

Hobe Sound

CURRENTS



Skiers Lacie Greenwald, 11, (left) and her father, Dr. Brett Greenwald of Hobe Sound, both brought home medals from the NASTAR National Ski Championships in Colorado. Looks like Lacie's training is going to get serious.

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COMPLIMENTARY

Scary, embarrassing conduct from county commission. Pg 6



Getting attention

Nothing works quite like beautiful women to draw attention to products, or in this case, to good causes. Pg 4

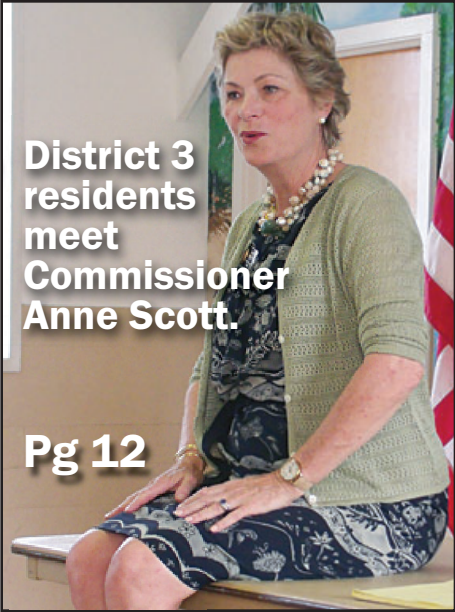
Photo: Steven Martine Models: Lindsey Wood, left, and Morgan Toledo

Hobe Sound Neighbors



Soccer League President Craig Woll serves up some grilled chicken for hundreds of players, buddies, families and volunteers in the TOPsoccer program.

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District 3 residents meet Commissioner Anne Scott.

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Business Buzz



Great news for those who peruse thrift stores for those rare one-of-a-kind finds. Geez Louise opened recently on Federal Highway, just south of the Wal-Mart store.

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One of scientist Edie Widder's "toxicity maps" of the northern portion of the Indian River Lagoon may have helped unlock the mystery of the recent catastrophic



Edie Widder.

loss of 32,000 acres of sea grass there, causing devastating impacts to other marine life in the estuary.

Widder, lead scientist and founder of the Ocean Research and Conservation Association in Ft. Pierce, had been testing the sediment and mapping

the pollution between the Barber Bridge and Wabasso Bridge, discovering that sulfates were the cause of the toxicity. But from where?

The hypothesis had been that nutrients from fertilizer run-off and septic tanks fueled a superbloom of microalgae that blocked out the sunlight and lead to the death of the seagrass, but ORCA's map coincided with the locations of mosquito impoundments created to control mosquito populations, a correlation spotted for the first time by Jim David, director of mosquito control in Indian River County.

"It certainly makes more sense than anything else I've heard," Widder says. "If septic systems and fertilizer killed the seagrass, why is the die-off catastrophic now when we've had septic tanks and fertilizer runoff for years."

David's theory proposed that the seagrass was killed by chemical reactions among the toxic compounds from marshes—including mosquito impoundments. Bacteria produces hydrogen sulfide, which attaches to iron, making iron sulfide, which leaches from wetlands into the estuary, where it acidifies.

That could well be the culprit behind the death of seagrass beds, added Widder, because without seagrass to absorb the excess nitrogen from septic tanks and fertilizer run-off, "algae blooms go wild."

ORCA's FAST™ (Fast Assessment of Sediment Toxicity) program will be utilized to test new sediment samples being collected from Indian River and St. Lucie counties, Widder said, which will be processed in ORCA's lab, as well

as labs in Boston and Canada. Results could take up to three months. For more information, go to www.teamorca.org where updates will be posted. ■

Little progress has been made in deciding what the qualifications should be for appointment to the Neighborhood Advisory Committees for each of the

seven Neighborhood Planning Areas, Hobe Sound, Port Salerno, Indiantown, Golden Gate, Rio, Old Palm City and Jensen Beach.

The Martin County Commission, after abolishing all NAC committees, had directed an ordinance be written early this year limiting the number of members to five, then directed in a later meeting that the county attorney change the ordinance to "up to seven, plus two alternates," in response to the level of interest expressed during seven NAC workshops held during April.

The commissioners also decided that at least one NAC member for each committee could live outside the planning area, but required that he or she be a Martin County resident, and that committees should comprise both residents and business owners or managers.

Slated to come before the commission at a meeting in mid-June, the county attorney, Michael Durham, withdrew the item from the agenda for further revision. It is not expected to be back on the county commission agenda again until mid-July, according to the county's Community Development Department. ■

Pitchford's Landing in Jensen Beach goes before the commission for final approval this summer after a lengthy delay.

When Florida residents Bill and Nancy Reily spotted an old mobile home park and restaurant for sale in 2004 on about 17 acres in Jensen Beach with views of the Indian River Lagoon, they bought it. That was January 2005.

It was easy for them to envision turning the parcel of land with 150 mobile home and RV sites and six cottages—plus an operating restaurant—within walking distance of historic downtown Jensen Beach into an extraordinary place to live.

What they had not envisioned was having to drain their finances to hire attorneys to represent them in two years of legal wrangling brought on by a small group of protestors seeking to stop their project, which had been approved by the Local Planning Agency and the Mar-

tin County Commission in 2007.

In 2009, a Martin County judge ruled in Reilys' favor that the project would not violate the federal Affordable Housing Act, the basis of their complaint, but the rhetoric resulted in a suit by the Reilys against the Jensen Beach Group for libel. The protestors filed a counter-suit, both of which also were settled in 2009 without going to court although a trial date had been set.

Bill Reily stated at the time, "I would never have settled had I not run out of money to pay lawyers."

Then came the global economic downturn and a sinking real estate market. The Reilys decided to wait before proceeding with their Planned Unit Development that includes 83 units among single-family homes and two-story condominiums, two community swimming pools, cabanas, a parking lot, as well as the existing restaurant, Bluesy's Happy Snapper on Indian River Drive.

In 2011 they sought and were granted by the Martin County commission an extension of their development agreement, from an August 2013 to an August 2015 completion date. In the meantime, the unexpected legal fees and long wait for signs of a market recovery resulted in a bank foreclosure and bankruptcy proceedings in 2012, but with a steadily improving economy, the Reilys decided to move forward with their

plans to create Pitchford's Landing.

Their land planner, Donald Cuzzo of Stuart, met May 30 with Joe Banfi, senior planner with the Martin County Growth Management Department for a workshop to ensure that the Pitchford's Landing project is in full compliance with the Martin County Growth Management Plan.

