered and I touched the delicate paper, I could barely bring myself to open it,” DeVries said.

“What I found inside delighted and amazed me,” she said. “Not only does it illustrate the tropical beauty of coastal Palm Beach County prior to development, it portrays aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss in Palm Beach with his seaplane. (He would come to Florida every winter) and give those who could afford it plane rides to Cuba, Bimini or just for a short trip into the wild blue yonder). There also are references to President Theodore Roosevelt and World War I.”

By sharing images on Facebook, DeVries has been helped by viewers familiar with some of the locations portrayed. Eventually, the plans to donate the book to the Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

What the clues revealed
But who are the people in the pictures? Who were the crumbling album’s original owners?

DeVries, a researcher at Palm Beach State College who is working on a master’s degree in library science from Florida State University, called upon her sleuth skills to find answers.

“I’ve always liked solving mysteries,” she said. “I read all the Nancy Drew books growing up. I guess it’s in my blood, too, because my great-great-grandfather was the house detective for the biggest hotel in Cleveland in the 1880s.” She has written five local history books.

In the course of her research, DeVries searched historical databases and land records and spent countless hours online. She made trips to the Palm Beach County Historical Society headquarters in West Palm Beach and tapped into community knowledge via Facebook. Her initial clue was on the four pages of the first of three albums, she said. It included a photo labeled Boynton Beach Hotel Cottages.

“This piqued my interest,” she said, “because I’ve only seen one other image of the cottages at the Boynton Hotel in all my time as archivist for the city of Boynton Beach and as president of the Boynton Beach Historical Society and in all my research and collecting. The hotel was torn down in 1925, though some of the cottages remained.”

Other images labeled “Manalapan” followed by notations such as “walk to dock” and “boat house” and “lake side view” led her to believe the home was located between the ocean and Lake Worth, which now is part of the Intracoastal Waterway.

A few images — labeled “Hillsboro Light,” “Canal to Delray” and “Dinner Stop at Lake Worth” — convinced her these were local images and that the people in the pictures lived here.

The names appearing on the pages were unusual — Madeleine, Romey and Leila, DeVries said.

“This combined with the term Manalapan cemented the deal that the family was the Piersons, and the home pictured within the crumbling albums was the 1894 structure built by Elmanth T. Field of Manalapan, N.J.”

She noted pictures of a coconut grove and read about pioneer George Charter (one of the barefoot mailmen) planting the coconuts.

“The story really became enchanting,” she said. “Some of the images were mystifying,” DeVries said, “especially the one of the house with what appeared to be a cistern.

“Fans of our Facebook page, Historic Boynton Beach, provided additional clues as I posted images. Several people said the water tower in the picture was along A1A north of the inlet. This confirmed what I already suspected. With each photo I posted, more fans chime in with memories of the old A1A (mostly washed out...
in 1947 and even the stretch of the beach that is north of the Boynton Inlet.

DeVries tracked down the entire line of Pierson descendants, including granddaughter Nancy Pierson Sands Tilton, who died around 2000. There is a great-grandson living in Texas.

Shipwrecks, sailors and suicide

The Piersons, of New York and New Jersey, bought the house at 1780 S. Ocean Ave. in Manalapan in 1912, according to a 1933 story in which Leila Pierson was interviewed in The Palm Beach Post.

There were two known owners before them. One of them was George Charter, a barefoot mailman. He and his brother built a hunting shack on the property, then 126 acres along 2 1/2 miles of ocean ridge in what now is Manalapan), with timber — the remains of a shipwreck — they scavenged on the beach.

"Charter planted all those (several thousand) coconuts after the wreck of the Providencia," DeVries said. But besides coconuts, the bodies of two sailors washed ashore from the wreck. The Charters buried them beside the sea, according to Leila Pierson's account.

Between Charter and the Piersons, the property belonged to Elnathan T. Field, who built the house on a bluff 15-25 feet above the ocean. Field came from Manalapan, N.J., and named the house on stilts "Manalapan Cottage" after a New Jersey Indian tribe. Manalapan is an Indian word for "pleasant waters."

The Charters weren't immune to tragedy: "A. Romeyn Pierson Sr. and his daughter, Dorothy, both died of the deadly 1918-19 fever," DeVries found. "And the son, A. Romeyn Pierson, died of alcoholism in 1929."
Safe Roads bicycle enforcement efforts to be visible soon

By Rich Pollack

The South Florida Safe Roads Task Force, the driving force behind a stepped-up law enforcement effort along State Road A1A in April, will be at it again in September as it continues to promote the need for bicycles, motorists and pedestrians to share the road.

This time, however, the task force is adding a Back to School Safety Fair to the police saturations along State Road A1A, which will include free bicycle helmets for children and adults and helmet fittings, as well as road safety demonstrations and giveaways.

Supported by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Dori Slosberg Foundation, the Back to School Safety Fair will be 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 13 at Boynton Beach Oceanfront Park. It will feature free food and music as well as demonstrations from the Florida Highway Patrol that includes a rollover simulator and a seatbelt-convincing slide.

“The safety fair is designed to spread awareness of road safety along State Road A1A,” says Tara Kirschner, executive director of the Dori Slosberg Foundation and a spokesperson for the task force. “Our goal is to educate motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians to help improve their own safety as well as the safety of all of those who are sharing the road.”

The fair will follow the first of four police saturation efforts on A1A, from 7 to 9 a.m. Police officers and sheriff’s deputies from North Broward to South Palm Beach counties will be out in force, writing warnings and citations for violations of laws designed to make roads safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The other law enforcement saturations along State Road A1A are scheduled for 7 to 9 a.m. Sept. 14, and also 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 16 and Sept. 18.

To find out more about the September Back to School Safety Fair or about the Safe Roads Task Force, contact the Dori Slosberg Foundation, (561) 488-7900.

POLICE

Continued from page 1

is to provide an enhanced level of security to everyone who resides on the barrier island as well as to those who enjoy all the area has to offer,” says Ocean Ridge Police Chief Chris Yannuzzi, who has been leading the discussions. This is a way to put more eyes on the road. Instead of paying additional salaries, we’re looking at the possibility of buying equipment that scans license plates automatically.

The license plate recognition system works by scanning tags of passing cars and comparing that information to tags numbers entered into databases by law enforcement agencies. If a tag registered to a stolen vehicle, for example, is spotted by law enforcement agencies.

In May, the Ocean Ridge Police Department conducted a nine-day test with a mobile Police Department conducted a nine-day test with a mobile police saturation effort on A1A, from 7 to 9 a.m. Police officers on patrol.

If a tag registered to a stolen vehicle, for example, is spotted by law enforcement agencies.

Privacy questions raised

But questions have been raised about whether the cameras go too far in invading individual privacy and whether the information could be used by those outside of law enforcement.

The question of whether the cameras are a privacy intrusion surfaced during a recent Highland Beach Town Commission meeting. It was quickly addressed by Police Chief Craig Hartmann, who told commissioners that cameras do not record any personal data, only the license plate information.

Commissioner Carl Feldman said he’s in favor of the cameras if the other towns go along with it, but added there are still concerns among residents that the cameras could be used by those outside of law enforcement.

“We need to prove to residents that the system can’t be used for malicious purposes,” he said.

During a recent meeting in which members of the Palm Beach County team studying the technology visited Lighthouse Point — where a system has been in place since 2010 — Boynton Beach Police Chief Jeff Katz asked if information gleaned from the system could be obtained in legal cases, such as a divorce case, to track a spouse’s movements.

But information gleaned from the system, according to Yannuzzi, is now exempt from Florida’s public records law and can be used only for law enforcement purposes.

“We’re not here looking at the actions of law-abiding citizens,” said Lighthouse Point Commander Michael Oh. “The system doesn’t tell us who you are, where you’re going or who is with you.”

Benefits of cooperation

The system works by scanning tags of passing cars and comparing that information to tags numbers entered into databases by law enforcement agencies.

1 – Strategically placed cameras scan license plates on cars as they pass. The license plate numbers are then compared to license plate numbers in a database that includes a wide array of information entered by law enforcement agencies.

2 – Dispatchers at local police departments are alerted to any matches between a scanned plate number and one entered into the database.

3 – Dispatchers or other police department personnel usually compare an image of the plate as it appears on a computer screen with the number in the database to verify the information.

4 – Once the match is verified, dispatchers alert officers on patrol or investigators who take appropriate action. Dispatchers continue to verify that information in the database is current by accessing databases electronically.

SOURCE: Highland Beach Police Dept.

GRAPHIC: Bonnie Lalky-Seibert / The Coastal Star

Although some communities have included tentative costs for the system in budgets for the upcoming fiscal year, actual costs have not yet been determined, nor have vendors been selected.

In the next few weeks, members of the project team will be bringing the concept to elected officials, according to Yannuzzi.

“There are many entities involved, we want to determine if there is a consensus before we move too far forward,” he said.

In Ocean Ridge, Commissioner Gail Axakov said she favors the scanner but Commissioner Rich Luccella indicated he has some doubts about the system.

“I’m not sure at this point that the money being proposed for cameras might not be better spent on a different type of deterrent,” he said.

License Plate Recognition Process

Law enforcement officials in both Manalapan and Lighthouse Point use the following license plate recognition process:

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LIFEGUARD
Continued from page 1

Gulfstream Park. Conlin spent about half of her career at the oceanfront park near the town of Gulf Stream.

Her tower mate, Michael Soutter, also will retire in September with 38 years of service.

“I love learning about the ocean, and the weather is ever-changing,” she said. “I can take pictures. There are opportunities to do other things.”

Wotton will miss Conlin’s willingness to take on additional assignments.

“She often volunteered to go to the schools for public-safety lectures and oversaw the junior lifeguard program for numerous years,” he said. “When our office was located at Gulfstream Park, she assisted with a variety of administrative tasks.”

Conlin’s father encouraged both her and her twin sister to take an advanced lifesaving class at age 15, so “that we would have something to fall back on.” While her sister ended up as a financial analyst back on. “While her sister would have something to fall back on,” she said. “I knew I had a lot to learn about the ocean, currents and marine life.” By her third year there, Conlin was a single red flag, just one level below ‘the ocean is closed’ (because of rough surf conditions), Conlin said. “We were restricting people from going in the water, call supervisor, call fire main, take extra equipment down the beach.”

“We focus on education and prevention, so that people don’t get in trouble in the ocean.” They also administer first aid to beachgoers.

Even so, she can recall the specifics of May 31, 2013, when she and her tower mate told three groups of high school boys not to go swimming.

“ ‘I remember that there was a single red flag, just one level below ‘the ocean is closed’ (because of rough surf conditions),’ ” Conlin said. “We were restricting people from going in the water. We look for pictures. There are opportunities to do other things.”

She does not like to talk about lives she saved, saying, “We focus on education and prevention, so that people don’t get in trouble in the ocean.”

Conlin started. But in 1996, its own standards back when Conlin started. But in 1996, the United States Lifesaving Association established a national swim standard for each ocean rescue squad had to pass competency tests twice a year: Run a mile in seven minutes and swim 850 meters in 17 minutes. According to Conlin, her supervisor, Lt. Joe Peloquin, each ocean rescue squad had its own standards back when Conlin started. But in 1996, the United States Lifesaving Association established a national swim standard for ocean lifeguards.

“Now it’s every six months, you have to swim 500 meters in 10 minutes,” she said. “And every year you run a quarter-mile in two minutes.”

Cathy Conlin would decorate the lifeguard’s tower in Gulfstream Park each year at Christmas. Photo provided

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Gulf Stream

Town raises taxes to pay for legal defenses

By Dan Moffett

Hardly anyone expected budget problems to surface in Gulf Stream, one of South Florida’s most affluent enclaves — a place where government reserves and property values have always been high while tax rates stayed low.

But then, who expected the town’s woaging legal bills, run up in defense against two frequently litigious residents, Martin O’Boyle and Chris O’Hare?

On July 11, town commissioners voted unanimously to do what had seemed unthinkable years ago: raise the tax rate.

The proposed 11.5 percent increase over the rollback rate (to $3.90 per $1,000 of assessed value from $3.497) is projected to raise an additional $75,000 during the next fiscal year, money that will be set aside to cover the costs of the many court cases brought by O’Boyle and O’Hare.

“It’s an absolute shame,” said Mayor Scott Morgan, “the wastage of reserves from this town as a result of what has been a legal onslaught on the integrity of our neighborhood. We’ve had to take the necessary steps to oppose it and protect this town. That costs money, unfortunately.”

Gulf Stream has seen its reserves fund fall from about $1.6 million to less than $700,000 during the last several years of legal lighting with O’Boyle and O’Hare. Separately, the two have filed dozens of suits and complaints against the town and made numerous public records requests that officials say have been costly to handle and a strain on staff.

“We’re in a unique situation,” Morgan said. “You can’t budget for the onslaught of lawsuits from Mr. O’Hare and Mr. O’Boyle, but the expense seems only to go up … It’s the uncertainty of the litigation costs. It’s the uncertainty of the end game.”

He said O’Boyle and O’Hare had each brought up new legal issues in recent weeks, and called some of their actions “frivolous.”

“How can you make such a statement?” O’Boyle asked the mayor and insisted on an answer.

“If you want a response to your questions, you should look in the mirror when you ask them,” Morgan shot back at O’Boyle.

O’Boyle accused commissioners of being unwilling to negotiate: “They want to fight, and when they want to fight, that’s OK.” He said he was willing to participate in “a slugfest in which the town is hemorrhaging cash,” but he called the town’s approach “foolishness” and said the commission was acting out of “ego, hostility, but certainly not sense.”

O’Hare also criticized commissioners. He said they were ignoring his public records requests and creating their own legal problems. “All this stuff would go away and go back to normal,” he said, “if you’d just tell staff to follow the law.”

The town has hired outside counsel and spent about $860,000 in legal costs during the last fiscal year and is setting aside another $400,000 in the proposed budget for next year. Vice Mayor Robert Ganger said the depleted reserves could hinder the town’s ability to recover quickly from hurricane or storm damage. He said the town has to do what it takes to protect residents — even if that means raising taxes. The fact of the matter, and everyone knows it, is the money is going for a purpose that does not serve the community or do much good,” Ganger said. “Gosh, to say that we’re willing to put at risk our citizens’ ability to recover in a natural disaster … just seems a shame to me.”

Ganger suggested that the commission might consider cutting a street lighting project from the budget, but Commissioner Joan Orthwein objected, pointing to the town’s rising property values (up 14 percent this year, the highest increase in Palm Beach County, in part through annexation) and the town’s tax rate, which has been the county’s lowest.

“Think we should go forward and be positive,” Orthwein said. “We can’t stop everything because of the legal expenses.”

How nasty have things gotten in Gulf Stream?

O’Boyle has posted a sign on a truck that reads: “Mayor Scott Morgan is Destroying Gulf Stream. BANKRUPTCY IS COMING!” and hired a plane to fly a banner over the town with a similar message. And his public records requests may have hit pay dirt, uncovering a scandal involving lots of dough in the affluent enclave. It seems Town Manager William Thrasher turned in for reimbursement several receipts from Dunkin’ Donuts — $7.99 each for boxes of a dozen doughnuts, fuel for the town’s overworked staff and unpaid volunteers, according to Thrasher.

“I got a hot one,” O’Boyle said of the doughnut disclosure. “Hard to believe, isn’t it?”

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Delray Beach
City approves Chapman deal, starts search for new manager
By Dan Moffett
Delray Beach commissioners are proceeding with a search for a new city manager and say they are committed to avoiding the mistakes made in hiring the last two.

The commission voted 4-1 on July 15 to approve the final details of a settlement agreement with the former City Manager Louie Chapman Jr. that will pay him about $100,000 as a buyout for his resignation. 

Commissioner Shelly Petrolia voted against the deal, saying the city should have fired Chapman with cause and given him nothing.

But it takes four votes under the city charter for that to happen, and the commission didn’t have them. Voters will decide in an Aug. 26 special election whether to change the requirement for termination to a simple majority.

Under the settlement, Chapman receives a 90-day payment in lieu of suspension with pay, 20 weeks’ additional pay, paid vacation time and a pension contribution. Chapman’s relationship with Chapman broke down after the county inspector general found he had them help them order a $600,000 purchase of garbage carts.

Mayor Cary Glickstein called the settlement “distasteful,” but said it was something the city had to do to move forward.

“The city needs closure on this,” Glickstein said, “and the staff needs a permanent city manager.”

Glickstein, Petrolia and Commissioner Isadora Jarduya were not in office when the city hired Chapman in January 2013 without using a professional executive recruitment company, relying instead on the curvy record of an unpaid volunteer group of municipal executives.

This time, commissioners say they will first select a qualified job search consultant to do the search and then seek candidates from across the country.

“I do think it important that the community has input into it,” Glickstein said. “I don’t think this should be done in a vacuum. It is a city manager, not a commission manager.”

One potential candidate may already be working at City Hall. Terry Stewart, the interim city manager who replaced Chapman last spring, Stewart, former a city manager in Fort Myers Beach and Cape Coral, has won praise from commissioners.

Commissioner Adam Frankel suggested that Stewart has earned a chance to claim the job, saying: “I think we got a great guy here,” Frankel said. “Give him a tryout.”

Glickstein agreed with the glowing reviews of Stewart’s performance and encouraged him to “throw his hat in the ring” if he wants, but also argued that the city had to go forward with a search and screening of candidates.

“The city has been a classic case of the Pot Luck,” he said. “No 2 person because the No. 1 person is there when the No. 1 left,” the mayor said. “As good a job as Adam is doing, we owe it to the city to conduct a real search, so that when people look forward we can say we did the best we could.”

Commissioners chose the executive recruitment firm to conduct the search over three competitors to screen candidates to replace Chapman. The city has set an application deadline of Sept. 3, and commissioners are scheduled to choose finalists by Oct. 6 and the new city manager on Oct. 20.

50th birthday party set for Historical Society
By Ron Hayes
At noon on Aug. 26, 50 years ago — a small group of men and women gathered at the Chamber of Commerce building to make history — and to make history matter.

With Ethel S. Williams as president and Roy C. Diggans as vice president, the Delray Beach Historical Society adopted its charter, establishing a nonprofit organization committed to “the organization and preservation of records to form a definite and authentic history of the city of Delray Beach.”

Fifty years later, those records number more than 1,000 items, they’re housed on a campus of three historic buildings and the Delray Beach Historical Society is ready to sing “Happy Birthday.”

“We’ll be having a 50th birthday party this Aug. 26 from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m., and the entire community is invited,” says Winnie Edwards, the society’s CEO and daughter of founding members Diggans.

The party, which is free, will feature pineapple cake and punch in the center, kicking off “The Golden Pineapple Jubilee,” a six-month celebration and membership drive culminating in a gala fundraising dinner in December.

The Delray Beach Historical Society is at 3 NE First Street.

For more information, call 274-9578.

South Palm Beach
Town approves another lean budget
By Dan Moffett
Town Manager Rex Taylor likes to begin budget talks by taking a look at what’s happened to property values in South Palm Beach during the last decade.

In 2008, the town’s taxable value was $429.2 million.

Then came the recession and the collapse of the South Florida real estate market, during which South Palm Beach saw its taxable property values fall 30 percent.

