

Hobe Sound

CURRENTS

COMPLIMENTARY

Candidates for Martin County Sheriff, as well as the Property Appraiser and Superintendent of Schools, will be determined in just days. **Pg 20-21**



Feds pull plug on Cato's Bridge Beach Compromise. Back to square one. **Pg 4**



Toastmasters in prison

The Ambassadors Gavel Club at the Okeechobee Correctional Institution listen attentively as participants take part in an innovative—and highly effective—Toastmasters program. **Pg 12**

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County Commission to seek help for the threatened future of the Ridgeway community. **Pg 6**

His name is Henry Copeland



Please tell him we apologize for changing it last issue to Coleman. Check out his ad. **Pg 18**

Business



Sometimes something extraordinary happens during an ordinary day at work. **Pg 11**

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for MARTIN COUNTY COMMISSION

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Feds pull plug on Cato's Bridge Beach permit

Thank you, but no thanks, came the response from the federal government's Bureau of Land Management regarding the June 24 compromise reached with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding shoreline stabilization at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse in Jupiter Sound.

The permit, submitted by Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management (ERM) on behalf of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA) working group, targeted the western sandy shore of the Intracoastal Waterway south of the Route 707 bridge in Jupiter for shoreline stabilization, including the popular snorkeling and boating area locally called Cato's Bridge Beach.

The highly controversial plans called for barring all public access to the shoreline by creating a 1,375' rock-and-concrete breakwater offshore. Shoreline erosion was evident only for about one third of that distance. The compromise negotiated with Florida's DEP reduced the length of the barrier by 645' in order to maintain boat access to the northern portion of the beach where erosion is not evident.

The remaining breakwater in the new plans also would allow kayakers and paddleboarders access to the southern portion of the shoreline, which would have been prohibited in the original plans.

Upon learning of the rejection by the Bureau of Land Management, an office of the U.S. Dept of the Interior that owns the land, Martin County Commissioner Patrick Hayes, who was instrumental in negotiating the compromise, said he was "quite disappointed....A great many people in the DEP worked very hard on this permit," he added, "and, frankly, I'm baffled by the BLM's response now, after negotiations had finished and the compromise was approved" by DEP, ERM and BLM officials.

"My decision to withdraw the application is made with a full understanding of the seriousness of this decision," said Bruce Dawson, Southeastern States Field Office manager for the Bureau of Land Management in Jackson, Miss., in an email July 20 to the JILONA working group, adding that the compromise does not meet "the goals and mission" as outlined for federal Outstanding Natural Areas.

The 121-acre Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area site is one of only three designated in the U.S. and is part of the National Landscape Conservation System, the only one east of the Mississippi River.

The property, at one time set aside for the Coast Guard and the Jupiter Inlet lighthouse, lies primarily in the Town of Tequesta and was returned to the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1996, largely

through the local efforts of Jamie Stuve, president and CEO of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, which manages the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum.

It was named an Outstanding Natural Area in 2008, which requires that a "working group" committee of all stakeholders be created to oversee management of the property. Dawson and Stuve both are members of the JILONA working group, which also includes government officials from Tequesta, Jupiter, Palm Beach County, residents of Jupiter Inlet Colony (across the Intracoastal from Cato's Bridge Beach), Jupiter High School, and ERM.

Although the focus of the original permit was announced as shoreline stabilization, the most recent response from Dawson seems to have shifted BLM's focus to the "restoration of native ecological" systems.

"Given the project's location in the Indian River Aquatic Preserve, it seemed particularly vital to provide for the restoration aspect of the project," Dawson wrote. "In fact, the designating legislation points to the importance of restoring native plant communities and estuaries."

The original permit had proposed to plant mangroves on Cato's Bridge Beach and to create a freshwater marsh after the shoreline was closed to public use.

Dawson said the changes to the permit, even if approved by BLM, also would require a public forum and "would need to go back before the Jupiter Inlet Working Group for their input."

The shoreline stabilization plans also call for a three-tiered 15' high, industrial grade vinyl sheet pile system to stabilize the eroding bluff. Since those plans do not require a DEP permit, it is possible that BLM could proceed with its construction.

Walter Franklin, an outspoken critic of the original permit application, has charged that Dawson has attempted to "keep the public in the dark" regarding the BLM plans by not allowing public comment at the JILONA meetings, by "stacking" the JILONA working group with residents from the sparsely populated Jupiter Inlet Colony who support the plan to barricade the beach from the public, and by working not in the wider public interest, but in the interest of drawing tourists to the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum.

Hayes, who also has publicly criticized BLM's reticence in allowing public participation in the permitting process, saying that residents of southern Martin County who have historically used Cato's Bridge Beach for family outings need to be on "high alert" regarding the future of Cato's Bridge Beach.

"This means that we're starting all over," Hayes said. "We're going back to square one, and if the public is not vigilant, we're going to lose this extraordinary place. What's really frustrating is that BLM can do everything they say they want to do—everything—without barring the public from the beach." ■

--Barbara Clowdus

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Engineers back down

Stop signs will soon sprout at each intersection of the freshly paved Old Post Office Alley in Hobe Sound, reversing the Martin County Engineering Department's original decision in June that the alleyway did not warrant traffic signs.

"They were reluctant," reported Community Development Director Kevin Freeman to the Neighborhood Advisory committee meeting July 19, "because that's not in alignment with their design specifications for an alley, but we were able to convince them otherwise, due to the community's concerns."

Mike Dooley, the Hobe Sound representative on the Community Redevelopment Agency, had brought the need for stop signs before the CRA at its regular meeting on June 20, expressing concern that the pervious asphalt recently laid would increase traffic—both in frequency and speed—thus endangering pedestrians walking in the alley and increasing the threat of a traffic accident at an intersection with one of the throughway streets.

"I fear that over time, as the asphalt begins to age and turn gray, there will be no clear demarcation at the intersections as there is now," Dooley told the

group...."Drivers, especially strangers in the community, are likely to think that now, with the roadway so smooth and straight, that it's a thoroughfare street, not just an alley."

Other CRA members expressed their concerns that the issue of stop signs should go directly to the engineering department, and deferred to their decision. A flurry of emails and phone calls to Freeman's office from Hobe Sound residents regarding the stop signs prompted Freeman to take up the issue with Don Donaldson, director of engineering, who agreed to install signs.

"Considering that this is a joint project of the engineering department and the CRA," said Mike Ellis, chairman of the Hobe Sound NAC, "we felt that we should have some input."

The alley paving project is a "demonstration" project to determine if the roadway will withstand regular use by heavy trucks, thus making it suitable for use in other CRAs.

The engineering department also will no longer designate the alley as a "truck route," Ellis added, since its purpose is to service the businesses on A1A, not to direct trucks through town. ■

--Currents Staff

Plants chosen for Bridge Road redesign

The new landscape plans for the Bridge Road retrofit currently on the drawing board now will include primarily drought-resistant native plants, according to Brian Good, of Kimley-Horn Associates in Stuart, a consultant for the Martin County Community Development Department.

Good made the presentation at the July 19 meeting of the Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee, requesting that the "plant pallet" be approved by the committee prior to designing the proposed landscape for Bridge Road.

The first time Good presented the names of the landscape plants being considered for Bridge Road was at the January NAC meeting, where NAC member Gretchen Reich was the first to object to the list because so few were native species.

"It would seem to me to make more sense to use native plants," Reich said then, "and to look for those that don't require a lot of water or maintenance. I feel very passionate that this is what we need to be doing on Bridge Road."



Sabal Palm

The committee concurred, and Good acknowledged that he had followed their directive with the plants that he was proposing to be used. The committee approved all the selections, listing only two as "least desirable" selections: Parson's juniper as a ground cover and the Florida thatch palm tree.



Duranta Gold Mound



Dwarf Firebush

"The juniper is an exceptionally hardy, tough ground cover that will withstand heavy foot traffic," Good said, "which is why we'd like to include it. There will be some areas that nothing else will withstand the use."

The thatch palm, which many of the committee members and members of the public who attended did not feel was an attractive tree for landscaping, has a narrow-diameter trunk, Good added.

"We have to take into consideration the sight lines for cars and for pedestrians," he said.

Others preferred live oaks for the shade, however, the oak tree roots have caused issues in the parking lot and under sidewalks along A1A.

"There are ways to control root growth," Good said, "so oak trees, where it's possible, will be a good choice."

The complete pallet includes Asiatic jasmine, as well as Parson's juniper for ground cover. Shrubs include Hobe Sound cocoplum, dwarf Yaupon holly, dwarf firebush, Duranta gold mound, green island ficus. Trees will include silver green buttonwood, sabal palm, and live oak, in addition Florida thatch palm.

A proposed landscape plan utilizing only the approved plant pallet will be presented at the next Hobe Sound NAC meeting Oct. 18. ■

--Currents staff



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About Time

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Ridgeway seeks county's, state's help to protect 55+ status

One day, you think you're living happily in a quiet, adults-only neighborhood on the Treasure Coast, which is where you've bought your mobile home, landscaped your yard, and joined a half dozen clubs catering to older Americans. Then, suddenly, you discover that's all about to change.

"It's really upsetting to all of us," says a full-time resident of the Ridgeway 55+ subdivision on US Route 1, who prefers not to be identified. "Terrifying, actually, to think that we may lose what we have here, and that we might not be able to get it back."

The Ridgeway community may have unintentionally lost its 55+ status, which is an exception of the Federal Fair Housing and Trade Act that prohibits discrimination. The designation qualifies all who live in that community to have lower tax rates, lower mortgage rates, and often lower insurance rates.

"So it's more than just possibly changing the ages of our neighbors and losing the peace and quiet here," he says, "it's going to have an immediate impact on our pocketbooks and wallets, too."

The threat to the community's status

came from within, from one of its own members, when one resident sued the Ridgeway Property Owners Association for denying the right of an adult daughter to move into a second mobile home the resident owned, because she was under the age of 55.

That suit remains in litigation, which is why no board member or resident wants to be quoted "officially" by the news media.

The federal Housing and Urban Development regulations require that a minimum of 80% of the community's house-

holds have at least one member 55 years of age or older, so—on the surface of the argument, anyway—the owners association seemed to be on the right side of the law.

"But we also have a resident who has been buying up several of the properties as they've become available," he adds, "and his intention is to rent them, cheap, to low-income families. The truth is, he wants to be a slumlord...that's what he wants, but we're fighting hard to keep that from happening, so there's a lot at stake with this one lawsuit."

The suit against the property owners contends that Ridgeway no longer qualifies as a 55+ community, because, the suit charges, previous Ridgeway boards failed to maintain the HUD regulations requiring annual surveys be taken to verify household residency requirements, and that qualifying documents be posted in a conspicuous place on the property.

"The surveys were done. The paperwork used to be posted on the bulletin board in the clubhouse," the Ridgeway resident says, "but it's not there any longer...Someone took it; someone with evil intentions, I'm sure, took it."

The Ridgeway board officers hired an attorney, who has advised them to remove the 55+ community signs around their property and from all their identifying materials, such as their newspaper, *The Ridgeway Reporter*, which has caused even more anxiety among residents, resulting in some board resignations.

Although the president of the association, Maxine Montgomery, declined to comment about the suit or the Ridgeway Community's current status, she apparently brought the Ridgeway dilemma to Martin County Commissioner Doug Smith.

"I've been meeting with the people at Ridgeway for a period of time," Smith said at the July 24 commission meeting, when he requested that the commissioners include the protection of 55+ communities as part of its list of "legislative priorities" to be brought before the Florida legislature at its next session, which begins this month.

"It appears that the only recourse for Ridgeway and other 55+ communities like them may lie only with the Florida legislature," said Smith. After working with the property owners association and its attorney, it appeared that the best recourse is implementation of a Florida law to ensure the protection of their status. The county commission's role would not be to draft the legislation, however, but simply to help facilitate the process and to let legislators know that Martin County considers this issue important.

"The impact of this could be huge," Smith added. "This could potentially affect a lot of our residents, not only in Martin County, but throughout the state." The other commissioners concurred, and added the protection of 55-plus age-restricted communities like Ridgeway to its list of 2011-2012 legislative priorities.

No court date has been set as yet to hear the Ridgeway suit in Martin County. ■

—Currents staff

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Plans move forward to sell county property in Rio

Never, it seems, does Community Development Director Kevin Freeman make a request of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners regarding one of the county's Community Redevelopment Areas that a showdown among commissioners does not erupt.

The case held true at the July 24 BOCC meeting, when Freeman asked the commission to change the Rio Community Redevelopment Plan to bring it into compliance with state statutes.

Freeman said the changes to the plan were needed to facilitate the sale of four lots the county acquired on Northeast Dixie Highway in the Rio CRA. Pieces of three of the lots were used for the County Road 707 reconstruction project.

"Some interest has been shown by a developer in acquiring one of these properties for the Rio Town Center," Freeman said. "We need to get these properties on the tax roll to start bringing in revenue."

