

Hobe Sound

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Hobe Sound CURRENTS

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Jupiter Waterways Inn
Mail & News
Publix - County Line Plaza
Chase Bank
Seacoast National Bank

Hobe Sound

CVS Pharmacy
Winn Dixie
Harry & the Natives
Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce
Old Dixie Cafe North
Ace Hardware
Publix Customer Service
Hobe Sound Tire
Texaco Station Hobe Sound
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Seacoast National Bank
Bank of America
SunTrust Bank
Treasure Coast Hospice Thrift Store
Hobe Sound Produce
3 Brothers Brunch
Man Li Chinese Restaurant
Tropical Computers
Hobe Sound Public Library
Martin Memorial Health Systems
Pettway Grocery
Cambridge, Ridgeway, Woodbridge
community centers
Heritage Ridge Country Club
The Manors

Port Salerno

Pirate's Cove
Fish Center Art House
Valero's Bait & Tackle
Winn-Dixie

Stuart

Palm Shopping Center
Martin Memorial Hospital
MartinCounty Administration Bldg.
Blake Library
Publix Cove Road

Jensen Beach

Jensen Chamber of Commerce
Jensen Beach Community Center

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Isaac leaves a soggy trail

Hobe Sound's brush with Hurricane Isaac resulted in lots of water, wind gusts in excess of 50 mph, and old lessons reaffirmed as the result of a rain band that stalled overhead on Monday, August 27. A tornado from the same system touched down in Indian River County.

"You just cannot predict what a hurricane's impact is going to be if it's anywhere even close to Florida," said Craig Woll, a Hobe Sound resident who was called to assist Tykes and Teens of

Palm City to move its flooded office on Wednesday, August 29.

"Tykes and Teens was a mess," said Woll, who is a candidate in the District 3 Martin County Commission race. "They were caught by surprise, just as we all were, and their entire office was under water. Their experience is a reminder that the county cannot lose its focus on continuing to improve stormwater drainage."

Martin County suffered little wind damage, but residents struggled with

flooding of low-lying streets, leaking roofs, and overflowing pools. The Martin County Fire Rescue Emergency Management Agency is assessing local damage to homes or businesses and is asking residents to report any kind of damage by calling 772.287.1652 and leaving a message with name, phone number, address and type of damage.

"This information may assist Martin County residents, businesses, and some not-for-profit agencies should an Individual Assistance Declaration from the Federal Emergency Management Agency be established," said Daniel Wouters, division chief of operations for the Fire Rescue Department. "More information will be released should Martin County receive a federal declaration."

Tykes and Teens has relocated temporarily to 759 S.E. Federal Highway, Suite 100, in Stuart, according to Director Jeff Ralicki, while the estimated \$100,000 of flood damage is repaired. Their phone number, 772-220-3439, remains the same.

The agency, which provides mental health counseling and substance abuse prevention and treatment services to local youth, is seeking donations to help with the cost of replenishing destroyed office contents. To donate, visit www.tykesandteens.org. ■

--Currents staff



Evidence of Hurricane Isaac's visit to Hobe Sound lies on the shutters of businesses housed in the Winn-Dixie Marketplace Plaza.

Signs get attention

A facelift is planned for Hobe Sound's welcome signs on US 1 south of Bridge Road and at the Bridge Road entrance to the town's commercial center, according to Nakeischea Smith, a planner with the Martin County Community Development Department.

The project will not use Community Redevelopment Area funds, but will be financed through the county Engineering Department's current budget.

Following a request last winter by members of the Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee to "repaint and refresh" the entrance signs, the staff of the county's Community Development Department took the request to the county Engineering Department, who put the project on its schedule of county maintenance projects.

"The plan is early September," said Mark Gavitt, field operations/stormwater manager. "The signs should be down for just a few days for paint. No other significant current plans for the two sites at this time other than some general clean-up." ■

--Currents staff

Bridge Road closing

Bridge Road west of I-95 will be closed for 99 days next summer to replace a bridge over a drainage canal, the Board of County Commissioners decided at its August 21 meeting.

The commissioners voted unanimously to accept the proposal by County Engineer Don Donaldson to replace the "functionally obsolete" bridge at a cost of \$760,000, by closing Bridge Road west of I-95 during construction.

In a rural area just east of Pratt Whitney Road, the bridge was constructed initially for light vehicular traffic, not heavy trucks, Donaldson explained, which have increased in road usage in ensuing years.

An alternate plan would keep the road open by rerouting traffic over a temporary bridge, which would increase the cost of the project by approximately \$540,000 to \$1.3 million, and more than double the construction time, Donaldson added, neither of which was palatable to the commissioners.

"Saving nearly a half million," said Commission Chair Ed Ciampi, "and half the time would be the route, the suggestion, I would give you."

The most significant impact will be for



Bridge Road will be closed between I-95 and Pratt Whitney Road intersections as soon as the 2013 school year ends in order to replace a weight-restricted bridge that county engineers have deemed obsolete.

Hobe Sound students riding school buses in the fall 2013 to South Fork High School. For the first 20 days, Donaldson said, the buses will be rerouted nine miles onto Interstate 95 to Kanner Highway to reach Pratt-Whitney Road and the school.

The additional cost to the school board is estimated to be approximately \$50,000, Donaldson said, which is included in the total for construction costs.

Donaldson also met with Martin County emergency personnel as to the increase in response time to emergency calls if Bridge Road is closed.

"They said the increase would be by only half a mile," Donaldson said. ■

--Currents staff

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Suit contends Ridgeway cannot enforce 55+ rules

Not surprisingly, the attorney and litigants in the lawsuit filed against the Ridgeway Property Owners Association objected to the Hobe Sound Currents' story titled "Ridgeway seeks county's, state's help to protect 55+ status." (August 2012, Pg 6). They said their side was not represented.

"This case has nothing to do with HUD or with 55+ communities," says attorney Jean Winters, of Boca Raton, who is representing Ridgeway resident Marva Evans in a counter-suit against the Ridgeway POA, after the association sought eviction of Evans for violating its 55+ regulations when an adult daughter, not yet 55, moved into her mobile home at Ridgeway.

Evans, older than 55, owns another mobile home in the Hobe Sound community of 900 mobile home lots on Federal highway, east of Massey-Yardley, however, that renter meets the over-55 age restrictions.

"This suit pertains only to Ridgeway and only to its particular circumstances," Winters adds, "so whatever the results, there can be—there is—no threat to any other 55+ community, at least to those which have been properly established, which most have....Ridgeway has not."

The attorney was referring particularly to Martin County Commissioner Doug Smith's plea to the BOCC to make the "protection of 55+ communities" a legislative priority during the current session of the Florida legislature.

"This case needs to be settled by the court," Winters adds, "which is where it is now, not through interference by the county commission—or a commissioner—or the state legislature."

The suit contends that the original association created by the Ridgeway community was a voluntary association, because residents were not required to join; therefore, when the association board decided to make it a mandatory association requiring membership of all residents, all property owners needed to agree, Winters says, thus requiring a 100% vote of approval.

Since apparently the association attempted to change to a mandatory association with less than 100% approval by rewriting its bylaws, Winters contends, its subsequent deed restrictions and covenants for Ridgeway properties are not valid; therefore, it does not have power to evict its residents for non-compliance of its regulations.

Two months ago, all the signs in the Ridgeway community declaring it a 55+ community and all references to its 55+ HUD status in all documents, including its community newspaper, (published by *Hobe Sound Currents*) have been either covered up or deleted, causing anxiety among many current residents.

"Our board was following the advice of its attorney by covering up those signs," said George Kleine, editor of *The Ridgeway Reporter*, "but you can understand,



Only Ridgeway Property Owners Association members have key cards to the Ridgeway clubhouse, site of numerous activities.

I'm sure, how many of our residents who purchased homes here and have lived here for decades because it is a 55+ community would be very upset to think that now that all might change."

The association president, Maxine Montgomery, and its attorney, Lance Clouse of Becker Poliakoff in Port St. Lucie, declined to comment on the case.

"We love living in this community," says June Kinder, another of the litigants and a Ridgeway resident. "It's a great place to live. A true community....There's all kinds of people here with diverse interests....What we object to is the abuse of power by a few people."

According to a short history of the Ridgeway subdivision, written by Ridgeway resident Richard Wevers, the developers, Bill Leonard, followed by Harold Keathley, established a density of 5.5 units per acre over the 200-acre development. They built their own water and sewage

plant, a swimming pool and clubhouse for residents.

After having sold all the lots, the developers turned over ownership of the pool and clubhouse to residents, who had formed an association in 1983 in order to accept the conveyance of property. In 1989, Ridgeway residents were surveyed to see if they wished to become an official 55+ community under HUD regulations establishing an exemption to the Federal Fair Housing Act for seniors. A majority of the residents approved.

The board also sought from Keathley assigns for deed restrictions, which he gave them, said Winters.

"But the developer no longer owned the property, the individual residents did," Winters added, "so how could he give away—six years later—what he did not own? That's the heart of our case."

No court date has yet been set. ■

—Barbara Clowdus

Ridgeway board meeting answers few questions

Have Ridgeway's days as a 55+ community in Hobe Sound ended? Residents attending a Ridgeway Property Owners Association's board meeting August 24 demanded an answer from Board President Maxine Montgomery.

"Please understand," Montgomery told the group listening to the telephone conference call among board members on speaker phone at the Ridgeway Clubhouse, "that in some instances, the board cannot give specific answers to your questions."

The board president, who has been navigating the property association board through a legal challenge to Ridgeway's status as a HUD-approved 55+ community, maintained a cordial approach in her responses to residents' questions, most of the time saying that she could not provide the information they were seeking.

"All these issues and the answers to your questions will be decided when we go to court," she responded, and when asked if the board had attempted to settle the suit instead of continuing to incur legal fees—estimated at approximately \$30,000 thus far—Montgomery said, "We have not been able to find terms we can both agree to."

One resident demanded to know how a community that had been already established as a 55+ community and had always required that only those 55 and

older could qualify to purchase property in Ridgeway could suddenly change.

Montgomery corrected him, saying that no such requirement had ever existed at Ridgeway, that a person of any age could purchase property there; however, they could not live there if younger than 55+ (which is now being challenged by a Ridgeway resident, Marva Evans, whom Ridgeway attempted to evict because her adult daughter was living with her and does not meet the 55-year-old age requirement).

Montgomery reiterated the board's instructions to residents that residents may choose to join the association by paying an annual fee, which entitles them to a "key card" and use of the pool and clubhouse.

Another resident who owns rental property in addition to his own home asked if Ridgeway was operating under Florida statutes Section 617 or 720, since it affects whether or not he can deny potential renters based exclusively on their age, or if he must rent to families with children.

"Right now, it appears by law that I cannot refuse them," he said, so he sought Montgomery's assurances that Ridgeway was still legally a 55+ community.

"The court will have to make a ruling on our 55+ status," Montgomery said. "We're not going to tell you can rent to them, and we're not going to tell you that you can't. The decision is yours; it is up to you." ■

—Barbara Clowdus

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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 ShipCenter on Fed. Hwy.

CRA project boosts business in Port Salerno

One of the owners of the Manatee Island Bar & Grill in Port Salerno, Paul Gonnella, told the members of the Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency at its August 15 meeting, that business at their location had increased by 25% over the past year. "That's a very significant number in our business," Gonnella said, "We're struggling restaurant guys like everybody else."

He attributes that growth in part to the support offered his business by the county's Development Department staff, from creating signage to marketing, and especially to the CRA plan that made the Manatee Pocket more accessible to the public.

Over the past several months, the county has removed the two-foot tall concrete barrier along the sidewalk on A1A adjacent to his restaurant, has completed the

pocketwalk around portions of the Manatee Pocket, and created an attractive patio area with an artistic gate to the boardwalk, which is not yet completed.

"The CRA made us feel very included in this project," Gonnella said, "and we've supported it, not only Phase IV, but all the phases, from the very beginning."

Foot traffic has increased so significantly across the bridge that Gonnella and his partner have decided to invest their own private funds to build a portion of the pocketwalk adjacent to their business.

"Maybe investment of private funds is not even the right term," he said. "It's more of a reinvestment. As our business increases, we'd like to try to pay it forward in hopes that others in the community will see the benefits and feel similarly compelled."

Gonnella also volunteered for a CRA pilot project to create public-private partnerships to maintain newly constructed areas in the CRA.