Unlike most of Palm Beach County, however, the town has not seen a robust recovery in real estate prices. The taxable value in 2013 was $258.2 million, a 40 percent decline from the high point of six years ago, and a minuscule 0.54 percent improvement over 2012 — a long way from the double-digit increases many of South Palm Beach’s coastal neighbors have enjoyed.

“We all know we’ve been going through an economy that’s been turned down for the last four or five years,” Taylor said. “It started to improve a year ago, but unfortunately our values have not followed suit very much.”

Taylor said the town has had little choice but to do the best with what it has and avoid the large black hole that is draining the city, “a black hole, white elephant …”

He proposed for the next fiscal year the same tax rate of $4.32 per $1,000 of assessed value that the town has had for the past three budget years, a proposed general fund budget of $1.76 million is $34,000 less than last year’s, he said, primarily due to salary savings from the retirement of several senior town employees last year, including the police chief and town clerk.

South Palm Beach has benefited during the last year from what Taylor describes as “an uptick in the number of building permits” and an overall increase in construction activity — signs that South Florida’s economic recovery might finally be spilling over to Palm Beach County.

“I think we’ve done a good job of keeping our services going, our Police Department operational and the other things that we’ve typically done for its citizens,” Taylor said. “So I certainly feel good about that.”

Most of the capital expenditures, about $65,000, is in the proposed budget will go to the Police Department for replacement of a vehicle, in-car video systems, handguns and tactical weapons.

During the Town Council meeting on July 22, Taylor had good news and bad news about the inter-local agreement with Lake Worth for sewer service.

The town will have to deal with a 14 percent rate hike to cover the costs of improvement to the Regional Sewer Treatment Plant, but, Taylor says, there will be no rate increase for property owners.

“arous our existing rates can absorb the increase,” he said. “I’m not proposing any rate increase for next year. That’s not saying that some time in the future you might have to.”

One unknown in South Palm Beach’s fiscal future is a new contract with the Police Benevolent Association. The Town has in the third year of a three-year agreement and began negotiations for a new deal with the union in June.

Taylor has allotted $990,000 for police and public safety in the new budget, down from $1.02 million in 2013-14.

The Town Council unanimously approved the proposed budget, with council members Stellia Gaddis Jordan absent because of illness and then set the tax rate at $4.32 per $1,000 in assessed value.

The town will hold public hearings on the budget at 7 p.m. Sept. 9 and Sept. 23.

Delray Beach commission considers cutting grants in budget
By Dan Moffett
For about as long as anyone can remember, Delray Beach has budgeted money to groups that do good work in the community — supporting organizations such as the city’s Public Library, Historical Society and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. 

“Those times may be changing.”

Chief Financial Officer Jack Warner showed the City Commission a 2014-15 budget proposal on July 15, and with it came his recommendation that the city take a hard look at grants for nonprofits.

To underscore the point, Warner recommended eliminating the $25,000 annual donation the city has made to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

“This is a time to open the dialogue. It’s not a financial decision, he said. “It’s more a conceptual decision. The Boys & Girls Club that serves us has a total budget of $7.5 million and a $15 million endowment. They simply don’t need our $25,000, and we can use it somewhere else.”

Warner is recommending keeping grants at last year’s level for other nonprofit groups such as the library and historical society, but going forward, as the city becomes more aggressive about tightening its budget, commissioners should think about cutting the contributions. The commission’s writing checks — perhaps through collaboration that involves sharing services or facilities.

Mayor Cary Glickstein said the city has a priority of “unterraing” itself from a 30-year tennis stadium commitment that “jumps out to me as the albatross, white elephant … black hole” that is draining the budget of about $2 million annually.

Warner said the tennis stadium obligation “has planted a time bomb in the middle of the city’s budget.”

The cost of police service went up 5.4 percent in the new budget, and fire service rose 12.4 percent. Total expenditures are up about 6 percent, year over year. Warner said the city had “flabbergasted” to learn that 25 percent of the city’s property tax revenue goes to fund the police and fire pension obligations.

The proposed budget does not reflect possible increased revenues from the installation of downtown parking meters, which commissioners are considering.

The commission voted unanimous approval for Warner’s recommendation that the city set the property tax rate for the next fiscal year at $7.51 per $1,000 of assessed value, down from the current rate of $7.51.

Delray Beach’s taxable value rose about 9 percent from last year, according to the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office, but, Warner said, the city is still about $1.5 billion below its peak assessed value in 2008.

The commission will hold final hearings and seek public comment on the proposed budget on Sept. 4 and Sept. 16.
Delray Beach Police History
Nov. 1, 1911 — Town of Delray incorporated with a marshal authorized to keep the peace. He also served as the tax collector. The first marshal was J. M. Walker who served from 1912 until 1916.
1912-1926 — Town had seven marshals during this period, including Walker. J.W. Ramsey, Earl Harvel, A. F. Miller, Lee Milton and W.H. Craft. In 1918, the Town Council agreed to buy a police car for the marshal while the purchase of a revolver was set aside for further consideration.
1927 — Referendum held, town of Delray and town of Delray Beach merge to form city of Delray Beach. W.A. Craft stayed on to become city’s first police chief. He left in 1931.
1932-1933 — Jess C. Johnson was the second police chief.
1933-1934 — R.V. Proctor became the third police chief.
1934-1937 — Charles Lamb was the fourth police chief.
1937-1938 — M.D. Morris became the fifth police chief.
1938-1943 — A.F. Helson served in the city’s 6th police chief. In 1942, police and fire were combined and neither division had a radio. A red light on top of the building would signal to officers on the road that a call was coming in. There were no police radios.
1950s — Department consisted of five men, one patrol car, two cameras and one man in the detective bureau. City had 6,000 residents.
December 1969 — Department had 32 officers.
1972-1974 — James S. Grantham served as police chief, retiring on June 14, 1974, after 33 years of service. He received from the city: a luggage set, Delray Beach history book and other items. He received a camera from his co-workers.
January 1974 — Starting salary was $6,710.
July 1976 — Murray O. Cochran was named police chief.
Aug. 1976 — Officer John B. Kennedy became the city’s first officer killed in the line of duty. Wilson Simpson was convicted in 1977 of Kennedy’s murder.
Nov. 30, 1978 — Committee investigating alleged racial problems reported to city council. Department had 67 sworn officers.
March 2, 1979 — Cochran retired after 4.5 years as Delray Beach chief. In February, the chairman of the county chapter of the ACLU criticized the city council for its ignorance regarding the existence of enclaves requiring the confining of police officers.
1979-1990 — Charles L. Kilgore served as police chief.
November 1981 — City created a 12-member Human Relations Committee.
April 18, 1984 — R.G. Finley died on a veterinarian’s operating table from internal injuries sustained while catching two burglary suspects.
Sept. 14, 1986 — The Rev. G.L. Champion told Chief Kilgore that blacks don’t trust white officers and accused the chief of treating the problem like a “wild, woolly shotgun.”
Oct. 31, 1990 — Kilgore retired under pressure from the City Commission, received $90,000 to walk away but refused to sign last evaluation. Maj. Rick William named acting chief.
May 14, 1991 — More than a year after allegations of civil rights violations, corruption and cover-ups involving police, a 22-page report released by Gov. Lawton Chiles’ office said there wasn’t enough evidence to file criminal charges in any of the allegations.
August 1991 — At least five black police officers filed complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging that taciturn and off-duty work was being offered exclusively to white officers.
Oct. 7, 1991 — Department had 210 employees and 130 sworn officers.
Richard Overman, a former Orlando police major, named Delray Beach police chief despite not being on the advisory committee’s finalist list. He started the city’s first professional Citizens Police Academy.
March 1992 — Community policing expanded to 11 officers who walk or bike their beats.
May 14, 1992 — Twenty-two residents graduated in the first class of the Delray Beach Police Department Citizens Police Academy.
Sept. 23, 1992 — First Delray Beach Citizens Observer Patrol started in Tropical Harbor development.
Jan., 22, 1993 — Temporary traffic barrier installed on Southwest Ninth Avenue, a half block south of Atlantic Avenue, to thwart drug sales.
October, 1993 — Police had 135 officers on its force.
April 11, 1994 — City Commission spent $150,000 to put eight officers on foot patrol on West Atlantic Avenue, between the Interstate and Swinton Avenue. March 1996 — Six black police officers were awarded $760,000 from a federal jury that accepted their claim that racism inside the department left them emotionally wrecked and financially deprived. The claims were initiated six years before.
June 1997 — Department’s Citizen Observer Patrol had 1,000 volunteers in 22 neighborhoods.
Oct. 1, 2007 — Chief Overman carried his service revolver into the courthouse to meet a judge, violating a longstanding-policy that bars weapons in the courthouse.
October 2009 — Starting salary for police officer was $35,900; those with bachelor degrees earn extra $2,500. Of 156 officer positions in the department, only 127 were filled.
Aug. 20, 2002 — Chief Schroeder named officer of the month in Delray Beach for his role in helping an off-duty rookie officer recover from a car accident.
Dec. 13, 2005 — City’s first police advisory board created with 11 members chosen by the city commission.
Sept. 1, 2014 — Assistant chief Jeff Goldman to replaces Strianese, who plans to retire. The department averages about 150 sworn officers and more than 70 civilian employees.

Sources: Delray Beach Historical Society, local newspaper archives

Delray Beach
New police chief is a home-grown leader
By Rich Pollack

They came up through the ranks together, one joining the Delray Beach police in May 1989, the other joining less than a month later.
Now Police Chief Tony Strianese, 54, who has spent the last six years at the helm of the department, is retiring and he’s passing the figurative baton to his longtime colleague, Assistant Chief Jeff Goldman, 45, who will become Delray’s new police chief Sept. 1.
The choice of Goldman to succeed his longtime friend and mentor comes as no surprise to those who know the two veteran law-enforcement professionals. Strianese has been preparing Goldman to be a police chief — whether in Delray or anywhere else — for years, helping him learn the first steps of being a successful leader in an organization with more than 225 employees.
“Jeff has the skills to be a good police chief,” Strianese said. “He’s got the local knowledge and he’s got the people skills. His greatest strength is his attention to detail.”
Strianese is not sure what he’s going to do next, but says he’s probably going to relax for a while and then go back to work. “Whatever I do next for work, it’s going to have to be fun,” he said.
Work for Strianese has involved paying attention to details — a hallmark of Strianese’s management style that helped him as he led the department during a down economy in which departments throughout the city worked to maintain the same level of service with limited resources.
“As a whole, our department weathered the storm,” Strianese said. “A lot of our people stepped up to the plate and we didn’t miss a beat. We were able to do a lot more with less.”
Although it would have been easy to jettison programs that didn’t directly correlate to the department’s primary mission of reducing crime, Strianese and his senior leadership team maintained a commitment to youth programs and to a community-policing program aimed at being proactive rather than reactive.
The department continued its support of the Law Enforcement Academy, which it runs in conjunction with Atlantic High School, and maintained a strong Police Explorer program. To help weather tough economic times, when falling home prices led to reduced tax revenues for cities such as Delray Beach, the department harnessed technology by introducing a software system that streamlined the reporting process, making it more efficient and timely.
Under Strianese’s leadership, the department also used technology in its intelligence-led policing initiative, which uses information culled through detailed analysis of crimes and other information to ensure that resources are deployed effectively.
The department now has a criminal intelligence unit, made up of two detectives and two civilian analysts, who focus efforts on studying trends and information gathered through community policing to prevent crime.
Over the years, the Delray Beach Police Department has garnered a reputation for professionalism, and Strianese has been a big proponent of ensuring the work force is well-educated.
The majority of officers have bachelor’s degrees and command-staff members are all required to have master’s degrees.
Goldman, who started at the Delray Beach Police Department when he was 20 and earned his master’s degree in criminal justice from Florida International University, says he will continue to build on the programs that Strianese put in place and hopes to add to them.
A student of leadership, Goldman is transitioning into the chief’s position with a set of values under the acronym of LEAD — Learning, Excellence, Accountability and Diversity.
“We need to be accountable to our community and to our mission, which is to ensure public safety,” he said.
In coming months, Goldman will focus on priorities that include increasing the department’s work force to keep up with the city’s growth, increasing the use of information technology and building relationships with the community to help tear down barriers between police officers and the people they serve.
Goldman, who was born in South Florida, grew up here and is now raising two teenagers with his wife, plans to become even more visible in the community.
“I believe your police chief needs to be accessible,” he said.
Goldman says he remembers what Strianese said when he first took over the department.
“I remember him saying he was honored and humbled,” Goldman said. “For me, being able to lead an agency you call home is an honor but it is also humbling.”
Along the Coast

Local School Board seats and judgeships on August primary ballots

By Steven J. Smith

In southeastern Palm Beach County, the Aug. 26 primary elections will see six candidates compete for two School Board seats — Districts 4 and 7 — that represent a good deal of the county’s midsection.

In addition to the School Board races, five candidates will vie for two judgeships on the 15th Judicial Circuit: Diana Lewis and Jessica Ticktin in Group 14 and Maxine Cheesman, Jaimie Goodman and Peggy Rowe-Linn in Group 30.

Supervisor of Elections Susan Bucher said there will be one ballot question posed to voters in the Lake Worth area — a $63.5 million bond referendum to acquire and improve roadway, sidewalk, streetlight, streetscape, drainage and water and sewer facilities in the city.

“There is also a Delray Beach question,” Bucher said.

“There is a charter change. … They had changed one of the provisions of their charter to require a super-majority for the city manager to be terminated. They now want to change it back to only a majority vote,” Bucher added her office is seeing an uptick in absentee ballot requests.

“It’s higher than we’ve ever seen before,” she said. “And we’re pleased to say we’ll open more early voting sites than we’ve ever had. We’ll have 14 in the primary election.”

For more information on ballot questions, candidates and voting sites, visit www.pbclections.org. Early voting takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, Aug. 11-24.

District 4 School Board candidates

Justin Katz
Personal: 30; bachelor’s from Florida Atlantic University in secondary education; single.

Professional: Teacher at Park Vista High School.

School Board experience: None.

Position on issues: Raising student achievement and expectations; assuring safety of students and faculty; modernizing teacher training and professional development; offering more career academy choices; improving fiscal development; offering more career academy choices; improving fiscal development; offering more career academy choices; improving fiscal development; offering more career academy choices; improving fiscal development; offering more career academy choices; offering more career academy choices.

Quote: “I’d like to bring some firsthand experience from the classroom to the School Board so that we can better identify the problems that exist in the school system and better come up with practical solutions.”

Larry Rosensweig
Personal: 63; bachelor’s from Harvard and a master’s from the University of Michigan in Asian studies; married, two sons.

Professional: Consultant with not-for-profits, particularly museums and gardens.

School Board experience: None.

Position on issues: Seeks to define School Board policies and budget allocations in terms of how they will benefit students. Wants to bring together the cultural and scientific communities in which he’s worked into a more proactive relationship with the school district.

Quote: “I strongly believe that America’s future — and our county’s future — is going to be based on creativity and innovation. I don’t think we’re teaching that or encouraging that currently in as strong a way as we should.”

Tom Sutterfield
Personal: 48; master’s degree from Georgia Tech in management and technology; married; three children.

Professional: Director of IT operations for the South Florida Water District.

School Board experience: None.

Position on issues: Wants to find a way to prosper under the district’s $2.37 billion budget without raising taxes and selling bonds to cover shortfalls.

Quote: “I am a big believer in school choice. We need to have lots of options, because we have a very diverse population. We need high standards for college fund students, and we also need to understand that every child is not college-bound. So we need to have more focus on trade schools and other options for them.”

District 7 School Board candidates

Piaget “Peppi” Hendrix
Personal: 43; associate of arts with Faulkner University; bachelor’s in elementary education from Alabama A & M University; did graduate work at Nova Southeastern University; married, four children.

Professional: Elementary teacher in the Palm Beach County School District.

School Board experience: None.

Position on issues: Wants better focus on curriculum, notably making sure students get foundational skills in reading, writing and mathematics.

Quote: “I want to make sure we have policies in place to make sure our students are learning, especially in reading. I also want to empower our parents to take back charge of their children’s education as well as giving them more say-so in decision processing. And I want our teachers to be autonomous so they can teach, and not be dictated to as to what to teach and how to teach.”

Erica Whitfield
Personal: 36; bachelor’s in health science education from the University of Florida and a master’s in public health from Emory University; married; one child.

Professional: Wellness coordinator for the school food service department in the Palm Beach County School District.

School Board experience: None.

Position on issues: Believes a strong vision is required to direct the School Board to lead the district, which includes bringing physical education, music and art back into the curriculum.

Quote: “We need to make sure we’re educating the whole child. And I plan to focus on wellness. I’m also passionate about private and public partnerships for when we want to do things that are a little more adventurous and exciting within the district. I think we have a lot of really good resources in the community and I look forward to working with the district to tap into that.”

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Palm Beach County School Board Member Districts

Debra L. Robinson
Personal: 57; bachelor’s of science and biology from Michigan State University; M.D. from Howard University; married; three children.

Professional: Physician at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center.

School Board experience: Has been on the School Board since 2000.

Position on issues: Two top priorities are (1) working with community partners to address the psycho-social needs of children who may be grieving or suffering from trauma, and (2) creating success profiles that clearly outline the experiences and competencies of principals and administrators.

Quote: “My main goal if re-elected is to continue to increase the graduation rate.”
The project included removal of asphalt followed by a buildup of a new base rock section. Rusty and ineffective old parking meters have been replaced with two kiosks, said Mike Greenstein, the town’s director of operations. “All the beach parking lot spaces are usable and the two kiosks are up and running,” he said. “At present, the kiosks only take coins. There is a credit card reader installed. The town is in the process of finalizing the contract to make the credit card readers operational. Once the contract is signed, the kiosks will take both coins and credit cards. The kiosks are paperless, meaning that no paper bills will be accepted and no receipts will be given out. The town is also looking into a pay-by-phone option,” Greenstein said.

“Next fiscal year we will add the lights, additional landscaping and irrigation.”

IF YOU GO

What: Red, White & Buzz Festival
When: 2-6 pm Nov. 9
Where: Lantana Recreation Center, 418 S. Dixie Highway.
To donate: Mail checks payable to Forgotten Soldiers Outreach to Lantana Recreation Center, 212 Iris Ave., Lantana, FL 33462. Or go to www.forgottensoldiers.org (please note on check the donation is for).

Lantana Mayor to go bald to raise money for forgotten soldiers

By Mary Thurwachter

Forgotten Soldiers Outreach has been raising money in many times, says Lantana Mayor Dave Stewart, and he is ready to do something about it. The Hypoloxo Island resident has agreed to have his hair and beard shaved if the Chamber of Commerce can raise $20,000 for Forgotten Soldiers Outreach by Veterans Day.

Stewart, 62, has sported a Hemingway-like beard since he was a young man and his member locks pretty much all his life. Hizzoner is not nervous about noggin nakedness. “I’ve seen cancer patients have to endure baldness for years,” he said. “Six months (the time he anticipates for regrowth) is nothing. It’s worth it.” The idea for the fundraiser sprouted during a Chamber of Commerce business card exchange, routinely attended by a Forgotten Soldiers volunteer holding a little plastic box for donations. “Every time he’d end up with six or seven bucks,” Stewart said, “I thought, you know, four soldiers were killed in Iraq today and here we are exchanging business cards and having drinks. I challenged everyone to put $10 in the box.”