"This is a routine process that usually takes about a month," said Banfi. Then with all its "i"s dotted and "t"s crossed, the Pitchford's Landing PUD will go before the Martin County Commission for its final approval, perhaps as early as July. ■



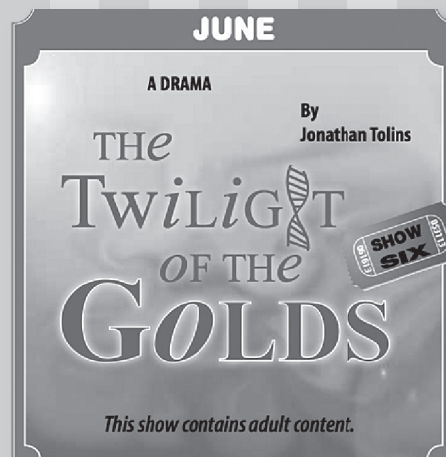
Tim Dougher, executive director of the Business Development Board, told the Martin County Commissioners

at its June 4 meeting that the BDB did not receive much attention from the

continued on page 4

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continued from PAGE 3

press regarding the recent expansion of ITS Telecom in Indiantown.

Yet two officials at the ITS Fiber Data Center ribbon cutting on May 8 told the audience of more than 150 that the expansion was due to the efforts of the BDB.

Jeff Leslie, president and CEO of ITS Telecom, and David Powers, chairman of the Enterprise Zone Development Agency, both credited Dougher for making the project come to fruition. Dougher had invited ITS to attend the Data Center World expo in Orlando, where the BDB would be exhibiting.

"We typically would not have a display at such an event because Florida is not usually looked upon as an ideal location for such a center," Dougher said. "That being said, times have changed, and businesses are now looking at offsite locations closer to home to store data."

With the expansion of ITS's fiber network and the creation of the Enterprise Zone in Indiantown, Dougher said he felt that ITS was in a position to promote Indiantown and capitalize on its strengths.

"It was because of the contacts made at Data Center World that ITS decided to move forward with the Center," he added.

The new center can provide co-location, network, and cloud services, utiliz-

ing wholly-owned, redundant, gigabit, fiber-optic network that guarantees bandwidth and reliability. Multiple power sources, real-time monitoring, gaseous fire suppression systems, and security at the ITS facility reinforce its dependability.

Their Indiantown location also should bring peace of mind to their clients since it's 30 miles inland and lies at an elevation greater than 30 feet above sea level, ideal for disaster recovery and back-up in hurricane-prone Florida.

The BDB is also currently working with the company to take advantage of the Enterprise Zone tax benefits, which the BDBMC administer. They also plan to attend the Data Center World exhibition again this year. ■

The Jensen Beach mooring field's future will be on the line at the Tuesday, June 11, Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ron Rose has been mobilizing business owners and residents in the Jensen Beach area to show their support by attending the meeting.

"For many years, an area of the Indian River Lagoon, directly south of the shores of the Jensen Beach Causeway,

has served as an unwanted dumping ground for derelict boats, creating an eyesore, a burden on taxpayers, and an ecosystem hazard," said Rose in an email to chamber members. "It is a problem Jensen Beach residents have long been unhappy with and a problem that will continue unless this area's use is replaced with an economically and environmentally responsible option."

Proponents say that the mooring balls will prevent destruction of sea-grass beds caused by dragging anchors; but opponents say more seagrass will die due to the influx of boat traffic and the shade caused by the dock. ■

REMINDER: A fertilizer ban is in effect until Sept. 30 for the unincorporated areas of Martin County. It aims to reduce the amount of

harmful nutrients entering local water bodies, a crucial step towards improving and maintaining water and habitat quality. Fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus cannot be used on turf, sod, lawns or landscape plants during the period of the ordinance, which extends during the four-month rainy season. ■

From the Cover



Photographer Steven Martine with model Morgan Toledo at the Simpson Island photo shoot. Photo: Rikki Klaus

With heightened public concern regarding the Indian River lagoon and more emphasis on environmental conservation, the timing was right for an out-of-the-ordinary photo shoot.

Two environmental nonprofits, Treasured Lands Foundation and The Pegasus Foundation, co-sponsored the "Beauty of Volunteerism" swimwear shoot recently on Simpson Island between Sewall's Point and Sailfish Point to highlight the work of volunteers.

Professional models Morgan Toledo and Lindsey Wood posed for an Earth Day photo shoot to kick off National Volunteer Week in April.

Treasured Lands, a land trust and conservation and environmental education nonprofit in Martin County, acquired Simpson Island in 2009. Over the past few years, Treasured Lands volunteers have devoted countless hours to clearing exotic vegetation from the spoil island to make way for native flora that supports birdlife.

"We would really like people to come out and volunteer their time, to learn to fully experience and appreciate the beauty of Martin County—and particularly the Indian River Lagoon," said

Chuck Barrowclough, executive director of Treasured Lands, "which needs as many advocates as we can muster."

With an office in Hobe Sound, The Pegasus Foundation is known worldwide for its work with elephants and rhinoceroses in Africa, stranded marine mammals in New England, stray dogs on Navaho lands, and cats and horses on the Treasure Coast and Caribbean islands.

Toledo and Wood volunteered their time to support the efforts of Treasured Lands and Pegasus Foundation. So did Stuart-based photographer and cinematographer Steven Martine. Go Fish and Surf Central in Stuart lent clothes and accessories for the shoot, and TC Paddle brought stand-up paddleboards, on which Lindsey and Morgan posed.

Barrowclough says Treasured Lands will spend more time on Simpson Island restoration in the coming months in hopes of relocating injured birds, such as brown pelicans and herons for rehabilitation. ■

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A new ice cream parlor opened on Federal Highway just north of Hobe Sound



in a shopping strip at the entrance to the Hobe Heights housing development, Ice Cream and More.

The shop features Working Cow ice cream made in Tampa with real

cream, real eggs, and real ingredients, opening its doors just in time for summer. "If you've ever had a bite of Working Cow ice cream," says owner Gene Martello of Hobe Sound, "then you'll never be satisfied with anything else, and that's a fact."

That's what happened to Martello on a trip to Vero Beach and his first visit to

a Working Cow ice cream shop there. "I immediately wanted to open my own ice cream shop in Hobe Sound, because we needed one here," he says. "I've been working on it for the past year."

Since he lives at the Hobe Sound Golf and Country Club, he plays golf every morning, then opens the shop at 2 p.m. every afternoon, including Sundays, and stays open until at least 9 p.m., well after dark. The extended hours allows visits after about any trip away from home, or to convince your kids to eat their veggies, then pile in the car after supper and head to Ice Cream and More.

The building wears a new mural by noted Hobe Sound muralist Nadia Utto on its south wall, and she painted a giant ice cream cone to hang out by the highway, as well You cannot miss it. Once you find it, try the salted caramel ice cream, and you'll be hooked, too. ■

Brandon Tucker of Palm City has been appointed chair of the Early Learning Coalition



of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee counties, which plans and implements school readiness and voluntary pre-kindergarten services. He was appointed by Governor Rick

Scott to serve as chair for a four-year term. "The most critical time to make a positive impact in the lives of children is from birth to age 8," Tucker said. "Serving as chair of the Early Learning Coalition is an honor and an important responsibility."