"One of the challenges to keeping the newly constructed areas clean and maintained," said Bonnie Landry, of the county's Development Department, "is having someone to maintain them."

Gonnella entered into an agreement with the county to keep that end of the pocketwalk and pocket free of debris, to empty trash and cigarette receptacles that the county will install, to manage and store the new patio umbrellas in the event of storms.

"We're excited about what's happening in Port Salerno and with the help of the CRA," he said, "we'd like to continue to help promote this area." ■



Manatee Island Bar & Grill in Port Salerno will construct a portion of the CRA's Manatee Pocketwalk adjacent to its restaurant with private funds.

Otten does it again!

Distinguished Toastmaster Rich Otten, also called "Mr. Toastmaster" around Hobe Sound, took first place in both the International Toastmasters Area 41 Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests held at the Hobe Sound Bible College on August 23.

The second-place winner in the humorous speech contest was Raymond Similien with "Personal Communication," and second-place for the evaluation contest went to Amy Lowe.

Otten is on his way to representing Hobe Sound at the next contest level, which will be at the Division D, District 47 contest, Sept. 27 at IRSC Chastain Campus, Wolfson Technology Center, at 7 p.m.

His humorous speech,



Distinguished Toastmaster Rich Otten

"Paradise Island," recalled the true life adventures of relocating to a Caribbean island from New York to live with his wife, Jan, and their four children.

Toastmaster George Kleine of Hobe Sound took second place in the Area 42 evaluation contest held August 25 at the Palm Beach County Library. An important part of the Toastmasters Program is learning to listen carefully and to evaluate prepared speeches.

All Toastmasters events are free and open to the public, and they serve great refreshments. ■

Apollo School tour part of Historic Preservation Month

The Apollo School in Hobe Sound will have its first public viewing after some major restoration projects have been completed during Martin County's Historic Preservation Month in October.

The open house will be Saturday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 9141 SE Apollo Street, Hobe Sound. The building is the only surviving two-room school house in Martin County, built in 1924, and its restoration has been a 15-year project of the non-profit Apollo School Foundation in Hobe Sound.



Apollo School in Hobe Sound now has new windows installed, new stucco on its walls, and new electrical wiring inside. An Open House on Oct. 13 will be the first opportunity for the public to view the restored building.

Other events scheduled for the month include a free kick-off celebration Oct. 1 at the Stuart Heritage Museum, 161 SW Flagler Street, housed in the Stuart Feed Store built in 1901, from 5-6 p.m., free tours of the Mansion at Tuckahoe, the 15th Annual Bahamian Connection Festival at the New Monrovia Park in Port Salerno, and a host of lectures, demonstrations and workshops.

The month will conclude with the Historic Preservation Awards Dinner at the Lyric Flagler Center, 201 SW Flagler Avenue in Stuart from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 26.

The dinner and a movie will feature a film on Martin County History called "In Their own Words," which will celebrate the grand finale of Historic Preservation Month and the Historic Preservation Board's first Preservationist of the Year award.

For a complete schedule of events, contact board Chair Joette Lorion Rice at jrl3353@aol.com. ■

The Club gets state honors

The Club, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County's comprehensive teen program, was honored with the best Education & Career Development program at the annual Boys & Girls Clubs of Florida's Florida Area Council meeting August 23-25 in Panama City, Fla.

The Club was launched in 2011, and in just one year, the number of teens who regularly attend The Club has doubled, and now stands at 120. All teens who participate in the program have received full scholarships.

"It's amazing how much our teens and teen staff have accomplished in its first year," said Anne McCormick, executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs

of Martin County. "We're so honored to have been recognized for our efforts to provide local teens with a structured program that puts them on the path to success in the classroom and in the community."

The program, comprehensive in scope, was designed based on the belief that teens 13-18 are the most likely to succeed when they are successful in all aspects of their lives. It is offered at each of the organization's five branches in Martin County: East Stuart, Hobe Sound, Indiantown, Palm City, and Port Salerno. A partnership with the Banner Lake Club was formalized in 2011 to reach more teens in the Hobe Sound area. ■



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Donation drop boxes misleading public?

Perhaps the word DONATION so prominently displayed on the sides of recycling bins that are popping up like mushrooms across Martin County makes people think they are making donations directly to a charitable cause. They are not.

"I saw 'donation' and I didn't think much farther than that," said one mother, who was picking up her son at Apple Academy in south Stuart. That solid-blue bin owned by Reuse Clothes and Shoes sits conveniently in the preschool's parking lot.

Reuse Clothes and Shoes, a for-profit recycler that sells the clothes primarily to third-world countries and to other recyclers, has been placing boxes throughout Martin County for the past several months, starting in Hobe Sound and working its way north. The company is based in Boynton Beach.

According to numerous published reports, clothing recyclers are turning sizable profits, yet exact numbers are difficult to confirm.

"We have cars stopping here all day long, every day," says the Pettway family at the Pettway Grocery on Old Dixie Highway in Hobe Sound. "You would not believe how many cars stop here."

Since the bins are emptied during the night, however, no one in the Pettway family is quite sure how many pounds of clothes are being collected, even though the grocery store owners have been promised a percentage of what is collected.

Over the past three months, they have received no accounting of the number of pounds collected, and have received only one check. It was for \$13.75.

Although the recycling companies are not saying how much is collected, the Salvation Army in Tampa, which put up 20 of their collection boxes to compete with



A Reuse Clothes and Shoes donation drop box in south Stuart.



A Good Use clothing recycle bin on Bridge Road in Hobe Sound.

the recyclers, collected approximately 6,000 pounds of clothes in one month, according to Salvation Army officials.

The public's kind-hearted donations are spurring the growth of the industry, and more companies are launching clothing recycling businesses in Florida each year. In addition to the solid-blue metal bins that belong to Reuse Clothes, a white wood donation box sits on the access drive from Bridge Road to the Publix shopping center in Hobe Sound. Unlike the blue bins, however, the white box does not have "Donation" painted on its side. It is owned by Good Use, a limited liability company formed just last March, based in Yeehaw Junction.

Another new for-profit, Better World Books, started placing its green metal

boxes in Palm Beach County just a few weeks ago. Other recyclers who use donation boxes include Charter Recycling Corporation, BetterWorldBooks, The Good Samaritan, Blue Boxes Cloths and Shoes Donation Center, Victory for Youth and Vietnam Veterans of America, and all are for-profit enterprises.

Because their presence in parking lots is so convenient, many people prefer to drop off what they've cleaned out of their closets at a bin, even though they do not get a receipt for the "donation." Some non-profits, particularly Gulfstream Goodwill and the Salvation Army in Broward County, have been hit hard. According to a report published in the Sun-Sentinel, Gulfstream Goodwill has suffered a 20 percent drop in donations

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A box sits in front of Pettway Grocery, as well as at the corner of Pettway and US Route 1.



A Reuse Clothes and Shoes donation bin in the Apple Academy preschool parking lot.

over the past few years, and the Salvation Army of Broward County also reports a decline, although not as significant.

The bins' presence in Martin County, thus far, seem not to have made a dent in clothing donations to charitable organizations here, at least, not yet.

"We have not seen a decline in the amount of clothing and shoes, thankfully," says Diane Tomasik of the House of Hope. "I have noticed the proliferation of those drop boxes, but often cannot see what organization will be receiving the items."

She says that House of Hope and other nonprofits in Martin County have good reputations for helping people directly with donated clothing, shoes, and household items and/or selling the items to support vital human services.

"Just like with their monetary donations," Tomasik adds, "my hope is that people will be discerning and continue to give where they can be confident they will be doing the most good." Tomasik notes, however, that men's clothing, particularly in small sizes, is in short supply, but is in high demand at all area non-profits, so men's clothing especially needs to go directly to the non-profits, rather than to clothing recyclers.

The United States exported more than \$605 million worth of worn clothing in 2011, according to the U.S. International Trade Commission, which does



The sign on the blue boxes states no affiliation with any non-profit or charitable organizations.

not include the sale of used clothing within the U.S. According to the Reuse Clothes and Shoes website, a pair of pants in clean, damage-free condition can be delivered to the east coast of Africa for 34 cents a pair and sweaters to Pakistan for 12 cents each, which includes the cost of the garment, as well as the shipping, demonstrating its profit potential.

Donation drop boxes have been banned in Miami-Dade County, and in some cities across Broward and Palm Beach counties. Martin County has no ban and requires no permits, according to Larry Massing, director of the Martin County Building Department.

"These would be considered temporary structures," Massing said, "so they don't need permits, however, some of our land regulations, such as set-backs, could apply." Massing will confer with Martin County's Growth Management Department in his investigation.

The 2011 Florida Legislature nearly considered a bill that would have required the boxes belong specifically to a non-profit organization, thus eliminating all recyclers, but it stalled in committee.

The profit potential, however, as well as the good intentions of kind-hearted people likely will result in even more of the boxes popping up here and throughout the state, like big blue mushrooms. ■

--Barbara Cloudus

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EDITORIAL

A lesson learned from a defeated commissioner

Martin County Commissioner Patrick Hayes's passion to protect Florida's water resources resulted in innovative proposals with developers that often became the target of those dedicated to limiting growth at all costs.

One particular proposal resulted in charges by detractors of a "pay to play" mentality in which the county would have taken a cut of developers' profits in return for giving some controlled increases in density to the developers.

It was definitely pay-to-play, but not for the commissioner. It was pay-to-play for the people of Martin County with the intention of ensuring the quality of water and the quality of life here for the future.

"What developers can offer their potential buyers today," Hayes had said, "is because of the investment made by Martin County to conserve and protect its natural resources; therefore, it is Martin Countians who should benefit from any development—just as much, if not more so—than any developer."

He was the man in the middle, maligned by developers and no-growthers

both for his creative approaches, and he lost his bid for re-election. We hope that his activism and passion for the protection of our water resources, however, will live on with the commissioner who ultimately takes his place in November.

Hayes often reminded his constituents that the key to an effective Everglades Restoration Plan lies in acquiring thousands of acres of land, which at one time had been targeted by the federal government for purchase, but we all know that likely will not happen now.

We need to learn from Hayes to approach the issue of water quality by adopting innovative solutions. We certainly cannot depend on the altruism of developers, any more than we can depend on Tallahassee, which raids the state's environmental fund to close its own budget gaps.

What we need is a stable, dedicated source of funding, and we may have the solution on the horizon.

An initiative launched in August by the Florida Water and Land Legacy Campaign proposes a constitutional amendment that will guarantee support for a

dedicated funding source for the acquisition of conservation and recreation lands.

Any proposal that asks for an amendment to the state constitution should be treated with reverence, yet we feel that the impetus is worthy of circumspect exploration and serious consideration.

Proposed to become effective July 1, 2014, the amendment would dedicate one-third of the net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents to restore the Everglades, protect drinking water sources, and revive the state's historic commitment to protecting natural lands and wildlife habitat through the Florida Forever Program for the next 20 years.

The money would be deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund and would remain separate from the state's general revenue fund—thus protecting it from the political winds that so often blow through Tallahassee.

It would provide more than \$5 billion for water and land conservation in Florida for 10 years and \$10 billion over the 20-year life of the measure, without any tax increase.

The Florida Water and Legacy Campaign includes the Trust of Public Land, Audubon Florida, the Florida Wildlife Federation and the Sierra Club, and the group must get signatures from at least 676,811 registered voters in order to get the amendment on the 2014 ballot.

For more information, or to sign the petition, visit FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org.

In the past three years, the legislature earmarked only \$23 million for Florida Forever. The state used to spend 10 times as much on land preservation. This year, legislators approved only \$8.5 million for water protection and land conservation in a \$60-billion budget.

As this new coalition points out, that is less than two-hundredths of one cent that will go toward conservation from every dollar spent in the state budget—less than \$1 for each Floridian.

Those statistics fueled Hayes' quest to find ways to increase deposits into our bank of protected lands. Perhaps now, the Florida Water and Legacy Campaign will resolve the issue of funding the purchase of these lands once and for all. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Two commission candidates who are alike, yet different

To the editor:

First, thanks to Currents for its balanced coverage of the elections. Although I do not always agree with the editorials, Currents provides Hobe Sound residents valuable news and information and an unfettered point of view that, if nothing else, gives us an opportunity for civil discourse and debate. Right now, though, let's zero in on the upcoming election, for which I am a candidate for the District 3 County Commission seat. I want to explain why and how that candidacy evolved, and why I feel that I am the best choice to fill that position.