One woman said she would put $500 in if Stewart would have his head and beard shaved. But Stewart had a larger number in mind — $20,000.

Forgotten Soldiers Outreach is a nonprofit organization based in Lake Worth that mails care packages with donated items (toiletries, edible treats, reading material) and letters to military men and women serving abroad. The Chamber of Commerce is planning a Red, White and Buzz Festival at the Recreation Center from 2 to 6 p.m. Nov. 9 to celebrate veterans and soldiers, and featuring vendors, children’s activities, food, entertainment and the mayoral shaving. The money raised by the Chamber event would go toward postage. The Lantana Town Council on July 14 agreed to waive the $200 rental fee, which will be donated to Forgotten Soldiers Outreach. Follify challenged council member Phil Aridas said Stewart will benefit from a chrome dome. “Chicks really dig bald men,” he said. Lynn Smith, executive director of the Chamber, said more than $4,000 has already been raised.

Beach parking lot work almost finished

By Mary Thurwachter

A drainage and paving improvement project in Lantana for the beach parking lot that began in February is nearing completion.

In December, the Town Council authorized a $51,000 contract for engineering services for drainage and paving improvements at the beach. Money for the work came from both the utility fund ($44,000) and the general fund ($7,000).

The project included removal of asphalt followed by a buildup of a new base rock section. Rusty and ineffective old parking meters have been replaced with two kiosks, said Mike Greenstein, the town’s director of operations. “All the beach parking lot spaces are usable and the two kiosks are up and running,” he said. “At present, the kiosks only take coins. There is a credit card reader installed. The town is in the process of finalizing the contract to make the credit card readers operational. Once the contract is signed, the kiosks will take both coins and credit cards.” The kiosks are paperless, meaning that no paper bills will be accepted and no receipts will be given out. The town is also looking into a pay-by-phone option, Greenstein said.

“Next fiscal year we will add the lights, additional landscaping and irrigation.”

Lantana keeps tax rate the same

By Mary Thurwachter

Taxes haven’t increased in Lantana for 14 years and there will be no change in the tax rate next year. At its July 28 meeting, the Town Council again set the rate at $3.24 per $1,000 of taxable property.

The town will have more money to work with, thanks to the rebounding economy and the $39 million increase in taxable property values. But expenses are up as well, and the proposed budget does have a $93,426 deficit. To counter that, the town will dip into its reserves — about $5 million.

Vice Mayor Lynn Moorhouse argued for increasing the tax rate during workshop meetings.

“I don’t see why we can’t raise taxes just a smidgen,” he said. “It wouldn’t make that much of a difference to taxpayers and it would mean so much to the town.” he said during a July 14 budget workshop. “We can’t keep taking from reserves.”

But 25, and his dad way Tom Deringer said he didn’t want to raise taxes one bit.

Mayor Dave Stewart said that a small change to the tax rate wouldn’t make that much of a positive difference in levies paid to the town.

The budget does not call for cost of living raises for town employees, but does allow for merit raises of up to 2 percent, depending on annual evaluations.

Among capital improvement expenditures are computers, library books, computer software, beach parking lot lights, a generator for Town Hall, an air conditioner for the library and a new police car for the chief.

After the tax rate has been set, it cannot be increased, but could be decreased.

Public budget hearings have been scheduled for 8 p.m. Sept. 9 and Sept 23 at Town Hall.

In other action, the town agreed to terminate its contract for legal services with Corbett, White and Davis, P.A. and enter into an agreement with R. Max Lohman.

Lohman, who has served as the town’s counsel for eight years as part of Corbett, White and Davis, resigned from that firm on July 28. He had been with the company since 2003.

“It was just time for a change,” Lohman, who founded Lohman Law Group, P.A., in July, said. “I really do care about Lantana.”

Before Lohman served as the town’s counsel, Trela White, founder of Corbett, White and Davis, was the town’s attorney.

“She really feel like we have been represented by two of the best attorneys in the state with Trela and Max,” Stewart said.

Town manager Deborah Manzo said Lohman had been a tremendous asset to the town and that she works well with him.

Stewart said that Lohman was familiar with the town’s issues and would be helpful going forward with matters such as the development of the A.G. Holley property.

Lohman, a former U.S. Navy aviator, is also the city attorney for Palm Beach Gardens and the West Palm Beach DDA.

In another matter, Robert Korin, of 319 Atlantic Drive, got the OK to hold a private, five-minute fireworks display at 9:15 p.m. on Aug. 8.

The Lantana beach parking lot has been raised and new metered kiosks have been installed.
Commission orders rewrite of rental ordinance

By Dan Moffett

Ocean Ridge commissioners wanted to crack down on nuisance rentals of single-family homes last year when they passed an ordinance that set new fees and registration requirements for landlords and tenants.

While the law has helped clean up the nuisance rentals, it also has created a bureaucratic mess, with more confusion and unintended consequences than commissioners thought possible.

Landlords have complained about getting locked with excessive fees. Tenants have complained about government smudging their privacy. Most everyone — even town officials — has complained about not understanding exactly what the ordinance requires or how to enforce it.

“The ordinance that was passed went too far,” Mayor Geoffrey Pugh conceded, as the Town Commission met July 7 to try to repair the damage.

The law requires people who rent out their properties to register each unit at Town Hall and pay a $50 annual fee. It also requires the disclosure of renters’ identities, and that has raised concerns about privacy rights.

Commissioner Richard Lucibella, who won his commission seat in March, said he didn’t want to second-guess the work of the previous commission, but the ordinance made him feel “a little queasy” about intrusive town government.

“There were a couple people causing problems. It came up because it was an enforcement problem,” Lucibella said. “But you made the decision to get people to write their names down and give up personal information. You’re really confusing it. And now you’re trying to clean that up.”

Lucibella said the town had overreached and probably could have solved the nuisance problem simply by enforcing the ordinances already on the books. For years, town law has allowed homes to be rented for a minimum of 30 days and prohibited homes from being occupied by more than five unrelated persons.

Police Chief Chris Yannuzzi told commissioners that the registration ordinance appears to have significantly reduced rental violations during its first year. Town officials were surprised to learn from the registrations that Ocean Ridge has at least 90 units being rented.

“It’s not a matter of Big Brother or anything like that,” Yannuzzi said. “We’re trying to maintain order in the neighborhood — who’s coming in and who’s going out, what they’re doing there.”

Commissioner James Bonfiglio, who came to the commission with Lucibella in March, said the ordinance was accomplishing the goals the commission wants but “was a bit too intrusive.” He said commissioners shouldn’t repeal it but “tweak it a little bit to protect privacy.”

Chris Currie and Bob Weisblut, who both own multi-unit rental properties in the town, told commissioners the ordinance was unfair and ambiguous.

“I don’t remember the word ‘annual’ coming up in the initial law,” Weisblut said, referring to requirements that landlords would have to re-register and pay fees each year. Currie argued that the ordinance makes renters “a subclass of second-class citizens.”

He said commissioners originally aimed at reining in single-family home rentals, then wandered off course and put unreasonable restrictions on properties designed specifically as rentals.

Added police hire won’t be solely for beach patrol

By Dan Moffett

With the budgeting in Ocean Ridge comes a debate over semantics.

A sizable new expenditure in the town’s proposed 2014-15 budget is $85,000 to hire another police officer.

Town commissioners are supporting the hiring as a way to respond to the complaints of beachfront residents who say the town needs to crack down on misbehaving beachgoers from across the bridge.

Just don’t call the new cop a “beach patrol officer,” however.

During their budget workshop on July 23, one of the many decisions commissioners made was to make it clear that the additional officer won’t be charged exclusively with patrolling the beaches and will have the same job description as others in the department.

Mayor Geoffrey Pugh calls the proposed new hire “an extra policeman,” avoiding potential controversies about designations that might appear to favor one neighborhood or another.

Commissioners say decisions about how to deploy the extra policeman will be left up to Police Chief Chris Yannuzzi. But there is no debating that the commission hopes the new hire will help convince beachfront residents that the town is serious about reining in misconduct on the beaches, a nagging issue for most of the last year.

Briny costs not passed along in full

The proposed budget also has $34,000 to replace two police cars. The department is receiving $203,500 from the town of Briny Breezes to provide police services for the next year, based on a formula that calls for a 1.5 percent increase over the consumer price index of 2.1 percent.

Commissioner Richard Lucibella complained that the town’s law enforcement budget rose 18 percent last year and is going up 7 percent in the proposed budget, yet those increases aren’t getting passed on to Briny Breezes.

“You’re passing only 3.6 percent on to Briny,” Lucibella said. “Let’s think about that. You’re falling behind every year.”

Commissioners did more gumshoeing over the cost of fire and emergency medical services from the Boynton Beach Fire Department. The bill for 2014-2015 will be about $979,000, up from about $655,000 when the contract started 10 years ago, because of a 4 percent minimum annual increase.

“We need to put something in the budget we can use as a negotiating point,” said Commissioner James Bonfiglio, who wants to explore other options for EMS providers. “We need to increase our hand.”

Town Attorney Ken Spillias proposed amending the ordinance to focus on rental property owners, not tenants, and charging a single fee. The commission agreed and told Spillias to make the changes and bring the amended ordinance back for review.

In other business, Spillias proposed amending an ordinance as a potential solution to the long-running concern over what to do about the 5011 building on North Ocean Boulevard.

Building owner Lisa Sivitilli is working on renovation plans for the town’s only commercial strip, a nonconforming-use property. Instead of writing new laws or changing the town’s comprehensive plan for the strip, Spillias believes it makes more sense to amend an ongoing plan already on the books for decades.

Commissioners concurred and told Spillias to bring them a proposed amendment.

Delray Beach

Man dies in boating mishap

A man died after being trapped under a boat that capsized July 27 during a boating trip off Delray Beach.

City lifeguards and firefighters responded to a distress call from the boat at 3:56 p.m., Delray Beach Fire-Rescue reported.

Lifeguards and personal watercraft to reach the overturned boat and removed three men from the water. One man, pulled from the back of the boat, was in critical condition. He died after being taken to the hospital.

Officials had not released the names of the three men as of press time. It was not clear why the boat capsized.

--- Willie Howard
Boynton Beach

Fire-rescue budget increases to keep up with services

By Jane Smith

Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes residents will not have to worry about fire-rescue response times next summer, thanks to a directive given to Boynton Beach’s city manager at the city’s annual budget workshops, held July 21-22.

City commissioners directed Lori LaVerriere to find $44,000 to pay for three firefighter salaries July-September 2015.

A recent fire was using up to $12,000 a week to pay those salaries runs out on June 30, 2015. Without that money, the city’s fire chief said, he would have to shut down. "If you take a man out of a truck the mission is compromised," said Casello, a veteran firefighter. "I ran on public safety and I firmly believe in my heart that we have to keep it up."

The city’s fire-rescue budget increased by 7.9 percent because of higher pension costs, higher health care costs, a 3 percent raise carried forward for firefighters and equipment that needs to be replaced, he said.

But the police chief said losing fire vacant police positions would not compromise public safety.

City commissioners put off a discussion on the proposed new police headquarters until they hear from Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, which led a May workshop on the town center. The Planning Council staff will present its findings to the City Commission an an Aug. 5 workshop. The May workshop focused on municipal buildings, including the Police Department headquarters.

Boynton Beach commissioners will then decide between two methods to pay for the new police facility, estimated to cost at least $34.5 million. The first calls for covering the cost by borrowing $27.9 million over 25 years. It would be repaid with pledged revenue, raising the city’s debt annually by $1.2 million or 0.35 percent.

The second method would be to take the question to the city’s voters. In that case, the ballot wording would have to be ready by January for the March 2015 municipal elections, the city clerk said. Voters would decide whether to approve borrowing $25.3 million for 25 years, increasing the debt service annually by $1.6 million or 0.48 percent.

TOWN'S
proposed budget shows minimal change

By Dan Moffett

Briny Breezes is looking at a budget for the new fiscal year that is largely a mirror image of last year’s numbers.

During July budget workshops, Town Council members gave preliminary approval to keeping the current tax rate of $10 per $1,000 of assessed value and holding the line on expenditures with a general fund budget of $862,330 that shows about a 3.8 percent increase in expenses, compared with the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Taxable values in Briny crept up 0.52 percent over the last year, from $35.21 million to $35.39 million, according the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office. The town figures to generate about $345,000 in ad valorem tax revenues.

“Our property values are pretty stable,” said council President Sue Thaler. “We don’t have any construction project going on that’s going to increase our property values quite a lot.”

The town’s biggest expenses — police service from Ocean Ridge, which comes in slightly under last year’s cost at $210,000 this year, and fire-rescue service from Boynton Beach, which increases 4 percent annually — will cost about $540,000, almost 81 percent of the general fund budget. But Briny Breezes Inc., the corporation that owns the town’s property, will pay about 37 percent of the combined bill. $120,510 for fire-rescue and $77,350 for police.

The council will hold two public hearings in September for approval to keeping the current millage. City Commissioner Michael Fitzpatrick warned that a day of reckoning was coming. “We are approaching the end game on budgets. We can’t keep dipping into reserves,” he said.

Commissioners approved a preliminary budget of $73.3 million, a 2.9 percent increase. They kept the tax rate at $79 per $1,000 of assessed value, the same as the previous year’s, although most property owners will still pay more because their taxable values increased.

The City Commission is to adopt the 2014-15 budget on Sept. 16.

Know the Dangers of Untreated Valve Disease

Heart murmurs are often asymptomatic, which may result in patients delaying further evaluation and treatment. It’s important to know that a heart murmur can be a symptom of valve disease, such as aortic stenosis, which can increase your risk of mortality.

The Valve Clinic at Delray Medical Center

At Delray Medical Center, we are dedicated to providing patients access to some of the latest cardiac treatments through our Valve Clinic. Our board certified physicians are specially trained to perform innovative valve procedures designed to repair or replace the aortic valve. The patient is seen by a cardiovascular surgeon, who works with the patient’s personal physician, to develop a treatment approach based on the patient’s individual characteristics. This collaborative approach also helps the Valve Clinic team facilitate a smooth transition back to the patient’s personal physician for care after the visit and treatment.

Care Coordination

Our patients are taken care of in a single day. Instead of multiple appointments with several specialists. Your visit to our Valve Clinic includes evaluation by the cardiovascular surgeon, review of prior diagnostic studies and additional testing if necessary. Our patient navigator will work with you and make all necessary appointments for the visit to help ensure you receive personalized care.

To determine your treatment options, please call our patient navigator at 855.3.MURMUR.
MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Robert Sweetapple

Robert Sweetapple surprises Fred Astaire Dance instructor Ashley Jones with a lift during rehearsal for this year’s Boca Ballroom Battle to benefit the George Snow Scholarship Fund. Jerry Lowery/The Coastal Star

IF YOU GO
Boca’s Ballroom Battle, a fundraiser for the George Snow Scholarship Fund
Where: The Boca Raton Resort & Club
When: 6 p.m. Aug. 16
Tickets: Starting at $150
Information: 347-6799 or www.scholarship.org

Q. Where did you grow up and go to school? How do you think that has influenced you?
A. My dad died when I was 10, so in 1965 we moved to Perrine, south of Miami, from Fairfield, Calif., and I went to elementary school there. Then we moved to Plantation, where I graduated from Nova High School in Fort Lauderdale. That was the Broward County magnet school, and it allowed me to go on to Colgate University in New York, and then the University of Florida law school. If I’d stayed where I was, I’d be picking tomatoes with all the rest of my neighbors.

Q. What professions have you worked in? What life accomplishments are you most proud of?
A. I’ve been a trial lawyer for 34 years, primarily practicing commercial litigation, and I’m most proud of being able to help people who are sometimes in the worst situation they’ve ever been in and help them through tough times. And I’ve made a lot of very good friends in the process.

Q. How is it that you were pursued to dance in this year’s Boca Ballroom Battle event?
A. My wife and Tim Snow competed. After 32 years of marriage, my wife wants to see some new moves.

Q. Why is the George Snow foundation important to you?
A. Because it makes education available to worthy young people who otherwise couldn’t afford to obtain a great education. There’s a very short window. If you don’t go to college in that window, the odds of you going back later in life narrow every year.

Q. Do you have a favorite quote that inspires your decisions?
A. “Life’s battles are not always won by the stronger or faster man, but sooner or later the man who wins is the man who thinks he can.” Napoleon Hill

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Boca?
A. The boating. I have a Donzi 35-foot fishing boat and a Fairline cabin cruiser. I fish a little bit, but primarily we take it to the islands.

Q. How is it that you were made into a movie, who would you want to play you?
A. I’d want it to be Michael Douglas. He’s one of my favorite actors.

Q. What is your favorite part about being a county lawyer?
A. Because it makes a difference. I’ve been a trial lawyer for 34 years, primarily practicing commercial litigation, and I’m most proud of being able to help people who are sometimes in the worst situation they’ve ever been in and help them through tough times. And I’ve made a lot of very good friends in the process.

Q. What is your favorite part about living in Boca?
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Q. What is your favorite part about being a county lawyer?
A. Because it makes a difference.

Q. If your life story were made into a movie, who would you want to play you?
A. Well, I’d want it to be a comedy. Could it be Eddie Murphy?

Q. Who/what makes you laugh?
A. Everything! Having a sense of humor is inside you, and you have to start by laughing at yourself.

Robert Sweetapple
A managing member of Sweetapple, Broeker & Varkas, is … improving.
Red Cross retreats from Point Manalapan

By Dan Moffett

Decades of dealing with the world’s worst calamities could not have prepared the Red Cross for the unnatural disaster that was waiting on Point Manalapan. In June, representatives of Palm Beach County’s chapter won the Town Commission’s approval to stage a Red Cross Designers’ Show House fundraising event on Audubon Causeway. By July, a firestorm of protest had consumed the Point.

Dozens of angry residents called Town Hall, wrote letters and sent emails complaining that life in Manalapan would be forever changed should the Red Cross be allowed to proceed. Fred Gould complained that the event would attract people who “have no reason to be in the community” who could be coming “solely to ‘case the community’ for criminal purpose.”

Statistically speaking, an increase in minor traffic violations to major crime-related activity is inevitable,” wrote Rebecca Romero. “I cannot fathom for a second why we are OK with this.”

“I know firsthand the intricacies of putting a Show House together,” wrote Cindy Ray, an interior designer familiar with the event. “This always was a mess in the past and caused traffic jams with little to no parking or respect for parking. … This island was not built to support this kind of invasion (in all senses of the word) of our privacy.”

Commissioners were inundated with callers demanding that they reverse their vote. But they didn’t have to. The Red Cross pulled out.

“The Red Cross is always looking for opportunities to be neighborly,” said Tammy Jackson-Moore, spokesperson for the American Red Cross Palm Beaches-Treasure Coast. “So we will go somewhere else. We understand that some of the people in the neighborhood had raised concerns about the traffic and other issues. We do appreciate the people who supported us in Manalapan, however.”

Lambert Van Der Walde, whose home at 45 Audubon Causeway was to have held the event from Feb. 19 to March 21, declined to comment. Van Der Walde had convinced the commission at its June meeting that parking and traffic wouldn’t be a problem, and that the event would raise about $250,000 for the Red Cross.