Commissioners voted 3-2 to add text to the plan that encourages public-private partnerships and enables the Community Redevelopment Agency to rent, lease, exchange, transfer or sell property to support economic development and small-business initiatives.

Bridge Road speeds to drop

After two years of concerted effort and many more years of complaining, Hobe Sound residents may soon get their wish for lower traffic speeds on Bridge Road.

Currently posted at 30 mph, the new speed limit will be dropped to 25 mph, according to Brian Good, of Kimley-Horn and Associates, a consultant for the Department of Community Development. Good made the announcement at the July 19 meeting of the Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee at Hobe Sound Community Center.

A recent study of Bridge Road traffic revealed that during peak hours during peak season, the number of vehicles traveling hourly on Bridge Road is 503, which translates into an average of 9,000 trips daily between A1A and U.S. Route 1.

Its capacity, however, has been determined by engineers to be 15,000 trips daily, so Bridge Road still has additional capacity for more cars. The accident rate, however, has been determined to be "above normal," which Good reported at the April meeting of the NAC.

In addition to lower posted speeds, the intersection at Lares Avenue and Bridge "probably" will become a four-way-stop intersection, Good said. It now is a right-turn-only intersection, which residents say is largely ignored, resulting in numerous collisions.

Both the Lares/Bridge Road intersection and the Hercules/Bridge Road intersection will be slightly raised and will have pavers as part of the redesign of Bridge Road. The back-in parking that currently is planned also will slow traffic, according to designers. ■

Commissioner Sarah Heard called the changes simply an opportunity "to go around the county commission."

"There are philosophical differences here," Commission Chairman Ed Ciampi responded. "Let's agree to disagree."

Commissioners Heard and Ed Fielding, who both dissented on the vote, questioned how much the county should get involved in redevelopment efforts and whether the county would get a fair deal on the land.

Freeman assured the commissioners that their policies follow the county's purchasing guidelines, and that all sale

and purchases above a certain dollar amount must be approved by the BOCC.

Freeman called the properties "a burden" on the county now, since they produce no revenue, yet the county must cover the cost of maintaining them. Investors have contacted him about buying the county-owned property at 1310 N.E. Dixie Highway in Rio.

Freeman said that the changes he was requesting are in advance of what he plans to introduce as an economic revitalization element for all the CRA plans—beginning first with the RIO plan—which

recently was researched and formulated by SDI of Hobe Sound, considered an expert in the field of neighborhood revitalization and redevelopment.

Freeman's office is currently coordinating a joint workshop for members of the commission and the members of the CRA in order to explain the economic element of the RIO plan and how it will work, prior to presenting it to the BOCC for final approval.

The RIO plan will serve as a template for the other CRAs, Freeman said. ■

—Currents staff

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EDITORIAL

We owe a huge 'thanks' to political forums

At the political forums this election season, we discovered for the first time county commission candidates' views about the county's Community Redevelopment Agency, an all-volunteer board of citizens that oversee the direction that redevelopment—and we hope revitalization—takes in his or her own community, where he or she actually lives or owns a business, using a portion of the funds that come from increases in property values within that particular community. The real, on-the-ground progress made in the seven CRAs since the board became an independent board two years ago has been nothing less than phenomenal.

We would not have known this without the forums.

We heard four county commission candidates say they do not support the current CRA structure, particularly John Haddox, Republican candidate for District 5, who says that CRAs have "out-lived their usefulness," and Anne Scott, Republican candidate for District 3, who says their intent is "empire building." She says only county commissioners should decide what redevelopment projects get

funded and where, regardless of which of the seven areas generates the revenue. Tom Fullman, District 1 Republican candidate, does not support them, and neither does Henry Copeland, another District 1 Republican candidate, who attempted to incite the Banner Lake crowd to DEMAND that they be a part of the Hobe Sound Community Development Area.

They already are.

One of the Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee members lives in Banner Lake, and she was in the audience, shaking her head from side to side as were other members of the NAC and the CRA, who also were befuddled at Mr. Copeland's obvious lack of knowledge about how the CRA works and how it is funded, and at Ms. Scott's assertion that the CRA is a "substitute government" working without county commission oversight. These local volunteers who attend meetings, voice their opinions, take an active part in the work of the CRA know first hand that's just not accurate.

The candidates who do support the work of the CRAs? Brandon Tucker, Doug Smith, and Patrick Hayes, all Republicans seeking District 5, District 1

and District 3 seats on the county commission, the same ones who have been vilified by the no-growth community and portrayed as big-developer puppets.

The CRAs focus on the small business and small property owners, and their vitality....or lack thereof....directly affects the quality of life in Martin County. We need a strong, active and independent CRA agency.

Another telling moment of the election came at the conclusion of the social media forum at the Boys and Girls Club, when candidates were asked what will they do should they not be elected. Patrick Hayes, District 3 Republican County Commission incumbent, listed some of the organizations with which he's been active for the past 15 years—on his own dime, on his own time—including serving on the boards of the Loxahatchee River Coalition, the Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, the Audubon Society of Martin County and the Marine Resources Council, as well as chair of the Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District. He also serves on a dozen other boards and committees and councils representing the county.

In fact, contrary to the political rhetoric being promulgated that says otherwise, he championed legislation that protects the Indian River estuary, our shoreline protections are stronger, and all our wetlands are protected. Yes, they are all protected. He's received national recognition from prestigious environmental organizations for his work to protect the Indian River and to improve water quality.

Compare his response, which is to continue his long-term activism in Martin County, to Anne Scott's response: "Oh, I'll be around. I'm not going anywhere."

She moved to Jupiter Island full time in 2004, and how does she spend her time? She attended her first Hobe Sound NAC meeting in July. First one ever. She does belong to the Audubon Society, some garden clubs, some women's clubs, but she lacks the depth of understanding required of an effective commissioner that comes only from working in the trenches to protect our natural resources, particularly our water resources.

We can thank our political forums for giving us a clearer picture of our candidates, especially of Patrick Hayes, a true environmentalist. ■

GUEST EDITORIAL

Cooperation, compromise keys to Martin's future

It's been almost three weeks since the "Extreme Water Park" vote by the Board of County Commissioners, and I am still thinking about that vote and the future of Martin County.

I was pleased by the outcome, yes, but I was more pleased by the civility shown by ALL sides on the BOCC. I firmly believe that if this county is to move away from the no-growth/pro-growth impasse that both sides need to start acting

in a spirit of respect and cooperation.

Do we want to end up like the counties to the north and south of us? I think almost everyone will agree we don't. Do we want a sustainable economy for our future? Again, most will agree that we do. The tricky part will be getting there, and the only way to do it will be cooperation and compromise.

Cooperation and compromise are difficult in the best of times. When re-

crimination and accusation are thrown in they become close to impossible. We need to stop demonizing each other and work together.

I'm not naïve. We won't agree on everything, but if we try to disagree respectfully, it will be easier to agree the next time around.

I hope that our representatives, present and future, would take this into consideration. I hope that the public,

pro-growth and no-growth and slow-growth, will listen too.

Martin County is not like anyplace else. One hears that constantly.

"I moved here because....."

"I had to get away from....."

To keep it that way we are all going to have to work together and do it like the neighbors we all are. ■

By Pat Martin
Preserve Martin County

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

And now, the rest of the story...

Dear Editor:

How Now?

I generally agree that a picture is worth a thousand words, but when a photo of me wearing an utterly fabulous cow suit and a ratty blond wig topped with a faux diamond tiara appeared in this small-town publication (June 2012, Pg 13), I thought that several more explanatory sentences might be required.

In the timeless words of Ricky Ricardo to his beloved Lucy, "I got some 'splainin' to do."

This past year's Apollo Schoolhouse Foundation fundraiser theme was Ten Years of Royalty, referring to the decade-long tradition of crowning a "prom" king and queen who raise the most money for the Foundation. The events are always themed, and participants are encouraged to dress the part.

In past years, my wife and I have dressed as movie stars, Greek gods, and penguins, so I raided our boxes of old Halloween costumes and our daughters' dress-up clothes seeking to conjure something regal.

On the night of the party, I entered the room, accompanied the Queen of the May, and encountered a genuine Prom Queen, some British royalty, a handful of archetypically Charlemagnes and several elegant princesses.

They all looked very lovely, but none, in my opinion, approached the level of true beauty achieved by the only attending Dairy Queen. Nobody got it. C'est la vie. The path less taken is not always an easy one.

Tom Fucigna
aka The Dairy Queen
Hobe Sound



Cindy and Tom Fucigna at the Apollo School Prom

What a lousy paper!

Dear Editor,

I am offended by the picture of Anne Scott that you chose to print in your publication. Mrs. Scott is such an attractive individual that I didn't think that she could take a bad picture. You managed to do it, however, by photographing her picture and left her looking like "There's something about Mary".

It is also obvious that your picture of Hayes and Smith are professionally done.

You also managed to misspell Henry Copeland's last name.

What a biased and tacky little publication.

By the way, Anne Scott will be elected to become the new District 3 Commissioner in August, winning by a landslide over Hayes. You have endorsed the wrong candidate. Anne Scott will be your representative on the Commission. And lucky for you she WILL listen to her constituents.

Myra Galoci
Jensen Beach

Happiness is Uncle Jack, revisited

My first-born grandson asked me to write the “story of his life” before he went off in July to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. At 18, he still has a lot of living to do before a genuine “story” can be told, but I dug out all my photos of him. In the process, I found tucked in with other memorabilia, a newspaper clipping from the *Homestead News Leader* dated Sept. 28, 1971. I read it again, perhaps for the first time in four decades, and I’m glad I did. I want to share it with you.

Written by columnist Mark Hierholzer, the column is titled, “Happiness is Uncle Jack.”

Happiness is a state of mind. It’s an attitude a person carries around with him. The amazing thing about happiness, though, is that it really has little to do with a person’s situation in life.

We’ve all seen people who are hell-bent on attaining something—a reputation, a new car, a cushier job, a curvier girl, MORE MONEY. Most of us firmly believe that we absolutely need SOMETHING other than what we have—most of the time, we’re not sure what—to make us happy.

I suppose it’s good in a way. Man probably would never accomplish much in the way of “progress,” if he didn’t have this compulsion for new, curious somethings. But there’s a bad side to this compulsion too. Most us—maybe

because we’ve been brought up in the traditional American “better thyself” Commandment—are letting ourselves get hung up about getting ahead.

The happiest people I’ve known were not necessarily the most fortunate. They didn’t have much money, a big car, a curvey girl friend, or snazzy clothes, but they had themselves.

My Uncle Jack was one of those people. He was my uncle, technically, but since he was only a year older than me, he seemed more like a best friend.

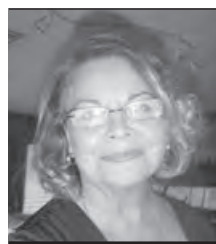
We started school together in first grade. I was just one of those nice guys who got into trouble by being talked into it by somebody else. Jack was the talker.

Anyway, he hated our first-grade teacher. I still have a picture of her at home. She looked a little like George Meany. Had the same personality, too.

One day, after she had done some particularly mean thing—cuffed us for chewing gum in class, I think—Jack muttered, not quite under his breath, “You old witch!” Jack was great at cussing. He could cuss better than anybody I ever met.

The teacher picked him up by the back of the neck, carried him up to the front of the room, grabbed a paddle she kept in her desk, turned him over her knee, and went to it.

Jack took it for about three smacks, then wet all over her. That’s the kind of buy Jack was. Very loose, in every way.



Barbara Clowdus

Unfiltered

That’s the last time she ever paddled Jack. You’re probably asking yourself what all this has to do with happiness, but just be patient. You see, this is the point: Jack just had a way of snatching happiness from a situation. Any situation.

Muscular dystrophy finally caught up with my Uncle Jack. He’d had it all his life, but you really didn’t think about it until he couldn’t walk anymore. Somehow, it got everybody down but Jack. He couldn’t play baseball, so he memorized the names and records of every baseball player that ever played—I mean every one.

He wanted to be a sports announcer. He knew he never could, so he used to turn the sound off the Saturday afternoon game and play announcer for everyone in the room. Best games I ever saw. And funny, too. Jack had a way with words, especially cuss words. It was like listening to what real sports announcers always wanted to say but couldn’t. We used to call him the “wheelchair wizard.”

One scene really sticks in my mind. It was the day this friend of my father’s brought his three girls over to visit. Jack was living with us then.

They were in the living room drinking black coffee—that’s how sophisticated they were, they drank it black—when my brothers and I rolled Jack out.

Jack was pretty fat. It took three of us to lift him out of bed.

When they saw him, looks of shocked bewilderment and pity passed over their faces. Jack didn’t notice it. He was stupid like that. Instead, he started talking to them, led the conversation around to jokes, and started his regular spiel. He had a regular one, too. I think he knew every joke that was ever told.