While working with you over the past 15 years as a resident serving this community, working shoulder to shoulder to provide as many opportunities as possible to our youth, I developed a deep love and appreciation for our quality of life here. When it seemed suddenly to be threatened by outrageous urban sprawl, I became increasingly concerned, enough that I began attending our county commission meetings nearly two years ago—almost every single one—and that's important to know about me. It's one of the differences between my opponent and me. From the beginning, my focus has been on more than what is good for my neighborhood. It has been on what's good for Hobe Sound and the rest of the county.

Then, while standing with other residents on the sidelines of the county's soccer and lacrosse fields, in line at our grocery stores, and at innumerable other

places where our paths crossed over the past two years, we talked about my interest in ensuring that any massive housing development does not take root

in our western lands. I was often encouraged to run for county commission. Yes, I thought, concern is one thing, but action speaks louder, so I filed as a candidate.

My decision to file as a no-party candidate came after considering the consequences of the real possibility of a split vote—as happened in District 1—even though I recognized that running without a party affiliation puts me at a decided disadvantage.

Winning the election was less important, however, than defeating the sitting commissioner. With that task accomplished and behind us, you now have two candidates with similar philosophies regarding the proposed Developments of Regional Impact left in the race for a County Commission seat.

You should know, though, that those same two candidates have decidedly different views about other issues, including the best path for ensuring that Martin County holds onto its quality of life.

My views have been shaped by living and working and volunteering among the residents of Hobe Sound and throughout the county. I know the real-life issues and problems that local citizens face everyday.

My views have been shaped by going to meetings of the county Board of Zoning Adjustment, of which I am a mem-

ber, as well as my conscientious study of and attendance at county commission, Community Redevelopment Agency, Chambers of Commerce, and Neighborhood Advisory Committee meetings for the past two years—not just the last few months.

My opponent has been to just one Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting.

Those are real differences between my opponent and me. I have already demonstrated the level of commitment that I would bring to the job.

That's only some of the differences. I also propose that we continue to have an independent Community Redevelopment Agency, which has been so successful in our seven Community Redevelopment Areas since it was made an independent agency two years ago.

I propose even that the county return it to its original base of funding as soon as is possible, because the CRAs hold the key to growing our town and city centers to provide dynamic areas of business that have the potential to make the perception of and/or need for expansive growth unnecessary.

My campaign has consistently supported the CRA program. That's not only a real difference between my opponent and me, it is a critical difference for Martin County's future.

My philosophy supports CONTROLLED growth in Martin County, for without SOME growth, there is no life. We are a vibrant and alive community,

both Hobe Sound and the whole of Martin County, but we must work harder now than ever to keep it that way and to reach out now to our 6,000 unemployed families. It's hard to talk about quality of life when you have no job.

Should a major company wish to locate in our area, I will work diligently to find a place for it within our urban boundaries. I will reach out to other residents, businesses, and to my constituents with a sense of urgency and purpose to stimulate economic growth. My opponent "finds it offensive" to say that Martin County is "open for business." I do not.

I pledge to look for creative solutions to resolving hurdles to attracting business to Martin County, which is, perhaps, the most significant difference between my opponent and me.

It is my hope that you will help me spread this message during the next few months. I pledge to listen to what you have to say and to make it part of our county's direction of good growth and development.

Keep watching and listening for more information about this campaign and about the real differences between my opponent and me, which will make a real difference to Martin County's future.

I want this job. I will work hard for you. I will work full time, dedicating my life to making Martin County an even better place to live, now and in the future. Vote for Craig Woll.

Craig Woll
Hobe Sound

Were the 'old' days really that good?

Just about every week, an email lauding "the good old days" pops into my inbox. Yes, I remember far more than I want to admit: We had a stand-up icebox in the kitchen cooled by melting blocks of ice. I remember milk in glass bottles and butter delivered in wire crates directly from the dairy to our front door, and that our water was pumped by hand into buckets in the back yard until, finally, we got "city water."

We rode our bikes two miles to school, then home for lunch, two miles back, then home in the afternoon, often stopping at a friend's house to play until the street lights started to flicker on. We had no homework until junior high. We didn't wear shoes except when forced, turning the souls of our feet into leather, and we played stickball in the road.

When we got a TV, it was black and white with a screen smaller than an iPad, embedded in a case the size of a small refrigerator. Often the only program getting broadcast was "snow." Playing stickball was more fun. Obesity was not a childhood epidemic.

All bandages were Band-Aids, all refrigerators were Frigidaires, all tissues were Kleenex, and bottles of Coca-Cola cost three cents. Return the bottle and you got two cents of that back. Collect bottles from the roadside, and a kid could get rich.

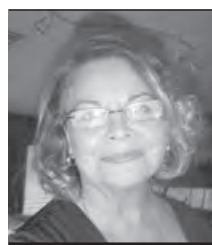
Pick up the phone, and the operator would ask "Number, please." You'd say, 1131, please. When you got a call, you listened for your own ring—two longs, one short—before you answered. Sometimes, you could eavesdrop on someone else's conversation, one gigantic gossipfest, and no one expected to keep a secret.

We never heard of McDonald's, and no warnings ever were given by adults other than "don't take candy from a stranger." Anything "Made in Japan" was junk, and we could "See the USA in a Chevrolet." The world seemed safe indeed back then.

Yet chicken pox, measles and whooping cough among children was rampant. My own hollowed-out whoop, whoop, whoop still resonates in my mind when I think about my brother and me stricken at the same time, echoing each other's coughs as we struggled to breathe.

In summertime, the fear of polio kept us from going to the city pool, or even from buying a nickel treat from the neighborhood ice cream man with bells on his cart. When our friend was stricken with polio and was left in leg braces, we just knew one of us was next.

We had nightmares about polio victims stuck in iron lungs in order to survive, so we filched our father's change for the March of Dimes when they knocked on the door.



Barbara Clowdus

Unfiltered

Breast cancer was a death sentence, even though surgery had deformed a woman's body, taking not only breasts, but chest muscles and armpits, too, and almost all men died of heart attacks before they reached 63. Fifty was old.

Women's work was never done. Dishwashing was in a tub on the counter in water heated on the stove. Glasses first. Pots last. Laundry was done outside in a wringer washer, hauling hot water from inside, wash first, wring, empty tub, fill with clean water from the hose, rinse, wring twice—keeping your hands out of the wringer if you're lucky, most often not—then hang it all on clothes lines strung between poles.

Pray that a squall does not come up suddenly and soak your laundry before you can get your clothes inside, only to sprinkle them with water, roll them up, and stack them in a basket to await ironing. All day standing at the ironing board to iron clothes, sheets, pillowcases and napkins, too.

A baby in the house meant 100 diapers a week to wash, bleach, hang in the sun, dry and fold.

Dinner meant you'd caught some fish, shot a deer, or butchered a hog; maybe even bagged some frogs, trapped some Florida crawfish or snared a gator...or had a neighbor who did. Most often it meant wringing a chicken's neck, then soaking its body in a galvanized tub full of hot water as you plucked all its feathers. Do. Not. Breathe. Ah, yes, those were the days.

Most wives, then, were servants. Get this, get that, do this, do that, which I was reminded of this week by a friend who ordered his wife to get him a bottle of water. He was four steps away from the water and she was on the opposite side of the room. She got the water for him. She's my age, and that's the way we were raised.

We also were raised during the time of abject racism, with no shame attached to the white attitude of superiority, and talked openly about the separation of races as if a God-given duty. Now racism is more subtle with "I even have friends who are"... black. Or white. Or mixed. Or, even...Mexican.

Naw, I'll pass on the "good old days," thank you, but I surely would like to be here 50 years from now. By then, we might have figured out a few things and gotten them right. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

Show some empathy, please!

Editor:

I'm writing in response to the recent letter to the editor in the August edition of Hobe Sound Currents which was headlined "What a lousy paper!" The writer of that letter may not have known that the August issue was produced in a rush to meet its deadline after a large portion of the publication (photos included) was deleted in an "electronic accident."

These things happen and it's a minor

miracle that the August issue was re-created and on the stands in record time. I know for a fact that the small staff of "Currents" tries to attend the many meetings of the County Commission and its various boards and committees. They gather photos from their subjects as much as possible and then take photos where needed. After all of that, they have to create the publication and get it to you by their deadline.

The writer of that critical piece would be wise to develop a little empathy for the perceived slights of others and to walk in their moccasins before being so liberal with her criticism.

In this age of vitriol and attack ads, wouldn't it be nice to show a little civility and understanding to one another once in a while?

*Susan Duncan
Hobe Sound*

Ridgeway article not whole story

Dear Editor:

I am a resident of Ridgeway and I am appalled that this paper would print such a biased opinion of the Ridgeway situation based on an interview of a coward that does not wish to be named. A totally unsubstantiated account at best.

#1- Buying up mobiles cheap and being rented to low-income families. Having a low income does not necessarily mean slum living. The last I knew, all renters and purchasers had to be approved by the "Association."

#2- To say that the survey was posted and taken by someone with evil intentions is ludicrous. And casts a slur on the members of this community.

#3 As to the effect this lawsuit will have on 55 and older communities across

Florida, this is untrue. It will only affect the Associations that have not followed the legal guidelines set up by the State of Florida.

This law suit is being presented in front of the courts and should not be tempered by the media and false information. I consider this article a form of terrorizing an already distraught community. Another attempt to cover up of the Association's callous and gross abuse of their positions. The Association has used threats of losing one's home if the owners do not follow rules of that Association. Rules that are questionable at best.

I for one applaud the courage of the person filing suit and trying to bring to an end the Association's reign of terror. Laws are made to be followed, but when

laws that are not laws and are being enforced by a select few against selected members of the community, it's time to go through the courts for a legal decision.

If this Association has been established illegally then their power should be revoked. At that point, means should be taken to provide at best answers for each and every citizen of this community and rectify the wrong that has been done. Each and every citizen within this community should have a say in its future.

I have enough confidence that the courts will hand down a just decision. And it will be done without fear that this article is trying to impose on this community. Let the courts do their job.

*Patricia Texera
Ridgeway, Hobe Sound*

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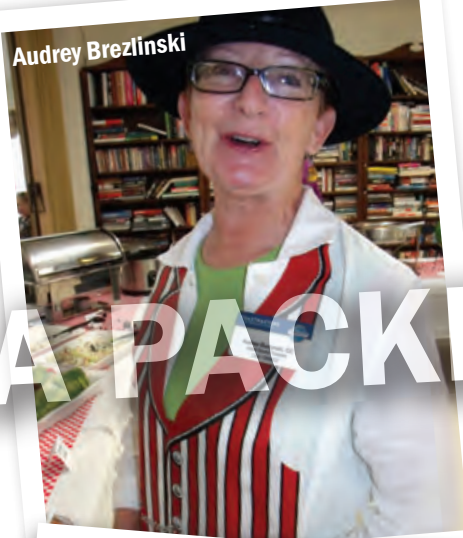
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Not too early to think about Christmas!



Lillian Johnson

At least, it's not too early to think about the Hobe Sound Christmas parade, that is. Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Lillian Johnson already is busy getting parade entries reserved for this year's annual Christmas parade the first Saturday in December.

"We've got to start early," she says, "because we've got so many people who want to be in it. Each year we have more and more requests."

Johnson, who takes care of recruiting entries and disseminating and collecting all the information, says that it's "a huge job" that would not happen without the help of Michael Ennis of Hobe Sound who takes over on the day of the parade to line up the entries and time them so that the parade flows smoothly.

This will be the 27th year of official Christmas parades in Hobe Sound, and the Chamber has lots of spots left to fill, including parade sponsorships. For more information, call 772-546-4724.

Old Florida Gourmet Chips & Salsa

Old Florida Gourmet Tortilla Chips offer a remarkably fresh taste of corn with a hint of garlic and a whisper of cayenne, although the seasonings are the Pepitone family's "secret" ingredient.



Friends and business partners, Scott Baldwin of Hutchinson Island, left, and Chris Pepitone, of Hobe Sound, launched Old Florida Gourmet Tortilla Chips at the Pepitone's produce stand, Hobe Sound Produce on Federal Highway, just three weeks ago. "We've already gone from 20 bags a week to 1,000 bags a week," Chris said. "Today, we got an order in for 800 bags." Each 16 oz. bag sells for \$3.49.