The commission had voted 4-1 in favor of the plan, with Commissioner Ronald Barsanti dissenting and Commissioner Clark Appleby absent. Daryl Cheifetz (wife of Mayor David Cheifetz), spoke against the plan at the meeting and led a group of residents who circulated a letter urging homeowners to call Town Hall, with some telling commissioners that “quiet little Manalapan” was threatened by hundreds of visitors “driving around and cruising” the streets.

“The Red Cross has not taken into consideration the residents of Point Manalapan,” the letter said. “The reason many of us moved to Manalapan was for privacy and the serenity the neighborhood afforded. Are we to be faced with approximately 75 visitors per day driving and walking around our island?”

Mayor Cheifetz commended the group for its grass-roots community involvement and for generating “a tremendous amount of support” against the Red Cross plan. He assigned Town Attorney Keith Davis the task of writing an ordinance governing the size and duration of special events, such as charity fundraisers, for the commission to consider at the August meeting.

In other business:

• The commission recognized Police Chief Carmen Matixo with a plaque honoring his “compassion and professionalism” and “job well done” in service to the town.

• At the request of the town’s Architectural Commission, Town Attorney Davis wrote of lawn ornaments that is intended to distinguish them from statues and other large, immobile objects: “Lawn ornaments are decorative objects placed in the grassy area of properties. Lawn ornaments are distinguished from statues in that they are small in size, not taller than 42 inches in height, and are designed and meant to be easily portable.”

Lawn ornaments generally do not require the town’s review, but statues and larger elements do.

Town Commission raising taxes to pay for bridge

By Dan Moffett

Unable to find help from larger governments or a financing plan that suits them, Manalapan commissioners have decided to pay for their Audubon Causeway Bridge project the old-fashioned way: They will raise taxes.

The Town Commission gave unanimous approval to a $0.25 increase in Manalapan property owners’ tax rate on July 22, raising the town’s operating rate to $3.15, meaning for every $100,000 in assessed value, a homeowner will pay about $315.

The good news for property owners is that even with the increase, Manalapan still has the lowest tax rate in Palm Beach County. ’I think it’s important that we still have the lowest rate in the county,” said Mayor David Cheifetz.

The new revenue will go toward the $501,000 needed to begin the Audubon bridge project. The town will still have to take about $68,000 out of its reserves to cover the construction cost. But, commissioners said, they supported the balanced approach of paying for the work with a modest tax increase and a small amount from the town’s savings account, which is roughly $1.8 million.

Commissioner Peter Isaac reported that the bridge project is moving forward “basically on schedule, with no change in cost.” In total, the new bridge will cost about $760,000, which includes replacing a water main. Isaac said designers have approved a “clear span” design that will use a continuous section to link both ends of the bridge. The design will require fewer pilings, which should help reduce the cost and construction time — perhaps by as much as two weeks.

However, a clear span design will limit the options for the town’s future ballfields, said Daryl Cheifetz. The bridge’s design will use a continuous section to link both ends of the bridge. The design will require fewer pilings, which should help reduce the cost and construction time — perhaps by as much as two weeks.

The project is scheduled to get underway in April, with construction of the south side span expected to last about three months. After completion of the south side, traffic can move across without any weight restrictions, Isaac said.

Commissioners are expecting the entire project to take about eight months, putting the finish date in December 2015. Overall, the proposed operating budget of $3.35 million for 2014-15 is about $60,000 higher (1.9 percent) than that of the current year.

Commissioners decided against spending $28,000 to replace the town’s 9-year-old generator, opting instead to set aside $12,000 to see if it could be repaired.

The commission is going forward with a $20,000 plan to replace the 11-year-old telephone system at Town Hall. The figure includes money to upgrade the conference communication system in the hall chambers.

Town employees will get a 2.1 percent raise to cover the cost of inflation, and commissioners have set aside another 0.9 percent for merit raises.

“Everyone will get cost-of-living,” Cheifetz told Town Manager Linda Stump, “but we’re giving you discretion to reward those employees whose performance is good.”

The commission scheduled public hearings for the proposed budget for 5 p.m. Sept. 17 and Sept. 23.

We’re moving

By the middle of August, The Coastal Star will have moved into our new home, just up the street from our old location.
Arthur Algonas

DELRAY BEACH — It is with a heavy heart that the family of Arthur Algonas of Delray Beach announces his passing on July 20. He fought a courageous fight against melanoma for three years.

Arthur was born July 25, 1941, in Neptune, N.J., and lived at the Jersey Shore until 1977 when he and his young family moved to Delray Beach. He was the founder and CEO of Delray Title and Abstract Company, founded in 1979. He worked arduously in seeing that his company be successful. He started in the title insurance industry in 1964, working for Chelsea Title in New Jersey. One of his biggest projects was doing searches on the Wetlands property where the Meadowlands now stands.

He loved the mechanics of cars and boats, and was an avid fisherman. He was a fantastic cook, having won the annual Delray Elks Chili Cook-Off three times. He was a past member of the Brick, N.J., Jaycees, Delray Kwanus, Delray Sunrise Rotary and the West Palm Beach Fishing Club, and a St. Vincent Ferrer eucharistic minister.

For several years, Arthur coached T-ball and girl’s softball for the Delray National Little League. He was a member of the Delray Beach Elks Lodge 1770.

Arthur was the son of the late Charles and Elsie Algonas. He is survived by the love of his life, his sweetheart, his wife of 48 years, Susan (Vashlishian), their three daughters Colleen (Dan), Jami (Michael) Zammuto and Kelly Algonas; sisters, Elsie and Eileen, grandchildren Michaela, Hailey, Kelly, Joey, Lorelie, A.J. and Charley.

Once you met this wonderful man, you never forgot him.
— Submitted by the family

Mary Stockstill Willman

HIGHLAND BEACH — Mary Stockstill Willman, or “the original Banshee Girl” as her family lovingly called her, died peacefully in her sleep on July 6 in her Highland Beach home. Born in Dayton, Ohio, on Nov. 10, 1923, she was married for nearly 50 years to World War II veteran Edward M. Willman, who died in 1994. She was matriarch to her surviving family of three children, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Kimberlee Willman-Federer, Mrs. Stockstill Willman’s eldest granddaughter, said she earned the Banshee nickname through her husband, who served with the U.S. Marine Corps Dive Bomber Squadron VMSB-244, known as the Banshee Banshees, the squadron fought with distinction in both the Bougainville and Philippines campaigns.

“Nana and Papa were married within two weeks of their first meeting,” Willman-Federer said. “She loved him and cared for him after he contracted polio and was told he would never walk again. He started sailing as therapy and they made their life sailing through the salt waters of Biscayne Bay on their boat, Banshee.”

The Banshee nickname endured into another generation when Euri Luce-Mead, Mrs. Stockstill Willman’s next eldest granddaughter, adopted it as the moniker of her company, Banshee Girls, which manufactures clothing and accessories.

“She loved fiercely and lived every day to the fullest until the last and final day,” Luce-Mead said of her grandmother. “She won her race and we celebrate her life. I love her more than words can say.”

“She was ‘pedal to the metal,’” full of energy and in all her glory throughout her life,” Willman-Federer added. “It was hard to keep up, but we learned quickly.”

“Auntie was the glue to the family and showed us by example to live life to the fullest, with love for everything and everyone. Those lessons will remain in each of our entire lives and will be passed down to our children.”

Mrs. Stockstill Willman had a passion for painting, a talent that has been shared by many in her family.

“She loved art,” Willman-Federer said. “Painting was therapy for her and she loved to paint the family. She has done portraits of most of us. She also loved pictures of the ocean and sailboats.”

Austine Luce, another granddaughter, said Mrs. Stockstill Willman “is a cherished spirit to remember.”

“She is definitely dancing up there in her shiny cowgirl boots,” Luce said. “The ones with fringes on them.”

A memorial service was held July 7 at Lorne & Sons Funeral Home in Delray Beach.

LETTERS:
The Coastal Star welcomes letters-to-the-editor about issues of interest in the community. These are subject to editing and must include your name, address and phone number. Preferred length is 200 words or less. Mail to 5114 N. Ocean Blvd., Ocean Ridge, FL 33435 or email editor@thecoastalstar.com.
Prime Catch marks 10th year of reeling in diners

By Scott Simmons

For years, it was the great South County lament. Why isn’t there a place for fine dining on the water? All that changed in 2004 with the Therien family opened Prime Catch in Boynton Beach.

The family had owned the über-casual Banana Boat since 1971, first in Fort Lauderdale; the Theriens moved the restaurant to Boynton Beach in 1978.

The family had owned the land on which Prime Catch sits since 1982. So why wait so long to open a higher-end place?

“We didn’t feel that Boynton Beach was ready for a fine-dining restaurant,” says Luke Therien, son of the restaurant’s founder, John Therien. “It’s a little more working-class. Boca, Delray, Palm Beach Gardens have the higher end.”

The family waited a quarter-century.

“We thought, ‘Now maybe Boynton Beach is ready for a nice restaurant,’ ” Therien says.

That vision proved to be correct. “The tourists and the seasonal people feel they want to go to a restaurant that’s not another chain. They want something that connects them to the environment,” he says.

It’s no surprise, then, that Prime Catch is a place frequented by locals and tourists alike, who have their jaws set for fresh snapper or grouper, or even just a cocktail.

“That’s the epitome of Florida. You want to sip a cocktail and have a nice Florida fish and you want to do it on the water, if you can,” Therien says.

Customers love familiar faces, too.

Executive Chef John Bonk opened the Prime Catch in 2004, and General Manager Sandra Turner joined the company in 2005.

“We’ve got servers and kitchen people who’ve been there since we’ve opened. You don’t hear about 10-year cooks, managers, servers and bartenders, but we have them,” Therien says, adding, “Retention is so important in the restaurant business, so that helps us a lot.”

Prime Catch employs 75 to 100 depending on the season or off-season. The restaurant seats about 275.

Through it all, running the restaurant has remained a family affair.

“My brother Gilles is the chef at Banana Boat, and I have another brother who works in the office, then I kind of bounce around between the two places and the office,” Therien says. “And my father still comes into the places as well.”

The family doesn’t just come in to work. Therien enjoys relaxing over a meal at his family’s restaurant, and he sits outside, regardless of the temperature.

“We’re gonna sit outside right on the water, as close to the rail as possible. You smell the air and you see the boats go by. Even on a 90-degree day, most people want to sit outside,” he says, adding, “Even in the summer, there’s always a little bit of a tradewind coming off the ocean, so you can always be comfortable.”

Prime Catch, 700 E. Woolbright Road, Boynton Beach. 737-8822.
Hudson Holdings has purchased Delray Beach’s historic hotel property, the Sunny House, and surrounding properties for a combined $21 million.

The assemblage is made up of more than 7 acres with approximately 265 feet of frontage on West Atlantic Avenue. Redevelopment plans include hotel, retail and office space anchored by the Sunny House, which will act as an event venue, bar, five-star restaurant and cottages. Other properties purchased in the portfolio include the Catcathcart House, built in 1963, and the Re territory, built in 1912.

The founding of the first bank and Baptist church took place in the Sunny House, as well as the incorporation of Delray in 1911, according to historic county archives. “I have owned many of the homes on these properties and I like the fact that we are going to do lots of new things there and do think it is important for us to keep in mind the history,” says Virginia Arrip Snyder, long-time resident, Delray Beach historian and muse for the well-known show Murder She Wrote.

Hudson Holdings recently purchased the historic Gulfstream Hotel in Lake Worth.

To be clear, it’s the 7,200-square-foot commercial building on 1.37 acres — not the business — that’s for sale at 1353 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Priced at $3.7 million, the property is offered through Bryan S. Cohen of Cohen Commercial Real Inc.

The business, Kraeer Funeral Home, is moving just down the street and combining with Babione Funeral Home, 1100 N. Federal Highway. Both are owned by the same company, Service Corporation International, a provider of funeral, cremation and cemetery services.

“We don’t sell our funeral businesses. We sell real estate,” emphasized Melissa Pitalo, the company’s market director of operations. SCI acquired Kraeer Funeral Homes in 2006, and Babione was acquired by an SCI affiliate in 1994. “The families are still very active in day-to-day operations,” Pitalo said. “Mrs. (Helen) Babione resides behind the east Boca funeral home, and Mr. (R. Jay) Kraeer and Dr. (Caroll) Babione, Russell, is still involved, too.

Both the Kraeers and the Babiones opened their first funeral homes in the early 1950s, she said. “The industry is made up of caring and compassionate people and there’s a true legacy of how they bonded with their communities.”

Families who currently hold pre-need funeral policies have been told of the merger, she said. “It just made more sense to combine the two funeral homes, rather than operating them separately across the street from each other.”

On July 10, as part of a Florida Realtors initiative to help fight homelessness, members of the Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches toured The Lord’s Place to discuss how Realtors can assist in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

“The facilities at The Lord’s Place are impressive and they provide amazing services to the less fortunate and, as a community, we are changing many lives,” said Sheri Meadows, 2014 president of Florida Realtors. “The conversations we had will help the leadership team and I draft the necessary regulations and legislation to create an even bigger impact on our communities than what we are doing right now.”

On June 28, members of the Realtors Association prepared a patriotic-themed picnic for the families at the Kraeer Funeral House. Among the 14 Realtor and affiliate-volunteer chefs were Matthew Halperin, the association’s president-elect, and Pamela Banks, chairwoman of its Community Outreach Committee.

The Quantum House is a hospital hosp tality house that serves families between Orlando and Fort Lauderdale with children who have a serious illness and are being treated in a medical facility in Palm Beach County.

Florida Atlantic University’s Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing recently announced the addition of four new members to its advisory board.

Jesse Flowers II, vice president and commercial lender with 1st United Bank in Boca Raton, has more than 15 years of experience in the banking industry. A resident of Lake Worth, he is actively involved in several community organizations, including as a board member of the Downtown Rotary Club.

Carroll B. Gubana has more than 40 years of diversified experience in the banking, retail and travel industries. She is a past member of the representative of both the Boca Raton and Delray Beach chambers of commerce, as well as a visiting professor at Ball State’s College of Architecture and Planning. Garcia has also been involved in hospitality projects throughout Florida and the Caribbean, including the Atlantic Hotel in Miami Beach, Trump International Hotel in Fort Lauderdale and the Inn on Fifth in Naples.

Recently a member of Wells Fargo’s Read to Children program.

Joseph Martin is vice president and owner of Allegiance Home Health and Rehab Inc. He was instrumental in developing the Sapphire Parkson’s Care program, a caregiver certification program. A member of the Boca Raton community for 20 years, Martin is involved in a number of community organizations, and serves as a trustee for the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce.

Jaye H. Vechten is the executive director of the annual Boating & Beach Bash for People with Disabilities. Also, he is immediate past chair of the city of Boca Raton Advisory Board for People with Disabilities.

In June, Currie Sowards Aguila Architects announced the addition of two architects to its firm, Oscar Garcia and Fernando Nunez.

Garcia will lead the firm’s hospitality design studio. A graduate of Ball State’s College of Architecture and Planning, Garcia’s credits include 50 hospitality projects throughout Florida and the Caribbean, including the Atlantic Hotel in Miami Beach, Trump International Hotel in Fort Lauderdale, and Delray Beach.

In addition to the Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce’s Festival Days events last month, add these to your calendar:

On Aug. 1, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation and Plum Productions Video will host “Boca’s Got Talent” at the Dubliner in Mizner Park. “We’re currently looking for acts to showcase like singers, jugglers, magicians, comedians, or anyone else who has a unique talent,” said Jennifer Jager, president of Plum Productions Video.

It’s a great opportunity for businesses in our community to reveal a different side of themselves, have fun and support a truly worthy cause: the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.” Admission for spectators is $20. To participate, call Jennifer Jager at (561) 800-2105, Ext. 3, or email talent@plumproductionsvideo.com

Members of the Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches prepared a patriotic-themed picnic for families at Quantum House in West Palm Beach.

Photo provided

The Sunny House originally was home to Delray Beach’s first mayor. The house and surrounding properties sold for $21 million. Photo provided

PHOTO PROVIDED
Broadway — Gold, White & Black,” from 6 to 9 p.m. Aug. 27 at the Wick Theater, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Proceeds will go to the Golden Bell Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation created by the Boca Chamber’s board of directors to support Boca Raton public schools. Tickets are $75 per person, or $130 per couple.

At its monthly meeting at 7 p.m., Aug. 14, the Boca Real Estate Investment Club will feature local consumer credit experts and club members Stephen Leifer and Joseph Zappoli, presenting on, “All About Business and Personal Credit.” They will focus on credit repair, predatory lending, identity theft and how to obtain business funding. The meeting will be held at Gold Coast School of Real Estate, 7035 Beracasa Way, No. 206, Boca Raton. The cost is $20. For information, call 391-7325.

Through Sept., 30 area residents can make Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa their private playground. “Locals looking for an appetizer-sized taste of the good life can experience a day of access to the resort’s amenities for the price of a $250 spa treatment,” said John Bradway, the resort’s director of marketing. “For those who want more than just a taste, locals can also treat Eau’s world-class and award-winning facilities like their own, for an all-season price of $5,000.” To purchase treatments in Eau Spa, call 540-4960. For summer access, call 540-4830. For information, call 391-7325.

At the Spa Care Center’s opening celebration on June 23, guests enjoyed vegan refreshments, received gift bags with samples of chemical-free De La Terre Skincare and learned about the center’s services. Boca Raton’s first oncology spa, the facility is dedicated to uplifting the spirits of cancer patients, through specialized treatments aimed toward making them feel and look their best. Spa Care Center is at 124 S. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. For information, call 465-5070.

The Downtown Development Authority, Delray Beach Magazine and 16 downtown Delray Beach restaurants raised $3,331 as a donation toward the city’s beach pavilion project. The fundraising was part of a collaborative effort tied to the sixth annual Savor the Avenue, strolling international food event to be held Aug. 7 and 8. The check was presented by David Cook, the owner of Hands Stationers on Atlantic Avenue. Contact Tastemasters of Delray for more information: 243-1077.

At 11 a.m. Aug. 9 — almost in line with National Lighthouse Day — the Lighthouse Point

Grace and Giovanni Marquez of Fashion Shopspe Boutique in downtown Boynton Beach. Photo provided

Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will dedicate a national historic marker for the 108-year-old Hillsboro Inlet Light Station (also known as The Big Blue Diamond). The public is invited to attend and visit the museum, at Hillsboro Inlet Park, 2700 N. Ocean Blvd., Pompano Beach. Adults, and children with adults, can climb the lighthouse and take a boat tour (if they wear close-toed shoes and join the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Foundation).

Of course, guys are enthusiastically welcomed at Fashion Shoppes Boutique, FSB, a 44-year-old men’s store’s men’s store at 515 E. Ocean Ave., Boynton Beach, but they can visit online, if they prefer. With a Web presence for 15 years, and style conscious at its very heart, FSB recently launched www.fashionmenswear.com, making its shopping experience even better. FSB customers can now browse the latest in men’s fashions by brand, category and occasion.

On FSB’s landing page, they will find owner Giovanni Marquez’s clothing recommendations, guaranteed to make the wearer “a trendsetter,” creating “lasting impressions.” On its blog, sports and fashion sensibilities are intermingled. Take this post for example: “How are you celebrating Germany’s World Cup soccer win? We suggest that if you are an FSB Man and customer of FashionMenswear, that you dress like the players in Europe and the Americas…” To do that, FSB’s fashionistas suggest that their shoppers put their best foot forward, and click-through to see FSB’s new arrival of Giovanni Marquez shoes.