The former District 5 candidate for a Martin County Commission seat is president of The Tucker Group, LLC, an agricultural and commercial-focused real estate firm that operates throughout the Treasure Coast, central and south Florida. As the former chair of the board for the YMCA of the Treasure Coast, Tucker is experienced in leading an organization

that develops programs to assist local youth. Tucker also currently serves as a board member on several civic and non-profit organizations including the Palm City Chamber of Commerce, Redeem the Shadows, Seacoast National Bank Community - Big Lake Region and Okeechobee Christian Academy. ■

Joshua D. Ferraro rejoins the law firm of Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith as a senior attorney



working out of the firm's Stuart office, the same firm where he began his career nearly a decade ago. He will be assisting clients throughout the Treasure Coast with claims arising

from personal injury and wrongful death as well as the litigation of intra-family disputes involving a contested will or trust.

Ferraro was born and raised in Stuart and graduated from Martin County High School. After attending the University of Florida and earning a bachelor of arts in political science, he studied law at Stetson University College of Law, where he graduated cum laude in 2004. He also is president of Tykes & Teens, a Martin County-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing mental health, substance abuse and behavioral counseling to local youth and vice president of the non-profit Keep Martin Beautiful. ■

The "Geez Louise" Thrift & Collectibles Shop in south Stuart began life

after a returning military veteran could not find employment in Martin County around two years ago.

"We spent nine years serving in the military after we left Martin County," said Brandy Fitzhugh, who shares the operation with her husband, Jason, a graduate of Martin County High School. "So we started going to the flea market to sell stuff."

People began donating household goods to them and their operation began to bloom.

"We decided we should probably open a store," she says, "because then we would not be limited to just two days a week." They found a location in Rio, but have since moved to the Palm Square shopping center south of Wal-Mart on Federal Highway.

Brandy Fitzhugh



They have a wide assortment, from hand-painted cedar chests, to porcelain tea cups, to antique chairs, to night-vision binoculars, which sold recently for \$60. Weekly visits to the shop offers new treasures on display.

"We have a lot of fun collecting things," the young mother of three says, "and we might even keep some things for our house, then if we get tired of them, just bring them here to sell them. Our house is always changing," she says with a smile, "just like our store."

Geez Louise is open five days a week, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Call 772.692.5170 or 626.8605 for more information. ■



The staff of the Palm City-based public relations firm, The Firefly Group,

displays its awards from the Florida Public Relations Association Treasure Coast Chapter. From left, Evelyn Lespinasse, Jessica Layne, Rob Ranieri, Melissa Zolla, Stacy Ranieri, and Nancy McCarthy. The Firefly Group and its

CEO Stacy Ranieri earned Image and Grand Image awards for its production of the 2013 Florida Ranches Calendar, as well as an Image award, Grand Image and Judges' award for its pro-bono production of the 2012 SafeSpace, "Walk A Mile in Her Shoes" video. These five awards bring the total of awards from FPRA and FPRATC to 42 in the last six years. ■

Editorial: Scary, embarrassing Commission conduct

Even if our ordinary, middle-class citizens wear rose-colored glasses, they will see only a few positive actions by the Martin County Commission right now under the leadership of Sarah Heard. The majority are scary and downright embarrassing.

It's depressing to realize more clearly than ever after the June 4 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners we have a board chair with no sense of civility. (We already had an inkling.)

We also learned that the county's rules and regulations required a three-year quest by the Boy Scout Council to get to the point that they could come before the commission and ask that an old development plan that no longer is feasible to achieve with the country's current tight economy be revoked. Three years!

And all they want to do is to build one building to replace three dilapidated, hurricane-damaged buildings already on the property.

Not only unacceptable, that's scary.

The meeting revealed also that the Tanah Keeta Boy Scout camp, with about 600 acres abutting Jonathan Dickinson State Park near Hobe Sound, also spent over the past three years the equivalent of \$100,000 to get in front of the commissioners. They are fortunate that their planning services were provided to them pro bono, since their

council vice-president just happens also to own a planning firm and believes in the value of the Scouting program to help create exceptional citizens.

The Boy Scout Council had a deadline to meet—they'd been able to line up a donation to start construction, not an easy accomplishment these days, but their deadline was just weeks away.

Somehow, Boy Scout officials had thought they were coming into the commission meeting as prepared as possible. They had the county growth management staff's recommendation for approval in hand, along with a written blessing by the neighboring homeowners association, but that was not enough—a lesson for the rest of us to remember.

It was not so much that Heard—and Commissioner Anne Scott followed her lead—objected to having to meet the Boy Scouts' deadline, or that they questioned the type of building and its purpose, or that a shooting range was on the premises—a standard feature of every Scout camp in America and had been there for decades—or even that they were unclear about the camp's history and objectives, or that they both were concerned that other buildings might be added at some point.

It was not the questions, neither was it the objections. It was their tone, the way their questions were framed. Commissioner Heard, particularly, treated

the applicants as if they had a hidden agenda, as if they were outright liars, spitting her words instead of speaking.

What is most troubling is that they treated the Boy Scout organization as if they are enemies of the state, enemies of Martin County and its residents, with Commissioner Heard's famously disdainful facial expressions conveying even more contempt than her words.

You can get any information you want and the facts you need to make a sound judgment by questioning your applicants, our citizens, without malice and with respect.

Commissioner Heard should take some lessons from Commissioner John Haddox, whom we are yet to see treat anyone—even those with whom he disagrees—with any less respect than he'd treat a close friend.

The fact that the Boy Scout's request finally was approved after a two-and-a-half hour bashing with a 4-1 vote (Anne Scott dissenting) paving the way for construction of a new building is small compensation for their public humiliation and ordeal.

We should all send a check as the Martin County citizens' way of apologizing to the Boys Scouts to help them with their building fund: Send it to CEO Jeff Isaac, Gulfstream Boy Scout Council, 8335 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. Or go to their website:

www.gulfstreamscouting.org to make a donation on-line, and send an email to Mr. Isaac at jeff.isaac@scouting.org to tell him that Martin County citizens are GLAD to have the Boy Scouts here.

Is it any wonder that Martin County is considered a tough place to do business when we don't allow even the Boy Scouts to build a new building to replace an old one?

But the light is beginning to dawn among our citizens that some of our commissioners consider any kind of improvement to or maintenance of our properties to be that dirty word, "development," and should be banned.

Some ordinary residents, not developers or trained land planners, are beginning to question some of the rewritten chapters of the Comp Plan, at least those that they can understand.

They are beginning to realize that the proposed 75' setbacks on already hardened shorelines are likely to affect them, too, and they're scared of seeing a decline in their property values if they're unable to repair a seawall or a deck or install pervious pavers.

Even the Treasure Coast Planning Council noted that no scientific evidence supports such setbacks and imposing them now would likely cause undue hardship, particularly in the neighborhood planning areas. Lesson?

We need watchdogs, not mad dogs.

Economic Council acknowledges successes

The members of the Economic Council of Martin County would like to thank the members of our state and federal legislative delegations for their work on several issues of importance to our county and state.