Most of them you’d heard before, like: “What’s yellow and goes ‘click-click’?” A ball-point banana! But he used to say them so fast and with such pleasure that you couldn’t help laughing. All three of them spilt their coffee. It got so bad, one of the girls had to leave. We finally rolled him out of the room.

Jack died a few months later. He was watching a football game on TV in a hospital room. He went quickly, painlessly. I’ll never forget him.

I’ll also never forget the lesson he taught me: You’re happy when you decide to be happy. It’s that simple. ■

Hobe Sound CURRENTS

PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

Barbara Clowdus

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Permission to travel

If we’d known, we’d have slept in! As it was, we were showered, breakfasted and packed, ready to hit the road at nine o’clock. Our next mandated sleeping place was a 250-mile drive away—say six or seven hours without pushing, with time for coffee-breaks. Our Russian visa (USSR, at that time) limited us to specific roads and specific accommodations on specific dates.

After three nights in a cabin at the Moscow camping ground, using up some of our illegal roubles, we were ready for the road to Minsk. Finding our exit blocked by roadworks was a serious setback. If we didn’t make Minsk that night, we would be in breach of our visa, which might have meant all kinds of unpleasant complications. Grading the road between us and the highway—well, OK; spreading tar for half a mile in both lanes, with no way around, was a ridiculous thing to do.

I conveyed that opinion to the foreman, and begged him to stop. Sorry, no can do, sport. Orders are orders. They had to finish the job today. We couldn’t leave before about 5 o’clock; the tar ought to be dry by then. We discussed this for a while, man to man: he in Russian, I in English, assisted by vigorous hand-wavings. In the end, he conceded that his orders didn’t actually specify that both lanes be done at the same time.



Gordon Barlow

Outside, Looking In

That still left two hundred yards of slow-drying tar on both lanes, and one lane tar-free after that. We waited as long as we prudently could before crossing our fingers and crawling gingerly over it at nought miles an hour. But of course my little white Beetle picked up a million black specks before we reached the graded part. I tried hard to undo the damage that night, but you can never get all of that stuff off once it’s dry. Ach, it could have been worse.

Russia was the only country that limited our travelling freedom to this degree. Every nation has its restricted areas, but nowhere else did we have a rigid itinerary and schedule. Usually, we got our visas either a day or two before entering a country or at the border on the way in. Russia required a bit more notice than that.

However, it wasn’t always wise to get a visa too soon. Linda accidentally got herself locked out of the entire Arab world when she applied for a Syrian visa in London six months ahead of

time. A few days after we began travelling together, I noticed some Arabic writing in her passport, in ink, put there by the Syrian Embassy in response to her visa application. It didn’t look like a visa; but what else could it be?

The British Consul in Istanbul (whose terms of reference included helping *Australians*, since there was no Australian Consulate there) translated the words for us. “The Republic of Syria, mindful of its moral duty to support its dispossessed brothers in occupied Palestine, does not issue visas to persons intending to visit the Zionist entity calling itself Israel.” Or words to that effect.

Oh dear! No Arab nation would ever issue a visa in the face of such a note. Either we abandoned our travel plans for the Middle East or... well, or not, as it happened. The British Consul, gallant fellow, issued Linda a UK passport good for twelve months, and we mailed her Australian one back to London.

So we did our Middle East thing—and never even made it to Israel after all. We only spent a few days in Syria, on our way from Palestine to Lebanon, and we bought our visa at the border-crossing while the bus waited. ■

A native Australian, Gordon Barlow is an economist, an international traveler and political commentator who lives in the Cayman Islands.

State of the Hobe Sound Chamber: good!

Just like any other small business, the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce got rocked by the economic ills of the country beginning in 2009, but it was not knocked down—at least, not all the way down. Now, it's back, bigger and stronger than ever, according to its president, Tom Balling, president and COO of Treasure Coast Irrigation/Rood Landscape in Hobe Sound.

At the July breakfast meeting of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce at Hobe Sound Bible College, Balling began with a brief "state of the chamber" address to give members a snapshot of recent events.

"We were able to get out from under a lease-purchase agreement (for their

property on A1A that houses their current offices) with the help from our local bank—and you know who you are—that has greatly reduced our debt burden," he said. "We have two personal loans left, but by the end of the year, those will be paid, too, and we'll be debt free."

The organization, comprised of business owners, executives, non-profits and volunteers, will continue to lease their office space at its current location. The original purchase seemed to be a good idea at the time, Balling said, because the economy was "rolling along," but when it stopped, the debt load was crushing.

The Hobe Sound Chamber is not alone in renegotiating their lease-purchase agreement in order to create a more fiscally sound financial picture. The Pine School in Hobe Sound recently announced a similar arrangement for its campus on US Hwy 1.

"This means that the Hobe Sound Chamber can bring value to your business," he added, "instead of you keeping us in business."

He mentioned particularly the revamped Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce website that includes a directory of businesses and enables members ease and speed in interacting with the Chamber staff.

Balling introduced the sponsor of the breakfast, Laurie Gaylord, a candidate for Martin County Superintendent of Schools, who said she thought people



Laurie Gaylord, center, with two of her prize pupils, Sean Lopez, 12, and Raquel Renda, 6, of Wellington. Both students have profound hearing loss, which would be undetectable by most people. "I'm very grateful for the gift Ms. Laurie has given me," Sean said. "Speech."



Tom Balling
Hobe Sound Chamber President



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might be interested in her work "outside of school boarding."

A Martin County School Board member for the past 16 years, Gaylord also is a listening and spoken language therapist, specializing in children with cochlear implants.

She brought with her to the meeting, two young students with implants, who each took to the podium and spoke, clearly and unhesitatingly.

"Their hearing loss is so profound," Gaylord said, "they would not be able to develop speech had they not had implants."

The key to success, Gaylord explained, is early intervention. In most hospitals today, hearing is screened prior to a baby's leaving the hospital. A few years ago, that was not the case, so hearing losses were not detected until children were toddlers, which can have a profound effect on a child's overall emotional development, as well as learning to speak.

"We take hearing so much for granted," she said, "but a deaf baby who's crying because of their distress just does not hear

those footsteps coming down the hall."

A cochlear (koe-klee-er) implant is a device that provides direct electrical stimulation to the auditory nerve in the inner ear, because the tiny hair cells in the part of the inner ear called the cochlea, have been damaged. With a cochlear implant, the damaged hair cells are bypassed, and the auditory nerve is stimulated directly.

"We hear with our brains," Gaylord said. "The sound they 'hear' is not what we hear."

The implants themselves, therefore, do not result in "restored" or "cured" hearing, but it allows for a perception of the sensation of sound, which with therapy, students will be able to interpret as words and will learn to speak.

"This surgery is not successful for adults who did not have language skills before their hearing loss," she said, "but it has been successful for those who did."

The highest rate of success, though, has come with young children. ■

Barn Theatre's season begins

Tickets for the Barn Theatre's 42nd season are on sale now, and "Natalie Needs a Nightie" opens the series, running from Sept. 21 through Oct. 7. A farce by Neil and Caroline Shaffer, the mistaken identity romp is a guaranteed laugh riot. Tommy Briggs's boss expects his executives to be married so Tommy arranges for someone to pose as his wife but mix-ups occur and he ends up with more wives and babies than he should have.

"Over the River and through the Woods" runs from Nov. 2-18. This family comedy by Joe DiPietro features Nick, a single man in New Jersey who visits his grandparents every Sunday. Nick is planning to move away for his dream job

but his grandparents have other plans.

The rest of the season will include: "Three Murders and it's only Monday," a comedy-spoof by Pat Cook; "The 1940's Radio Hour" a musical by Waldon Jones; Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Nile," a well-loved classic who-dun-it, and "The Twilight of the Golds" closes the season in May.

Season ticket holders receive preferred seating for all six shows for only \$100. Modified season tickets (four shows) are also available for \$72. Individual tickets go on sale on Sept. 4.

Season tickets can be purchased by calling the Barn Theatre at 772-287-4884 or go to the box office at 2400 SE Ocean Boulevard in Stuart. ■

Local artist rebuilds clock, restores rare sculpture

Two hundred years ago in France, a talented artist sculpted an exquisite bronze of a woman and a child, which a clockmaker fashioned into a French silk thread mantel clock. Four months ago, that clock found its way to Hobe Sound in pieces after someone had broken it apart with the apparent intention of selling only the bronze.

"The sculpture was broken and much of the clock parts were dirty and rusted," says Gabe Ellenson, of About Time in Hobe Sound, "so it looked as if perhaps someone had stored it their garage, or outside in a shed for a long time."

An antiques dealer had brought the box of parts to Ellenson to see if the clock could be rebuilt. Ellenson said no, at first, no way, he added, then he started picking up the pieces and turning them over in his hand for closer examination.

"At the time, the French silk clock was considered the best in technology in the world," says Ellenson. "This was in the 1800s, and it stayed at the top for about 100 years. I've repaired a lot of them, but this one, which I would estimate to have been made somewhere between 1820 and 1840 was in really, really bad shape."

Clockmakers used a length of silk thread with a loop on the end to attach the clock's pendulum to the movement inside, and the swing of the pendulum could be controlled by adjusting the loop, Ellenson explains, which made the clock easier to adjust for more accurate time.

"Now, don't think it's the accuracy you get with today's clocks," Ellenson adds. "It's not, but it was considered accurate for that period."

Holding pieces of the bronze in his hand made Ellenson wonder about the person who could destroy something of such great beauty, he says, in order to make just a few dollars in return. The

longer he examined the sculpture, the more determined he became to at least try to reconstruct the clock, as long as he was allowed to take as much time as necessary to get the work done.

It took four months, working on it every day between other clock and watch repairs that came into his shop, amid the requests for his specially designed jewelry, which is Ellenson's passion these days.

"At first, the clock went together pretty fast," he says, "so I thought that this might not be so bad."

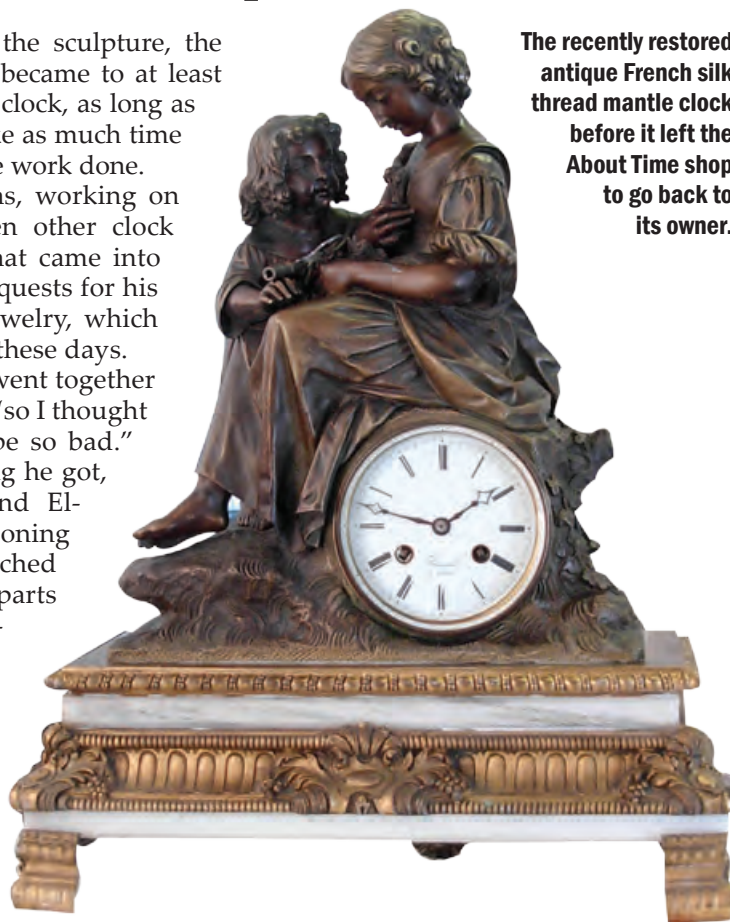
Then the farther along he got, the worse it got, and Ellenson began questioning his sanity as he searched through boxes of old parts he had stored looking for knobs and screws, searching for clock parts of about the same age, and for the specialty tools that are no longer available to make the repairs.

One of the biggest challenges was making a new mainspring to fit inside a barrel, he says, which he discovered through trial and error had to be exactly 17.5 mm wide and 47 inches long.

"It took one and a half days—measuring it, piercing it, cutting it—just to make that spring," he says. "When wound, it holds a lot of power, so if it's too strong, you cannot wind the clock."

Even more challenging was making a frame of three solid brass plates thick enough to support the weight of two pieces of marble, which had to be cut out in the middle to allow the pendulum to swing. The pieces were riveted, then drilled, and everything screwed together. The finished clock weighs more than 50 pounds.