Palm Beach State College’s Public Safety Training Center on the Lake Worth campus has been awarded LEED Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices; gold is the second highest certification.

The college’s training center, completed in April 2013, earned certification for its successful use of methods to conserve energy, water and resources. These included super-insulated walls, roofs and windows, energy-efficient lighting; low-flow water fixtures; materials with low VOCs (volatile organic compounds); and use of regional and recycled materials.

A new central energy plant, built concurrently with the Public Safety Training Center — designed by Stephen Boruff, AIA, Architects + Planners Inc. and built by Balfour Beatty Construction — was designed to power the center and three other complexes on the Lake Worth campus. “We added 140,000 square feet of new construction and our energy consumption went down by over 1.1 million kilowatt-hours,” said John Wasuknis, facilities director. “It just runs so efficiently that we actually reduced our overall electrical consumption by almost 21 percent, saving the college approximately $132,000 in the first year of operation.”

In late June, Glades Brewery Partners and Palm Beach Brewery Associates, owners of Brewzzi restaurants with locations at 2222 Glades Road in Boca Raton, and CityPlace in West Palm Beach, filed jointly for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to restructure their debts. Palm Beach Brewery Associates listed debts that includes $1.7 million owed to Florida Community Bank and $650,000 in unsecured debt for unpaid operating costs and services. The company’s assets are estimated at $2.5 million. Glades Brewery listed $3 million in debt, with $2 million owed to Florida Community Bank and $900,000 in unsecured claims. The company’s assets are estimated at $2.13 million. Brewzzi CityPlace closed after a judge ruled in favor of the landlord to evict the restaurant, and is appealing the decision. Brewzzi Boca Raton is operating as normal.

Christine Davis is a freelance writer. Send business news to her at cdavis9797@comcast.net.
Exceptional Homes

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4BR/3.5BA home features brand new kitchen, baths, and flooring. Mature tropical landscaping and a 42’ heated pool plus spa complete the outdoor space. $1,395K

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Great income property located in east Delray. Apartment building close to beach and east of US1. Features four 2BR/2BA units with new baths, updated kitchens, screened patio, covered parking, and more. $749K

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Newly updated classic 3BR/3BA Bermuda beach house is 200 yards to the ocean & east of A1A. Vaulted cypress ceilings, fireplace, walled tropical garden and huge pool are just the beginning. $1,295K

DELRAY BEACH

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A stroke of healing art

As a lifelong artist, Janis Cooper knows how color can lift one’s spirits. That’s why she and the other members of the artists guild at Harbour’s Edge continuing care retirement community created healing artwork for the campus’s 11,703-square-foot health center.

The health center’s $6 million renovation, which included painting the walls soothing colors, expanding the dining room and adding a new kitchen in the 54-bed unit drew rave reviews, but Cooper felt something was missing. “It needed more art,” explains Cooper, a former commercial artist and designer who moved to Harbour’s Edge in coastal Delray Beach five years ago.

Guild creates art to soothe patients of health center at Harbour’s Edge

Story by Linda Haase

ABOVE: Artists guild member Janis Cooper, her painting on the wall, sits with Barbara Green, who was undergoing therapy at Harbour’s Edge in Delray Beach. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

See PAINTINGS on page H4

ABOVE: Artists guild member Janis Cooper, her painting on the wall, sits with Barbara Green, who was undergoing therapy at Harbour’s Edge in Delray Beach. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star
CLIENT TESTIMONIAL:

“Dear Steven. Thanks so much for representing the sale of our home in Ocean Ridge last year. It’s easy to see after working with you why you are so successful in your business. You are a true gentleman and very easy to work with. We always felt we were in the best of hands with you and appreciate all that you do.” Sincerely, Ocean Ridge Seller 2013.

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BEST OF TURTLE BEACH
Ocean Ridge. Absolute perfection comes to mind for this completely remodeled 3 story 3 BR/3.5 bath direct oceanfront townhome backing up to Old Ocean. No expense spared. Elevator. $1.4M
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Ocean Ridge. Opportunity to remodel 5 bedroom pool home on Coconut Lane situated on large 18,000 SF Lot. Just reduced $200K. Priced for immediate sale $995K.
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West Palm Beach. Enjoy your very own private Sandy Beach on this direct intracoastal California Contemporary 4 BR style home. Features wood beam ceilings, private dock & magnificent wide water views. $1.995M
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JUST SOLD
MAGNIFICENT WATERFRONT
Ocean Ridge. Exquisite 2-story waterfront home just closed March 20 on Sabal Island. Price $1.595M.
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JUST SOLD
A MUST SEE TROPHY HOME
Point Manalapan. Gorgeous 5 BR/5.5 bath home with spectacular views, high ceilings, hurricane impact windows/doors, gourmet kitchen, deep water dock, full house generator, and lush landscaping designed by Mario Nievera. $3.95M
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1031 EXCHANGES: A HIDDEN OPPORTUNITY IN PLAIN SIGHT
If you’re like most property owners, you either don’t know about 1031 exchanges or hold the wrong ideas about them. Imagine you thought you had the right idea about them and you did not. This a real problem with many investors and their teams. It gets worse. If you don’t know enough or have the wrong ideas about a 1031 exchange, you are probably missing the Hidden Opportunities in plain sight. The simple fact is this: if you don’t do them often, you probably should consult a professional who does. Even better, hire an Intermediary that provides education to you and your investment team.
In this article, we’ll take a look at: The Concept, How do you Qualify, & How do you find the Hidden Opportunities
1. What is Concept?
Here’s a simple way of thinking about the 1031 exchange. It’s like playing Monopoly® for real. It’s not about getting out of your taxes. Think about the goal of the Monopoly®…to build wealth by adding more properties that produce more income. For example, if you take your 4 “Green Houses” you own on “New York Avenue” and “exchange” them for the “Red Hotel” you will increase your income in the game from a low of $16 to a high of $1,000 every time someone lands on your property. Now imagine you do that with real property!!
In the real world, you would have to sell each of your 4 houses and pay taxes on the profit of each sale before you could combine the money to buy the larger property. This is known as Capital Gains taxes. There are also other taxes like Depreciation Recapture as well. The issue is that the taxes would reduce the amount of money you have to buy the larger property, thus reducing the amount if income you can make. The 1031 Exchange is a section of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). It allows you to indefinitely defer your taxes on the capital gains (or “profit”) of the real estate sale, by “exchanging” qualified properties for others of the same value and investment or business usage. In the Monopoly® analogy, the 4 houses combined are of equal value to the hotel and all are used for investment (collecting rent).
2. How Do You Qualify?
You qualify to take advantage of this if you are a U.S. Taxpayer. Foreign Nationals may qualify if they take certain steps well in advance. They should contact their tax advisor for details. If needed, we can recommend several for you. Any of your real estate properties qualify if you use them for business or investment. If you are “flipping” properties or using them personally beyond the requirements for investment you have to pay your taxes from the sale as they are not qualified for a 1031 Exchange.
3. How Do You Find The Hidden Opportunities?
It’s simple. Take a look at your portfolio. Ask yourself some of the following questions:
a. Are your real estate holdings performing to your standards?
b. Do you want to get more return out of them?
c. Would you like to move them to different areas, types, sizes?
d. Would you like to diversify or consolidate?
e. Do you want to use leverage to increase the income of your assets?
f. Do you own land and would like to exchange it for something that produces a monthly income?
These are just some suggestions to get the conversation going. The 1031 Exchange can allow you to make changes to your real estate investment portfolio while helping to preserve the equity you’ve built up.
See you in September,
Steven Presson

Steven Presson is a Luxury Residential Realtor specializing in intracoastal to oceanfront properties from East Delray Beach to Palm Beach. Steven can be reached at 561.843.6057 or by email steven.presson@corcoran.com.
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live who you are
PAINTINGS
Continued from page H1

But, she emphasizes, it had to be a certain type of art — the kind that helps heal. So the guild members got out their brushes and created 13 paintings, then donated them to spruce up patient rooms and hallways.

“We were passionate about it. We wanted to adhere to the protocols that help people heal. We wanted to use themes that look into the future and were optimistic so it would be a sign of a future and hope for them,” says Cooper, a graduate of New England School of Art in Boston and chairwoman of the guild.

The result: colorful, soothing, inspiring artwork depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers, people rowing into the distance and meandering rivers, people depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers, people depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers, people depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers, people depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers, people depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers, people depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers, people depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers, people depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers, people depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers, people depicting sunsets, archways, meandering rivers.

“I don’t think we would have anything else,” says Barbara Green, who is recovering from a fractured leg at the health center. “It makes it feel homey and brightens up the area.”

So as anyone who has ever been a patient — or even a visitor — in a hospital knows, it can be a dreary, depressing, stressful experience. Thankfully, stark white walls and white-starched uniforms that were the trademark of hospitals have gone by the wayside, says Cooper, lauding Harbour's Edge Health Center’s skilled nursing facility, which offers rehabilitation and short and long-term care to its residents as well as others in the community.

The call for color in hospitals has a huge following. The Foundation for Photo Art in Hospitals Inc.’s mission is “to place large, framed photographs of nature and beautiful places from around the world in hospitals to give comfort and hope to patients and their families, visitors and caregivers.” The nonprofit organization, based in St. Louis and Florence, Italy, has donated artwork to more than 200 health care facilities on six continents since it was established in 2002.

And here’s why: According the group’s website, healingphotoart.org, “Scientific evidence is clear and convincing. Viewing nature scenes plays a key role in creating a healing environment which can improve patient outcome.” And research suggests that the right kind of artwork can “reduce stress and anxiety, lower blood pressure, reduce the need for pain medication, increase patients’ trust and confidence and be a positive distraction for patients, visitors, and staff.”

Indeed. The American Journal of Public Health notes a study showing “surgery or critical care patients who participated in guided imagery or had a picture of a landscape on their wall had a decreased need of narcotic pain medication relative to their counterparts and left the hospital earlier.”

The ladies at the guild — who meet weekly at their waterfront studio at Harbour’s Edge — are ready, able and willing to do their part to help further this healing process. One of them is Carlene Miletta, who has been with the guild since Cooper created it five years ago. “I love painting seascapes and landscapes, so this was perfect for me. I wanted to create something peaceful to help them take their minds off where they are,” says Miletta, who is in the studio at least twice a week.

For the artists, painting is just as therapeutic. The studio, which used to be a filled-to-the-brim storage unit until Cooper transformed it — is open for artists’ use at all times. After all, inspiration can strike at any moment. And that’s a very healthy thing.

Linda Haase is a freelance writer on a quest to learn — and share — all she can about how to get and stay healthy. You can reach her at lindawrites76@gmail.com.

Paintings by the artists guild line the walls at Harbour’s Edge in Delray Beach. Tim Stepien/The Coastal Star

Thankfully, stark white walls and white-starched uniforms that were the trademark of hospitals have gone by the wayside, says Cooper, lauding the soothing yellow/gold colors at Harbour’s Edge Health Center’s skilled nursing facility, which offers rehabilitation and short and long-term care to its residents as well as others in the community.

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Health & Harmony Calendar

Note: Events are current as of 7/25. Please check with organizers for any changes.

AUGUST 2
Saturday - 9/2 - Saturdays @ Sambora: Yoga Class at Sambora Square, 7375 Federal Hwy., Boca Raton. Saturdays. Registration: 8:45 am; class: 9 am. Fee: $9/resident, $11/non-resident.

Sunday - 8/3 - Ratsun. 6:30-8 pm. First session free, $5 thereafter. 483-3300.

Sunday - 8/3 - Yoga at the Highland Beach Library, 3615 S Ocean Blvd. Program helps you stay fit. Bring yoga mat. 7 & 8:30 am. $10. 278-3455.

Monday - 8/4 - Breastfeeding Support Group at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, 800 Meadows Drive. Mondays, noon-1:30 pm. Free. 955-5413.

Monday - 8/4 - Zumba Gold Fitness Class for ages 16 & up at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St., Delray Beach. 7:30-8:30 pm. Fee: $22.50/resident, $25/non-resident. Full eight-week sessions: $168/resident, $190/non-resident. 483-7960.

Tuesday - 8/5 - Yoga Class at Sambora Square, 7375 Federal Hwy., Boca Raton. Tuesdays. 10:30-11 am. Per class: $5/resident; $6/non-resident. 954-3618.

Tuesday - 8/5 - Judo Class at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St., Delray Beach. 6-7:30 pm. First session free, $5 thereafter. 483-7960.

Wednesday - 8/6 - Tai Chi Class - Wednesday at the Boca Raton Community Center, 150 Crawford Blvd. 6:30-7:30 am. First session free. 5 class sessions: $65/resident, $70/non-resident. 483-7960.

Wednesday - 8/6 - Yoga Class at Sambora Square, 7375 Federal Hwy., Boca Raton. Wednesday- 8:30-9:30 am. First class free, $5 thereafter. 483-7960.

Wednesday - 8/6 - Exercise Class for ages 12 & up at Veterans Park, 802 NE 1st St., Delray Beach. 3:30-4:30 pm. Fee: $22.50/resident, $25/non-resident; 10 classes: $225/resident, $262.50/non-resident. 483-7960.

Thursday - 8/7 - Surgical Weight Reduction Symposium - Presented by Miguel A. Lopez-Viego, M.D., at Bethesda Hospital East, 2815 S. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach. Learn how laparoscopic gastric bypass and Lap-Band surgery can change lives. Held the first Thursday of each month. 6:30 pm. Free. Tel: 713-7733 ext. 6468.

Friday - 8/8 - Zumba Gold Fitness Class for ages 55 & up at Veteran’s Park, 802 NE 1st St., Delray Beach. Fitness program designed to enhance the quality of life through moderate music and dance. Wednesdays. 2-3:30 pm. Per class: $5/resident, $6/non-resident. 243-7350.

Saturday - 8/9 - Dances: Salsa at Sugar Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton. Dance & learn with the DJ for ages 18 and up. 7-8 pm. Free. 243-7350.
Late Nights are for browsing, learning, creating.

By Lucy Lazarony

Sip a complimentary glass of wine, take in the art, people watch, grab a sketchpad and create your own version of an inspiring museum piece.

Welcome to Late Night Thursday at the Boca Raton Museum of Art.

With free admission, later hours, invitations to create with drawing boards (paper and pencils provided), plus assistance from volunteer artists and teachers, it makes for a fun night for artists and art lovers alike.

"It makes the art so much more accessible when you take a number of barriers away," says Irvin Lippman, the new executive director of the Boca Raton Museum of Art. "Plus, you promise a good time. It's a winning combination."

More than 500 people came to the first Late Night Thursday in June. And Lippman says there are plans for many more.

"It's great to be here with a lot of people to feel the energy," Lippman says. "It's very exciting."

Upcoming Late Night Thursday events are scheduled for Aug. 28 and Sept. 18. Late Night Thursday begins at 5:30 p.m. and runs through 8 p.m., with sketching at the museum kicking off at 6.

In August, Late Night guests will have their first look at the 63rd Annual All Florida Juried Competition and Exhibition. And there will be a "blowout" sale in the museum gift shop in to make way for a redesign and all new merchandise.

Sketching at the museum invites artists of all ages to create their own version of a museum masterpiece with feedback and drawing demonstrations by volunteer artists and teachers.

"Copy it, draw it and be inspired by it," Lippman says. The free sketching events are also an opportunity for museum guests to learn about classes at The Art School, which is located nearby at 801 W. Palmetto Park Road.

"If they are interested in developing the talent they have they should go to Palmetto (Park) Road," Lippman says of inspired Late Night guests. "There's something for everybody there."

Morning, afternoon and evening classes are available in ceramics, drawing, jewelry, painting, printmaking and sculpture for adults, teens and youths.

"It's a great way to release that inner creativity that everyone has," Lippman says. Classes for the fall term begin Sept. 8. There is an open house for adult art classes at The Art School from 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 23.
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The COASTAL STAR
August 2014

By Steve Pike

In the golf world, longer is always better, whether it’s a new driver technology that’s touted to give a player 20 extra yards off the tee or a golf course that’s adding length to combat the aforementioned technology.

Count The Seagate Country Club at the Hamlet in Delray Beach among those golf courses going long.

The club, part of The Seagate Resort & Spa on East Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, is lengthening the course by approximately 300 yards, primarily by adding back tee boxes to seven holes.

The new Seagate “Black” tees will lengthen the course to nearly 7,100 yards versus the nearly 6,780 yards currently on its scorecard.

The most significant change will be on the course’s par-five, ninth. The new back tee will lengthen the course from 530 yards to more than 600 yards — a rare length for a South Florida course.

“It was one of the more difficult courses in Florida (for qualifying) and showed that the course is a good test of golf,” Panks said.

Being the host course for a U.S. Open qualifying round was a good step in Panks’ efforts to attract better players and more members to the club; lengthening the course is a solid step in those efforts. A third step that should bring the club considerable attention is the Walgreen’s Charity Championship, which The Seagate Country Club will host Nov. 6-9.

“We’re trying to get some other tournaments secured, too,” Panks said.

The club earlier this year unveiled a new initiative that opened the club to public memberships with three options: country club, resort and associate.

The Seagate Resort & Spa also is offering “stay and play” packages for its guests.

“We’ve been getting some resort play and some new members lately,” Panks said. “And we’ve been getting a lot of people coming out and looking at the product and raving about it. The course is in as good a shape as I’ve seen it in 17 years, so we’ve got everything going for us. The energy is out there and people are interested. Now it’s just a matter of getting them joined.

“We’ve got to bring in more core members who are good players — people in their 40s who can energize the club. Once we have them, other people will know there are some good games going on here and that will attract other members.”

Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club re-grasses

Seagate Country Club isn’t the only club undergoing summer changes to prepare for fall play. The Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club in Boca Raton is in the midst of a re-grassing project that will put Tiff Eagle grass on its greens and Celebration Bermuda on the fairways and in the rough.

The course has been closed since May and, according to head professional Andy McMechan, will re-open Nov. 15.

The project is being done with consultation from Jack Nicklaus’ Nicklaus Design team. In 2002, Nicklaus re-designed the course that was originally designed by Robert Trent Jones in 1959. Nicklaus, who lives in North Palm Beach, visited the club last year for initial consultation for this project.

In addition to the re-grassing, McMechan said minor changes are being made to 12 of the course’s 18 holes.

“We haven’t made any routing changes,” McMechan said. “But we’re doing work on some bunkers — adding some and taking some out — and rebuilding the green to their original specifications.”

Longer course, tournaments planned for Seagate

The 17th hole at Seagate Country Club at the Hamlet is considered one of the best holes at the club, which is lengthening its course to nearly 7,100 yards. Photo provided
Waste Management is proud to be North America’s recycling leader and to bring its leadership in sustainability to the residents and businesses of Delray Beach.

400 tons: The curbside residential recycling we safely pick up as your waste and recycling collection provider each month.

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15 million: Tons of material Waste Management recycled last year as the country’s largest residential recycler, enough to fill the Empire State Building 21 times.

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Waste Management has been pleased to keep the city clean as the trusted sustainability partner with the City of Delray Beach for many years.
Summer’s heat can stress pets several ways

In Palm Beach County, August typically marks the month where hot merits capital letters in importance — and annoyance.