At the federal level, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been allocated the funding flexibility needed to keep the Witham Field tower open (at least through September). On May 2, 124 U.S. senators and representatives underscored their legislative action with a letter to the FAA administrator and the transportation secretary, making it clear their specific legislative intent was that funding for contract towers remain in place.

A 2010 report by the Florida Department of Transportation found that Witham Field had direct economic impacts of \$163.3 million, generates \$295.5 million in total economic activity and 1,240 jobs. Any diminishment of the airport's services would be felt far and wide throughout our community.

U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy (FL-18) was an important advocate for the bi-partisan legislation and one of the bill's co-sponsors. "I strenuously objected to the closing of Witham Field's tower, because it plays a vital role on the Treasure Coast, safeguarding flights, passengers and ground structures by coordinating the hazardous mixture of jets and prop planes that use Witham Field and by keeping the airspace

adjacent to Palm Beach International Airport safe," Murphy said.

Thank you, Rep. Murphy. Your leadership on this legislation is much appreciated.

Economic Council Board Member Alex Beringer, president of Fair Wind Air Charter, played a major role in advocating for the continued funding for the tower at Witham Field, as did

Stuart Jet Center and Galaxy Aviation executives, as well as county airport staff. In addition to the added layer of safety, an active tower helps mitigate the impact of aircraft noise in local neighborhoods by controlling each aircraft's flight track along departure and arrival routes specifically designed for that purpose.

In Tallahassee, State Rep. MaryLynn Magar, R-Tequesta, successfully sponsored a bill eliminating sales tax paid on manufacturing equipment from April 30, 2014, through April 30, 2017. This tax exemption makes Florida more competitive with many states already offering this exemption and will help bring more high-paying manufacturing jobs to our state.

In a recent visit to our area, Governor Rick Scott said "I want to thank Representative MaryLynn Magar and the house committee members who voted for this bill to support Florida manufacturing jobs. Florida is one of the few states in the country that taxes manufacturing machinery and equipment today. As we compete against

other states and countries for jobs, we need to make sure we are playing on a level field." We agree!

The Economic Council's leadership and membership actively worked to support and advance Rep. Magar's and Congressman Murphy's legislation through phone calls, letters, emails and direct contacts with multiple elected officials and staff. Advocacy in support of developing and maintaining a healthy, diverse and sustainable economy for Martin County is one of the Economic Council's core endeavors.

The third time turned out to be the charm for State Sen. Joe Negron, R-Stuart, and his "Right to Speak" legislation. While it might seem obvious that a citizen should have the right to be heard at a public meeting conducted by a governmental body, our state's constitution does not include this guarantee. Thanks to Sen. Negron's persistent efforts, we will have the right to be heard.

**--Tammy Simoneau
Executive Director, Economic Council**

Formed in 1985, the Economic Council of Martin County is a privately funded organization of community and business leaders dedicated to building a quality community, which provides a healthy economy and improves Martin County's quality of life. For more information, visit www.mceconomy.org.

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Overdue praise for a WM employee

Waste Management in Hobe Sound “banks” employee commendations from customers, turning them into rewards and recognition later for jobs done well, according to Jeff Sabin, Waste Management government affairs director. I had been particularly impressed by one of Waste Management’s employees, I told Mr. Sabin recently, but I knew only the employee’s nickname.

We had met almost immediately after my brother died in January 2012. On that day, I had robotically fed the dogs and taken out the garbage. After the Waste Management truck had rumbled around the corner, I noticed an errant bit of trash floating to the middle of Laurel Lane.

By the time I picked up the litter, the garbage truck was well on its way down the road more than a block away when suddenly its brake lights flashed red. The driver got out and jogged back to me, reaching out to take the cellophane wrapper from my hand. “You came all the way back here for this?” I asked incredulously.

“Yes, Ma’am,” he said. “This is my neighborhood, and I’m gonna take care of it.”

I was staring at a big, burly black man, whom I knew did not live among my two dozen or so neighbors in that old section of Hobe Sound. His neighborhood? In the silence that filled the space between us, he must

have sensed my confusion. He added: “Oh, I may not live here, but it’s my community just the same, and it’s my job to take care of it.”

Touched by his sense of responsibility and genuine kindness, I reached out to hug him. Instead, I laid my head on his shoulder and sobbed as the grief I’d pushed down deep came barreling to the surface. We stood in the middle of the road, and I felt his muscled arms wrap comfortingly around me. When my tears stopped and I could breathe again, I straightened up and thanked him. Too embarrassed to look at him directly, I turned around with my head down and walked away.

Six months later at my brother’s place eight miles away in south Stuart, another Waste Management truck lumbered to a stop next to the gigantic junk pile I’d spent the day building. The driver got out of the truck to assist the other employee in the back, then he stopped: “This is aluminum, ma’am, and this is iron. You can take this to recyclers and sell it for cash.” No, I told him. Just take it.

“Well, do you mind if I set it aside and come back for it after work?” he asked. Not at all, I said, so later that evening as we walked around my brother’s yard, he told me how the neighborhood had changed since my brother’s death. “Your brother always had something funny to tell me,” he



Barbara Clowdus

Unfiltered

said. “He made me laugh, and when it was hot, he would bring me a cold bottle of water. He was a good man.

“He told me when he’d gotten cancer,” he continued. “and I started not seeing him as much, but when I did, he still joked with me. In spite of everything, he still made me laugh. I knew he’d been a fisherman, so I always called him Captain. I think he appreciated that, and I can tell you this, too. I miss him.”

No scrap metal remained to be salvaged, so I told my brother’s garbage man that he could have an old, cast iron grill at my own house in Hobe Sound if he’d pick it up that weekend. We exchanged names, and he scribbled his phone number on a scrap of paper.

Later when I called to give him my address, I added some driving directions, but he stopped me. “I think I know where you live.” Shortly, he pulled his white pick-up into my driveway; he, his wife and daughter all clambered quickly out of the cab. With a broad grin and a chuckle, he

asked: “Miss Barbara, don’t you recognize me?” I stood there, mute, not quite understanding why he would ask.

“I’m your garbage man,” he said. “I was your brother’s and yours.” He was the stranger who had held me in the middle of the road as grief had overtaken me. I had not recognized him at my brother’s, but he’d not recognized me either until I was back in context at my own address.

“You must have thought you’d encountered a crazy old woman that day,” as I explained to him that our paths intersected only shortly after my brother’s unexpected death.

“Well, I didn’t know why you were crying,” he admitted. “I just knew that right then, you needed a friend, and now I know why.”

He called me weekly for several months to check on me and to give me a pep talk, once stopping his truck to say hello when he noticed my car behind him, and another time coming to my house after I’d misplaced my phone for several days, thus leaving his calls unanswered. “I was worried about you,” he said. “I’m glad to know you’re okay.” He would not allow me to drown.

I called him last week to learn his full name. I am delighted to report, Mr. Sabin, that your employee’s name is Anthony “Tony” McNair, an outstanding Waste Management employee. A truly exceptional human being.