"Then I looked at it and thought, 'something's missing,'" he says. "Then I realized, the clock face on



The recently restored antique French silk thread mantel clock before it left the About Time shop to go back to its owner.



Gabe Ellenson, of About Time, picks through the box of parts he used to reassemble an antique clock.



A close up view of the perfect alignment of the "new" bezel to the clock face with the glass that Ellenson cut to fit.

the front had a broken bezel, and I wondered where in the world I was going to find one to match." But he found one in a box of his own "junk," he says, and the fit was perfect. He cut a piece of glass, and the clock finally was finished.

He wound it, the pendulum swung rhythmically, and on the hour, a tiny bell inside chimed.

"Anyone who knows about clocks will be able to tell that the clock has been repaired, which decreases its value," he adds, "but because I used authentic parts and the techniques of the original clockmakers, they're not going to be sure when those repairs were made." He smiles.

The mother-and-child design is a departure from the standard of the time, Ellenson adds, which were either Catholic religious buildings, or Greek or Roman mythological gods or goddesses. Most clocks were not signed by their makers until after the 1840s, so the artist and the clockmaker are not known.

"You can tell, though, that this was a famous artist of the time," he said. "The detail in the mother's facial expression, in their clothing and the delicacy of their fingers and their hands tells you that. You do not normally see that kind of detail. It's an amazing work."

The skill of the artist convinced Ellenson to tackle the project in the first place, and it was Ellenson's skill—that of another kind of artist from another century—to bring the sculpture back to life.

"I'm glad I did it," he says, "but I think I'm more glad it's done, and I'd never do it again." ■

—Barbara Clowdus



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Toastmasters in prison cha

Few organizations have the impact on prison conduct inside and recidivism rates outside as the venerable speakers club, Toastmasters International, Inc. Over the past decade, volunteers have been attempting to spread the organization's impact, one prison at a time.

The slam of a steel door shutting behind you, punctuated by the thud of an electronic bolt, says more clearly than the sign outside the gates that you have just entered a prison. Visitors—thoroughly screened, interrogated, documented and approved in advance—can leave the Okeechobee Correctional Institution when their business concludes.

They breathe deep the hot, dry air of Okeechobee County in central Florida as they walk away, and often cannot help but to look back at the rolls of twisted razor wire atop its prison fences glinting in the sun like flashes of bait fish in the famous lake nearby.

Some, like Rich Otten of Hobe Sound, carry with them small pieces of the souls of the inmates incarcerated there—touches of despair, undoubtedly—but mostly he carries within himself the tiny glimmers of hope shared by men firmly on a path to accountability, self-acceptance, and self-confidence, all made possible by participation in the Ambassador Gavel Club.

"These Gavel Clubs are part of the Toastmasters International organization," says Otten, himself a Distinguished Toastmaster, the highest level of Toastmaster members can achieve. Only seven-tenths of one percent of all Toastmasters earn that designation, he explains, which Otten attained this spring after 12 years as a member.

"They are structured exactly the same," he adds. "The meetings are almost exactly the same and are designed to improve a person's speaking, listening, and leadership skills...it's just that the inmates are not full-fledged Toastmasters, because they are exempt from paying the international dues that are required of other clubs."

Another non-profit organization, Taking Flight, assists the organization of the prison version of Toastmasters—something it has done since 2002—because evidence submitted by wardens seems to indicate a dramatic decline of the 50-70 percent recidivism rate of the general prison population to less than 10 percent for those inmates who have participated in a prison Toastmasters program.

Taking Flight provides the expertise to start the clubs and provides access to prison officials, then works through a local Toastmasters Club, often assisted by various churches and civic organizations, to form and sustain the prison club. When Otten was approached about starting a Gavel Club at the Okeechobee prison, he agreed enthusiastically.

"Of course, I didn't really think about what might be involved with doing that at the time," he says, "but I guess I'm a Toastmasters 'junkie.' I belong to two Toastmasters Clubs, one in Hobe Sound and one in Jupiter. They're a lot of fun, they challenge you, and you learn a lot about yourself and about lots of interesting people, so I thought, why not in a prison?"

THE GAVEL CLUB DIFFERENCE

The structure is the same as Toastmasters with speakers, evaluators, a Table Topics Master, grammarian, a timer, and the ubiquitous Ah Master, (sometimes called the Wizard of Ahs) who clicks at every "ah," "uh," or "hmm," except that all the members of the Gavel Club are incarcerated. The club, which also has elected officers and runs its meetings under Robert's Rules of Order, is comprised entirely of prisoners, and is run by prisoners, for the benefit of prisoners.

The response has been a little overwhelming, Otten says, who travels two hours to get to Okeechobee from Hobe Sound. "It's a beautiful, peaceful drive," he says, "so I don't mind, when I can get the time." A Coldwell Banker Realtor, he also owns a music deejay business, DancinSound, which is in demand for area parties, weddings and other events, so he does not get to Okeechobee as much as he would like, he says, yet he con-



Rich Otten, second from left, introduces Martin County Commissioner Patrick Hayes (in suit and tie) to the new club members. Commissioner Hayes sponsored the new club personally. Photo courtesy of Martin County Corrections.



Asst. Warden Roger McCracken received a standing ovation from Gavel Club members at Okeechobee Correctional Institution in appreciation of his support.

"The clubs meet weekly," Otten says, "but the officers also meet weekly to plan the meeting, but in both cases, the inmates must be 'called out' from their cells. If correctional officers do not call them out for whatever reason, then there's no meeting. Without regular meetings, well, the members cannot do their projects, make their speeches and everything just falls apart."

OFFICIALS PRAISE PROGRAM

Prison officials applaud the program, including the founder of Taking Flight, Paul Hagen.

"When you have a Toastmasters meeting in prison," he says, "it's like opening the curtains, opening a window on a dark, musty room. You will be able to see the despair and frustration leave their faces. You will be able to see their identity change from captive prisoners to people of hope. The difference is that dramatic. The difference is that obvious, and based on my experience, the difference stays when they are released."

Marilyn Burns, a member of the prison staff at Okeechobee, says that the demeanor of inmates even before they are released affects the entire prison population. "Since they are more self-confident, it's easier to communicate with them" she says. "There's none of this shaking-in-their-shoes, looking at the floor when they're asked a question. They'll look you in the eye when they answer, and they'll treat you respectfully. There's a world of difference; they set an example for everyone else incarcerated here. Every prison should have a Gavel Club."



Rich Otten, of Hobe Sound, commits his time, energy and resources to taking Toastmasters inside prison walls.

tinues to help start other gavel clubs at other correctional institutions, including Belle Glade, Indiantown, Pahokee, and now, in Moorehaven, on the west side of Lake Okeechobee.

After a club is formed, Otten stays involved, he says, because it's important that "someone on the outside" is paying attention; otherwise, with cuts in staff, a club for inmates can sometimes lose its priority.

anges culture, breeds hope



the members of the Collective Minds Gavel Club at the Martin County Correctional Institution in correctional Institution.



Ambassadors Gavel Club member Clifford Rodriguez practices the Toastmaster tenet of looking directly at each member of the audience.

A district judge in Louisiana, Judge Robert Downing, says that better speaking skills not only helps former inmates get jobs, but helps them stay out of trouble. "Part of Toastmasters training is learning to accept criticism without resorting to violence," he says. "In its first five years at the C. Paul Phelps Correctional Center, only one of 80 inmates released after participating in a Toastmasters program was rearrested."

Part of the reason for the low return rate, may be because inmates must "qualify" for membership by not getting into trouble or having issues with guards or other

inmates. They also are interviewed by the club officers, and the club members determine if their motives are positive and will benefit the club as a whole prior to voting for acceptance or denial. Membership is limited to 40 inmates, primarily because of the cost of additional supplies.

FUNDING GAVEL CLUBS

"The cost to sponsor a club is \$100," Otten says, "but then it takes another \$250 to purchase the books that each member needs, so that takes care of only about 40 members." There's a waiting list at the Okeechobee prison.

Toastmasters Clubs do not accept donations, Otten says; however, the Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach County in Jupiter will accept donations to its St. Dismas Prison Ministry Fund, named after the penitent thief crucified with Jesus, in order to assist in the formation of new clubs. Volunteers like Otten pay their own expenses, however, so finding someone to make the long drives can be difficult.

"I wish there were more people who could spend some time with the inmates," he says. "These men are ordinary people who made a mistake...I know one who was an Air Force pilot, another who is the author of five published books, another who owns his own karate business...and they're just trying to better themselves."

There are only spotty vocational training programs in Florida prisons, according to prison officials, few marketable skills being taught—although most have limited re-entry programs for the last six to 12 months of a prisoner's sentence—adding significantly to the value that Gavel Clubs bring to all prison populations, especially to those inmates who are about to reenter society.

"I think I get more out of it than the prisoners do," Otten says, "but it's kind of hard to convince volunteers of that when you first tell them what it's about and what you're doing and why."

INMATES' PERSPECTIVES

Inmates themselves would probably disagree with Otten about who gets the most benefit from the club. They talk openly about the difference it's made in their lives, and their speeches often reflect the transformative nature of self-examination—including their accomplishments, as well as their failures—accountability, forgiveness and goal-setting. They come to terms with the choices they made that landed them in jail.

"It was my choice to jump in that car....," said one inmate in his speech, and at the moment he decided to run from police, he looked in his rear-view mirror, he tells the group, but he did not see a police officer's anger. "Instead I saw disappointment on his face." Some in the audience nod their heads, others



The assistant warden, Roger McCracken, left, listens to a "pitch" to sell five-year-old magazines door to door.

look down at their hands folded in their laps, all share an understanding that their choices and their consequences have set them apart. For some, it's for a few months, and for others, it means years away from home and family.

"If I don't get parole," says another, "then I'll be here for 10 years. I have a little girl, nine years old, who clings to me when she comes here and it's time to say good-bye. She begs me, 'Just come home with me, Daddy. Please, please come home.' She doesn't understand."

The Gavel Club, however, "changed everything," he says, his eyes misting. "I know now it's important to hold my head up, to listen to her, to set a good example for her, and to let her know that I love her. I look her in the eye to tell her I love her, so she knows that's the truth... that's what this club has done for me... more than I can say. Now I know how to communicate with my daughter." ■

--Barbara Cloudus

For more information, Taking Flight can be contacted by e-mail at info@takingflight.org or at our mailing address: PO Box 2161, Orange, TX 77631-2161. Taking Flight charges no service fees for its support. The program depends entirely on donations.

The Rev. Deacon Donald L. Battiston, the Catholic Chaplain for the Prison Ministry Team, has set up a fund for donations to help fund Gavel Clubs. Send contributions to the Saint Dismas Fund, Diocese of Palm Beach, 1701 Indian Creek Parkway, Jupiter, FL 33458. For more information, call 561-746-3149 or 561-662-0832, or email don@prisonchaplain.net.

And for information about Toastmasters International in either Hobe Sound or Jupiter, contact Rich Otten at dancensound@comcast.net.



Matthew Rodrigues, forefront, and Herman Minor learn to debate a position convincingly. Seated at the table, from left, are Hubert Myers and Larry Barber. All belong to the Ambassadors Gavel Club.

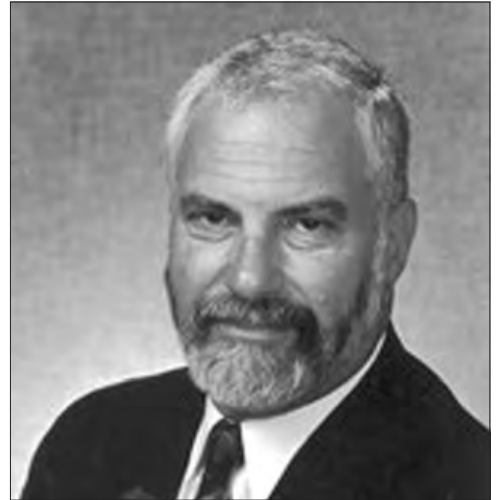
◆ **GENEVIEVE "GENIE" GAMBLE, 87**, of Port Saint Lucie, formerly a 20-year resident of Hobe Sound, died July 24 at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center in Fort Pierce. Born May 14, 1925, in Beaver, Pa., she was a former customer service representative for the United States Postal Service and a member of St. Christopher Catholic Church in Hobe Sound. She also was a member and past matron of Order of Eastern Star Chapter in Rochester, NY. Survivors include daughters, Carolyn (Paul) Gorski of Williamson, NY; Katherine Rudy of Rochester, NY and Port St.

Lucie; son, William (Jean) Gamble of Oswego, NY; brothers, Dr. William (Carolyn) Straile and Dr. Donald Straile; 10 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul E. Gamble.