Anyone — including our pets — can become overheated and suffer from heat stroke in a matter of minutes. Unreated, pets can go into cardiac arrest and die.

Take the case of a 5-year-old French bulldog who was visiting Boynton Beach from Naples last summer. During the drive across the state, his owner glanced in his rearview mirror and discovered that his beloved dog was not moving. He steered his car directly into the parking lot at the Colonial Animal Hospital in Boynton Beach for emergency medical help.

“When this dog entered our clinic, he had a 107-degree fever (100.5 to 102.5 is the range for a healthy dog) and was suffering from shock and severe heatstroke,” recalls Rob Martin, DVM, veterinarian and owner of this clinic and the Colonial Gateway Veterinary Center, also in Boynton Beach. “Most people know about not leaving a dog inside a closed car in a parking lot — even with the windows cracked — but this was a case of a dog overheating in a moving car with the windows down in the heat of the summer. This was not an uncaring or neglectful owner, but it demonstrates just how quickly a pet can overheat.”

Fortunately, this French bulldog survived. He underwent intensive, lifesaving care at Martin’s clinic. He was reunited with his owner.

Sadly, veterinarians throughout Palm Beach County expect to be treating far too many dogs, cats and other pets for heat-related conditions this month.

“Most dogs in South Florida live indoors and are used to living in environments between 72 and 74 degrees,” notes Martin. “They have no heat tolerance and they definitely should never be left in a parked car, even for a few minutes while their owner stops in a store to run a quick errand.”

Martin, whose family shares their home with five dogs and three cats, shares this advice for protecting your dog during walks this summer.

“Do the palm test first,” he says. “If you place your palm on the pavement and it is too hot for you, it is too hot for your dog’s paws. Our dogs are more used to walking on carpet in air-conditioned townhouses and should not be taken for a 2-mile walk on pavement during the heat of the day. They can lose tissue off the bottom of their feet and the paw pad surface can die and then would need to be treated as an open wound.”

So, time your walks in the early morning and after school day care sets in the evening. And always bring water and a collapsible small bowl for your dog to stay hydrated during the walk.

Summer sun and heat can turn the inside of a car or truck deadly in just a few minutes, so don’t leave your pet inside your vehicle. Jerry Lower/The Coastal Star

Summer’s heat can stress pets several ways

Heating up in a car

So, how hot does it get in a parked car for a dog — even with the windows opened a bit? Check out this video from nationally known veterinarian Ernie Ward, DVM.

He sat inside a parked car as the temperature inside reached 116 degrees within a half hour.

Watch how quickly his clothes and body get soaked.

To view this video, go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bOHdOOCyJY or visit www.thecoastalstar.com.

Learn more

Check out the services provided by Rob Martin, DVM, at his two clinics in Boynton Beach — Colonial Animal Hospital and Colonial Gateway Veterinary Center — at www.colonialanimalhospital.com.

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The child who knows that he is cared for, that he is responsible for his actions, and that he is surrounded by people he can trust, is the child who will thrive.
In her 2009 memoir, *Minor League Mom*, Pamela Carey shared the humor she found among the home runs and foul balls after her sons, Tim and Todd, joined a Boston Red Sox farm team back in the 1990s. Now she’s back with a humorous look at the other end of life’s game.

In *Elderly Parents With All Their Marbles: A Survival Guide for the Kids*, Carey offers 49 “essential points” for the adult children of aging parents. And again she finds the humor amid the heartbreak.

“We brought my parents down here from Greenwich, Conn., when we bought our home in Gulf Stream 20 years ago,” Carey recalled recently. “It wasn’t an easy task, but I truly believe it added 10 years to their lives.”

That’s Rule 1: Bite the bullet — move them closer. Carey’s parents, Walt and Ev, were in their 80s when they arrived in Leisureville, a retirement community just across the bridge in Boynton Beach.

“That first year, there was a lot of ‘Why did you move us? We can’t drink the water. The A/C bills are so high. We have no friends,’” she said. “But Leisureville provided an instant support group, and my father became a block captain until his early 90s.”

A former high school English teacher who still keeps a daily journal, Carey drew on those daily entries to flavor her rules with smiles.

“My dad would always collect the uneaten food when we went out to eat,” she remembered, “and in addition, he would wrap all the rolls in napkins and put them in his pockets. One day, as we were preparing to leave, all the rolls spilled out.”

In time, though, her parents began to fail. Her father died at 90, her mother at 95. As Carey recounts their final years, months and days, the advice grows more somber, with practical advice about hospitals, nursing homes and, finally, Rule 49: There is no right or wrong way to get through a loss.

Carey’s book concludes with an extensive appendix of “Useful Definitions, Notes, Websites and Phone Numbers,” from AARP to Veterans Affairs.

“I’ve read that there will be a 48 percent increase in the need for caregivers in the next 10 years,” she said, “but only a 1 percent increase in the supply, so the topic is extremely relevant right now.”

For her part, Carey is moving on to a lighter and livelier subject.

“My next book,” she said, “will be about women’s tennis teams and the stress of competing if you’re 55 or older and someone comes out in her 20s in a sports bra and wants to get the match over as soon as possible to go home and get the kids.”

Pam Carey’s books are available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Her blog can be found at minorleaguemom.blogspot.com.
Mark Gerretson loved fishing and raising money to help kids in Delray Beach.

As president of the Delray Beach Jaycees, Gerretson founded the annual Holiday Toy Drive Fishing Tournament in 1994 to benefit the Delray Beach Police Department’s holiday toy drive.

“The tournament grew over the years and continued to raise money for a variety of charitable causes in Delray Beach, including the 505 Teen Center, the Boys & Girls Club and scholarships for Atlantic High School students. The 20th anniversary of Gerretson’s fishing tournament will be Aug. 9, and will be based at Veterans Park on the Intracoastal Waterway at Atlantic Avenue. Gerretson, a self-employed tile setter, died in 2005 from a heart condition.

His idea for an annual fundraising fishing tournament — now called the Mark Gerretson Memorial Fishing Tournament — was through the dedication of a group of Mark’s friends and family members who serve on the tournament committee. “We really have tried to stay true to Mark’s vision for helping the community,” said his brother, Jim Gerretson, who will travel from Maryland to grill food this year at the tournament when his 48-pound wahoo was beaten by two heavier fish. Attending the kickoff party the night before the Gerretson tournament and Mark in the Park cookout at Veterans Park has become an annual tradition for many, tournament committee member Carol Eaton said.

“We’ve had people coming to that weigh-in for 20 years,” Eaton said.

Tournament teams will be fishing for kingfish, dolphin, wahoo and a mystery fish. The mystery fish will be selected during the captains meeting and kickoff party, set for 6-8 p.m. Aug. 8, at the Delray Beach Elks Lodge, 265 NE Fourth Ave.

On tournament day (Aug. 9), the scales will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Veterans Park.

The entry fee is $200 per boat. To enter this year’s 20th anniversary tournament, attend the captains meeting or complete an application and drop off the entry fee at one of four locations before Aug. 8.

The drop-off locations for tournament entries are:
- Boynton Fisherman’s Supply, 618 N. Federal Highway
- Delray Beach Elks Lodge, 265 NE Fourth Ave.
- Delray Camera Shop, 186 NE Second Ave.
- Ray’s Offshore Fishing Tackle, 1940 NW Second Ave., Boca Raton.

For tournament info, call Noel Bourque at 927-8092 or visit www.mgmnf.net.

FLOTSAM

Ron Smith caught a 19.75-pound mutton snapper May 24 while fishing on the Living in Land Time drift boat, based at the Palm Beach Yacht Center in Hypoluxo. Smith’s chubby mutton snapper hit a dead sardine in 130 feet of water off the south end of Boynton Beach. Although his fish was very large, it’s still more than 10 pounds shy of the 30.25-pound all-tackle world record mutton snapper caught in the Dry Tortugas in 1998.

The regular spiny lobster season opens Aug. 6 and continues through March 31. The daily bag limit is six lobsters per person. To be legal, a lobster’s carapace, or head section, must measure more than 3 inches. Lobster must be measured under water and brought ashore whole. No egg bearing lobster may be taken. Don’t forget to display red-and-white dive flags on the boat and float-mounting dive flags may be used to handle snorklers in the water. For details, go to www.myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/lobster.

Palm Beach County’s annual Lionfish Derby, a roundup of the invasive Pacific fish, will be held Aug. 16 at Sailfish Marina on Singer Island. It begins with a mandatory captains meeting on the evening of Aug. 15 at Sailfish Marina. The $150 entry fee includes two banquet tickets and gloves used to handle lionfish, which have venomous spines. For details, go to www.lionfish.org.

Tip of the month: Troll the Ocean in the early morning for wahoo. The days around the full moons of August and September are among the best times of year to catch wahoo. The striped ocean speedsters can reach over 100 pounds and have been known to go for leaders and straighten hooks.

Start by heading to a tackle shop to make sure you’ve got gear sturdy enough to handle wahoo — or fish with someone who targets wahoo regularly. Try trolling with artificial lures, rigged mullet, large ballyhoo or bonito strips behind a lure in 120 to 300 feet. Troll over structure such as natural and artificial reefs.

The best bite tends to be early in the morning. Fish around inlets on the outgoing tide, if possible.

Wahoo also hit live bait such as goggle-eyes and blue runners. Try slow-trolling live bait below the surface on a downrigger or let the bait fish run free while drifting.

There’s no size limit on wahoo, but sporting anglers release the small “wee-hoo.” Daily bag limit: two wahoo per person. Beware the wahoo’s sharp teeth. Handle them with a gaff, and move them directly into a cooler.

Willie Howard is a freelance writer and licensed boat captain. Reach him at bowlin@bellsouth.net.
‘Surfing Florida’ recounts wave-riding history

By Willie Howard

Florida surfers needed someone to chronicle the origins of their relatively young sport and assemble a collection of vintage surfing photographs from the Sunshine State.

Lifelong surfer Paul Aho, an Ocean Ridge native who now serves as dean of an art school in Kentucky, has filled the void with the May publication of Surfing Florida: A Photographic History ($31.95, University Press of Florida).

Aho grew up a short walk from the ocean waves on Tropical Drive, where his parents owned Henri’s Motel. He caught the surfing bug in 1965 just as the advent of light fiberglass boards was popularizing the sport.

Not long after Aho started surfing, though, officials in the oceanfront towns of Ocean Ridge and Palm Beach sought to ban wave riding at their beaches.

Now dean of the Paducah School of Art and Design in Kentucky, the author was among a group of teenagers who gathered signatures on a petition to defeat Ocean Ridge’s proposed surfing ban.

The town of Palm Beach’s 1964 surfing ban was not so easily defeated. It was overturned by the Florida Supreme Court four years after the town began enforcing it.

Area surfers sold “I Gave to Save Surfing” bumper stickers for $1 to raise money for the legal fight.

Aho’s 264-page book started as a traveling exhibit that opened in 2012 at Florida Atlantic University.

Aho said people laughed when he applied for a Florida Humanities Council grant to produce a surfing history exhibit, but he eventually won the grant.

In addition to showcasing the stars and pioneers of Florida surfing, Surfing Florida demonstrates that Florida’s wave riders held their own in the water and created their own surf culture — complete with music, films and contests — as the sport evolved on the more famous beaches of California, where the waves are generally taller.

“It’s a fallacy to think we don’t get good surf in Florida,” Aho said. “We certainly do.”

The first documented account of surfing in Florida dates back to 1909, when Daytona Beach bicycle shop owner Eugene Johnson read an article about surfing in Hawaii and decided to try his hand riding waves.

Florida wave riding became more popular in the 1930s. A photo in the book shows men standing on a beach holding gigantic surfboards — the first Florida Surfing Championships, held in 1938 at Daytona Beach.

Chapters of Surfing Florida are devoted to different regions of the state. The Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast chapter includes photos of surfers enjoying the waves created by the grounding of the 441-foot Greek freighter Amaryllis, which washed ashore at Singer Island in a 1965 hurricane and stayed there for three years.

Surfing Florida also pays tribute to Florida’s early surfing photographers and many of the state’s first shapers of fiberglass surfboards.

Pioneer board shapers included Ron Heavyside, who learned his trade as a teenager building Caribbean Surfboards at a bicycle shop in Delray Beach.

Heavyside also built surfboards in Hawaii before founding the Nomad Surf Shop on North Ocean Boulevard in 1968.

Heavyside still designs surfboards at the landmark surf shop, where he works with sons Ryan and Ronnie, both of whom are avid surfers.

Paul Aho, who grew up in Ocean Ridge, wrote the book Surfing Florida. Photos provided
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Ideally situated 2 blocks to Atlantic Avenue and 2 blocks to the beach. This 2 BR, 1 BA duplex may be converted to a single family home, per city approval. Each unit has an open floor plan with 1,000 sq. ft. of living area. Vince Wooten, 561-809-8277

Grande Orchid Estates - $899,000
Impeccably maintained 5 BR, plus den, 4 1/2 BA pool home with a 3 car garage, 4,483 sq. ft. under air, 30’ ceilings, Brazilian hardwood and marble floors, all gas gourmet kitchen. Non-equity membership community. Sandra Champagne, 561-414-6213

Cannery Row - $749,000
3 BR, 3 1/2 BA tri-level townhome with a 2 car garage overlooking the pool. 2,699 sq. ft. under air. Hurricane impact windows, ensuite bedrooms, great living space and pre-wired for an elevator. Tania Agran, 561-376-1010

Lake Ida - $619,000
Well maintained 4 BR, 2 BA with a 2 car garage and circular driveway situated on a deep 109’ x 167’ lot. Ceramic tile floors in the living areas and newer kitchen with wood cabinetry. 2 blocks to Atlantic Avenue. Cheran Marek, 561-670-8855

Seagate Towers - $559,000
Very desirable 2/2 center unit on the 7th floor offering 2 balconies with Intracoastal and Ocean views both north and south! Updated kitchen and baths, plus hurricane impact windows and sliding glass doors. Pat Callinan, 561-703-6918

Delray Dunes Pool Home - $579,900
Immaculate 4 BR, 3 BA two story home with loft and a 2 1/2 car garage. Open and spacious floor plan boasting abundant outdoor space with pool, spa and lawn. Club membership required. Boyd Schoeller, 561-702-5159

Delray Dunes - $565,000
Tastefully renovated 3 BR, plus den, 2 BA pool home with a side entry 2 car garage situated on a quiet cul-de-sac. Brand new gourmet kitchen with an updated kitchen, remodeled master bath and many upgrades. Erik Ring, 561-441-6880

Seagate Country Club At The Hamlet. Beautifully renovated 3/3 home with a very desirable southern exposure overlooking the 4th green. 2,200 sq. ft. with abundant natural light, polished marble floors and volume ceilings. Mary Jane Massella, 561-213-8422

Bexley Park - Delray Beach  $449,000
Built in 2006, this 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA with a 2 car garage offers a huge bonus room above the garage. 3,500 sq. ft. under air. Upgrades abound with hardwood floors, beautiful kitchen with granite, plus a fenced yard with lake view. Cheran Marek, 561-670-8855

Brand New Construction - Delray Beach
3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, 2 car garage two story townhomes in Tropic Isle. 1,800 sq. ft. under air. Top of the line finishes and hardwood floors. Now accepting pre-construction reservations. Prices starting at $359,000. Michael Weiss, 561-573-7592

45 Ocean - Highland Beach $295,000
Light & airy 2 BR, 2 BA northwest corner unit with 2 balconies. All new hurricane impact glass. Split bedroom plan, tastefully decorated, custom mirrors and ceramic tile floors in the dining room and kitchen. Sue Tauriello, 561-441-4200.

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High style, large space in Village of Golf

T

LEFT: This estate home is sited on nearly 2 acres of meticulously manicured lawns.

BELOW: The large living room has a fireplace and offers lots of space for entertaining. It opens onto a lanai.

ABOVE: Beyond the pool is a lighted reflection pond with a fountain and pergola.

LEFT: A morning room with rounded casement windows creates the perfect ambience for entertaining.
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The COASTAL STAR
August 2014
What’s not to like about dragonflies?

’Skeeter-eating AND showy

Here’s one reason to love dragonflies: They eat mosquitoes. Lots of them. One can eat hundreds in a day.

Dragonflies probably are not as popular as butterflies as a recreational pursuit, but their beauty and diversity are just as mind-boggling — from the cobalt-blue spangled skimmer to the brilliant scarlet skimmer, as red as a fire engine, and the hot pink roseate skimmer.

See DRAGONFLIES on page AT2
Dragonfly facts
- Large dragonflies such as hawksers have a maximum speed of 22–34 mph, with an average cruising speed of about 10 mph.
- There are more than 5,000 known species of dragonflies.
- Dragonflies were some of the first winged insects to evolve, some 300 million years ago. Fossil dragonflies have been found with wingspans of up to 2 feet.
- Scientists have tracked migratory dragonflies by attaching tiny transmitters to wings with a combination of eyelash adhesive and superglue. They found that green darners from New Jersey traveled an average of 75 miles per day.
- A dragonfly called the globe skinner has the longest migration of any insect — 11,000 miles back and forth across the Indian Ocean.

**DRAGONFLIES**

Continued from page AT1

They’re easy to spot since Florida has more than 150 species of odonates, which include three families of damselflies and six families of dragonflies. They’re found near water at all times of the year, especially the cocktail hour when the mosquitoes emerge. More importantly to scientists, dragonflies are an excellent gauge of the health of the environment.

"They are really good indicators of high-quality wetland environments, which usually mean a greater diversity of damselflies and dragonflies. They seem to be susceptible to those problems that damage wetlands such as degradation by herbicides and runoff from agricultural fields," said Janet Daniels, associate curator of Lepidoptera at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida.

"Many dragonflies are declining because of declining wetlands," he said.

He noticed increased interest in dragonfly watching. "They’re showy and popular for viewing," he said, adding that it will take patience finding one that will pose long enough to snap a photo.

**Big eyes and strong bodies**

Dragonflies are fascinating creatures. The have six legs but can’t walk. They can perch and fly, and mate while flying. Their front pair of legs is shortest and the back longest. "The legs form a large net for capturing prey," Daniels said.

Their bulging compound eyes are made up of many smaller lenses that greatly magnify the movement of their prey and make them excellent visual hunters. Their eyes take up nearly the entire head.

A strong body supports a massive musculature that propels the large broad wings that are transparent or elaborately patterned. Wingspans range from 2 to 5 inches. Unmatched as fliers, dragonflies are studied by engineers who calculate how Slender Bluet Damselfly they hover like helicopters and propel themselves in six directions — upward, down, downward, forward, back, right and left.

Damselflies and dragonflies are similar but their differences are easily distinguishable.

"Damselflies are more dainty, and they hold their wings over their backs, unlike dragonflies that hold their wings straight out. Damselflies have vibrant colors, iridescent black and opaque colors. They tend to perch and are easy to watch."

**Photos by Julie Murphy**
Late Summer

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Soccer star has ‘day’ named for him in Boca

Of course, Dion DiMucci’s music has never been just for the rock-mosh gang. His edgy 1989 album, Yo Frankie, included cameos by Paul Simon, Lou Reed, Kirk Douglas, lang, Patty Smyth, Bryan Adams and Dave Edmunds. He is the only performer on the cruise to have earned a Grammy nomination in this century — for his 2006 collection of blues and country standards, Bronx in Blue. Tickets, at multichopruise.com, start at $1,875.