Monopoly Money and the Gold Standard

Not long after our family’s working vacation in The Big Apple at the 1985 World Monopoly Championship, I bumped into my friend Ian in the supermarket. “I’m just back from Singapore on business”, he said, “and I saw Ross on one of the TV channels there, in my hotel room one night.” Our son had grown up with Ian’s boy, and Ian had recognised him immediately. I was glad somebody had caught Ross’s fleeting moment of glory.

Linda and I were there on the spot, but we didn’t see any of the TV coverage. The opening day of the tournament coincided with an earthquake in Mexico that was later estimated to have killed at least ten thousand people. Every TV station in New York City turned its entire transmission time over to reports from Mexico. The Monopoly Championship was ignored utterly.

Ross had lain fifth at the end of the first day, in a field of twenty, and was on track to make the cut for the final table. Aged barely ten, he was what a French TV interviewer called “le benjamin” – the youngest competitor. The US champion – Jim Forbes, a CPA from Winter Haven, Florida – explained to the prospective

US audience that the mental pressure would prove too much for a child, and he was right. Ross blew out to tenth during the next day’s play. Although – who knows? – maybe it wasn’t the pressure at all; maybe his luck just ran out. Jim also missed the cut, and he was the oldest competitor.

It was a nine-day wonder here at home, when a (then) nine-year-old beat out several local bankers, lawyers and accountants to win our Islands’ first formal Monopoly Tournament one Saturday morning. I had dropped him off and gone shopping, so as not to cramp his style, and it was all over by the time I got back to give some post-game comfort to a gallant loser. The adults were standing around looking sheepish, and the boy was being told where and when he could collect his prizes – airline tickets to New York and accommodation at the Waldorf Astoria.

Winning at Monopoly is 90% luck and 10% skill & awareness. Landing on Mayfair and Park Lane (Boardwalk and Park Place in the US version) requires pure luck; bankrupting everybody else inside twenty minutes requires quick wits and some gambling skill. Think of poker, but



Gordon Barlow

Outside, Looking In

with less money and less time. (The 1983 World Champion came second in 1985, by using his experience to maximise his luck.)

It wasn’t so easy in New York. No casual Saturday morning in shorts and flip-flops, but hot lights and hubbub in the ballroom of the Waldorf. Spectators wandered around the tables speaking in tongues while watching the champions from twenty nations do their thing. It was fast-paced stuff. The bankers enforced the tournament rules strictly. Minimal stoppages were allowed for the consummation of property deals, and all negotiations had to be conducted on the run while keeping an eye out for the movements of dice and tokens so as not to miss out on rent – all within a ninety-minute limit.

There was real money at stake: US\$15,140 to the Champion, winner

take all. \$15,140 was the total of the Monopoly Money sold with each game. Most games in existence still have that amount, and its purchasing power is unchanged – in the game. However, the purchasing power of the US\$15,140 prize money has greatly depreciated since 1985. Take a moment to think why that is.

The game’s bankers use “hard money”. What a contrast to the real-life Central Bankers who have screwed up their nations’ real-life economies by financing asset bubbles with money created out of thin air. Monopoly currency’s value is maintained by not allowing any inflation of the money-supply. Monopoly Money is disciplined in a way that actual currencies aren’t. In effect, it adheres to a gold standard. It’s a good thing Monopoly games don’t involve Central Bankers, eh? Imagine the chaos!

Gordon Barlow, an independent political commentator and writer, was born and educated in Australia. He has lived in several countries throughout his career, and visited more than 80. He currently lives and writes in the Cayman Islands, and occasionally gives an objective “outsider’s” look at America and its policies.



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New equine facility opens in Palm City

Horses and ranching comprise as much, if not more of Florida, than citrus and sand, so the news that a new equine facility was opening in Palm City was greeted enthusiastically.

The equine veterinarians behind the project, Dr. Carolyn Todd, originally from Scotland and a graduate of Glasgow University Veterinary School, and Dr. Edgardo Fullana, a graduate of St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine, are already familiar names to many horse owners and breeders in Palm City, or Jupiter Farms, or Caloosa, Palm Beach Gardens, Hobe Sound, Indiantown, or Fort Pierce, whose clients have relied previously on their full-service mobile equine veterinary practice.

"The clinic is a great addition to our established veterinary practice," says Dr. Todd, of the new facility at 5236 Ludlum Street just off Citrus Blvd. in Palm City. "Our goal is to provide the highest quality veterinary care using state-of-the-art

equipment and techniques."

Their services include lameness and sports medicine, equine reproduction, advanced dentistry, and internal and preventive medicine. Having their own facility permits them their immediate access to an on-site laboratory connected to the barn and to the breeding shed, giving the veterinarians maximum control of reproductive and medical procedures.

They included in the design a central treatment room, a 2,500 sq.-foot air-conditioned barn with rubber mats throughout, an air-conditioned breeding shed, and five acres of pasture turnout, fenced individually so there is no nose-to-nose contact among their patients.

"As with the treatment room, the breeding shed is attached to our lab," she says, "which means that we can collect, evaluate and freeze or ship semen all under one air-conditioned roof. Our constant rate freezer allows us to freeze at a constant temperature and thus producing



Dr. Carolyn Todd.



Dr. Edgardo Fullana.



the best quality frozen semen possible."

Prior to coming to the Treasure Coast, Dr. Todd was associate veterinarian at Ferguson and Associates in Ocala, where she developed a special interest in lameness and performance horse medicine, focusing on thoroughbred yearlings and 2-year-olds in training. That experience led to her employment as the sole veterinarian for a thoroughbred training and breeding farm in Ocala, which fostered her desire to create a state-of-the-art facility of her own.

"Lameness is the most common cause of under performance in the equine athlete," she says.

In addition to offering all of the traditional treatment options for lameness, they also are able to offer some of the latest regenerative therapies, such as IRAP and PRP.

"IRAP (Interleukin-1 receptor antago-

nist (IL-1Ra) protein) is produced from your horse's own blood, which is mixed with some chromium beads, spun in a centrifuge, then incubated and stored," says Dr. Todd. "We then inject it into the affected joint. We are using IRAP in the treatment of osteoarthritis with positive results as a substitute for intra-articular steroids."

Those who own horses will understand exactly what she's talking about, and the rest of us now know that two dedicated, compassionate veterinarians have created an extraordinary facility in Palm City.

For more information, go to www.harbourridgeequine.com or call 561-744-9026. ■

A single dollar to save a horse

A single dollar donation can help save hundreds of Thoroughbred racehorses, according to Florida Thoroughbred Retirement and Adoptive Care, a statewide non-profit dedicated to housing, feeding and rehabilitating former race horses.

"Florida TRAC gives retired racehorses a fighting chance through rehabilitation and retraining at several locations in Martin County," says Joanne Hamel, a local volunteer with the organization. "In the past two years, FL TRAC has assisted more than 200 horses to begin life again, entering new careers ranging from trail and therapy horses to top show-jumping prospects, but we can't do it without help."