Hobe Sound Produce, 9875 SE Federal Hwy, formerly Farmer Bob's until purchased by the Pepitone family, is the only air-conditioned produce stand in the area, according to Chris Pepitone, who runs the stand along with his father, Vic Pepitone. They are known for their wide array of fresh seafood, live orchids, in addition to fresh produce, and now is home to Old Florida Gourmet Chips and Salsa.

Old Florida Gourmet Chips start life as tortillas made in Plant City, Fla., following a traditional tortilla recipe, which then are shipped to Hobe Sound to be flash-fried, drained, seasoned, and bagged locally.

Jackie Pepitone suggested adding salsa to go with the gourmet chips, and now customers have a choice of mild, which is from her mother's recipe, or "fire-roasted, but it's really not that hot," Jackie whispers.

Partner Scott Baldwin, an orchid supplier for the produce stand, had seen a similar gourmet chip production in Michigan become quite successful, and suggested that the two men start their own chip enterprise in Hobe Sound.

Since the Hobe Sound Produce building is so large, Chris Pepitone, retired from the Martin County Sheriff's Department as an economic crimes detective, planned to set up the entire production of Old Florida Gourmet Chips and Salsa in the rear of the building. State inspectors said no. The sink was not large enough.

Hurricane Isaac's torrential rains caused the commissary on Bridge Road to flood as the result of a leak down one wall, destroying most of the equipment. Chris says it will set back their production by one week, but he's already replaced the equipment and will be back in full production by the first week of September.

"I'm supposed to be retired," Chris says, "but I'm working harder than ever, but that's okay. I'm just happy to see that people really enjoy the product."



Vic Pepitone, who owns the commissary building on Bridge Road where the chips are fried and usually packaged, helps out by sealing the packages of fresh chips.



Aiden Pepitone, 12, son of Chris and Jackie Pepitone, gets pressed into service after school one day to help the family fill bags of chips in a make-shift production line at Hobe Sound Produce.



Jackie Pepitone makes fresh mild salsa, Old Florida Gourmet Salsa, to go with the chips. She follows a popular recipe that she and her mother always make for friends and guests

Contact information:
facebook.com/pages/Hobe-Sound-Produce-Inc
or call 772.634.2208.

Long arm of law to fall on Cato's Bridge Beach

A vigorous push by the federal government to protect the public as they enjoy Cato's Bridge Beach in its natural, but unsafe, surroundings on the Intracoastal Waterway now is underway.

Yet community activist Walter Franklin, of Jupiter, says that the concerns may be genuine, but the actions being taken simply are another way to ban public access—especially by boaters—from the popular shoreline.

The federal government's previous attempts to close the area to the public south of the CR-707 bridge on the western shore of the ICW to the Jupiter Inlet over the past 16 months have been thwarted by public protest, much of it coming from citizens who live in southern Martin County, as well as Tequesta and Jupiter, who have for generations flocked to the area's clear, turquoise waters to snorkel and swim.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has been unwilling to ban what has been historically public, though unauthorized, access to the shore, and the DEP's compromise to the Bureau of Land Management's application for a shoreline stabilization permit maintained public access to the coastline, even proposing the addition of an 8" bench for kayakers along 150' of the shore below the eroded bluffs that had not been part of the federal Bureau of Land Management's most recently revised permit application.

The bench would attract the public, said Bruce Dawson, field director for the Southeastern Division of BLM, which is "inconsistent" with federal objectives for the area, so he withdrew the application without conferring with the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA) working group charged with management of the federally protected area.



Sandy bluff focus of safety issues.

"Right now is a critical time to make it clear to the public, to all local government, county government, federal government (personnel), what the rules are," said Bruce Dawson, field director for the Southeastern Division of BLM, to the members of the JILONA working group at its August meeting.

"It was clear to me that safety was a concern," Dawson said, after touring the property recently. "Situations were developing where people's health and safety were in jeopardy."

Dawson called for a consortium of law enforcement officials to meet in September to establish working agreements among police officers from Jupiter, Jupiter Inlet Colony, Tequesta, Palm Beach County, Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (the Marine Patrol), Wild Lands Task Force, and the U.S. Coast Guard to enforce federal laws on the now-federally owned land that include no open fires, no alcohol, no littering, and no vandalism. They also will not permit climbing on the bluffs, and are designing signs to be posted on site.

"Let me tell you, this is the wild west," said Jamie Stuve, president and CEO of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society who manages the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum on the 121-acre site, who says she calls often for police officers, who are reluctant to go onto Coast Guard property. She said the Coast Guard, then, tells her to call Jupiter police. She urged law enforcement entities to devise a cooperative plan, then to provide that plan and contact numbers to museum personnel.

"I would say that what our job is here is to protect the natural and cultural resources," Stuve added. "The cultural resources we had wanted to protect on the bluff are pretty much destroyed by misuse."

She also said that unaware parents are "are letting their children go be in dangerous situations" by allowing them to burrow into the sandy bluff, which could collapse and suffocate them, or to climb on unstable trees, which could fall.

Tom Paterno, mayor of Tequesta, objected to "hard enforcement" measures, encouraging a public education approach instead to allow people time to adjust to government presence and federal rules, following a comment by Alex Marlotte from the Coast Guard, who said the Coast Guard "would cut down rope swings, run people off, then

charge them with BUI (boating under the influence" if given authorization, and to do whatever else is needed to ensure public safety.

"And what about stabilizing that bank?" Paterno asked Dawson, "then you don't have to worry about all these issues; just stabilize the damn bluff. Wasn't that the original plan?" (See accompanying story for latest status on the shoreline stabilization permit applications.)

Five of eight Freedom of Information forms submitted to the various law enforcement entities that will take part in formulating a plan for the area have been returned to Walter Franklin, who currently is researching the health and safety issues caused by public use of the site.

"Despite Ms. Stuve's claims to the contrary, the Jupiter Police Department has record of only one call to the JILONA property in the year ending August 2012," Franklin said last week, "that being an emergency services backup request. That was the only call officially reported by five law enforcement agencies in response to legal requests for information."

Dawson said he intends to have a law enforcement plan in place prior to meeting again with the JILONA working group, anticipating that to be "sometime in the fall, probably October." ■

—Barbara Clowdus



The state DEP attempted to protect kayakers' use of the Jupiter Inlet shoreline, a move rejected by the federal government.

Feds push own agenda at Cato's Bridge Beach

The federal Bureau of Land Management took an aggressive stance during the August 14 meeting of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA) working group in Jupiter by apparently discounting all opinions not in tune with its own, including the working group's, as well as the state of Florida's.

"We could have come together and said yes, no, or we could accept it and live with it," said Tom Paterno, mayor of Tequesta and a JILONA working group member, referring to the unexpected withdrawal in July by Bruce Dawson, the field manager for the Southeastern District of BLM, of the JILONA

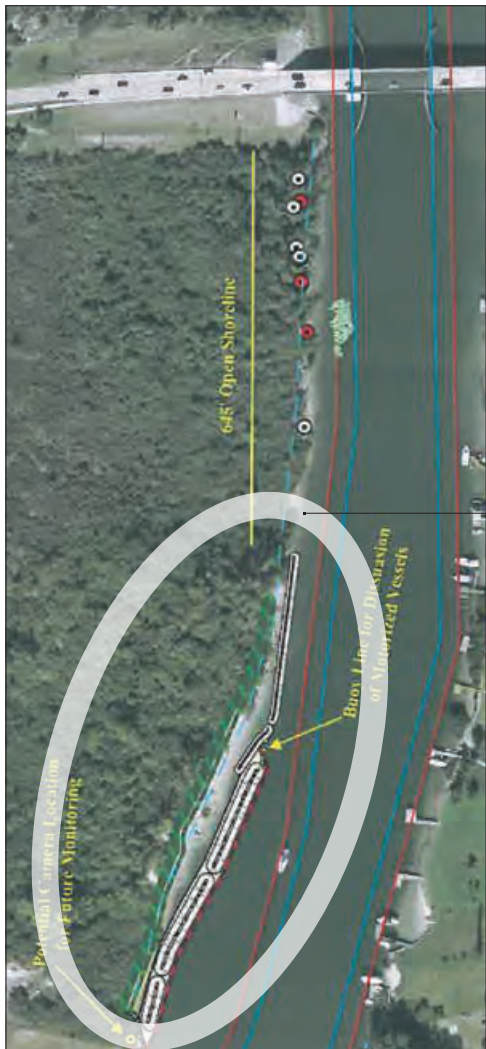
permit application for Jupiter Inlet shoreline stabilization. "But you decided, Bruce, on your own, to kill it," Paterno said. "I'm a little bit bothered by that."

The state Department of Environmental Protection had not approved the revised permit application filed in May 2012 on behalf of BLM and the JILONA



Shoreline erosion at Jupiter Inlet lighthouse now to be addressed separately in a federal project.





JILONA Shoreline Stabilization and Restoration Project Minimized Breakwater Footprint Alternative

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection eliminated 645' of the breakwater barrier at the northern of the shoreline south of the CR-707 bridge, giving boaters unobstructed access to shore, then (in the circled area) added an 8" bench along 150' of shore below the mean high water line for kayakers and paddleboarders, who would gain access through an opening in the breakwater. A buoyed line across the opening would prohibit boater access. The federal Bureau of Land Management rejected the proposal.

group by Palm Beach County's Environmental Resources Management (ERM). The state DEP had responded with a compromise permit plan that would ensure and expand continued public use of the popularly called Cato's Bridge Beach on the Intracoastal Waterway north of Jupiter Inlet.

Dawson, however, withdrew the application on July 20 without meeting with the JILONA working group, most of whom had no knowledge of either the DEP compromise or that Dawson had decided to withdraw the application, prior to receiving emailed copies of Dawson's withdrawal notice to DEP.

The original permit filed in May 2011, also without the JILONA working group's knowledge, would have prohibited all public access to the western shore from the tip of the mainland at the Jupiter Inlet to just south of the CR-707 bridge to Jupiter Island, which included state submerged lands along the shore.

The plan called for construction of a 1,375 linear-foot breakwater of rocks and concrete that would rise approximately three feet above the water's surface, in addition to a 15' high, three-tiered industrial grade vinyl sheet pile system on shore to stabilize the eroding bluff.

After significant public outcry opposing the BLM plan, led by Jupiter resident Walter Franklin, the JILONA group approved the revised permit application submitted in May (2012) that would allow limited boater access to some points in the northern portion of the breakwater; however, the public demand for even greater access to shore threatened to move the permit application before the Governor's Cabinet for a decision.

In an effort to avoid the call for cabinet action and to appease the public, the pro-

posed DEP compromise eliminated 645 feet of the barrier at the north end of Cato's Bridge Beach to allow unobstructed boater access, retained the vinyl sheet pile system on the southernmost shore where the erosion is most evident, and added one more wall—a fourth tier—along 150' of the state's sovereignty lands that would increase stabilization to the shoreline and would have an 8" cap to create a seating area for paddle boarders and kayakers allowed to have access within the breakwater barrier.

Dawson said that the state's plan for adding the fourth wall was "a new use that's an added management responsibility we hadn't planned for, and it was inconsistent with the plan you all signed off on in May. We can't live with that."

The JILONA working group, which includes representatives from the Town of Jupiter, Village of Tequesta, Palm Beach County, Jupiter Inlet Colony, the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Jupiter High School, the U.S. Coast Guard, ERM, and BLM, is charged with management of the Jupiter Inlet Outstanding Natural Area. The 121-acre site lies in Tequesta, Jupiter and on Coast Guard property, all of which is now owned by the BLM, and is part of the National Landscape Conservation System, the only site east of the Mississippi River.