If basketball in Cleveland doesn’t work out, maybe LeBron James can come to Boca Raton, and pull a few spin moves in the kitchen. His latest off-court move is a stake in Blaze Fast-Fire’d Pizza, a California chain whose “pizzamashtics” spin pies in three minutes. The first South Florida store opens in Fort Lauderdale in September, followed by a Boca Raton operation just north of Fifth Avenue Shops in the fourth quarter, and Davie later. According to celebritynetworth.com, LeBron, despite no college education, is worth about $270 million. This year he earned $19 million from the Miami Heat and some $53 million from endorsements. To ease his tax burden, he invests. He reportedly owns 10 percent of Cannondale, the bike company, and made $30 million from his stake in Beats by Dre headphones when Apple bought the company. His investment in Fenway Sports Group (formed by Boca Raton resident and Boston Red Sox majority owner John Henry) is a stake in the Sox, Roush Fenway Racing (NASCAR) and even the Liverpool Football Club. Belgian rapper and Maria Shriver, movie producer John Davis (Chronicle; I, Robot; Predator; The Firm, and coming soon, The Man from U.N.C.L.E.) — and what a coincidence — Boston Red Sox co-owner Tom Werner.

Still on the subject of pizza, or perhaps off the subject, California Pizza Kitchen just had another grand opening, so to speak. Its restaurant at Boca Raton’s Town Center has been opened up to make the pizza chefs more visible, and the menu has been restructured. For a California twist on pizza, flatbreads are hot: The Bianco California version is layered with whipped truffle cream, Gorgonzola and mozzarella and topped with garlic and sage leaves; while a New England twist on the lobster roll stuffs the flatbread with, natch, lobster meat.

Hello, again . . . almost . . . Boca Raton old-timers (anyone who lived here in the late 1990s) remember fondly La Vieille Maison, a French dining treasure in a nifty old house on East Palmetto Park Road that closed in 2006. Arturo Gismondi hasn’t forgotten. The owner of Arturo’s Ristorante on North Federal, Trattoria Romana on East Palmetto Park Road, two Cannoli Kitchen takeouts and Biergarten in Royal Palm Plaza has now added La Nouvelle Maison. It’s in the 5 Palms Building, 455 E. Palmetto Park Road, just three blocks west of the old house. As for La Vieille Maison, the property proved more valuable than the food, so after 30 years, founder Leoncice Policot sold it in 2006 for $2.6 million.

Thomas Giles, an engineer for Boca creator Addison Mizner, had built the old house in 1927 and after the family sold it in 1953, it was converted to apartments, then into a real estate office. Picot sold it to 770 PPR, a trust owned by Maria Kline already has gone through several chefs, the newest coming on board only a few weeks before he shut down. Staffers, however, are doing a remarkable job of being out of work for three or four months, reportedly signed on elsewhere. But Kline may have an ulterior motive.

Brave Man Media, a Delray Beach-based production company, has announced plans to shoot a movie, After Midnight, in August and September throughout Palm Beach County and primarily at the long-closed Arts Warehouse and the newly opened 3rd and 3rd. Nothing specific, except that the story is set in 1972, when nothing, absolutely nothing, was happening in Delray. Stay tuned.

Someone in the food and beverage industry has just found a job. That would be Bill Blakeman. From 1990 until it closed in 2006, he helped the Colony Wine & Liquor Shoppe in Delray. Then he went to work for a wine wholesaler — his territory primarily Delray, with a regular stop at Cafe Luna Rosa.

Now it’s permanent. On Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays, he’s Luna Rosa’s evening host.

“From the front of the house to the back of the house, there’s an amazing chemistry,” he said. “It’s like synchronized swimming in a restaurant.” So, too, for the guests, apparently, as he’s already recognized several dozen diners who become regular customers at The Colony.

Maybe some of those 3rd and 3rd folks will find some temp work at two Delray Beach street parties — at Tastemakers of Delray or On the Ave. Tastemakers, from 5 to 10 p.m. Aug. 7 and 8, offers a chance for guests to sample specialties and beverages from 13 restaurants: 50 Ocean, Cabana El Ray, Cumming’s, La Plage, Downtown Delray, DIG, El Camino, FYI Yogurt, LemonGrass, Mussel Beach, The Office, Solita, Vic and Angelo’s and Zinque. The passports can be bought at the participating eateries and also include special dining promotions at each for three months.

With a “Back to Cool” theme, On the Ave will be from 6 to 10 p.m. Aug 21 at Elizabeth Wesley Plaza at Southwest Fifth Avenue. On the bill will be such artists as Double Trouble, Drew Tucker and Plaid Blazer; food trucks and children’s activities. No passport required. Goodbye, hello, Part 1.

In a whirlwind 15 months, 3rd and 3rd, which is at the corner of Northeast Third Street and Third Avenue, became one of the hottest little restaurant/bars in Delray Beach. Then on May 30, owner John Paul Kline announced that the restaurant would be closing the next day to “maintain ourselves” and reportedly made some renovations before reopening in September.

There was a time in South Florida when many restaurants closed for the summer. The tourists went gone and innertown staffers would relocate to gigs in the Northeast for the season. Such was the case at Testa’s in Palm Beach, but it’s new open year-round, because the summer business is decent and the owners don’t want to lose good staff.

Kline already has gone through several chefs, the newest coming on board only a few weeks before he shut down. Staffers, however, are doing a remarkable job of being out of work for three or four months, reportedly signed on elsewhere. But Kline may have an ulterior motive.
Feast of the Sea’s third "Mail the Menu" Chef Challenge took place July 24 at Salt 7 in Delray Beach. Chefs from four Delray Beach restaurants competed, presenting a signature dish that included mahi-mahi. The dishes were created in less than 60 minutes and judged on visual appeal, taste, creativity, execution and overall presentation. Atlantic Grille Executive Chef Adam Gottlieb was the winner. Feast of the Sea will present the final competition as a free general admission seafood festival on Sept. 13 in West Palm Beach. For more information, visit www.feastofthesea.com.

ABOVE: (l-r) Chefs from Dada, (Sous Chef Scott Randazzo and Executive Chef Bruce Feingold) and Executive Chef Adam Gottlieb from Atlantic Grille pull together at the last minute. LEFT: Pan-seared mahi with corn relish and a compound butter sauce from Vic & Angelo’s. Libby Volgyes/The Coastal Star

The Island arrived almost as a life force in 2004. In the midst of the hurricane season, the island-style restaurant in South Bay, "flung together" in Hypoluxo. But the "island" was not the only creative concept. Owners Steven Pellegrino Sr. and Jr., decided to combine operations with their nightclub II Bacio on Southeast Second Avenue. Order up a steak or a choice lobster in the supper club, then head out to the courtyard for a little jazz.

Goodbye, hello, Part 2: Sometimes in September, Delux will turn to Honey. Gone is the high-energy, decibel-saturated hangout, to be replaced by, as co-owner Scott Frelich tells it, a "sexty, intimate, and beautiful club" like never before in Delray Beach, a new standard for mood, music and service.

Goodbye, hello, Part 3: Bizarre Ave. Cafe is now The Island Restaurant & Lounge.

A Lake Worth dining destination for more than a decade, its demise was, to say the least, bizarre in its haste, although recent online reports suggest that quality had slipped drastically. In its place, The Island arrived almost as mysteriously as its predecessor departed. Mysterious as voodoo. A splash of Spanish and voodoo. A splash of Spanish and Caribbean conundrum: The folks running the place want to bring some truly pan-Caribbean menu and live music.

Managing director Celeste Marcks is a lawyer who lives in Hypoluxo. But the "island life force" is provided by entrepreneur Blair Webb, who hails from the island of Dominica. "This will be totally different than any other island-style restaurant in South Florida," said Webb, who claims formal culinary training in Provence. "We’re offering Caribbean fusion, lots of fruits and seafood, all fresh, every day, lunch and dinner."

And live music every night: reggae Sunday, jazz Monday, then Latin, pride, ladies, Caribbean and club on Saturday.

What a surprise! After Steven Maklansky was sacked as executive director of the Boca Raton Museum of Art last winter, the museum’s board named Irvin Lippman as interim director and also as chairman of the search committee to find a new boss. Lippman had excellent credentials, having run the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art until he retired in 2012.

So much for retirement. On July 14, "Interim" was dropped from Lippman’s title. His goals: "Bring a larger and more diverse audience to our Art School, offer more opportunities for local artists to meet and share their talents through our Artists Guild, and make sure that the museum is a forum for dialogue, conversation, and self-education."

In just two seasons with the Washington Redskins, Alfred Morris, an unheralded running back out of Florida Atlantic University, has attracted considerable attention. He was the No. 4 rusher in the NFL last year, selected for the Pro-Bowl and rewarded with a four-year, $2.2-million contract.

His car of choice? "Bentley." . . . No, not that British symbol of excess. Bentley is his pet name for his 1991 Mazda 626. Morris may be only 25, but his advice to "Drive a Safe, Practical Car" scores the lead-off TD in a feature titled "Pragual Habits of the Rich and Famous," on the website for the American Association of Retired Persons, better known as AARP.

"Oh the gridiron, FAU students are making noise, too! Sean Darch is majoring in commercial music, Chris Bazela has majoring in political science with a commercial music minor. Under their stage names, Sean Dough and Chris Felix, they won the 2014 American Songwriting Award for best hip-hop song. Bazela’s wrote the music and Darch the lyrics to ‘Change Your Mood,’ originally released on Comp/Def/Lation Volume III by FAU’s Hoot/Wisdom Recordings L.L.C. The song was produced, mixed and recorded in the campus studio. The American Songwriting Awards is the most prominent international competition recognizing songwriters, both known and unknown.

Thom Smith is a freelance writer. Contact him at thomsmith@ymail.com.

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Grunge for all and ballet dreams heat up August arts scene

This might be a good month to get your grunge on. The pestilential heat of an August in South Florida has to be tempered some way, and perhaps an evening of rough-edged rock from rain-soaked bands that made it big in the 1990s will do the trick.

On Aug. 10, Seattle’s Soundgarden joins forces with Trent Reznor’s Nine Inch Nails for a concert at the Cruzan Amphitheatre in suburban West Palm Beach. This tour, which brings these two acts together for the first time in 20 years, has been drawing strong reviews, such as this from the Denver Post’s account of the July 21 show at Red Rocks: “This was a visual and aural pleasure, delivered in the tastiest of fashions to an absolutely ravenous audience. Grunge is passing, perhaps, but it can still be delivered in the tastiest of ways.”

Reznor, a Pennsylvania native who writes the NIN records and then assembles a band to tour for his songs, has a more conventional standpoint of contrast in the music world, different in some ways had a bigger influence than Soundgarden. Soundgarden sounds like what happens to the party music when the adults take over.

Nine Inch Nails, which essentially is a solo project by Reznor, a Pennsylvania native who writes the NIN records and then assembles a band for touring has been featuring a lineup of tribute bands. On Aug. 1, it’s Jimmy Stowe and the Stowaways, a Jimmy Buffett act, and on Aug. 8, it’s Turnstiles, a Billy Joel tribute band. Two national, ticketed concerts follow. Panic! at the Disco on Aug. 15, and the Grateful Dead’s Bob Weir on Aug. 23. If you’re still in the mood for free music, the brand section of the Symphony Boca Raton sets up Aug. 17 for its own tribute to the music of the Big Band era.

Meanwhile, the Symphony of the Americas moves its annual Summerfest appearance in Boca Raton to Florida Atlantic University on Aug. 8, joined by the Mission Chamber Orchestra of Rome. The program is a mixture of music by Leopold Mozart, Vivaldi and Dohnanyi, Cole Porter and Herbert L. Clarke, and new works by Juan Castillo (a Florida native who writes the NIN music, the brass section of the programm is considered one of the leading interpreters of the role in the ballet world, and doubtless her appearance here will be a huge event for young, aspiring dancers. They’re probably already watching Mearns in several charming behind-the-scenes videos on YouTube, in which she gives viewers insight into the life of a leading dancer. The ballet can be seen at 7 p.m. Aug. 1, 8 p.m. Aug. 2, and 2 p.m. Aug. 3. Tickets are $20-$35 for adults, $10-$25 for children and seniors. Call 561-995-0709 or visit bocaballet.org.

Other dances: In Palm Beach Gardens, choreographers Mark Konrad (Reach Dance Collective Intensive) and Jerry Opdenaker (O Dance) are teaming again for their Reach Dance Collective Intensive, a summer contemporary dance program for young dancers that opened July 28 and runs through Aug. 8.

Special guest instructors this year include Melissa Rector of Philadelphia’s Koresh Dance Company, Kristina Fernandez of Broadway’s Wicked, Lynn Redman of the Trey McIntyre Project, and Christopher Huggins, formerly of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. The advanced students of the intensive will show their stuff at 8 p.m. Aug. 9 in a performance called “Heat Wave,” set for the Eissey Campus Theatre at Palm Beach State College in Palm Beach Gardens. The show will feature a mixed program that includes new dances by Konrad and Opdenaker. Tickets are $20-$35; visit reachdancecompany.com or call 561-339-6360.

Theater: The Delray Beach Center for the Arts will present a program called “The Natalie Portman star vehicle Black Swan (2010), which won the actress an Oscar, reminded the non-dance world of the beauty and popularity of Swan Lake, which might be the first piece the average person thinks of when he or she hears the word ‘ballet.’ And for good reason: It is not only a compelling fairy-tale scenario of a faraway kingdom, courtly love, a force of evil and two tragic deaths, it is also a star vehicle of composer Peter Tchaikovsky’s most memorable music (and indeed, it was this score that established him as a star) and a star vehicle for the dance world after its premiere in Moscow in 1877).

The Boca Ballet Theatre kicks off August with three performances of Swan Lake at the Olympic Heights High School auditorium, featuring a major contemporary ballerina, Sara Mearns, a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet. Mearns will dance the lead role of Odette/Odile (i.e., White Swan/Black Swan) opposite Simon Ball, a principal dancer with Houston Ballet, as Prince Siegfried. Ball was a guest last year in the Boca Ballet Theatre for performances of Prokofiev’s Romeo and Juliet.

Mearns made her New York City Ballet debut as Odette at age 19, plucked from the corps de ballet by artistic director Peter Martins. She is considered one of the leading interpreters of the role in the ballet world, and doubtless her appearance here will be a huge event for young, aspiring dancers. They’re probably already watching Mearns in several charming behind-the-scenes videos on YouTube, in which she gives viewers insight into the life of a leading dancer. The ballet can be seen at 7 p.m. Aug. 1, 8 p.m. Aug. 2, and 2 p.m. Aug. 3. Tickets are $20-$35 for adults, $10-$25 for children and seniors. Call 561-995-0709 or visit bocaballet.org.

Sara Mearns of the New York City Ballet will dance the lead role in Swan Lake in three performances in Boca Raton. Photo provided by Sara Mearns.
Understudies. Cassie, Larry, Richie, Al, Bennett protégé Michael Bennett's ever production of a musical, in December with its first-

Greg's List
AUG. 5-6
Sophie B. Hawkins: This New York-bred singer-songwriter had huge hits in the early 1990s with Cliffs, J Wow, and Our Love. She's now a mom and a coach. Hawkins is in town all weekend at the Crest Theatre, and will be conducted like the auditions that make up the narrative of this much-admired musical.

Greg's List
AUG. 9
63rd All Florida Juried Exhibition: The state's longest-running juried exhibition returns for a 63rd time to the Boca Raton Museum of Art, with about 100 works of art from creators all over Florida. This year's curator is the Brooklyn-based artist and curator Trong Hia Nguyen, whose career includes gallery exhibitions, arts journalism and work with the Persian Peasant Trust. The show runs through Oct. 18. At the museum in Mizner Park, and shows concurrently with the Summer Arts at the Four Arts Guild examining the Exhibition. The show's formal opening date is Aug. 10, and there is an opening reception from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 9 that will include an interview with Nguyen and the presentation of Best in Show and other awards. Exhibition dates are through Oct. 31, but if you can spare a Thursday, the museum offers free admission from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. all month. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon through 5 p.m. Sunday. Call 463-6797.

AUG. 16-17
Tiempo Libre: This Miami-based band is one of the most accomplished and respected of the Cuban music ensembles in the country, no doubt in part due to their tendency to produce an elfin Cuban music conservatory. They can hear their early love of models such as the Four Arts is in a great position to raise its profile and increase its outreach, and Breman should have the proverbial wind at his back for almost anything he wants to do there.
Celebrations

Rotary Club Installation Lunch
The Delray Beach Club – June 24

The Rotary Club of Delray Beach gathered for official business to install its 2014-15 board of directors. ABOVE: (l-r) Anne Bright, Bill Arnst, Ernie Simon, Peter Beck, David Harden, Mike Campbell, Betsy Owen, Jimmy Weatherspoon, Candace Etzler, Alan Kornblau, Harvey Brown, Jess Sowards and Tom Coyne. Photo provided

Pope John Paul II High School Happenings

Kiss the Pig Contest
Pope John Paul II High School, Boca Raton – April 11

Students raised $3,000 to benefit the Brother Muetien-Marie School in Mbalmayo, Cameroon, West Africa, during a contest that saw a teacher kiss a pig. The teacher, Eufrasio Volpe, who heads the Italian Club, did the deed at a pep rally. The pig was on loan from a local farm. Proceeds will pay for annual tuition for 20 children in the remote area. In addition to raising funds for the Cameroonian school, Pope John Paul II High School’s student body amassed a record 32,216 community-service hours during the 2013-14 year, with several students exceeding 100 hours. ABOVE: Students with 100-plus community-service hours include (l-r) Jack LaBonte, Mitch Deaunovich, Brian Fallon, Jared Chaloux, Luis Menendez, Stephanie Ferrer, Jonah Fisher, Julie Cruz and Laura McKinney. Photo provided

Soroptimist Officers Installation Dinner
WATERSTONE RESORT & MARINA, BOCA RATON – JUNE 22

Members of Soroptimist International of Boca Raton and Deerfield Beach celebrated their organization’s 54th-annual dinner in special sunset style. Kathi Pease, past governor, installed the officers for the 2014-15 year as former President Kim Champion presented a gift to outgoing President Mariela Montgomery. Special guests included 11 past presidents, three new members and Marie Speed, honorary co-chairwoman of the upcoming Women of Distinction Breakfast. ABOVE: Front row: Marie Speed (left) and Helen Babione; back row: (l-r) Pat Reed, Carmen Uceda and Doreen Brittell. Photo provided by Barbara McCormick

Student planting project
Oceanfront Park, Boynton Beach – June 4

‘Sea oats are our first line of defense in dune protection,’ Ocean Rescue Chief Tom Mahady says. So six students from Pope John Paul II High School joined Mahady in planting 250 sea oat seedlings. ABOVE: (l-r) Mahady with students Zachary Markle, Jonathan Gray, Christopher Cantazarro, Jonathan Pugh, Tim Morris and Dominic Polimini and marine science teacher Elizabeth Eubanks. View a video from the planting at www.thecoastalstar.ning.com. Photo provided by Glenda Hall

‘Sip, Snip and Savor’
ZPro Salon & Med Spa, Boca Raton – July 15

A special evening with special prizes benefited The HARID Conservatory, a professional training school for ballet dancers. Guests enjoyed wine and hors d’oeuvres, along with hair, make-up and skin consultations with aestheticians. ‘We are thrilled that our inaugural event was so well-received and supported by our clients and guests,’ salon owner Shimi Avni said. ABOVE: (l-r) Danny Verrochi, Renee Stern, Hal Fuhrman and Lynn Robins. Photo provided by Janis Bucher

Discounts from 10%-20% during the month of July & August for all indoor crypts and all niches
Unique all-inclusive pricing which includes:
- Memorial lettering
- Opening & closing (during normal weekday hours)
- Chapel use for committal service
- Perpetual care guaranteed by the City of Boca Raton

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Ocean Ridge’s got talent: 13-year-old’s version of ‘Call It Stormy Monday’ gets her to Judgment Week

By Amy Woods

She sang her heart out in front of Mel B, Heidi Klum, Howie Mandel and Howard Stern, wailing about how “Tuesday’s just as bad” in Call It Stormy Monday. When she awoke on a recent Thursday, she learned her journey had ended on America’s Got Talent. “Being there was just so incredible, and I’m just so happy I got to do it,” Lilly Forte said. “I was just so grateful that I got so far in the competition. I got a standing ovation from 3,500 people.”