◆ **ROBERT "BOB" FRIEDMAN, 71**, died of pancreatic cancer on July 11. A Jupiter town councilman, the Jupiter Inlet lighthouse was bathed in blue floodlights on the night of July 14 in honor of his service. He also was vice chancellor of the Board of Regents, vice president of Florida Atlantic University,

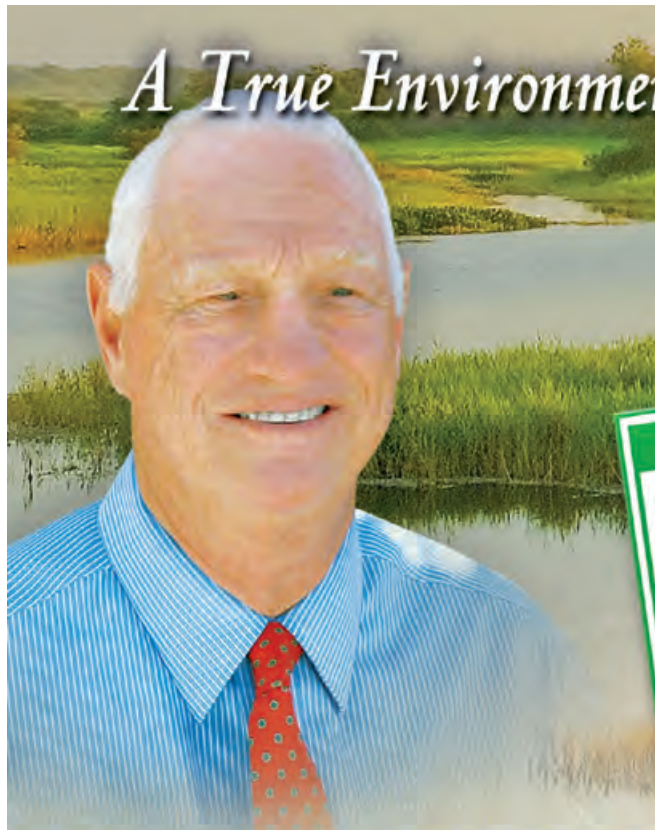
chairman of Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization, and had served five years with the South Florida Water Management District. A permanent resident of Jupiter since 1996, he was a graduate of the University of Illinois, an architect and educator with a passion for education, boating and for the Town of Jupiter. He is survived by his wife of 49 years René, daughter Robin Friedman; son Ronald and his wife Allysa Friedman; grandchildren Cal, Myles, and Cameron; his sisters: Susan Wislow and her husband Bob, Linda Kahn and her husband Aaron Burstein;

as well as several nieces and nephews. Memorial donations may be made to FAU Lifelong Learning Society of Jupiter, Attn: Josette Valenza, 5353 Parkside Drive PA 136, Jupiter, FL 33458.



◆ **THELMA S. "DOLLY" SMITH, 83**, of Hobe Sound, and formerly of Yardley, Pa., died Sunday, July 29, with her family by her side at the VNA Hospice House in East Stroudsburg, Pa. The widow of Ronald Arthur Smith, she was born on Nov. 2, 1928, in Trenton, N.J., the daughter of the late Harry F. and Thelma (Fedde) Sellinger. She was a member of the Heritage Ridge Country Club in Hobe Sound. Surviving are four children: Carol Browning and her husband, Howard, of Stroudsburg; Ronald Arthur Smith II and his wife, Stephanie, of Yardley; Kurt David Smith and his wife, Roxanne,

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of Doylestown; and Bruce Lee Smith and his wife, Patricia, of Levittown; a brother, Norman Sellinger and his wife, Susan, of Morrisville; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a brother, Harry F. Sellinger Jr. Memorial remembrances be made to the VNA Hospice House at University Ridge, c/o VNA Hospice of Monroe County, 502 VNA Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.

◆ **LILLIAN HOWLAND OWEN, 94**, of Hobe Sound, died July 23 at her residence. Born in New York, she was a descendant of Henry Howland, one of the original members of the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. She served as vice president and treasurer of Bob Owen Associates. In St. Paul, Minn., she was a member of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church and the Women's College. After moving to Hobe Sound, she joined Peace Presbyterian Church in Stuart and was a founding member of the Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club. Survivors include her husband, Robert Louis Owen Sr.; one daughter, Margaret (Mark) Hier; and her sister, Marion Staebel. She was preceded in death by her son, Robert Louis Owen Jr; her parents, Arthur and Samantha Howland; and her siblings, Leona Whaley and Milton Howland. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to Port Salerno Elementary School, 4890 SE Jack Ave., Stuart, FL 34997.

◆ **STUART E. "MICHAEL" FIRTH, 84**, of Hobe Sound, died July 13, at his residence. Born in New York, NY, he moved to Hobe Sound in 1992, coming from Hillsboro Beach, Fla. He was a retired sales representative, having worked in NY for many years, and was an Army veteran serving in Occupied Japan. He received the World War II Victory Medal and Army of Occupation Medal-Japan. He was a member of the Lost Lake Golf Club. Survivors include his sons, David, of Louisa, Va., and Christopher Firth of Hobe Sound; daughter, Mary Stuart Hoffman of New Preston, Conn.; eight grandchildren; and five great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary.

◆ **VICTORIA R. "RITA" KNIGHT, 86**, of Hobe Sound, Fla., formerly of Melrose, Pa., and co-owner of Knight Harrison Fuel Co., died Tuesday, July 10, at Sawtelle Family Hospice House in Reading, Pa. Born and raised in Wakefield, Pa., Mrs. Knight lived in Melrose for more than 50 years and in Florida for the past 20 years. She ran Knight Harrison Fuel Co. in Melrose with her husband, Don, for more than 13 years. Wife of the late Donald C. Knight, Mrs. Knight is survived by a son, Terry D. of North Reading; two sisters, Rose Pallidino of Peabody and Frances Arsenault of Reading; six grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

◆ **BILLIE CLAIRE HAFHEY, 55**, of Hobe Sound, died July 3, at her residence. Mrs. Haffey was born in West Memphis, Ark., and moved to Hobe Sound 11 years ago from Destin, Fla. She was in marketing and customer service for Green Biochemical Retail Company. Survivors include her husband Charles (Charlie) Haffey of Hobe Sound; sons Niles B. Herr of Angier, N.C., John M. Bermel of Stuart, Nicholas J. Haffey of Palm Beach, and Ryan Haffey of Palm Beach; her mother, Bernice Fader, of Hobe Sound, and seven grandchildren. She was predeceased by her father, William S. Cheek, Jr.

◆ **LILLIAN M. LUCAS, 83**, of Hobe Sound, died July 3 at the Manors of Hobe Sound. Born in Millersburg, Ken., Mrs. Lucas had previously lived in Paris, Ky., before moving to Hobe Sound 45 years ago. She was a private duty personal care giver for 35 years in the Stuart and Hobe Sound area. She was a member of the Hobe Sound Bible Church. Mrs. Lucas is survived by her husband, Jay Lucas of Hobe Sound, ; son, John Sexton and his wife, Carol, of Stuart; daughter, Barbara Powell and her husband, Cecil of Paris, Ky.; grandchildren, Tasha, Lauren, Cathy, Kandice, Vanessa, Mike, Penny, and Debbie; nine great grandchildren, and five great great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her first husband, Thomas Sexton; second husband, Paul Bailey; son, Thomas Clay Sexton, and granddaughter, Kelly Powell. Memorial contributions may

be made in her honor to Hobe Sound Bible Church, PO Box 1065 Hobe Sound, Florida 33475-1065.

◆ **ALLEN CROMER SHULER II, 68**, of Hobe Sound, died June 29, at Stuart Nursing and Restorative Care. Born in Jacksonville, Mr. Shuler had previously lived in Orlando before relocating to the Hobe Sound area 10 years ago. He was a Command Master Chief for the United States Navy, and retired after 26 years of service, serving during the Vietnam War where he did three tours of duty. Mr. Shuler was also a 32nd degree Mason, and a past member of the VFW. He was an avid Harley Davidson motorcycle enthusiast and worked for Homeland Security until he retired in 2012. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Carol C. Shuler of Hobe Sound; son, Allen Cromer Shuler, III of Little Rock, Ark; two grandchildren, Adrian Shuler and Cassidy Shuler; three sisters, Mary Shuler of Las Cruces, N.M., Carolyn Ferguson of Marathon, Fla., and Kathleen Bills of McCook, Neb. He was predeceased by his sister, Louise.

◆ **EVELYN K. TOLBERT, 87**, of Hobe Sound, died June 23, at Salerno Bay Manor in Port Salerno. Born in Ashburn, Ga., she had been a resident of Hobe Sound for 28 years coming from Canton, Ohio. She was a homemaker and a member of Calvary United Methodist Church, the Eastern Star, White Shrine of Jerusalem, serving on the Royal Matron of the Amaranth Court # 33 in Canton. Survivors include daughters, Ruth Hendershot of Hobe Sound and Carolyn Shaffer of West Palm Beach; a son Eugene Tolbert of Massillon, Ohio; brothers, Paul Kose of Ohio and Rev. Karl Kose of Florida; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and two great great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne O. Tolbert. For those who wish, contributions may be made to Treasure Coast Hospice, 1202 SE Indian Street, Stuart, FL 34997.

◆ **ROBERT C. "BOB" TAYLOR, 75**, of Hobe Sound, died May 22 at The Manors of Hobe Sound. Born in Mid-

dletown, Conn., he had resided in this area for the past 34 years, moving from Clearwater, Fla. He was a government welder working at Grumman Aerospace, a U.S. Army Korean Conflict veteran and a member of Deborah & The NRA. Surviving is his wife of 55 years, Janyce C. Taylor, of Hobe Sound, his daughter, Tami J. Nicholson, of Clearwater; his son, Brett A. Taylor, of Dallas, Ga., his sister, Cindy Potter, of Lake Mishnock, R.I., and three grandchildren. Memorial Contributions may be made to Treasure Coast Hospice 1201 SE Indian Street Stuart, FL. 34997 or www.TCHospice.org

◆ **BERTHA MAE GUTHRIE, 86**, of Hobe Sound, died June 29 at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center in Palm Beach Gardens. Born Oct. 9, 1925 in Putnam Hall, Fla., she attended the public schools there and moved to Hobe Sound in 1957. She was a member of the Hobe Sound Church of God, where she not only was the church mother, but also served in various other capacities. Survivors include her four sons, Wilson Thomas Guthrie Jr. of Hawthorne, Fla., the Rev. Tyrone B. Guthrie and Roland Randolph Guthrie of Hobe Sound, and the Rev. Tony Anthony Guthrie of Fort Pierce; three daughters, Carolyn Guthrie, Cora A. Hatcher and Mary Dubois of Hobe Sound; two sisters, Catherine Lewis and Leona Oliver of Putnam Hall; goddaughter, Gwen Blatch of Hobe Sound; 19 grandchildren; and 48 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wilson Guthrie Sr.; daughter, Grace Evelyn Smith; seven sisters; and six brothers.





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The 'Little Club that Does Big Things' changes guard

Laughter and conviviality weave themselves routinely through any Hobe Sound/Port Salerno Rotary Club meeting, even during more "formal" occasions. The recent installation of officers at the Miles Grant Country Club in Port Salerno was no exception.



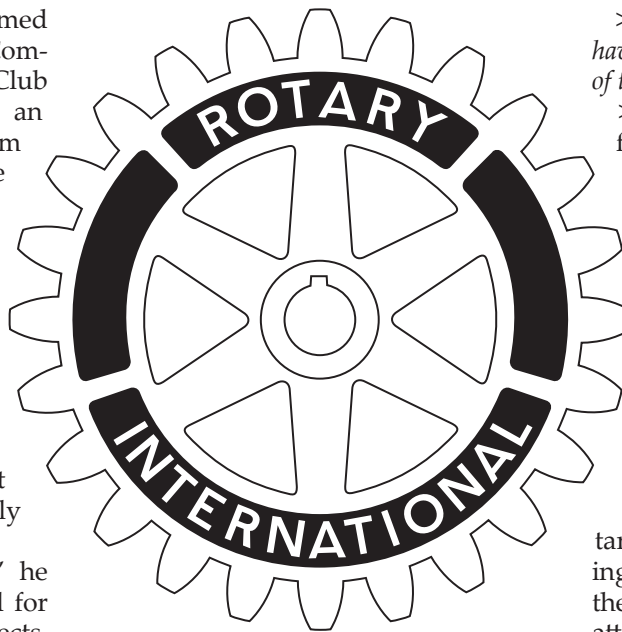
Real estate attorney Michael Hale takes over as the new president of the Hobe Sound/Port Salerno Rotary Club.

"We want to welcome our esteemed guests, including Martin County Commissioner Patrick Hayes," said Club President Steven Landwersiek, an Ameriprise Financial advisor in Palm City, addressing the embattled Hobe Sound commissioner up for re-election. "We promise, no roast tonight. Just shrimp or chicken....well, maybe a little prime rib."