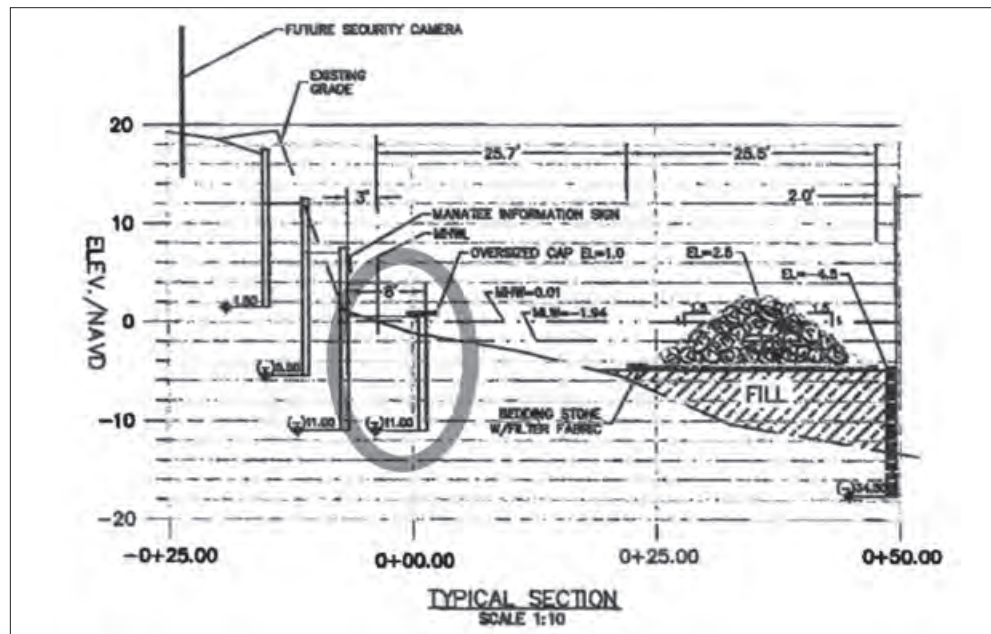
"This fourth wall is much like what we have in Dubois Park (in Jupiter) for kayakers," explained Dan Bates of ERM, to JILONA members who had asked what the state's compromise had entailed.

"It's essentially a place for people to sit, about two feet above the water with an 8" cap on top," Bates said, "below the mean high water line on state submerged lands."

Dawson challenged Bates explanation, adding that the wall, which he called "an



BLM's Southeastern States Field Office Manager Bruce Dawson with Jamie Stuve, president and CEO of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, selected as the Bureau of Land Management's 2012 "Public Lands Partnership Excellence" at an award ceremony March 6 in Las Vegas.



The fourth tier in a system proposed by the state DEP to stabilize the eroding bluff at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse would have an 8" cap to provide seating for kayakers. The latest permit submitted to the state eliminates all walls and will bar access to kayakers and paddleboarders at the southernmost portion of the shoreline with a breakwater offshore.

8-foot wide and 150-foot long bench" would also fall on BLM land.

"Only a small portion of it," Bates said, "because of the meandering shoreline, but that wall doesn't interfere with any plantings."

Dawson disagreed. "My biologist says it does."

Jupiter Inlet Colony Commissioner Chip Block, representing the town of approximately 360 who live in the tony development directly across the ICW from the Jupiter Inlet lighthouse, said that the fourth wall would create a recreational area that would be "just be an invitation to more partying," the basis of the Colony's vigorous objections to allowing any boat access to the shoreline.

"That goes against what we're trying to do with JILONA," Block said, "that is, if you believe as I do, that JILONA has tremendous potential from a business standpoint to turn this area into a major eco-tourism opportunity."

ERM DROPS BOMB, ANNOUNCES NEW PERMIT

Midway through the JILONA meeting, ERM Director Rob Robbins announced that yet another permit application had been submitted to the state Department of Environmental Protection; however, the newest permit eliminated all four walls and returned to the original plan

Continued on page 14

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Continued from page 13



Boaters frequently spend the day at what is popularly known as Cato's Bridge Beach on the western shore of the Intracoastal Waterway south of the CR-707 Bridge. All photos provided by [facebook.com/savecatosbeach](https://www.facebook.com/savecatosbeach)

for a breakwater offshore and mangrove plantings above the mean high water line on shore. It also would leave open 645' of shoreline nearest the CR-707 bridge for unimpeded boater access.

Dawson objected to ERM's initiative to submit another application without his knowledge or consent.

"I talked to you about this," Bates said, a point that Dawson emphatically denied.

"I have never seen this plan before today," Dawson responded, as apparently none of the JILONA members had been aware of the permit now being proposed by ERM, which is limited to state sovereignty lands and includes no federally owned lands.

"Permitting doesn't happen on a quarterly basis," said Robbins, responding to Dawson's criticism and referring to JILONA's meeting schedule. "We literally had only hours to act after BLM's withdrawal, which took us by surprise...and we decided that we could not turn our backs and walk away. That was not the solution...we decided to keep the permit application alive."

He assured Dawson that the permit, a "county permit on state land," would not interfere with or preclude any federal plans for the property.

"We invented nothing new," Robbins said. "We brought nothing new. Everything in the permit application is the same, except that the four walls have been removed."

Paterno questioned the authority of ERM, which had been under contract to BLM, to submit the application.

"Our contract with BLM ended," Robbins said, "but we love this shoreline; it is dear to us. We have our own blood, sweat and tears in this....and we are still a member of the JILONA working group."

Robbins also said that ERM had a "better legal standing" for this permit, similar to other permits they had submitted and had been approved by DEP for shoreline projects throughout the county, thus establishing precedent.

"If DEP tries to deny this," Robbins added, "we'll just see them in court."

Other JILONA members joined Dawson in his criticism of ERM for submitting a new, unapproved permit application.

JILONA member Jamie Stuve, presi-

dent and CEO of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, who manages the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum, said that ERM has a history of springing plans on the group.

"We're always playing catch up," she said. "...We've got to work on this partnership thing, where we communicate more and get to have input before anything is fait accompli...We need to protect the natural resources. We need to protect the cultural resources....This just feels out of context."

Jupiter Mayor Karen Golonka concurred. "It doesn't sit well as a representative of my constituents," she said, accusing both BLM and ERM of poor communication and taking action without first vetting ideas and plans before the JILONA group, which is charged with management of the property.

"We started with shoreline stabilization and everything else followed," she said. "Now you're separating one project into two." Golonka questioned even the purpose of a JILONA working group.

Dawson reminded the members that the August meeting had been intended only for "information exchange," and had not been advertised, neither had it been proposed as one requiring a vote on any issue, including ERM's most recent permit application. He also said that "he had not had time" to study the application, so he felt he could not make comment on it.

"Now you're getting a taste of what it's like," Paterno said to Dawson, referring to ERM's permit initiative, "when the big guy, the federal government, shoves something down the little guy's throat. It goes both ways, Bruce....You didn't bring the compromise to us. It wasn't done that way. We might have liked it; instead, you made the decision to withdraw. It was done unilaterally."

A follow-up meeting will be scheduled sometime in the fall, probably in October, Dawson said, after a law enforcement plan is established for the area.

For more information, contact [facebook.com/savecatosbeach](https://www.facebook.com/savecatosbeach), or write to Ken Salazar, Secretary, US Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, or email feedback@ios.doi.gov. ■

--Barbara Cloudus

Seniors reach out to homeless

Help for the homeless comes from an unexpected source

Store countertops throughout Martin County will soon sprout small, brightly painted cardboard houses with coin slots in their rooftops to collect leftover change. "Houses for Change," they're called, and the nickels, dimes and quarters collected will go to the nonprofit Family Promise to assist homeless families.

The artists donating their talents to help the homeless are the residents of the Pine Grove Manor Assisted Living Facility in Hobe Sound, aided by Hobe Sound's Barn Artists, who spend one morning each month completing various art projects with residents.

The Family Promise collection houses were a particularly meaningful project to many of the residents, who have spent time over the past six months learning how to hold a paintbrush, use sponges or other media to create images of flowers and leaves, and to mix acrylic paints to create their own color palette.

"Yeah, I like the purpose of this (project)," said Chuck Travis, a Pine Manor resident, "but I don't know how to paint curtains in those windows. I'm not painting any curtains. I'm done with my house."

One of the volunteers—which on this day include Suzanne Briley, founder of the Barn Artists, Victoria Merritt, Carol Callahan, Isabella Fucigna, Elora Fucigna, Adele Smith and Jeannie Mackin—just might swish a brush over those windows to create a curtain or two. They hover over residents' shoulders, sometimes steadying a hand, sometimes offering advice, and other times, just offering praise, "That is absolutely beautiful. I love all the people painted on your house. Is that just one family?"

Saying the word "family" conjures memories and meaning for all who are gathered around a huge table in the facility's activity room, focusing intently on their latest project, musing among themselves as to how much change might be collected.

"I heard about these Houses for Change, and I thought it was a wonderful idea," says Suzanne Briley, founder of the Barn Artists, who spearheads the project at The Manors.



Barn Artist Victoria Merritt shows a resident how to mix her paints to get new colors.

"It's a worthwhile project that could spread to other assisted living facilities throughout the state that are just full of residents wanting to do something meaningful," she adds. "This could have all kinds of potential."

That, too, is the hope of Mark Wasserman of Palm Beach County, who came up with the idea for the houses and introduced it to his local Family Promise Affiliate in south Palm Beach, which in turn sought direction from the Family Promise national office in New Jersey.

"They wanted to see if we would like to sponsor it across the country," said Chris Kaul, of the national office of Family Promise, in an email to Briley. "We were happy to give it a try and have been thrilled with the results so far."

The Family Promise mission is to help the homeless and low-income families achieve "sustainable independence," which Family Promise achieves by providing food, shelter, and support services; advice and advocacy for at-risk families to prevent their becoming homeless; and educating the public about poverty and the means to combat it.

Launched in 1982, Family Promise began as the vision of one woman, Karen Olson, a New York marketing executive, who stopped one day to buy a homeless woman a sandwich, but the woman asked for a moment to talk—es-

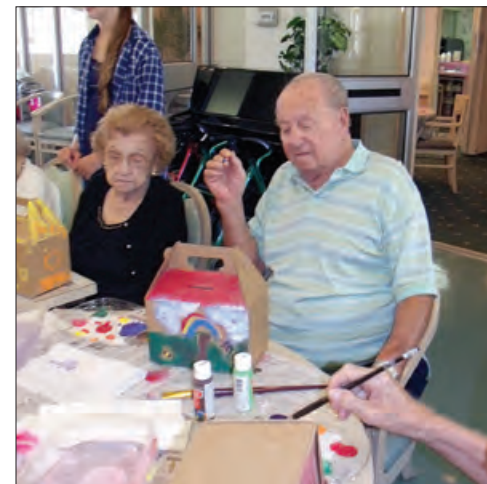


Ed Briley of Hobe Sound decides his house doesn't need a door, because "it's not a real house."

entially, to be recognized as more than just a cold, homeless person standing on a street corner.

That one gesture led to frequent trips to New York City for Olson and her children in order to aid the homeless. Using her administrative experience, she enlisted the assistance of faith-based groups to build what she would call an Interfaith Hospitality Network that included volunteers from various church congregations, the YMCA, and even car dealerships.

To date, Family Promise has established



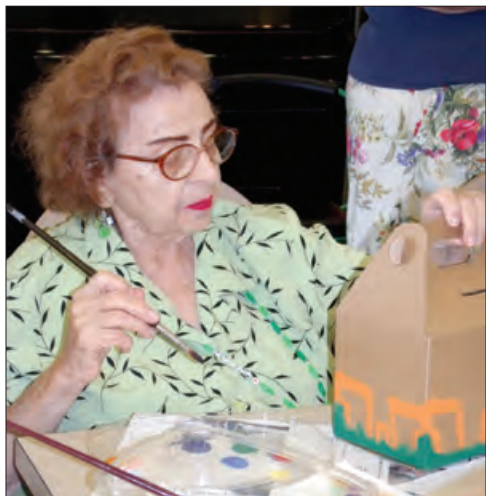
Manors resident Chuck Travis surveys his house without curtains in the windows. "I'm done," he says.

178 Interfaith Hospitality Network affiliates in 41 states, using the services of more than 150,000 volunteers and 5,500 congregations, including an affiliate in north Palm Beach County.

"We know we're not going to solve all the problems associated with the homeless," Briley said, "but in today's economy, we also know it's a growing problem. With a little help from some of our seniors, maybe we can make a difference."

One little house at a time. ■

—Barbara Clowdus



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Bunny population explodes at Humane Society

When unemployment and homelessness rises among humans, a corresponding spike in abandoned pets often results, and not just among cats and dogs.

“Bunnies represent the third highest number of animals in the U.S. that are in shelters,” says Tracie Harris, of the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast in Palm City. “Just a few weeks ago, we were up to 28 bunnies. Now we’re down to 17 with eight in foster care, and someone just dropped off five more yesterday.”