Currently, more than 150 horses from tracks such as Gulf Stream Park, Belmont, The Meadowlands, Aqueduct, and Saratoga are awaiting homes. The future for the majority of race horses, those that do not make it into the winner's circle, is uncertain.

"For far too many of them, they have no tomorrow," Hamel adds. "They're sent to illegal slaughter houses, packed in a trailer with 20 or more other horses, lucky to be alive by the end of the journey to their cruel, unfortunate death."

Organizations such as Florida TRAC are taking steps to ensure these "equine athletes" have a second chance at life, but it's an expensive proposition.

"We can't do it alone," she says. "We need help. This is an opportunity for you to make a difference in a small way. If everyone reading this would take a minute out of their day and send a dollar out of their pocket, Florida TRAC can save another 100 horses. Yes, you can help save 100 horses for one simple dollar bill."

Of course, Florida TRAC also accepts



FL TRAC volunteer Cassie Klein and a rescued thoroughbred available for adoption.

larger donations, as well as corporate sponsorships and in-kind donations, large and small.

Earlier this year, FL TRAC received accreditation from the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, based in Lexington, Ky. Funded initially by seed money from Breeders' Cup, The Jockey Club, and Keeneland Association, the TAA comprises owners, trainers, breeders, racetracks, jockeys, after-care professionals and other industry groups.

"We are honored to be among the first after-

care facilities accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance," said Barbi Moline, director of Florida Thoroughbred Retirement and Adoptive Care. "The support of the TAA will help ensure that we can continue to give thoroughbreds the lives they deserve after their racing days are over."

Florida TRAC is a 501-c3 non-profit committed to ending the slaughter and inhumane treatment of the Thoroughbred racehorse. To donate, send your dollar to Florida TRAC, 2740 SW Martin Downs Blvd., Suite 110, Palm City, FL 34990, or donate through its website www.fltrac.org. ■

SOME HORSE FACTS

Horses do NOT have to be euthanized after breaking a leg.

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HoSo Chamber Calendar

Monthly Chamber Breakfast

Thursday, June 13, 8-9:15am
Hobe Sound Bible College
Schmul Center,
11295 SE Gomez Avenue, Hobe Sound
Sponsored by: EyeMarketing
Guest Speaker: Dennis Root of
Tactical Advantage Solutions
"Personal Safety Awareness & New
Safety Awareness Program for Children"
Cost: \$10 Members/\$15 Non-Members

Joint Business After Hours by Hobe Sound & I-Town Chambers

Thursday, June 20, 5:30-7 pm
Sponsored & Hosted by:
J & R Outfitters
7600 SW Fox Brown Rd, Indiantown
Cost: \$7 Members/\$10 Non-Members

Call Jan Otten at
772-546-4724 to RSVP



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Hobe Sound hosts iTown Chamber

Many of the Chamber members attending the May 29 Chamber of Commerce After-Hours Social had never visited the Hobe Sound Nature Center, host and sponsor of the joint event of the Hobe Sound and Indiantown chambers. They were pleasantly surprised.

"I've lived here for 30 years," said Hilary McKeich, executive director of the iTown Chamber, "and I'm embarrassed to say I've never been here. It's a beautiful facility, and I know I'll be back." Other Chamber members were heard saying the same thing, and it's anticipated a similar refrain will be heard when Indiantown hosts Hobe Sound Chamber members.

"The idea is for our communities to get to know about each other....at least, better than we probably do now," said Angela Hoffman, executive director of the Hobe Sound Chamber. "Really, we're not that far from each other, so we plan to do this at least twice a year."



Hilary McKeich, iTown Chamber executive director, with insurance agent and prospective member Ildiko Haidasher of Stuart.

The next joint Hobe Sound/Indiantown chamber event will be June 20, when J&R Outfitters will host both



The Hobe Sound Nature Center hosted a joint after-hours social of the Hobe Sound and Indiantown chambers of commerce.

business groups and their guests at 7600 SW Fox Brown Road in Indiantown.

"If you've ever wanted to go on an African safari," McKeich added, "you're going to love J&R Outfitters."

A diverse animal population roams on 4,000 acres that includes a large herd of water buffalo and numerous antelope species, deer, native birds, wild boar and alligators. It also offers swamp buggy tours of native habitat as part of its sister



Jan Otten of the Hobe Sound Chamber.

attraction, Old Florida Wildlife Tours.

The joint meeting is open to the public. The charge is \$10 and includes two beverages and appetizers.

To reserve, call either the Hobe Sound Chamber or the iTown Chamber of Commerce. 772.546.4724, or 772.597.2184. ■

Hobe Sound history book now off the press

Paula MacArthur Cooper told just about anyone she met over the past four years that she was preparing a book of historic photos of Hobe Sound. She talked about it often, but when she addressed the crowd of Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce members during its after-hours gathering in April at her family's restaurant, Harry & the Natives, it seemed she was somewhat amazed that she'd finished what she'd started.

"I've been in Hobe Sound since my family moved here in 1952," she said, her voice beginning to break with pent-up emotion, "and I just wanted to preserve those memories of old Hobe Sound...the special place where I grew up...the place that I love."

One of those to whom she spoke of her desire in the beginning to create a photo book of memories was Mike McCoy, a book publisher who lives in Hobe Sound who had stopped by the restaurant.

"If it was not for Mike," she added, "I don't think this book would have ever happened."

In part, it was due to Cooper's unyielding quest for additional photos that caused the delay.

"If you've got any old photos you'd like to have included," she'd say, "let me know, and I'll just add them to the collection."

They did, and her collection grew, and grew, and grew.

"Originally, I thought this would be a 24-page booklet," Cooper told Chamber members. "You know, something small that I could sell in our gift shop, and look it at now. It's 224 pages."

Along the way, Cooper said she learned a lot about Hobe Sound that she previously had not known. Her project also wound up changing the course of



Paula Cooper, author of the new History of Hobe Sound coffee table book available now.

the renovation of the Apollo School building in Hobe Sound when someone handed her a photo of the original building showing the original cupola on top and arched windows.

That photo is included in her book, as well as dozens of others gathered simply like a family album of memories.

Here and there among the photos are short descriptions of various places and events, especially those along U.S. 1, Bridge Road and the railroad tracks, including the train depot that was restored and now sits on grounds owned by the Hobe Sound Polo Club.

Some of the early construction of homes on Jupiter Island also are included, as well as early photos of Wild Bill's Indian Village, Algozzinni's, and, of course, Harry & the Natives and the MacArthur family, very much a part of the fabric of Hobe Sound.

Books are available for purchase for \$45 at Harry & the Natives Restaurant in Hobe Sound. ■

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District 3 residents meet Commissioner Anne Scott

Martin County residents turned out in droves to meet County Commissioner Anne Scott when she hosted three town hall meetings in April and May. The reception by her District 3 constituents in Indiantown, Tequesta and Hobe Sound could be classified only as warm and friendly, even though some in the audience had criticized her previously for not attending the Indiantown Neighborhood Advisory Committee workshop and for her role in abolishing the Community Redevelopment Agency.