As he addressed his fellow Rotarians and their guests, Landwersiek reflected on his year as club president, explaining that he had not met all the goals he had set for the club a year ago, yet still he felt the club had experienced a highly successful year.

"We have a few new members," he said, "and we've done a lot of good for the community with our various projects, but I also feel there's a stronger Rotary bond among us. We get along with each other, we've put more emphasis on our roots—on developing our business networking—and by meeting once a month in the evenings, which I think you'll agree has been well received by everybody."

Local Rotary projects have included painting Dunbar School classrooms in Banner Lake, building a picnic table and painting at Volunteers In Medicine in Stuart, renovating a Hobe Sound home as a joint project with the Martin County Council on Aging, among half a dozen other projects.



Club members also made anti-drowning presentations at all county elementary schools, distributed dictionaries to all third grade students and copies of the U.S. Constitution to the 5th grade students at Hobe Sound, SeaWind, Pinewood and Port Salerno elementary schools.

Since Rotary is an international organization that tackles global issues, such as the eradication of polio worldwide, it also takes on projects beyond local boundaries. The Hobe Sound/Port Salerno club partnered with Rotary clubs in the mid-west to aid tornado victims there.

In Landwersiek's remarks, he referenced Rotary International's "4-Way Test," recited at each meeting, and gave his own response to each point:

>> Is it the truth? *It has truly been an honor for me to serve as president of the Hobe Sound/Port Salerno Rotary Club.*

>> Is it fair to all concerned? *As a club we have always been fair to each other and to all of the organizations we support.*

>> Will it build good will and better friendships? *Thanks to the dedication of Peggy (Merritt), Christine (Moreno), Bill (Whippen), Doc (Buchanan), Michael (Dale), Iris, and the rest of you, we have increased our visibility in the community through our increased participation with the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce and our on-going commitment to our literacy projects and drowning-prevention program.*

>> Will it be beneficial to all concerned? **YES!**

The former District Governor for Rotary, Lou Venuti, recognized the out-going officers for their service, and installed the new officers, which include real estate attorney Michael Dale, president, John Wolf, president elect, Larry French, vice president, Peggy Merritt, secretary, and Tony DeLorenzo, treasurer.

The board also comprises Christine Moreno, education committee chair, Hap, membership committee chair, Bill Whippen, international service, Iris Kwek, club service aka "Speaker Seeker," and Tony Sementelli, community service.

Dale, a real estate attorney and a charter member of the club (1995), is serving his first term as president. He said he set modest goals, including maintaining the club's ambitious level of community service and attracting more members, particularly women from the business community.

He also reminded club members of the club's strict attendance policy as required by Rotary International. "Look what happens when you miss a meeting," he quipped. "You get elected president." ■

—Barbara Cloudus

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Should less than 1,500 tickets be sold, the drawing will be a 50/50.

All proceeds will benefit local Rotary charities.

Tickets are available at the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfasts; from Ameriprise Financial on Kanner Highway; from Coldwell Banker on US 1; Mr. Mailbox in Hobe Sound's Marketplace Plaza or the Seabranh FedEx Ship Center on Fed. Hwy.



Attorney Christine Moreno, left, is thanked for her service by Rotary's Outgoing President Steve Landerswick.

The Hobe Sound/Port Salerno Rotary Club meets each Friday for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Miles Grant Country Club on east Cove Road, except the third Friday of the month, when they meet for dinner at 6 p.m. For more information about Rotary, contact Membership Chair Hap Mills, hapmills@earthlink.net, or go to HSPSRotary.org.



The Rotary crew, including some “civilian” volunteers gather at the VIM Clinic for a few hours of painting and patching. All photos courtesy of VIM Clinic.



Rotarians Peggy Merritt, with her trusty drill, and John Wolfe assemble a waiting room full of chairs.



The unofficial “official” foreman on the job was Tony Delorenzo, center, with VIM staff, Mary Fields, left, and Christina Bodner

Rotarians drill, paint, patch at VIM Clinic

The Hobe Sound/Port Salerno Rotary Club put action into its motto, “Service Above Self,” last month with a project at the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic in Stuart. Nearly all club members—plus a few additional volunteers—spent one Saturday painting some of the interior rooms, painting the clinic’s outside sign, re-varnishing a picnic table, repairing the asphalt parking lot, assembling new reception chairs, and adding mulch to the flowerbeds. Whew!

Founded in 1995 by the late physician Fred Carter of Stuart, the non-profit VIM Clinic serves the needs of the medically uninsured in Martin County. It is a collaborative project of the Martin County Medical Society, Martin Health Systems and the Martin County Public Health Unit.

“We’ve been donating money to the VIM Clinic for six years now,” says Rotarian Tony Sementelli, chair of community service for the local Rotary Club, “but last year, we decided that we could do more to help out, so that’s what we’re doing today.”

The clinic, now directed by retired physician Dr. Howard Voss, depends on volunteer physicians, nurses, and third-year medical students from the FSU College of Medicine to provide care for the uninsured, as well as community volunteers willing to lend a helping hand.

The facility has seven exam rooms, a laboratory, pharmacy and ophthalmology facility. Many local medical specialists have agreed to see referrals from VIM Clinic in their office at no charge, and Publix Supermarkets fills many of its patients subscriptions without charge, as well.

“We depend on volunteers,” says Christina Bodner, a VIM Clinic staff member, who also was lending a hand with the Rotary project in July. “Literally, this place would not exist without them.”

For more information about the Volunteers In Medicine Clinic, 417 SE Balboa Ave., Stuart, call 772.463.4128, email vim@vimclinic.net, or go to VIMclinic.net. For more information regarding the Hobe Sound/Port Salerno Rotary Club, go to hsp Rotary.org. ■

—Currents Staff



Mary Fields enjoys the new waiting area at VIM Clinic on Balboa Street in Stuart.



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Friday, August 17 Backyard BBQ at Kane Center

"Lunch at the Langford" features affordable noon-time meals prepared by Executive Chef Chris Collier at the Kane Center's Frances Langford Theatre and Auditorium at 900 SE Salerno Road each month. It's a way to socialize with friends and meet new ones, too. For \$14 (less for members of the Kane Center), guests will enjoy a lunch of barbecued chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, and dessert, starting at 11:30 a.m. Buy your tickets by August 14 through the kanecenter.org website, or call 772-223-7800 to charge by phone.

Saturday, August 18 Zombie Prom for Teens

Hobe Sound will be taken over by zombies on Saturday, August 18, as they head to the Hobe Sound Library for the Zombie Prom from 3-5 p.m. where zombies, vampires, and werewolves can enjoy music, food, and the company of other zombie friends. The Hobe Sound Public Library is at 10595 S.E. U.S. Hwy 1 and the event is geared to students entering grades 6-12. For more information, call 772.546.2257 or go to library.martin.fl.us. After 5 p.m., where will the zombies go?

Saturday, August 18 Wine Tasting/Celebrity Cook-off

One of the most-anticipated events of the summer among the social crowd finally is here: The 8th Annual "Hot Caribbean Night" Wine Tasting/Celebrity Chef Cook-off to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society will be at the Mansion at Tuckahoe at Indian Riverside Park on Saturday, August 18, from 6-9 p.m. Organized by Ken Coe and his Treasure Coast team, the event also features a silent auction of surprise treasures. The wine tasting event tickets are \$40 per person in advance and \$50 per person at the door. For sponsorship information or tickets, call Ken Coe at 772-220-7980, or Mindy Weiss at 561-844-9898, email mindybo@bellsouth.net. Tickets also are available at BB&T Banks, the TD Banks in Martin and St. Lucie counties, and at local Chambers of Commerce offices. Cool down on a hot summer night on the picturesque banks of the St. Lucie River, and feel even better about it because it's for a good cause.

Monday, August 20 Choir Rehearsals for Community Choir

The Treasure Coast Community Choir begins rehearsals for its upcoming season on Monday, August 20, at 6 p.m. at the North Stuart Baptist Church, 1950 NE Federal Hwy in Stuart. The children's/youth choir for students in grades 3-12 who love to sing also starts the same day. For more information, visit tccsingers.org or call 772.224.8807. Now with 140 members, the choir is open to all who enjoy singing and its repertoire includes old favorites, patriotic and inspirational music. Their first performances will be Nov. 17 and 18.



Saturday, Sept. 1 Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Hike

History buffs should take advantage of the often-overlooked Hike Through History offered by the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum on the first Saturdays of each month from 8-10 a.m. It's a two hour, eco-heritage hike that explores the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area. The museum is at 500 Captain Armour's Way in Tequesta. It's free, but reservations are required by calling 561-747-8380; or go to jupiterlighthouse.org.

Weekend, Sept. 1-3 Okeechobee County Rodeo

This is the real deal, folks. No pretend cowboys here. The Okeechobee County Cattlemen's Association Labor Day Rodeo will be Sept. 1 at 7 p.m., Sept. 2 at 2 p.m. and Sept. 3 at 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center. Teams from area ranches will compete for titles in all events. For more information, contact Eli's Western Wear at 863.763.2984. On your way to the rodeo, stop by Eli's to get "properly" attired.



Saturday, Sept. 8 Salerno Mullet Race

It's official! The date for the Port Salerno Mullet Race, a "Fish Vat Triathlon," has been set for Saturday, Sept 8, from noon to 6 p.m. at the old Finz dock in Port Salerno. Presented by Port Salerno Community Promotions, the proceeds will support the organization's causes, particularly the annual Port Salerno Christmas



Jamboree with bikes for area children. A host of sponsorship opportunities are available to businesses, including a Kissing Fish for \$250; a Nauti Mermaid for \$500; a Flying Mullet for \$1,000; and a Sailfish for \$2,500. (Bet they have a run on those Nauti Mermaid spots!) For vendor space, including food, beer and wine booths, contact Rachel Snyder 772.370.2030, and for sponsorship info, email portsalernocp@gmail.com.

Competition comprises fish vats and teams of six members, two of which must be women, attempting to push, pull, and paddle over three courses on land and on water. Along the way, each team member gets to "shot put" dead mullet into the vats, until they land at least six mullet inside. The most fun might be watching them try to paddle the vats through Salerno Creek. Teams are being formed now. Registration is \$300 per team. There are prizes for contestants, in addition for prizes for the teams with the Best Team Spirit and Dress. For more information, or to register, go to portsalernocp.org or email portsalernocp@gmail.com. Registration deadline is Sept. 2, so hurry!

Weekend, Sept. 14-15 Wounded Warriors Fishing Tournament

The Wounded Warriors of South Florida serves Palm Beach, Martin, Broward, St. Lucie, and Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties and helps provide temporary and immediate financial, mental, and physical assistance to Purple Heart recipients. This inaugural event will be at the Pirates Cove Marina in Port Salerno. Interested anglers should call 772-245-8227 or email john@woundedwarriorsofl.org for more information.



Get Ready For Back to School with a Party

It's hard to believe it's time for school to start again. The kids never seem to be ready to go back, but here are a few fun ideas for decorating and hosting a Back to School party that may help change their minds!

We want our kids to be excited about going to school, so a few weeks before school starts, make a few little changes around the house to get their enthusiasm ignited. You can start by adding some wreaths to your front door made from crayons, rulers, or pencils. It's easy.

You'll need a Styrofoam circle in a wreath form, hot glue, and whichever school item you choose. Glue your pencils or crayons around the form carefully, as the glue is very hot. Wait for it to cool and add a cute bow.

This next project can be for your home first, then send it off to your child's teacher on the first day of school. You'll need hot glue, a clear glass vase of any size, ribbon, tags and flowers. Hot glue pencils all the way around the vase, add a coordinating bow and a cute tag. Fill with your favorite flowers and water. An option is to add small foam letters inside the vase before you add your flowers, ribbon, and tag.

Other areas around your home for a little extra back to school pizzazz would be to gather a lot of old maps and wrap them around like the old book covers. Stack them under your lamps, coffee tables, and other areas for a little vignette.

As always, gather all sizes of your glass containers. Create a show stopper with your largest container filled with all different varieties of apples. The next size down can be rulers or pencils, and your small containers can be filled with chalk or erasers. Have fun filling them and place them in groups all over your home for a fun festive back to school look.

Whether you're a parent, caregiver or a grandparent, you can host an easy and fun Back to School party. A great centerpiece for your table would be a school supply "cake." Start with a plastic round tray from your local store. You'll want your cake to have a good base, so start with heavier objects like large boxes of crayons. Layer upwards with other supplies like glue bottles, notebooks, and highlighters. Be sure to wrap each section with a colorful ribbon so it is secure. Top off your cake with an apple and as each



Diana Cariani

Simply Seasonal

guest leaves, they can get one of each item as a party favor.

Another simple party favor is a bookmark made from scrapbook paper. Pre-print "We hope you have a bright year" and add a glow stick or, get the clear favor bags and add a superball of any size and pre-print "We hope you have a ball this year."