They work hard when a bonded pair of animals comes into the shelter to keep them together, but Sizzle and Hoppy are an “odd couple” that will require some extra dedication to allow them to stay together.

“Sizzle is a female guinea pig,” Harris says. “She’s outgoing and squeaks for attention. Hoppy, on the other hand, is a female dwarf rabbit, who is shy but loves to be held.”

According to the ASPCA, thousands of homeless bunnies start off each year as gifts to youngsters in their Easter baskets. Then after the novelty wears off and the responsibility sets in, they are abandoned to shelters or into the wild each year. When families are living under financial strain, the numbers increase.

“Bunnies make wonderful family pets,” Harris says. “Many of them can be



Zipper and Thumper are two new residents at the Treasure Coast Humane Society waiting for adoption. Sound Festival of the Arts.

litter trained like cats, and all of them are easy to love, so much so that many families keep them inside.”

The advantages of adopting a rabbit from a shelter rather than buying one from a store are many, including the opportunity to learn the potential for the rabbit’s true adult size, and being sure of its gender. The biggest advantage, though, is that often shelter rabbits have been fostered, Harris says.



“This means that we’ve learned their likes and dislikes,” she says, “and their personalities and temperaments are known, which helps us when it comes to matching families with bunnies.”

CURRENT BUNNY RESIDENTS INCLUDE:

>> **Peta**, a loving bunny with a sweet temperament.

>> **Flip-flop**, a sweet young boy, curious and full of energy. If he has time to run everyday, he will reward you with binkies.



>> **Jasmine**, (two years old, spayed, Californian) a large, shy bunny, likes to be held once she gets to know you. She is also an enthusiastic eater when it comes to greens like romaine and parsley.



>> **Jenny** really needs to be a house rabbit. A bit unhappy when caged, when given some freedom, she is friendly and curious.



>> **Tweety**, (male, neutered, American, 11months old) a sweet boy, is content to sit on your lap and snuggle for long periods of time.

>> **Pogo**, an active boy who needs room to run. He is more content being in the middle of activities than he is sitting on a lap.

>> **Happy**, a handsome boy, requires some extra grooming because of his angora fur. He is happy to get brushed as long

as you are gentle. His fur is currently being spun into yarn at a local shop. He likes to be held but not for long periods.



>> **Faye** (one-year-old, spayed, American) is a bit shy but eventually warms up to you. She likes to be petted and brushed.

>> **Midge**, (one-year-old female, spayed, Netherland dwarf mix) is a curious bunny who likes to be held and cuddled.

>> **Betty**, (five-month-old Dutch/dwarf mix, spayed) a sweet girl who likes to be held, also is a bit frightened of other rabbits, so she needs to be the only bunny in the house.



>> **Sizzle and Hoppy**, a bonded odd couple. Sizzle, a female guinea pig, is outgoing and squeaks for attention. Hoppy (female spayed dwarf, five years old) is shy but likes to be held.

“If anyone is thinking of adopting or knows someone who might be interested,” Harris adds, “please let them know that we have all shapes and sizes of bunnies at the shelter, many more than what’s listed here. We also have guinea pigs, and hamsters, and sometimes, even, ferrets.”

Shelter rabbits are usually spayed and neutered as part of the adoption price of \$25.

The Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, located at 4100 SW Leighton Farm Ave. in Palm City, is a 501(c)3 private, nonprofit organization, and relies on donations, wills and bequests to support its programs and services. As a local Humane Society, HSTC is independently run from any national welfare or humane organization with no financial assistance from these groups.

For more information, go to their website at www.hstc1.org. ■

—Currents staff

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Women's Clubs sponsor Reusable Resource Center forum

Businesses, industry, and retail stores often have unwanted items generally unsuitable for recycling that can be used for creative learning experiences, reducing the load on landfills while enriching the lives of children. That's the idea behind Reusable Resource Centers.

Office supplies, industry rejects, overruns, foam and plastics, molding, outdated carpet, wallpaper, and fabric samples, all normally destined for a landfill, could be donated to a reusable resource center....if Martin County had one.

Schools, nursing homes, churches, and other non-profit organizations on restricted budgets then could make use of these donated materials for teaching and creative learning purposes.

The GFWC Hobe Sound and Stuart Women's Clubs are sponsoring a forum Saturday, Sept. 8, from 1-3 at the Robert Morgade Library, IRSC Campus, on Salerno with speaker Walter F. Drew, Ed.D., founder of the Institute for Self Active Education (ISAE) who established the Reusable Resources Association (RRA) in Florida in 1998.

He has pioneered the development of reusable resource centers as a sustainable community building strategy. An author, artist, and early childhood edu-



Maya Kelly, 9, and her Lady Gaga purse made from repurposed VHS cassettes at Hobe Sound Festival of the Arts.

cator, Dr. Drew won the Childhood Resources Institute Classic Toy Award in 2007, and his "Discovery Blocks" were chosen Best Toy of the Year in 1982 by Parent's Choice Foundation.



Yalana Weaver, 8, of Hobe Sound displays a car she made from discarded foam at a Hobe Sound library event this summer.

"Reuse helps the environment, while businesses receive a tax deduction for donations," says Peggy Kane, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Hobe Sound Women's

Club. Kane and other members have the club have long been providing creative "Treasures from Trash" workshops at the Hobe Sound Festival of the Arts, the Hobe Sound Library, and various school events.

"For the past two years, these workshops have demonstrated how reusable discards previously headed for recycle or the landfill can be rediscovered and re-purposed," Kane says, "giving children and others an inexpensive means of creative expression."

The Treasures from Trash workshop materials were discarded items obtained at no cost from the Resource Depot in Riviera Beach, one of 40 non-profit Reusable Resource Association Centers nationwide.

"We feel that Martin County would greatly benefit from such a facility," Kane adds. "We invite you to explore the possibility of starting such a facility at our upcoming forum, which will be an informative and creative learning experience."

The Reusable Resource Center Forum will be 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Robert Morgade Library, IRSC Campus on Salerno Road, 5851 SE Community Drive. Stuart. For more information, call (772) 545-9939. ■

The story of my clothes: A BOX of summer travels

A trip to the Hobe Sound post office accomplished the task of shipping a BOX of my clothes off to England the first of May. I had decided not to have the burden of carrying a large suitcase and going through "checked baggage" lines, therefore freeing myself of carrying them onto the river barge in the Thames. I was visiting friends there.

Arriving with only a small carry-on with necessities, it was easy to jump on the tube, bus, and walk a gangplank out to the barge. I planned attend the Jubilee and watch the Queen pass on the river.

A week later, I went on by car to my little village in the country. I waited for the post and watched for the BOX. No luck. The BOX evaded me and weeks passed. A girlfriend lent me some clothes and believing in simplicity, I "made do."

After the first month passed and I prepared to return to the States, a notice arrived from British customs. My BOX was there. (Good news!) Bad news was that a huge customs duty had been slapped on it; therefore, I decided to do nothing and let my clothes be RETURNED TO SENDER.

Back in Florida in June, I watched for the BOX to arrive. My favorite clothes were busy traveling without me!

The Hobe Sound Post Office went on alert. Helpful, smiling ladies were interested and offered their help. (Typical of people in Hobe Sound.) When I walked my doggies, passing a post office lady,

we laughed about my traveling BOX.

The main office in New Jersey tried to help. Weeks passed. Finally, I was informed that in July I could expect my BOX at the end of the month. With great expectation I watched for it to land on my front porch.

Days passed.....nothing.....After many telephone calls and more smiles from the Hobe Sound post office ladies the BOX was located. It was in Miami! BUT at 4:30 a.m. on July 31, the BOX was shipped, in error, back to England.

Not long ago, I received a notice that it might be returned to sender in Florida without charge. Otherwise, I will have to pay \$90. Parcel Force has my BOX in Gloucester, England!

I am thinking of claiming air miles....

Thinking of helpful people, there are many in Hobe Sound. We don't have to look far to find them, along with some more of Hobe Sound's best-kept secrets.

Among them are: Chris Pepitone at **HOBE SOUND PRODUCE**. Located on US 1 north of the post office, east side. If you haven't discovered the tasty tortilla chips made there along with delicious salsa... hurry, before they sell-out again. Chris supplies Carmine's and other markets so they are in demand. HOBE SOUND PRODUCE has plans to expand and will include a large green market, more seafood and it's air-conditioned!

Another best kept secret is the HYDROPONIC VEGGIE market off Gomez

connected to the **Flower Market**. Beautiful and delicious local produce is grown there. It will open during the winter season on weekends.

For those who smoke! Travel further than Hobe Sound, north on US 1 to **COFFMAN's CIGAR BOX**. It's an old-fashioned pipe and smoke store, rare to find these days. Ron Kyzer, cheerful and happy, is a treasure. Well-known Ron goes out of his way to help others. He will help you find a roll-your-own, a pipe, cigar, a gift item, or show you empty cigar boxes for sale. These colorful wood boxes from various countries can be used for storing crafts, cards, photos, keepsakes and many other items.

KRUMB CAKES BAKERY and cafe



Suzanne Briley

Hopscotch

is new in town. I plan to visit it soon to discover if it's another Hobe Sound Best Kept Secret! ■

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

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Weekend, Sept. 7-9 Stuart Pirates Fest

The Pirates Fest has moved to the Martin County Fairgrounds this year and will feature a variety of events such as a kid's treasure hunt, adult and children's costume contests, a historic pirate encampment, and a kids fun zone. It will also include various pirate-themed merchandise, food and beverage vendors, along with live entertainment and an abundance of pirate performers. You pay \$2 for a program and schedule, and are asked to bring a non-perishable food donation. Hours are 4-8 on Friday; 10-6 on Saturday and 11-5 on Sunday. For more information, go to: treasure-coastpiratefest.com.



Saturday, Sept. 8 21st Century Scavenger Hunt

Six nonprofit organizations are banding together to offer a unique kind of scavenger hunt in Martin County that utilizes QR codes and smart phones for the "Smart Phone Family Scavenger Hunt" in Stuart on Saturday, Sept 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. Clues will be given via QR (Quick Response) Codes, which can be read by a QR code scanner, including QR scanner smartphone apps. Registration is \$20 per car in advance and \$25 at the door. The hunt will begin at Children's Services Council 101 SE Central Parkway in Stuart at 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is recommended by going to www.arcmc.org

Saturday, Sept. 8 Salerno Mullet Race

The Port Salerno "Fish Vat Triathlon" is 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. 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. For more information, go to portsalernocp.org or email portsalernocp@gmail.com.



Sunday, Sept. 9 Classical Concert

Terry Barber, founder and executive director of the Stuart-based non-profit, Artists for a Cause (A4AC), will provide a sneak preview of his 50-concert national tour, "Classical for Everyone," at the North Stuart Baptist Church on Sept. 9 at 3 p.m. With no set admission fee, attendees will be asked to make a donation of any size to A4AC, which provides professional and educational opportunities for visual and performing artists who use their art for community improvement. For more information about the sneak preview, call 772-419-8778 or email bonnie@a4ac.org. To learn more about Terry Barber, visit www.terry-barber.com. To learn more about Artists for a Cause, visit www.a4ac.org.



Week, Sept. 10-15 Food for Fines Week

The Martin County Library System is offering a chance to wipe out your fines in exchange for donations of food to the House of Hope. During Food For Fines week, Sept. 10 to 15, patrons should bring their overdue items along with non-perishable food items to the circulation desk at any Martin County library. All fines for items that have been returned late will be forgiven. (Sorry, folks, your bills for lost or never-returned items are not included in this offer.) The first Food For Fines effort in April 2011 and collected more than 6,300 pounds of food for House of Hope. For more information, call (772) 221-1403 or visit www.library.martin.fl.us.

Now until Sept. 29 Northern Everglades Photos

An exhibit by biologist and photographer Brent Anderson, "Northern Everglades," will be shown through Sept. 29, at the Kimbell Education Center at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, 16450 SE U.S. 1 in Hobe Sound. Anderson gained public recognition through his work on the large-scale ecological restoration of the Kissimmee River. Using his photography as a window through which others can gaze, Brent unveils the hidden landscapes from deep within the Northern Everglades that most think have been lost forever. For more information on Anderson, visit www.banature.com. The exhibit is free with park admission. For info, contact 561.745.5551.



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.