“Where are our commissioners?” asked former Indiantown NAC member Thelma Waters of John Haddox and Anne Scott at the Indiantown NAC workshop in March. “You can see tonight just how much they care about us and what happens here in Indiantown.”

By April 29, though, feelings had seemed to change when Waters was the first among those in the town hall audience to start the public discourse at Indiantown’s Timer Powers Park. She did so with gratitude and appreciation for Scott’s responsiveness to an Indiantown issue.

“I just want to thank you for paying the impact fee for the new Boys & Girls Club,” Waters said. “This is such an important project for the people of Indiantown, and we couldn’t have done it without you. We really appreciate you.”

Scott quickly clarified that she had not paid the fee herself, but had used some district funds available for district projects at the commissioner’s discretion, but she also was able to get the building re-classified in order to reduce the amount of the impact fee.

“The impact fee was just...just outrageous,” Scott said, then chuckled at little as she paused before explaining that the issue of impact fees—to waive or not to waive, and to increase or not—had just come before the commission. She had taken the stand that the municipal services required for new development remain even if the development project fails, leaving the burden on taxpayers to continue paying for that infrastructure.

“Then the Boys & Girls Club (project) comes along,” she added, “and if ever there was a time that I would want to waive an impact fee, it would be now.”

In lieu of asking her fellow commissioners to approve a waiver, however, she worked with county staff to examine its Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) classification of the non-profit facility.

“It turned out that the Boys & Girls Club was classified wrong,” she said. “The MSTU didn’t really have a classification that fit the Boys & Girls Club, so



we were able to reclassify it and reduce the amount of the impact fee.”

Indiantown residents also asked her about the status of the roof for the rodeo stands, about funds due Indiantown from FPL, (two topics that she plans to research for answers) funding for dredging the St. Lucie Inlet, and about why she rejected the equestrian trail in Palm City.

“We (the commission) had been expecting a plan for new ball fields only,” she said, when the redesign of the Lance Corporal Justin D. Wilson Park would add two fields to land already there, “but when we got the plans, suddenly there’s this equestrian trail. Where did that come from?”

She said she was not against the trail per se, but she acknowledged that it’s a contentious issue among Palm City residents—“They are at WAR in Palm City, and that controversy needs its own attention.”

Her objection to the trail simply was that she did not appreciate what she

considered to be a less-than-forthright approach.

“One thing you’ll learn about me,” she added, “is that I want you to be straight with me. Look me in the eye and tell me exactly what it is you’re wanting.” She used the now-defeated extreme sports water project in Hobe Sound as an example of underhanded tactics.

“They (developers) were saying what a wonderful project, what a truly wonderful thing this would be for the kids and teens in the community,” she said, “when what they really wanted all along was an RV park. So if that’s what you want, then tell me that’s what you want, and if it’s an equestrian trail, then tell me it’s an equestrian trail. You’ll get a lot farther with me that way.”

Indiantown residents also learned a little about Scott’s background: She’s from Chicago, “where politics is a sport,” her family lives in Chicago, where she had practiced law and been appointed an associate circuit court judge for eight years prior to retiring in 1991 and moving to Jupiter Island in 2004, but she had grown up making trips back and forth to Jupiter Island first with her parents, and again after she was married. Then she owned a home on Jupiter Island and was elected as a Jupiter Island commissioner. “So I am no stranger to Martin County,” she added.

She also introduced her husband, Stewart, who was sitting in the audience, adding that their family is a blended one with her children, his children, and their son. He accompanied her to the Hobe Sound town hall meeting, as well as going to Indiantown.

The topic that required a large chunk of the evening’s time, however, was the disbandment of the Community Redevelopment Agency and the subsequent dissolution of the Neighborhood Advisory

Committees representing the seven historic areas of the county.

“The areas are very much on my mind,” she told the crowd, after explaining the meaning of the acronym CRA, Community Redevelopment Agency, which also was applied often to the Neighborhood Planning Areas and the Neighborhood Advisory Committees, as well.

“Confused? Well, yes, it was confusing to me, too,” she added, explaining that the commission had dissolved the CRA and the commissioners would now serve as the Community Redevelopment Agency, as it had been originally.

“That structure (an independent CRA) just wasn’t working very well,” she said, “but now what we’ve done is remove that layer between the residents and the commissioners, who had to approve everything the CRA did anyway, but the requests from residents were being filtered through them. How could we know what the residents really wanted?”

Community activist Art Mattson, a member of the former Indiantown NAC, questioned Scott as to why it was dissolved since the Indiantown NAC, which met monthly, had never lacked a quorum of its members; its revitalization plans had won awards; and it had no projects that fell outside the urban services boundary.

“We’re not the poor cousins out here in Indiantown,” Mattson said, “and we weren’t sprawling.”

Scott agreed. “This is where (development) should be,” she said. “This is where it was planned. This is where the infrastructure is...As a matter of fact, the future growth, the future prosperity of Martin County is right here in the heart of Martin County; it is in Indiantown.” Then she paused, “But you should be careful what you wish for.”