Your party can include the cafeteria-style plates with handmade ruler place-mats. Lunch can be just as simple with peanut butter and jelly crustables, apples, and pencil shaped cookies.

Go ahead and add a few school-orientated games into the mix. Get a chalkboard—make your own now with the fun chalkboard paint, or even black poster board will do the trick. Have the kids write math problems for everyone else to solve. Since we are on chalk-

board paint, here is fun way to spruce up the old vintage style metal lunch boxes. Paint the inside of the lid with chalkboard paint, and each morning write your child a message so when they sit down for lunch, they will get your loving message. A tip: Cut a piece of plastic wrap to size and cover the inside lid to keep your message from smearing.

Now that school is just days away, here are a few quick treats for teachers for a quick pick-me-up after lunch and an apple just doesn't do the trick any more. Pick some fun school scrapbook paper and cover a LARGE chocolate bar. Attach a little note that says "I'm looking forward to a sweet year with you." Another option is to find a cute container with a lid, fill it with cookies with a note that says, "With you as my teacher, I'll be a smart cookie."

I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer and everyone has a wonderful school year. ■

Diana Cariani, a mother of four from Hobe Sound, loves to decorate homes and businesses throughout the Treasure Coast. Send her your decorating tips or questions at diana@hscurrents.com.

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FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DISTRICT 82

(Paid for and approved by Jon Pasqualone, Republican Candidate, Florida House of Representatives, District 82)

Memorials offer solace at the shore

BY TOM FUCIGNA JR. - SPECIAL TO HOBE SOUND CURRENTS

Gail McFedries

"Trees are poems that earth writes upon the sky." - Kahlil Gibran

Visitors to Hobe Sound Public Beach will notice several new additions to the landscape. Aesthetic enhancements may be unexpected in these days of economic austerity, but the recent additions are donations provided by citizens.

Two new silver buttonwood trees have been installed to join five others planted in the beachfront greenspace since 2003. A simple plaque accompanies each tree. Laura Averitt of Hobe Sound donated a tree several months ago in memory of her sister who passed away from brain cancer. Averitt was kind enough to share her thoughts, saying her sister "loved our Hobe Sound beach. Joyce and I loved to go to the beach and dreamed of our future together down here in Hobe Sound."

Martin County Parks & Recreation Department also has planted donated memorial trees at other parks, including Indian Riverside, Twin Rivers and Halpatiokee, according to Parks Superintendent Mike Cummins. Donors pay for the trees and plaques, and county staff plant and maintain the trees. Cummins said his staff work with donors to determine suitable planting locations.

Donations can also include furniture such as benches, or structures including gazebos, flagpoles and playground equipment, Cummins explains.

The process is guided by a county policy toward memorial contributions, and Cummins reports that "with staff input and guidance, we have always been able to have the donors satisfied with the end product." He says that this is "an outstanding program that provides the public an opportunity to dedicate memorials for their friends and family while enhancing our parks."

Hobe Sound Beach is a special place for Grace Owen of Stuart, whose son Brian used to fish, swim and walk his dog there. He enjoyed sunsets and wrote poems about the beach.

Brian died unexpectedly in 2010 at age 50, and Owen donated a tree that was planted in March of this year. She says that she has been impressed by the thoughtful efforts of Mike Cummins and his staff, from the initial installation to continuing maintenance.

"I am just so pleased by the whole thing," she adds. "It was just what I needed. It has helped me through."

Owen goes to the beach several times a week to remember her "Sportster" and says she appreciates the grassy area surrounding his tree as a place for "contemplation and prayer, like a memorial garden, to sit and relax and enjoy. I thought I was doing it for him," she adds, "because the tree would be a living thing that would grow, but now I know, it's a place for me too. It's done me a world of good."



Laura Averitt of Hobe Sound sits near the tree planted in honor of her sister, Joyce.



A memorial tree has been planted to honor the life of 16-year-old Jessica Smith, killed last year in a head-on collision by a drunk driver.

She is not alone in that sentiment. Laura Averitt's thoughts regarding her sister's memorial tree similarly convey the greatest value of this program.

"Joyce was a special soul," she says. "This tree brings me peace and happiness knowing that she is here in spirit when I come to this beautiful beach." ■

About Henry:

- Respectful dialogue with residents
- Cooperation with municipalities
- Clear communications; studied action
- Consistency & professionalism without favoritism
- Build on our strengths and local character
- Will tackle mounting fiscal challenges
- Emphasis on improving water quality
- Prioritize growth inside urban boundaries
- Support specific needs of small businesses
- More hands-on role with BDB

It's time to "retire" the District 1 incumbent:

- Mr. Smith claims he's kept the growth rate under 2%, but his actions say otherwise. He has a record of approving almost every development proposal. He didn't keep growth low... unless he also wants to take credit for the collapsed, saturated housing market and deep recession! Don't believe exaggerated claims unsupported by his record.
- Smith now opposes the Hobe Grove (on hold) and Harmony Ranch (withdrawn) DRIs, but is he credible?
- Smith has already voted once for the Extreme Water Park outside the urban services district despite staff's strong negative report and overwhelming opposition from residents. If he'll defy residents and the sensible guidance of our Comp Plan for such a problematic project benefitting so few, it seems he'd do whatever developers whisper in his ear. But he's supposed to work for us, not them!
- Smith claims to be a fiscal champion, but after almost 12 years he leaves us with a growing funding crisis of many millions needed for ongoing Inlet maintenance, beach renourishment, Medicaid reimbursement disputes, and a growing backlog of unfunded capital and maintenance projects. He has not stabilized our budgetary situation!

We need fresh leadership now. Please support my candidacy so a new Commission can undertake tasks neglected or worsened by Mr. Smith and his pro-growth pals.

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Days away from the 2012 primary election

Among the government officials who will be elected during the primary vote are the candidates for Martin County Sheriff and Martin County Property Appraiser. All the candidates have their own website, so for their backgrounds and campaign spiel, be sure to check out those sites prior to August 14. Remember, also, that two former polling places have closed in Hobe Sound, so if you're unsure where you should go vote, go online to MartinVotes.com or call the Supervisor of Elections Office at 772-288-5637. The candidates were asked by Hobe Sound Currents to answer just one question, which follows.

Martin County Sheriff Candidates

The public concurs that police officers deserve a professional wage, but considering the decline in county revenues, do you think there's room to make adjustment--and what would those be--to their current retirement benefits?

JOHN "SKI" PIETRUSZEWSKI - skiforsheriff.com

ANSWER FROM

JOHN "SKI" PIETRUSZEWSKI:

All salary and retirement negotiations are done with the union. Martin County deputies contribute to their retirement fund.

As the Florida Retirement System was designed, it was the second most solvent fund in the US. The system required 10 years to be vested. All investments were made by the fund, and the fund made the retirement payouts, not the taxpayers.

It was decided to allow employees to vest at 6 years, and it gave them the option of investing their own funds. This depleted the fund as the economy turned south. In the past, Martin County deputies were paid poverty-level wages, and we lost many outstanding personnel to surrounding higher paying agencies.

Sheriff Crowder had a study done by the Mercer Group, which determined that Martin County deputies were grossly underpaid. The pay was adjusted to the level of surrounding area agencies, and we were better able to hire and retain quality deputies.

FRS still pays for the deputy's retirement. I am hopeful that the economy will turn around. If it doesn't we all have to share the burden. What bothers me about this problem is that this problem was not caused by the deputies, but the government trying to fix things.

Since 1779, the government has had a fiduciary responsibility to the citizens to be judicious with the funds in the treasury, and for the last 120 years the government squandered, misspent, and has flat out stolen taxpayers funds.

It aggravates me to no end, however, that every time I hear about budget cuts, it's the working people, teachers, firefighters, and law enforcement. We have government groups like the Department of Energy that have been in existence since 1977 (Carter) created to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

There are 18,000 employees that have cost us nearly a trillion dollars, and we're more dependent on foreign oil and the list of departments that are not productive is endless. Why don't we cut several of them? We just had an example of a waste of taxpayer money by GSA. Where is the oversight?



I remember several years ago a County Commissioner asking us to cut our budget by \$750,000, but don't cut any services. We have done so much with so little for so long, we are expected to do everything with nothing forever.

I have a history of fiscal restraint that I learned from 17 years of small business ownership for the last 20 years, and I plan to continue it. If the economy stays in this rut, we will have to adjust to it. We have an outstanding group of men and women watching out for the safety of our citizens and before we start cutting, we're going to have to see a lot of belt tightening from a lot of other people.

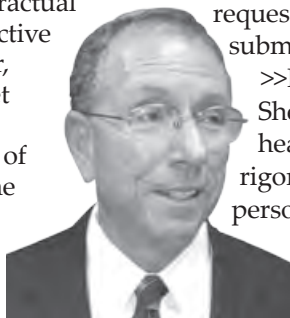
WILLIAM SNYDER - snyderforsheriff.com

ANSWER FROM

WILLIAM SNYDER:

The employees of the Martin County Sheriff's Office have not received a raise in five years, and their current salary and benefits are a result of contractual obligations resulting from collective bargaining. There are, however, areas within the Sheriff's budget where savings can be found.

Martin County faces millions of dollars in revenue shortfalls. The Sheriff's Office must continue maintaining current levels of service and rapid response times with diminishing rev-



enues. I will: >>Utilize a strict zero-based budgeting methodology. I will treat every year as a new budget year and eliminate any "automatic carry-overs" from prior years and justify every budget item request as if it were the first time submitted.

>>I also plan to reduce the Sheriff's Office \$12.5 million healthcare costs by instituting rigorous hiring standards, move personnel towards walk-in clinics, when possible, as they are significantly less expensive than emergency room visits.

Significant savings can be realized by instituting a comprehensive wellness program and carefully screening new hires for smoking, drinking, and lifestyle habits that result in expensive healthcare costs to the taxpayers. I also plan to work with major drug companies and use best practices for purchases of medication.

>> I plan to transition the agency from utilizing law enforcement personnel to accomplish tasks that could be done as easily by civilians.

>> In reviewing the current purchasing program, I plan to reform purchasing procedures by ensuring that all appro-

priate purchases are put out for bids, eliminate lobbying activities by sales personnel, ensure that provider contracts include proper review procedures as well as penalties for non-performance and collaborate with other entities of Martin County government in making bulk and fleet purchases.

I will provide easy-to-understand budgets for review by citizens or the press, and move to on-line reporting. I will insist that every member of the agency treat every expense with the full knowledge that it is being paid for by taxpayer dollars.

DAVID DEES - deesforsheriff.com

ANSWER FROM DAVID DEES:

87% of the Martin County Sheriff's budget is for employee related costs, including salaries and benefits. Budgets always need strict review, but this is especially true in our current economy.

This is very important to taxpayers. 41% of the ad valorem tax dollars assessed on property values goes towards the Sheriff's Office \$54 million budget.

Significant adjustments have already been made to tighten the belt. For the past few years, most salaries have been frozen and all employees are now required to contribute towards their retirement.

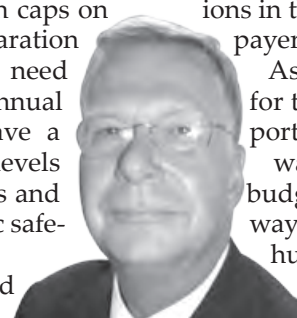
Current salaries are reasonably competitive with other agencies on the Treas-

ure Coast. But they are also notably less than those in counties to our south. Most sheriffs' office employees accept less than they can earn working to the south because they prefer to stay here, with an excellent law enforcement agency and a wonderful community. They simply ask for fair compensation.

This issue is subject to any future change in tax revenues. Should the economy continue to falter, we must consider further reductions, such as salary reductions for new hires. Every possible reduction must be considered before we turn to forced layoffs. Our citizens realize that forced layoffs would have a negative impact on the levels of public safety services.

On salary benefits and retirement, there exists, and I support, a statutory cap on payouts for accrued time upon separation from service. The limits on sheriff's office employees appear to be lower than employees for other agencies, preventing much of the potential abuse of this benefit. If we retain caps on such payments upon separation from service, we do not need undesirable inflexible annual limits that can easily have a negative impact on the levels of personnel on the streets and thus on the levels of public safety services.

The retirement rates and employee contributions



rest not with the Sheriff, but with the legislators in Tallahassee. The retirement program deserves constant monitoring.

Pursuant to state law and collective bargaining contracts, these issues are subject to bargaining. I

commit that I will work WITH the unions in this process but also FOR the taxpayers of Martin County.

As the director of law enforcement for the Florida Department of Transportation from 2007-2011, I

was responsible for the agency's budget of over \$39 million. I found ways to reduce spending without hurting services. As Sheriff, I will use this experience for the benefit of Martin County citizens.

Property Appraiser Candidates

Question: What are the unique traits of a property appraiser that are frequently overlooked when considering the role of the property appraiser's office?