Saturday, Sept. 15 3rd Rock Blues Jazz Fest

A free concert in Stuart on Saturday, Sept. 15, from 3-9 p.m. will be at Memorial Park in downtown Stuart. The 3rd Rock Blues Jazz Fest offers lots of music, good food and fun to promote awareness of "The Traveling Memorial Wall, Reflections On Vietnam." Performing rock 'n roll will be Cassidy Wetherell, Jay Blue Band, JD Danner Band, Monkey at a Typewriter and more. Join the brick-laying ceremony honoring the families of five Stuart Vietnam veterans.



Weekend, Sept. 14-16 Spirit of the Dance Pow Wow

If you've never experienced an Indian Pow-Wow, this is an event not to be missed. The Spirit of the Dance Pow Wow will be at the Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy, the weekend of Sept. 14-16. Gates open at 10 a.m. daily. A grand entry of all participating Native American tribes is at 7 p.m. on Friday, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, and at 1 p.m. on Sunday. The day will include intertribal dancing, pony rides, specialty clothing, and exhibitions of hoop dancing, the fire dance. A special tribute to veterans will also be on display by the Road to Victory Military Museum. Admission fee is \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors and veterans; \$3 for children 6-12 and free for children five and under. For more information, go to spiritofthedancepowwow.org.



Saturday, Sept. 15 Taste Arts and Craft Show

Karen and Craig Kingston of Hobe Sound are launching a great idea for September....an annual arts and craft show at their eatery, the Taste restaurant on Old Dixie Highway. It's going to be a party with live music by the Jupiter Narrows Band and a barbecue with beer specials. The band, beer, and barbecue will begin at 4 p.m. and last as long as your dancing shoes hold up. Oh, yes, a variety of artwork will be for sale at tasteful prices, from original paintings, fine-art reproductions, gift cards and posters, hand-made jewelry, patio hammock chairs, homemade jams and other condiments from Monkey's Produce, hand-blown glass by Bear, and scenic art from Hobe Sound's own Dan Mackin. Other artists include Mimi McCallum, A.E. Backus exhibitors Carol Kepp, Jane Ejan Blatt, and Susan Fowler, Paulette Winn, Cynthia Cooper, Cathy Lashin and Joan Pitman, Linda Curtiss and others. For details, call 772.546.1129.

Saturday, Sept. 15 International Coastal Clean-Up

Last year more than 2,000 volunteers from throughout Martin County took part in the International Coastal Cleanup. This year, the event, sponsored by Keep Martin Beautiful, is seeking volunteers of all ages to join in the initiative. Families, businesses, civic and school groups dedicated more than 3,200 hours to collect more than 24,000 pounds of litter and marine debris from our beaches and coasts. According to the Ocean Conservancy, last year, the clean-up cleared enough food packaging (940,277 pieces) to get takeout for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day for the next 858 years, enough light bulbs (24,384 bulbs) to replace every light on the Eiffel Tower, and over the past 26 years of cleanups, global volunteers have found 55 million cigarette butts (of which probably 30 million came from Hobe Sound Beach). Volunteers can join the effort at Stuart Beach from 8 am to noon on Saturday, Sept.15, or can pre-register a group for a location of their choice. Volunteers are encouraged to pre-register for a cleanup site with Keep Martin Beautiful to ensure areas most in need are targeted. Call or email KMB at (772) 781-1222 or info@keepmartinbeautiful.org to register your family, business, civic or school group.

Weekend, Sept. 21-23 Music & Beer Festival

The First Annual Treasure Coast Music & Beer Festival will be at the Martin County Fairgrounds on Friday through Sunday, Sept. 21-23. Three beer tents will be open all three days. Three stages will provide a venue for 20 bands. A motorcycle show and contest will be Sunday, and hundreds of vendors will set up booths to ply their wares. The fairgrounds are at 2616 SE Dixie Highway in Stuart. For more information, call 561.866.7323.

Monday, Sept. 24 Native Wildflowers & the 3Bs

Martin County Master Gardeners, in cooperation with the Martin County Library System, will host an educational event at the Blake Library's Armstrong Wing in Stuart on Monday, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m., Native Wildflowers & the 3Bs, Birds, Butterflies and Bees. This free event will feature a presentation by author Rufino Osorio, who will discuss native Florida wildflowers and their role in attracting and sustaining healthy populations of native birds, butterflies, and bees. Copies of Mr. Osorio's well-received book, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*, will be available for purchase and signing by the author. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 29-30 Alice—Traditionally Twisted

The Reach Dance Company will present Alice—Traditionally Twisted, a modern jazz dance ballet based on Alice in Wonderland at the Eissey Campus Theatre in Palm Beach Gardens on Saturday, Sept 29, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept 30, at 2 p.m. This twisted retelling of the tale has bright costumes, contemporary music and is appealing to children both young and old! Tickets \$15-\$20. Call 561-339-6360 or go to reachdancecompany.com.



Saturday, Sept. 29 Doggie Date Night

Cuddle up with your four-legged best friend during Doggie Date Night at the Lyric's Flagler Center and settle in for some laughs. Presented by the Lyric Theatre and the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, the event will be held on Sept. 29 at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and will include dinner and the hysterical cult-classic, canine comedy, "Best In Show." The cost is \$25. Dinner will be served 30 minutes prior to each screening. Doors will close promptly at 5 p.m. for the early screening and 8 p.m. for the late screening. Seating is limited and reservations are highly recommended. Buy your tickets at the Lyric's box office or online, <http://www.lyrictheatre.com>. Call the Lyric at 772-286-7827.

Saturday, Sept. 29 National Public Lands Day

Local residents have a choice between two sites celebrating National Public Lands with exotic plant removal: Jonathan Dickinson State Park, which begins at 9:30 a.m., and the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area in Jupiter, which starts at 8 a.m. Volunteers from ages 10 and up receive free park admission. To register at Jonathan Dickinson, contact the Kimbell Education Center at 561.745.5551, or catlin.minnis@dep.state.fl.us or libby.reinert@dep.state.fl.us. To volunteer at the Lighthouse, Captain Armours Way in Jupiter, call 561.747.8380. Wear sturdy shoes and long pants, and bring water, as you'll be working in the brush.

Saturday, Nov. 3 Meal or No Meal



The seventh annual Meal or No Meal Community Awareness Dinner will be Saturday, Nov. 3, at St. Mary's Pittenger Center, 701 SE Ocean Blvd., Stuart from 6-9 p.m. A heartwarming event that brings people together in a spirit of friendship and charity, Meal or No Meal offers an evening of musical entertainment, a silent auction, prize drawings and a hearty dinner -- along with the good feeling that comes from helping your neighbors. The event's name comes from the serious decisions that thousands of Martin County residents face every day: Will I be able to pay the light bill or the rent? Do I buy groceries or medicine? Will my family have a meal on the table, or no meal? Dinner is presented by volunteers -- many of whom prepare the free meals at local community kitchens each night of the week. The event has little overhead, so you can be confident in knowing that you are directly helping people in our community who are striving to overcome hunger and hardship. Tickets for the event are \$100 per person. Contact House of Hope at (772) 286-4673 or visit www.hohmartin.org.

Saturday, Oct. 6 Leif Erikson Festival & Regatta

The Sons of Norway will invade Jensen Beach Causeway on Oct 6 for its 40th Annual Leif Erikson Festival & Regatta. Gulfstream Lodge #3-514, the Treasure Coast's local arm of the Sons of Norway, will host this popular event that honors the Leif Erikson's discovery of North America. Sons of Norway Lodges from Florida will join in the festivities that begin at 9:30 a.m. and wrap up about 2 p.m. Booths offering Scandinavian food (lapskaus), refreshments, rosemaling by Monika Hoerl, Scandinavian jewelry, a cake wheel and a mini-flea market will be available. Topping off the day's activities is the Viking Boat Regatta at 12:30 p.m. Lodge teams use replicas of Viking ships, which are meant to commemorate Erikson's voyage to North America nearly 500 years prior to the history-making sail by Columbus in 1492. Five or more boats will participate in Saturday's races. Each boat carries 6 to 8 oarsmen and a coxswain. This rowing and sailing skill contest for men and women is the highlight of the day. This is a family festival open to the public with no admission charge. Be sure to bring folding chairs to watch the boat races! For more information, call 772-223-5333.

VBS lesson: anything's possible with God

Vacation Bible School at Hobe Sound Community Presbyterian Church ended summer break for more than 80 local children, not with a period, but with an exclamation point.

"It was a wonderful week, but we're all exhausted," said Pastor Chip Falcone, with a wide grin. "Even the kids are exhausted."

Daily activities jammed an ambitious schedule led by 40 parent and teen volunteers and coordinated by Christian Education Director Pati Higginbotham, who adopted the theme, "Sky."

One of the activities at the "Imagination Station" offered was to mix your own soap-bubble recipe, making bubbles that float to the sky just like your prayers. Each child was given a "an itty, bitty, baby bubble bottle" (try saying that three times in a row) to take some of the magic mixture home.

"I like doing this," said Quin Wadsworth, of Hobe Sound, as he stirs the bubble mixture in a large mixing bowl. "If I'm doing this right, it's my favorite part. Do you know if I'm doing it right?"

Bible adventures, games, crafts, songs and a grand finale evening performance before parents rounded out the week. Each child also received a photo memento of himself or herself to frame.

As part of the World Vision: Operation Kid-to-Kid mission adopted by



Squirt-bottle tag in the courtyard

the VBS program, participants raised money to buy mosquito nets for children in Mali, Africa, to protect them from malaria contracted through mosquito bites.

"You collected enough money this week to purchase 28 bed nets," Higginbotham announced to the campers at the finale. Some of the campers also made cards to send notes to the families who will receive the bed nets.

"They're going to know that you're loved," she added, "all the way back here, in this teeny town of Hobe Sound."

The nets are used to protect up to three children at a time from the bites of mosquitos as they sleep, which has been the most effective means of stopping the spread of malaria.

"Just think what that means," Higginbotham said. "You are helping all those kids from getting malaria. You did that. You made a difference." ■

--Barbara Clowdus



Christian Ed Director Pati Higginbotham with Pastor Chip Falcone on the last day of Vacation Bible School.



Tristan takes a break to read the hymnal.



At the Imagination Station, participants get instructions for filling their teeny, tiny bubble bottles.



Volunteer Devon Clowdus leads songs for the VBS finale performance.



Volunteer Maura Bevers with her son, Kyle, 5, says she "had more fun than the kids did, I think."



Sitting in a boat to hear a Bible story makes the words seem more real.



A wading pool of bubbles became a real bubble bath.

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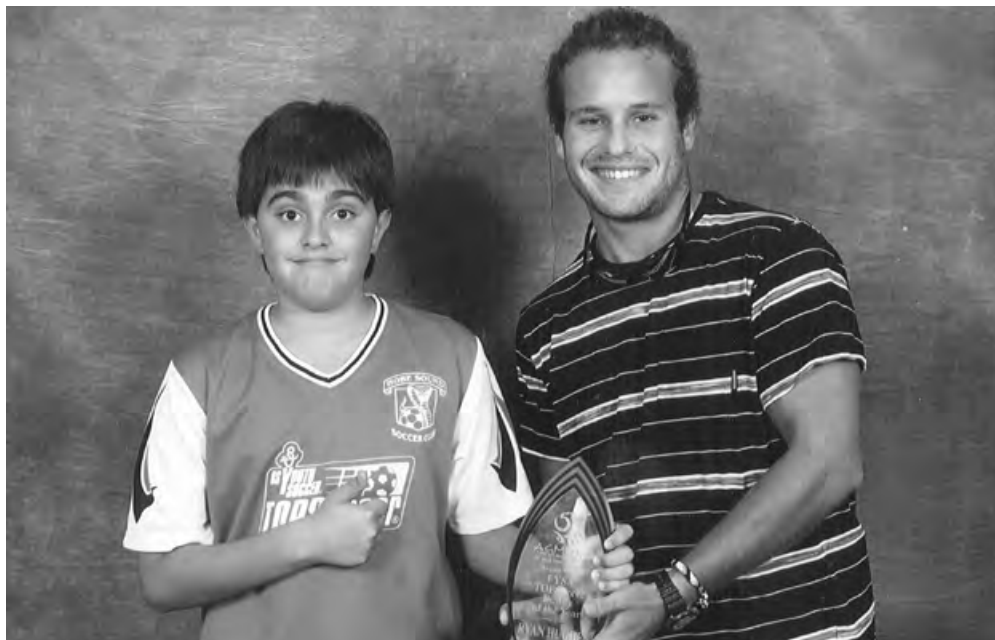
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You'll Be Glad You Did!