The Unity School eighth-grader made it to the popular television show’s Judgment Week as one of 75 teens culled from an initial audition of 75,000. Although her performance of the T-Bone Walker hit did not air on the July 15 episode, she said she received three yeses — from former supermodel Klum, actor and comedian Mandel and radio legend Stern — and one no — from Spice Girl Mel B.

“It was so cool getting up there because you went up, and there’s all these other contestants, and you feel like an actual, famous star,” Lilly said. “It was an awesome experience. It was amazing.”

The multitalented musician had to stay mute about the previously recorded results for nearly two months. “I’d have to keep quiet about it,” Lilly said. “I would just say, ‘Stay tuned, stay tuned.’”

She said she didn’t shed a tear and already has booked her next gig. “I’m going to be in the Battle of the Bands for Teen Vogue and Rock Religion in Miami,” Lilly said. “They found my music on Reverbnation, and they called my mom.”

One of 12 performers selected for the Aug. 2 show, Lilly will sing Rock and Roll by Led Zeppelin — her favorite band — and an original tune titled Too Bad.

“I wrote the music and the lyrics and everything,” she said of her first song. “It’s kind of mellow, but it has a really great melody to it.”

Not only does Lilly play saxophone in the regular school band and drums in the jazz band, she also serves as lead singer of the School of Rock house band.

“She has been singing since age 8. “I grew up watching the Disney Channel,” Lilly said. “I would always sing along to those songs. I’d sing along to the radio. Then, I started listening to more songs that were not on the radio.”

She came across a recording she liked, and while it belied her years, she sang it’s all very fresh. Patti says all sausages are house-made, as well as the sinus-clearing mustard.

And that’s all the better to ponder some of the namesake dishes at M.E.A.T. (that’s short for Meat Eatery and Taproom), chef George Patti’s Islamorada concept that he opened in August 2014.

The Place:
M.E.A.T. (Meat Eatery and Taproom)

The Skinny:
Scott Simmons/The Coastal Star

When dining at M.E.A.T., order the fries. Forget specialty flavors and rubs and salts. It goes without saying that nobody knows that when duck fat renders a potato that is wonderfully crisp on the outside and fluffy on the inside — it’s actually worth all those calories.

Oh, you can order truffle fries here, but who needs that when duck fat renders a potato that is wonderfully crisp on the outside and fluffy on the inside — it’s actually worth all those calories.

It holds a near-perfect meal, and you don’t need any sauces, but you’ll want to taste that house-made ketchup, as well as the sinus-clearing mustard.

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AUGUST 2
Saturday - 8/2 - Blogging, Posting and Tweeting at FAU’s Communication Studies Café
Presented as part of the Florida Authors Association Southwest Region’s 2014 Author Book Tour. 2273 NE 2nd Ave, Delray Beach. Pre-registration required. 10 am - 5 pm. 279-0300.

* 2/2 - Butterflies of South Florida at the Nature Center at Naples Botanical Garden, 5151 Military Trail, West Palm Beach. Learn how to attract these winged beauties to your yard and garden and how to keep them there year round. Learn which native plants support their lifecycle and how to grow them successfully. 10 am - noon. 315-flights, 540-7773.


* 2/2 – Outdoor Sea Tank Feedings at FAU’s Oceanarium, 1225 Meadows Road, Boca Raton. Learn the biology, behavior and feeding habits of tropical marine species from professional marine biologists in our 10,000-gallon tank. Feedings happen daily. Check with organizers for any changes in schedule.

8/2 - Inventors Society of South Florida Holds Annual Meeting at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St., Delray Beach. Community event hosted by the City of Delray Beach, with guest speaker from the City of Boynton Beach. Explore the galleries and visit with the organizers for more information and registration. 5 pm - 7 pm. Free. 243-7356.

* 8/2 - Yoga for Your Heart at the West Palm Beach Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Join the Everglades Foundation for a free yoga class. The class is open to the public. 11 am - 12 pm. Free. 629-8760.

* 8/2 - Propagation: Increasing Your Plants at Native Botanical Gardening, 559 N Military Trail, West Palm Beach. Presented by the St. Lucie County Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Florida. Free. 8 am - 12 pm. Free. 772-808-3175 or 772-808-3175.

* 8/2 - DIY Art Projects: Drawing Cars with ARIS at the Norton Museum of Art, 1451 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach. Explore the galleries and visit with the organizers for more information and registration. 5 pm - 7 pm. Free. 243-7356.

* 8/2 - 2014 Tastemakers of Delray Beach at Purple Velvet Octopus Gastro Bar & Entertainment in the restaurants in downtown Delray Beach on Atlantic Ave. & Tequesta Drive and must be a minimum of 48” tall to climb the tower. No pets. allowed inside the Lighthouse. Children must be accompanied by an adult and must be a minimum of 48” tall to climb the tower. No pets. allowed inside the Lighthouse.


* 8/2 – Outdoor Sea Tank Feedings at FAU’s Oceanarium, 1225 Meadows Road, Boca Raton. Learn the biology, behavior and feeding habits of tropical marine species from professional marine biologists in our 10,000-gallon tank. Feedings happen daily. Check with organizers for any changes in schedule.

* 8/2 - Happy Squares Dance Club at FAU’s College of Education, 7751 Glades Road, Boca Raton. The FAU Swing Era Jazz Band presents an evening of hits from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. Sat. 6 pm - 9 pm. 561-564-3404.

* 8/2 - Outdoor Sea Tank Feedings at FAU’s Oceanarium, 1225 Meadows Road, Boca Raton. Learn the biology, behavior and feeding habits of tropical marine species from professional marine biologists in our 10,000-gallon tank. Feedings happen daily. Check with organizers for any changes in schedule.

* 8/2 - Bourbon and Pennington Present: Shipwreck Tanks: 12:30 pm. Free. 544-7913.

* 8/2 - Resume and Interviewing Skills at FAU’s Career Development Center, 1021 NE 3rd Avenue, Boca Raton. At 10 am - 12 pm. Free. 845-5629.

* 8/2 - Art and Masterclass at FAU’s Oceanarium, 1225 Meadows Road, Boca Raton. Free. Noon-3 pm. 582-3300.

* 8/2 - Outdoor Sea Tank Feedings at FAU’s Oceanarium, 1225 Meadows Road, Boca Raton. Learn the biology, behavior and feeding habits of tropical marine species from professional marine biologists in our 10,000-gallon tank. Feedings happen daily. Check with organizers for any changes in schedule.

* 8/2 - Step Out Dancing at Pompey Park, 1101 NW 2nd St., Delray Beach. Free. 5 pm - 7:30 pm. Free. 243-7356.

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comfortable clothing and proper shoes - no

**Worth Playhouse**, 713 Lake Ave. Please

- Part
- Mario and the Magician

8/11 - Margarita Monday

M: 7:30 pm; Sun.: 5 pm. $25. 588-1820.

**Manilow Tribute by Charlie Vee**

11:30 am. $30. 866-811-4111.

Th., Sat., Sun.: 2 pm; Mon., Tues.: 9 pm. $10.

- Frost Bistro Cuisine with Chef Claude Millien

8/14 - 63rd All Florida Juried Exhibition

- As We Know It

8/11 - Jazz: Sultans of String

8/9 - 8/29: \**Olive Ave., West Palm Beach. 8/15:**

- **Art Cinema at The Crest**

- 8/15 - Concert: Panic! At The Disco

- 8/16 - How to Get

- **On The Lake**

- **Millien**

- **Exotic Island Home – With Cottage**

The beautiful home is nestled within a lush tropical setting, situated at the end of a private lane, offering the ultimate in privacy. Located in walking distance to the beach, on prestigious Hypoluxo Island. The main house offers 3 bedrooms, all with full baths. Second Floor Master Suite, with screened in reading porch with waterfront views and rear private sun deck. First floor master suite with doors to pool/patio. A great first floor office with its own entrance and patio. Separate Cottage offers a three car garage and a charming second floor apartment, with bedroom, bath, living room area including kitchenette and screened in porch. This one of a kind residence is in pristine condition and ready to whisk you away, to your own piece of Paradise.

Exotic Island Home – With Cottage
Hypoluxo Island, Palm Beach
Offered at $1,500,000

Come Preview This NEW TO MARKET, Newly Renovated 2-story Home with luxury finishes throughout including custom kitchen and baths, marble and wood flooring, custom crown and base moldings. Master Suite with Sitting Room/Office against ocean view. Textured walls, decorative lighting, Plumbing, A/C systems, impact windows and doors, 40- Year Architectural Shingles, new 100% PVC, windows, and doors. Covered patio, lanai, spa, and new electric, gas line for outdoor grill. Also new electric, gas line for outdoor grill.

Find out how much your ‘Slice of Paradise’ may be worth in today’s robust real estate market. Call for a private, confidential consultation today.
August 2014

**August 17-23**

**Sunday - 8/17**  
Give Her A Voice  
Since its founding in 1993, Give Her A Voice has been helping women to find their voices.  
11 am-3 pm. $79. 305-659-8100.

**Sunday - 8/17**  
*The Comedy of Errors*  
Presented as part of Chicago's Shakespeare Festival Days.  

**Monday - 8/18**  
Music at St. Paul's  
Presented as part of the Music at St. Paul's series at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Baroque music performed on original instruments.  

**Tuesday - 8/19**  
Sip & Stroll  
Prison & Pardons: A new Festival Days special event.  
6:30-9 pm. $60/residents, $75/non-residents. Registration: 742-6650 or www.fourarts.org.

**Wednesday - 8/20**  
*The Daily Mirror*  
By Christopher Fry  
Presented as part of Boca Raton Mainstage 2014.  
7:30 pm. Free. 243-7233.

**Thursday - 8/21**  
*The Music of America*  
From the 16th Century to the Present  
Presented as part of Boca Raton Mainstage 2014.  
7:30 pm. $25-$35. 8 pm. 243-7129.

**Saturday - 8/23**  
*The Lost Colony*  
Presented as part of the Outdoor Theatre Series.  

**Sunday - 8/24**  
*Concert: Bob Weir and Ratdog*  
8/24 - *Concert: Bob Weir and Ratdog*  
Concert presented by Boca Raton Resort & Club.  
8/24 -  
Amateur gardener in Palm Beach County. Discuss the history, propagation, and identification of all the various groups.  
9 am-12:30 pm. $35/members, $45/non-members. Pre- 
registration required. 742-6650.  

**Monday - 8/25**  
*Adult Pottery*  
At the Boynton Beach Art Center, 125 SE 2nd Ave.  
6 pm. Free. 279-7790.

**Wednesday - 8/27**  
*Presenting Orson Welles*  
*The Comedy of Errors*  
The Shakespeare Festival Days presentation is performed at 7:30 p.m. on the Plaza at the Boca Raton Resort & Club.  
Presented as part of Boca Raton Mainstage 2014.  
7:30 pm. Free. 243-7233.

**Thursday - 8/28**  
*Free Sketching in the Museum*  
For younger and museum members.  
832-5196.  
**Friday - 8/29**  
*The Forgotten Women*  
Come by foot, car or boat!  
Come by foot, car or boat!  
Visit www.theboca.com for more information.
Alain Delon: Spirits of the Dead at Boca Raton Library, 400 NW 2 Ave. Presented as part of the Wong Film Series for adults by the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library. 7-9 p.m. Free. 544-8591.

8/28 - Culture and Cocktails at the Arts Garage, 180 NE 1st St., Delray Beach. Live music, cocktails, food, prizes. Supports Not King-Cage Generation Hope. Donations of used instruments appreciated. 4:30-8 p.m. $25/admission, $15/concession. Free to members. 315-4099.

Friday - 8/29 - Adult Multi Media Class at Intracoastal Park Clubhouse, 2249 NE Federal Hwy., Boynton Beach. Aspiring artists discover new techniques in watercolor, pastel and acrylic while learning design and composition. Session runs F through 10/3. 9:30 am. 560/ results, 51/5 students. Pre-registration required. 742-4227.


Saturday - 8/30 - Chess Club at the Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2nd Ave. Enjoy the challenge while having fun learning the rules and basic strategies of chess. Sponsored by the Boca Raton Education Advisory Board. Ages 7 to 17, held again Sat. 10-11:30 am. Free. Registration required. 393-7968.

8/30 - Austerley by W.G. Sebald at Boca Raton Public Library, 400 NW 2 Ave. Presented as part of the book club discussion by the Friends of the Boca Raton Public Library. For adults. 4-5 pm. Free. 544-8591 or www.bocaratonlibrary.org.

8/30 - Wine-Country Safari at The Boca Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Presented as part of Boca Chamber Festival Days, this event benefits Twin Palms Center for the Disabled. Fundraising activities include a silent auction and raffle baskets. Participants are urged to join in the fun by dressing in “Tommy Bahama Casual” with Safari flair. Reservations required. 7-9 pm. $25/person or $45/couple. 451-4876.

8/30 - An Appetite for Art: Retro Dressing in “Tommy Bahama Casual” with Safari flair. Reservations required. 7-9 pm. $25/person or $45/couple. 451-4876.

8/30 - Jazz: Jean Chardavoine at Arts Garage, 180 NE 1st St., Delray Beach. 8/30 - An Appetite for Art: Retro at Safari flair. Reservations required. 7-9 pm. $25/person or $45/couple. 451-4876.

8/30 - Eyes to the Skies at Children’s Science Explorium, Camino Real, Boca Raton. This informal event is held in the parking lot (weather permitting). All children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required. Telescope will be visible at least one hour after the scheduled start time. Note: Stars must be visible for the telescope to align. 7:30 pm. Free. 347-3912.

Saturday - 8/31 - Everyone Judges a Book by Its Cover - Presented as part of the The Authors Academy Writing Workshops for Teenagers. The Authors at fluster on the Beach Bookstore, 273 NE 2nd St., Delray Beach. 2 ways to register - call 561-216-9898 or register in person. Pre-registration required. 10 am. 529-7790.

9/1 - Writer’s Studio at the Delray Beach Public Library, 100 W. Atlantic Ave. Saturday, 10 am. Free. 638-7251.

9/1 - Jazz: Marcus Gottschalk at the Arts Garage, 180 NE 1st St., Delray Beach. 525-535 p.m. 240-7129.


9/1 - Labor Day Weekend: Grandparents Day Party at the Boynton Beach Center, 1021 S. Federal Hwy. 10-3 pm. $3/person. 742-6570.

9/1 - Eyes to the Skies with professional-grade 8-inch Meade LX Schmidt-Cassegrains telescope at the Children’s Science Explorium, Camino Real, Boca Raton. This informal event is held in the parking lot (weather permitting). All children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required. Telescope will be visible at least one hour after the scheduled start time. Note: Stars must be visible for the telescope to align. 7:30 pm. Free. 347-3912.

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Tots & Teens

Black-belt techniques encourage back-to-school success

W hen people think of karate, they often conjure up images of punch, kicks and hand-to-hand combat. Those are all part of karate and self-defense, but there are far more benefits to karate that come with learning martial arts.

These skills come to mind as students prepare to go back to school in the next few days. The potential for bullying and pressure to fit in and keep up with other kids can be overwhelming.

As a lifelong student of martial arts and a karate instructor for kids, I’ve found that building a student’s confidence is far more important than teaching them how to punch, kick or block. Doing one of these techniques reduces the likelihood the child will be in a position to resort to the second.

Here are five ways to ensure that your child has a smooth transition to school this year.

Pre-frame. Make sure your children know what bullying is and that you are willing to listen and support them if they raise any concerns. Discuss your child with any concerns they have about the approaching school year.

Just as an athlete mentally prepares before a game, children should have the mindset that they are about to experience new challenges, relationships and life lessons. Tell them to be prepared for the unexpected and remind them of how they’ve grown from the previous year.

Practice, practice, practice. Lack of confidence in academic ability can have a lasting effect on a child’s life and overall confidence. Students who don’t perform well early in the school year can end up living with lowered expectations and be more susceptible to a bully’s taunts.

When it comes to starting a new school, it may be daunting for a child to go right back into learning a difficult subject without consistent practice. If your child struggles in a subject like math, make sure he/she has a practice workbook and be sure to affirm progress.

Analyze the previous school year. Every child has academic strengths and weaknesses. Every child has social strengths and weaknesses. Was your child prone to internalize insults or did your child believe in his or her abilities? Figure out what issues there are and how you can build on the strengths to, and improve on the weaknesses.

This is also a great opportunity to set new goals for the upcoming year. Generate a list of measurable goals so the child can be inspired by positive feedback of meeting goals.

Don’t overload. Karate, gymnastics, soccer, piano. All these activities can be great for child development. However, overloading a child with extra-curricular activities can lead to subpar performance in all activities, including academics; instead of succeeding in one, they may succeed in none. A packed calendar can create fatigued, frazzled children.

Flexibility in the curriculum schedule is also key to allow the child time to initiate free play activities and explore friendships outside of structured environments.

Start strong. Getting back into a strict routine is difficult for anyone. When the school year begins, make sure your child’s routine is a system for success. The balanced approach to training starts right from the start — builds healthy habits early that will carry through the tough times.

Shelley Gilken is a freelance writer, a black belt, and an Action Karate teacher and a part-time karate instructor. Reach her at: littlerockyg@gmail.com.
**AUGUST 20-24**

**Monday - 8/21**

**8/14 - Happy Birthday, George the Skunk**

This eight-class course held Sat. through 8/15. Ages 4-11. 10-11:30 am. $10.

**Tuesday - 8/22**

**AUGUST 17-23**

**Sunday - 8/27**

**7/23 - 8/27**

**VI. Skunk@ Morikami Museum and Gardens School Programs**

Children enjoy a structured loving atmosphere. Various classes held M, T, W, Th. & Sat. through 10/11. Class times vary. Pre-registration required. 742-6700.

**Monday - 8/28**

**Tuesday - 8/29**

**Wednesday - 8/30**

**Thursday - 8/31**

**Friday - 9/1**

**Saturday - 9/2**

**The Skunk at Morikami Museum and Gardens is now accepting registrations for the fall 2023 program.**

For more information, please visit www.skunkedu.org or call 561-994-6022.

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