RICK LUSSY - ricklussypropertyappraiser.org

RICK LUSSY'S ANSWER:

Property Appraising these past 20-years requires more than mere words as "intentions". Actions expose the deepest accomplishments of this Martin County Property Appraisal Office. Without actions, her 20-year incumbents Web Page words are meaningless. Actions are the tell-all of life.

I was reminded of just how powerful our actions are when in my door-to-door campaigning, voters vent frustration that "politicians lie for a living". Voters must confront omission and 100% concealment by Stuart News with shill green machine, employees that control monopoly gov't & business information requiring this news not be overlooked. Actions cannot be disguised in words.

Her actions do not match her words. Her background work selling clothes at

JEANS INC. at old Publix Plaza without varied field appraisal experience "would have" allowed her "some" competence to understand what she is looking at. Without it she needs it to be explained to her. Her one supporter at Lionfish Roundup Tournament in Port Salerno boasted: "I love her incompetence!"

Her "success" is purchased and temporary, rental of green machine (Old English/green machine/ Fla. Bar Ass'n) a 3rd party international public-private for profit business that control false, any public record through shill employees that control offices. Her SMEAR of me in reprisal to 39-years of professional appraisal and Rick Lussy MAI, SRA's "lost" in Florida for WINNING in Montana 2-Legal Malpractice lawsuits since entering Martin County June 15, 1988 as Director of Real Property Division for

Honorable Auggie Malfregeot Esq. then 1988 Martin County Property Appraiser.

I am a MAI (Member Appraisal Institute) & SRA (Senior Residential Appraiser) I am obligated to appraise and train staff and it is unethical to give preferential treatment.

I Promise: To correct her 20-years of words not matching her actions:

- without preferential treatment undervaluing Big People (Stuart News & others) & without overvaluing Little People;
- with clear language assessed value, is not market value;
- with personal training employees & oversight;
- with progressive discipline, excluding honest mistakes;
- with use of tried & true 40-year old multiple-regression computer valua-

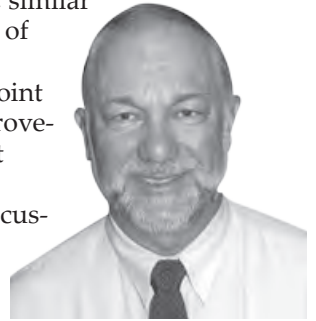
tion tool assist, similar to Department of Revenue;

- with 15+ point web page improvement to correct false records;

End each discussion: "Did I answer your question with reasonable

answers", "do you want more analysis", "do you have the right forms?!".

MISSION STATEMENT: Accuracy Bolsters Competency with Competence & Merit Versus Her Politics As Usual Giving Preferential Treatment to Big People. Rick earns your 1-vote with 136-reasons, if you don't like one, there are 135-more reasons.



LAUREL KELLY - yeskelly.com

LAUREL KELLY'S ANSWER:

The role of the property appraiser is complicated and challenging. To be successful, the property appraiser needs to have significant experience with appraisal valuation, business administration, technology and government process. This needs to be blended with sound leadership skills.

Being an experienced appraiser is important because nearly 100,000 properties must be properly appraised each year. There



are a variety of uses including residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural that are all influenced by the rapidly changing real estate market.

But the appraiser's job description covers a lot more than appraising. The appraiser's responsibilities include many things such as creating and maintaining county wide assessment maps, processing 13 types of exemptions (homestead exemptions total 42,000 accounts), tracking property ownership changes, valuing

tangible personal property (business furniture, fixtures and equipment), providing a sophisticated computer system, administering new property tax laws and implementing constitutional amendments.

The appraiser also needs to provide great customer service. This requires understanding quality control, providing staff training, processing a reliable the tax roll and complying with countless reporting requirements.

It takes years of appraisal experience to understand the valuation process. It also takes leadership skills and busi-

ness experience to properly administer the duties of the office. This includes running an efficient office at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayers.

It has been an honor to serve as Martin County's property appraiser since 1992. One of my most important services is my "Open Door Policy" that is part of my promise to protect property owners from over-assessment by providing fair appraisals. I am committed to serving you and our community.

Please vote for me, Laurel Kelly, on August 14th so that I can continue serving you.

HOBE SOUND: Southeast Florida's best kept secret!

I find it especially so in the summer. The northerners and tourists have gone, the traffic is less and we 'locals' take over once more!

I returned to my Hobe Sound home last month from my mother's 100th birthday party in Nashville, Tenn. It was 109 degrees there. When I stepped outside each morning I felt as if I was in a toaster oven. Fried. The air was still and there was no breeze. Longing for our soft sea breezes in the evening and thinking of our small town and familiar faces, I passed the time until I could return.

The following week, I enjoyed having lunch with a friend and her daughter who was visiting Hobe Sound from Atlanta. "My, she exclaimed, south Florida is a cool place to be in the summer."

"Let's keep it a secret," I replied. So we have.

Pack your dinner in the evening and take it to the beach and just sit there and

watch the evening sky turn to apricot and rose, and the flat sea fade from pale to dark blue edges. The locals are there. So are their dogs. Sky is there with her pink guitar, sometimes she is singing as the light fades. Starella is in the water with her swim board, a familiar sight paddling in the nearly dark water.

Tom, heavily suntanned and white bearded, looks out to the horizon and is thankful for his everyday life on the beach. Once he caught, cleaned and brought a pompano fish wrapped in a bag of ice to my door, leaving it on my front steps. It was delicious! I had only spoken to him on the beach a few times.

Joe is there with his white dog tagging along. He once "saved" my little terrier from an attack from another dog on the beach.

For those of us who go regularly, it is a Hobe Sound social club with the nicest and most friendly members. Oh yes, there could be improvements. The pub-



Suzanne Briley

Hopscotch

lic showers don't work a lot of the time, the drains are appalling with standing sand and water, and there is too much rubbish left on the beach, or washed up by the tides.

Tom Fucigna, a Hobe Sound local who is our community activist, is doing his part to improve the beach. His organization the ONE PIECE PLAN calls for each person walking the beach to become active and aware of our responsibility of caring for our ocean. Plastic is deadly to sea turtles and marine life. The One Piece Plan calls for each of us to collect rubbish as we go along and to

become involved. (There is a flotilla of plastic and waste in the sea which is the size of the state of Rhode Island. Shocking!) Check out Tom's website: ONE PIECE PLAN to learn more.

"The more we seek answers to gigantic problems,

It seems more and more, we Find the only way most Things are accomplished... Is one little piece at a time."

Because of community involvement, Sarasota, Fla., has 14 parks and beaches that are tobacco free. (Ever noticed the cigarette stubs on Hobe Sound Beach?) Gulfport Public Beach, Fla., is tobacco free.

Tobacco-free Partnership Martin County has some resolutions in place. ■

Suzanne Briley, artist, author, entrepreneur and environmentalist, lives in Zeus Park in Hobe Sound. She may be contacted at hopscotch@hscurrents.com.

Hunt bait now for future pompano catch

Only recently have I returned from a long stay in England. The queen celebrated her 60th year on the throne, and I celebrated my 86th Atlantic crossing and 29 years of life in a remote Cotswold village. It was all wonderful!

London was in a celebratory mood: flags waving, shops Sure, it's hot, and naturally there are virtually no thoughts of the upcoming pompano season; therefore, I decided it might benefit some fishermen to know about the preparations I take to be more efficient and catch more pomps than the previous season. I feel pleased to have the opportunity to acknowledge the people who read my column. Their feedback for what a professional has learned to be successful is both cool and enlightening (although some fishermen feel that I'm telling way too much!). So let's get on with what we can do this summer to increase your catch.

How often did you run out of bait or had to buy an alternative bait last winter? Historically, the initial pompano passage requires sandfleas rather than clams. Last season this dynamic reversed for the spring run. Having logged the last eight seasons this seems to be one of the few predictions I can trust. Stocking up on bait is analagous to trying to protect liquidable assets at your bank.

Okay, let's devise a plan of attack: First, be patient. You must "flea" at pre-sunrise, late afternoon and evenings. Steady, windy conditions and solid wave action is a must; preferably east and southeast 15 to 20 m.p.h. Winds! Check the Weather Channel forecast to budget timely runs to the beach. High humidity and radical barometer changes deeply affect the podding (schooling) of the sand fleas, and the fuller moon phases are important for an evening hike. Currently the crabs are small, but I am getting reports of large fleas (one inch) when the weather conditions roughen up.

When raking fleas, there are techniques that will increase your catch. When you sight them, study the wave patterns first. Don't even walk along the high tide waterline to approach them. They have eyes and can sense vibrations. Ever traipsed to within 100 feet and see the mature 1-inch guys flee to the break? Yep, it happens.

Personally I walk 50 to 75 ft. above the breaking waves edge and either stand or kneel steady to gain their trust as being an inanimate object, while watching the

approaching waves to figure which series will reveal the feeding crabs the best.

Note when the waves are south or southeast, the fleas will change bodily direction into the cross current. If this is the case, your optimal approach direction should be from a position from the north.

If you have a rake that is 18 inches or better in width, you could dig in the back quarter of the school when the wave is letting out. Preferably when the last foot of water surrounds the rake is the time to dig deep. (Pretty dramatic stuff, but before you drop the ball on this read, I challenge you to try this. It's important!)

A lot of proficient anglers are not attune to this hard-knocks data. I'm a licensed bait salesman who spent many a summer traversing both coasts of Florida capturing "assets" before they dig too deep.

What about those fishermen with only a 12-inch or smaller rake diameter? Don't bother trying to dig with the wave washing past the flea basket. The rake is not wide enough, and you can virtually watch fleas swim elusively around the trap. Don't give up, though. I have some instructions on this, too: DRY DIG!

Yeah, pick a wave wash back that allows the fleas to best show. Run and dig at the very last portion of the wash and dig into the middle of the pack—quick and deep. Try to get all the sand you can, and rinse carefully on the next wave. If you have dug in time, when their feelers were still showing, you probably caught bait.

Before leaving the beach with your bait, give the fleas a good rinse and carry them in dry bucket with a saltwater moistened towel covering them. Don't try to save them in sea water, because they will drown from a lack of oxygen. Don't cover them with wet beach sand. That will choke them also, and don't waste time—drive them home immediately to winterize them.

Winterize includes blanching and boiling. Blanching is boiling the bait for a short period of time to better preserve them for useage when there are no live fleas available. There are many techniques and various additives available. For the average gent, this is the easiest method:

Buy a 3/8 inch mesh fishing chum bag with a draw string. Get any type of ground up salt for the cooking. I like "Bionic Brine" or swimming pool salt used in many pool chlorinators. Place a 1-gallon deep pot with two quarts of water on top of a barbeque and fire it up. Add about a cup of salt to the boil. (If you own a deep propane deep fryer, it would be optimal.) Have a small ice cooler close by with 4 to 5 lbs. of ice in it.

Put a couple hundred fleas in the chum bag, draw the cord and dip fully into the boil. Count 10 seconds and pull the bag out to check the color. If not fully a distinguishable pink then re-dip until a uniform pink color is attained.

Pull the chum bag out of the boiling water and place it immediately on top of the ice. Fill the cooler with water until the ice and water are just covering the heated bag of bait. After a couple of minutes of

chilling, pull out the bag and let it drain. Then dump the fleas onto some newspapers and let them dry for a few minutes.

Now bag them in quart-size, Zip Lock freezer bags, and place them in the freezer. You may want to ink the date on the bag to check your inventory flow.

At this point, you're ready for the upcoming migration, and you probably will save some good money in the long run. Maybe in the near future, you will not only be a better flea catcher, but you'll also become a better sidwinding, silver side catcher. ■



**Rich
Vidulich**
*Pompano
Reporter*

Rich Vidulich, a commercial fisherman, lives in Jupiter and fishes the beaches of the Treasure Coast. Send your comments/questions to fishing@hscurrents.com.



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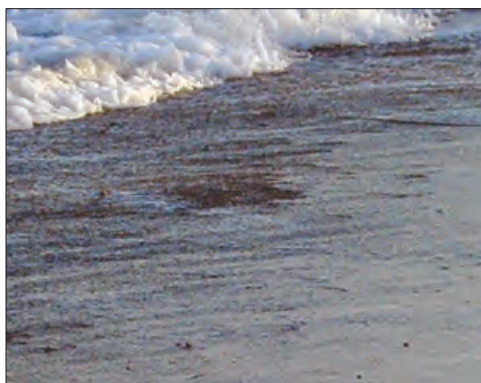
— Ruth Jubbs, a Hobe Sound Cottage Cleaning customer for the past 12 months.

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- TEQUESTA
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Look for the little Vs in the sand formed by sand flea antennae.



With every corner of nearly every intersection and many rights-of-way in between seemingly crammed with signs for a myriad of political candidates (where is Code Enforcement when we need her the most!), the sea turtle sculpture all abloom at Hobe Sound beach offers a welcome respite.