Hobe Sound's TOPSoccer Club earns state honors



Sean Roberts, 11, presents his Hobe Sound TOPSoccer program's buddy, Ryan Hughes, the FYSA's Buddy of the Year award.



Anthony Sementelli with the Florida Youth Soccer Association's Dean Front TOPSoccer Club of the Year Award with Craig Woll, right, president of the Hobe Sound Youth Soccer Club.

Two things that soccer enthusiasts Craig Woll and Tony Sementelli of Hobe Sound did not anticipate when they started Hobe Sound's TOPSoccer program three years ago was its meteoric growth and that it would earn statewide recognition for its efforts.

Both have happened.

The Hobe Sound TOPSoccer program for athletes with special needs, which began with 20 athletes and now has 61 enrolled, was honored with the Florida Youth Soccer Association's Dean Frost TOPSoccer Club of the Year Award during an awards luncheon at the soccer association's annual general meeting August 25 in Orlando.

In addition to the club's top honor, Ryan Hughes, 22, who was named Hobe Sound Soccer Club's 2012 "Volunteer of the Year," also won the Florida Youth Soccer Association's prestigious "Buddy of the Year" for 2012. He was especially surprised when the presenter was his 11-year-old buddy, Sean Roberts,

from the Hobe Sound TOPSoccer Club who testified to Hughes' special qualities and traits before a crowd of nearly 300 strangers.

"This was really something to see," said Sementelli, director of the TOPSoccer program for Hobe Sound. "We had nominated Ryan because he truly is an outstanding member of our program, and his dedication to the kids is just phenomenal."

Hughes once was scheduled to work during the same time as a TOPSoccer game, and he bargained with his employer to have the time off if he promised to come back and work those same hours on another day for free. "And he did," Sementelli said. "You don't find that dedication too often in today's world."

TOPSoccer is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers. The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and

playing soccer to any boy or girl who has a mental or physical disability.

"Developed by U.S. Youth Soccer in 1991, the goal of TOPSoccer is to get these children off the sidelines and into the game," Sementelli added. FYSA subsequently brought TOPSoccer to the State of Florida, and the program was adopted by the Hobe Sound Soccer Club in 2009.

"Player participation and development are key elements of the program and players are placed on teams according to physical and cognitive ability, and not necessarily by age," said Craig Woll, president of the Hobe Sound Youth Soccer Club and a TOPSoccer certified coach. "TOPSoccer is designed to improve the overall fitness, self-esteem and social skills of the participating athletes."

Sementelli, also a TOPSoccer certified coach as well as the program's director, said that although he is proud of receiving the Dean Frost Award, the recogni-

tion should go to the TOPSoccer staff.

"We have nearly 100 amazing volunteers that run the program for 61 athletes," Sementelli said. "Yes, that's top heavy, but that's what's required in order to have a good program, one where every soccer player has a buddy."

The Hobe Sound Soccer Club, a 501(c)3 not for profit corporation, sponsors the TOPSoccer program. Their quoted mission is to "foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the children in our community through the sport of soccer." The TOPSoccer Program is funded entirely by business donations, grants and monies provided by the Hobe Sound Soccer Club and its member families, according to Sementelli.

For more information about TOPSoccer, contact Anthony Sementelli at (772) 285-9606 or t.sementelli@att.net. Planning already is underway for HSSC's fourth TOPSoccer season, which will start in April, 2013. ■

Kids with cancer focus of mini-triathlon

The 3rd Annual Sunshine Sprint, a USA Triathlon-sanctioned mini-triathlon fund-raising event for The Sunshine Kids sponsored by Prudential Florida Realty, will be Oct. 6 at the Stuart Causeway.

"The Sunshine Kids Foundation adds quality of life to children with cancer by providing them with exciting, positive group activities," says Catherine Winters of Prudential Florida Realty and a Port Salerno resident, "so they may once again do what kids are supposed to do—have fun and celebrate life!"

The Sunshine Sprint course consists of a .25-mile swim in the Indian River Lagoon, a 9.5 mile bike ride up Hutchinson Island to the Jensen Beach Causeway turnaround and back, then a 2.6 mile run/walk over The Ernest Lyons Bridge to MacArthur Blvd. and back to the finish line.

Individuals and teams need to register on-line at www.sunshinesprint.com, and photo IDs are required at check in. Visit the event website for a complete list of rules and regulations.

Participants are encouraged to create a personalized page for accepting donations, according to Winters, and participation at any age level is encouraged.

"Last year, several youths completed the entire course," she says. "Family teams enjoyed children biking, while parents shared the swim and run. This year, a senior couple has registered and is in training to complete the course together. Some folks just walked the bridge and that is OK too!"



The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. adopted The Sunshine Kids Foundation as a network-wide charity in the spring of 1991.

Founded in 1982 by a volunteer in the pediatric cancer unit of a hospital in Houston, Texas, The Sunshine Kids provide young cancer patients with opportunities to participate in positive group activities that promote self-esteem, personal accomplishment and old-fashioned fun! Funded by personal contributions, corporations and foundations, The Sunshine Kids continues to provide all of its activities free of charge to children's families and hospitals.

"This is my second year at the helm of

this fund-raiser," Winters adds, "and I am quite energized by the local enthusiasm."

Donations to The Sunshine Kids also may be made at the website without registering for the event, or at the Prudential Realty office at 2363 SE Ocean Blvd. in Stuart.

"Another way to participate is to join us at Duffy's South on US1 past Cove Road Sept. 18 when 10% of your check will be donated to The Sunshine Kids," Winters adds.

Since 2001, Prudential Florida Realty statewide has raised \$2.2 million for The Sunshine Kids, which is its number-one fund raiser in Florida, as well as consistently being in the top-three fund-raisers nationwide. For more information on this non-profit organization, visit www.sunshinekids.org. To register, go to www.sunshinesprint.com. ■

The next generation of pomp chasers making their mark

Rock is a commercial fisherman that I'm honored to call a cohort. We share the same love and passion in surf fishing for pompano. Rock is new at the game, but is catching on fast on where and how to catch the silver bullets. He and his family reside in Jupiter.

He started taking his son, Peyton, out fishing for shoreline snapper when his son was three. In the last few years they have paired up to catch pomps in the Jupiter surf. Peyton is an awesome 7-year-old who swims, surfs, and reels in pompano on his dad's 13-ft. Lamiglas surf rods.

While waiting for one of Rock's four rods to go off, Peyton scoots in and out of the rolling surf with more joy than most any kid I've ever seen. When the rods start bending, he attentively sprints to the hook-up and starts reeling in fish like a pro. He's Dad's awesome helper. When the bite is on, Peyton will run and pick up fish and place them in the big fish bucket like there's no tomorrow.

Peyton is easy to like with his big smile and endless enthusiasm. Most of the locals know him and help his dad by giving Peyton the blue runners, jacks, mackerel and bluefish they don't want. Those fish may pay only a dollar a pound, but it helps pay the fuel and you know the price of gas. Someone



Five-year-old Vander Tessier of Hobe Sound with one of many pompano he caught over the Memorial Day weekend at North Beach.

might yell "Hey, Peyton, I got fish for Rock," and he will scorch down the beach sometimes a 100 yards to help his dad out.

I asked Rock if Peyton had any special traits that might bolster the catch. Rock replied: I'll call him over and say go over to the rods and put some magic on them. He will walk up to each rod and shake them at the reel seat and step up the bite. His dad says you couldn't believe how many times he's done that and shortly thereafter, a pomp smeared that rod. Actually, it's a technique that is worth trying because most of the best pomp surf guys use it.

Anyway, the easy part of the day is when Rock says, "Let's go fishing, Peyton." The hard part is getting the young fella to part with the ocean and the beach. There are times that Rock can't take his son fishing because he works a full-time job, too. Fortunately, Grandpa Phil takes him out and they fish for trout and goofy jig with light spinning rods for pompano.

Peyton is a very accomplished spinning rod fisherman. He is in the second grade at Allamanda Elementary School and he makes good grades. He watches The Disney Channel, but most of all he loves to fish. You wouldn't know it, but Peyton is autistic. All I know is, I'm so pleased to be part of his life and to have a genuine fishing bud like Rock.

The past season I've traveled upwards of 15,000 miles chasing pompano. In my safari, I stay focused on my target, sometimes bypassing life's important adjuncts. I noticed something very in-

teresting this past spring starting at the North Beach. I witnessed a new breed of anglers that so deserve attention.

Recently two local kids caught my eye. This past May, I fished Hobe Sound and made an acquaintance with Bill Raymond and Vander Tessier of Hobe Sound. I was walking with my full array of tackle up to this trio of wonderful people and introduced myself, shook hands and spaced myself well south of them.

Shortly thereafter my rods were bending and the pompano bite was right on. When I'm enthused I hardly notice what others are doing...but this handsome young kid was holding his own by practically matching my catch!

Bill would cast and bait the poles, while Vander studied the rod tips for hookups. When he caught one, he made sure he caught my attention and as it held it up in the air. Now he's running towards me to check my bucket and to exclaim, "We got six!" while I was pulling in number seven.

This went on for an hour and both of us did very well. Four months later, Bill sends an email to Hobe Sound Currents with a picture of Vander and his pompano. A sweet, fat heavy silverside!

Now I needed to know more, so I contacted his family. Vander first fished with his mother, Kristen, and grandmother, Jackie, at the Hobe Sound Beach and Greenwood Park. To learn the craft, Vander watched the locals, especially surf fishermen, Tom and Artie. Tom taught him how to cast, and Artie let Vander pull in his first pompano.

Two years ago I had met Kristin and her son on the beach, but only briefly. Through email, we've become



Rich
Vidulich
*Pompano
Reporter*

acquainted, and I realize that she is a wonderful lady who allows Vander to be who he is, but she also exercises remarkable discipline.

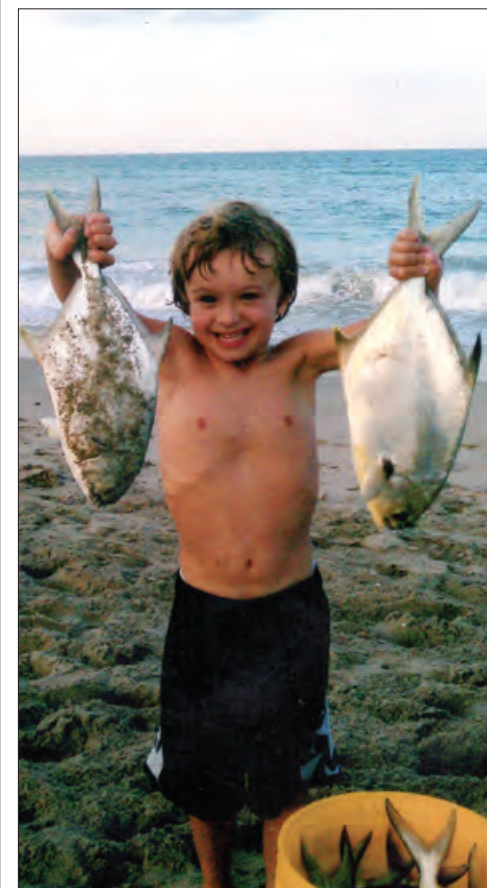
She told me that Vander loves watching Jeremy Wade fishing in the show, "River Monster." He can identify fish that most people can't. Vander has fished with his buddy, Billy, for three years. To me their relationship is so cool that I thought Bill was one of those awesome fishing uncles I used to have.

Bill says that Vander does well in school, and Mom keeps him away from video games. If you're me how could you not love these people?

By the way, Bill is one of the most accomplished recreational pomp anglers I've ever met. I thank Bill and Kristen for this neat story. In summation, Mom said it best: "I think (fishing) is really a great thing for kids to get into. If done responsibly, they learn patience and love and respect for the ocean and the creatures that live there."

I issue a huge thank-you to Currents readers for obliging my sea-sentimental curiosity this month. By the way, Vander is now six years old! ■

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



Peyton, 7, proudly shows off two of his "silver bullets."

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Dawn on Hobe Sound Beach August 27 revealed only a hint of what was to come with wind, waves and overcast skies for Hobe Sound, which got soaked, drenched and downright flooded over the next 48 hours, even though Hurricane Isaac remained more than 250 miles away. Thank goodness!