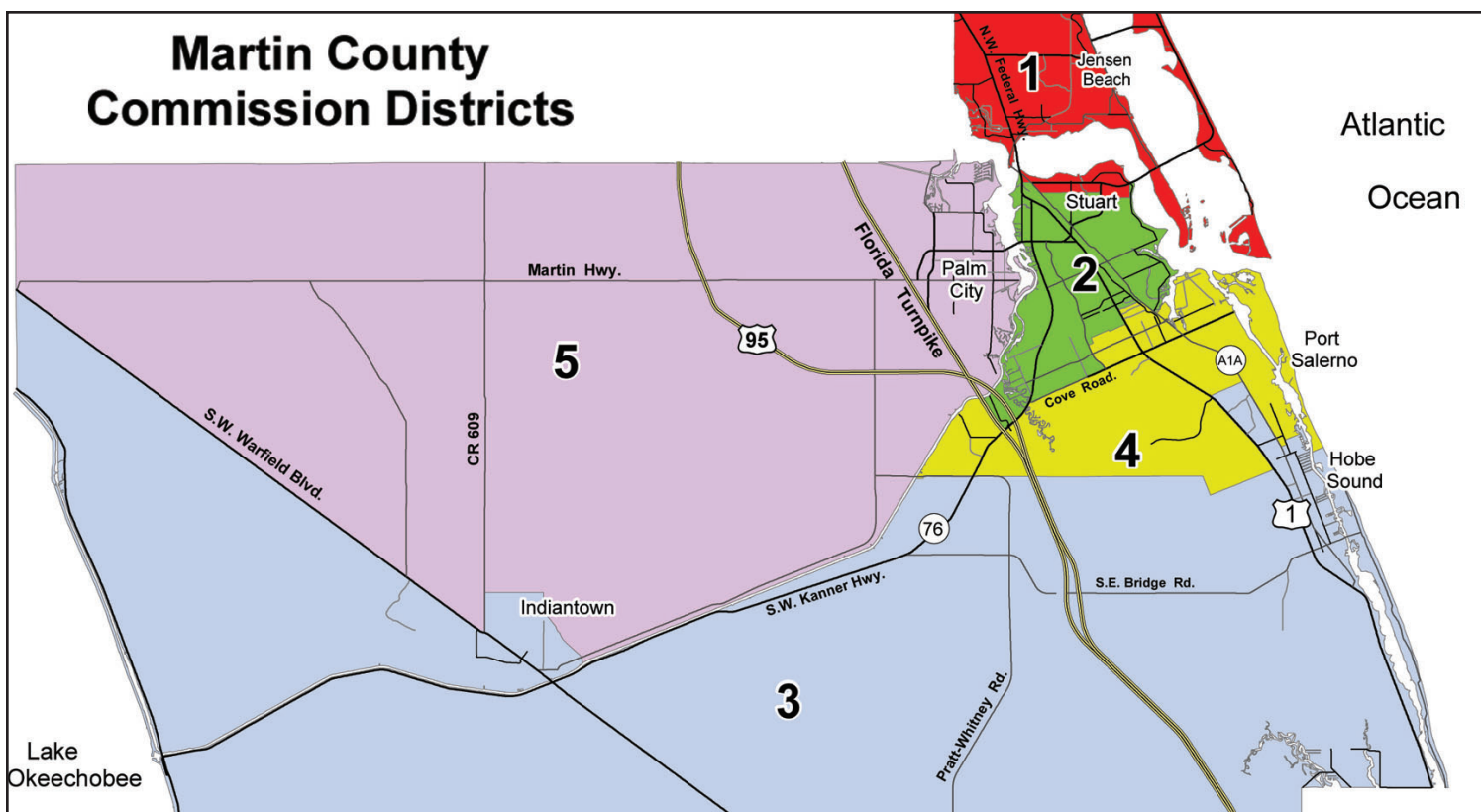
Scott assured Mattson that the NACs would be re-formed shortly, and appointments would be made at the May 7 commission meeting.

“We hope that this will work better,” she said. “You’ll have a more direct voice.”

Scott gave a similar explanation to the residents of Hobe Sound, who filled the Hobe Sound Community Center to near capacity at Scott’s town hall meeting there May 20.

But her remarks about a broken CRA drew a response from Mike Ennis, chair of the dissolved Hobe Sound NAC, who challenged her assertion that the CRA “was not working” and that “a lot of those plans are very old.”

Martin County Commission Districts



Only standing room was left for Commissioner Anne Scott's town hall meeting in Indiantown.

He recounted the progress made in Hobe Sound, including a new sewer already laid, as well as a good design, selection of landscaping, acquiring the necessary rights of way to lay water lines, move utilities underground and put in sidewalks and on-street parking, a project that residents had spent "hundreds of hours" developing over the past 12 years.

"But then we hit a little bit of a road-block," he added. "The CRA went away. The NAC went away. It just kind of all stopped...and it's been for seven months now. It was working....If a car is working, you run it. I just don't know why you stop a working car."

Scott replied that the CRA was not as effective as Ennis believed.

"It was filtering your voices," she said, "and some thought they had the power of government....We'll start over," she added. "We'll start fresh. Let's do this right. I want to hear your voices, and if it's not at the NAC meetings, then I want you to call me directly."

When asked what her vision for Hobe Sound is, she replied: "I like Hobe Sound the way it is," she admitted. "I

don't want to see it get big and fancy, but, you know, it should have a retail center, small businesses, like it has."

Resident Mike McCoy expressed concern over the proposed plans for a high-speed train that travels through Martin County from Miami to Orlando without stopping, with issues ranging from noise, to crossing closures during peak traffic hours, to maintenance.

"Believe me, we've looked closely at all those issues," she told McCoy, "and the county has sent a lengthy letter to the developers—this is a private venture—but that does not mean there's no associated costs to the county."

The county currently pays FEC \$54,000 annually for road maintenance at crossings, as well as numerous leases of FEC rights-of-way, according to county engineer Terry Rauth. She said that 17 trips daily are planned, and she encouraged residents to go to the All Aboard website to register their concerns.

Craig Woll, president of the Hobe Sound Soccer League, asked about the playing fields "that are in disrepair," and the county's unwillingness to per-

mit volunteers to use their own labor to repair them.

Scott responded that she was unsure why volunteer help would be rejected, and she'd "look into it," but as to the playing fields' condition, "quite of lot has suffered what's referred to as 'deferred maintenance.'" she said. "The matter of deferred maintenance is on everyone's mind, and it's not just fields and parks, it's our roads, too. The roads are just overwhelming."

Rauth concurred, adding that the county is \$9 million behind in road resurfacing projects, and that 24% of the county's bridges need to be replaced. She also said that the county applies for grants, but they always require matching funds, usually a 75-25 split, where the county comes up with 25% and the federal government supplies the rest.

Scott drew some chuckles from the crowd when she added: "Well, (the federal government) doesn't have the

money either until it's printed."

Federal dollars are available for high-speed roads, such as Bridge Road from Pratt-Whitney to Kanner Highway, Rauth said, which was slated to be repaved until Scott objected at a commission meeting earlier in the month, asserting that repaving Bridge Road would appear to residents to be in preparation for western development.

"I suppose there's a policy issue here," Scott told the Hobe Sound gathering, and that is: "Why spend money to get money for projects that we don't need, then have to maintain?"

She also reiterated that the decline in county revenue as a result of falling property values and a dramatic decrease in fuel tax revenues has been significant, requiring that \$63 million be lopped from the county budget.

"We are crawling—I should say, clawing—our way out of this economic recession," she said, "but it's not going to go back to the way it was five, six years ago. I am firm in my thinking that we should

not spend any money on any project that's new until we take care of maintenance needs first, specifically our parks and recreation facilities and our roads."

Road maintenance was a major concern to south county residents, as well, who said the roads in the Country Club and Turtle Creek areas "were falling apart."

Around a dozen residents attended their town hall meeting May 6, as well as engineer Terry Rauth, attorney Michael Durham, and an official from Waste Management, Jeff Sabin, government affairs director. Also attending was Stuart Mayor Eula Clark.

"My position is not to build anything new until we get the restoration/renovation of the old completed," Scott said. "It's going to be a time of belt-tightening, and it's not going to be fun."

Scott also told the group that Martin County actually was "just a big small town, but one thing I noticed about Martin County is the amount of disinformation going around," she said. "I want to improve communication....I want to be a good commissioner."

One resident encouraged Scott to have regularly scheduled town hall meetings, and many asked that Sheriff William Snyder also attend to answer their questions regarding public safety. Previous commissioners had held town hall meetings, according to residents, but they ranged from three months apart to three years apart.

"I don't think it's too much to ask of your commissioner to meet with you," she said, "somewhere between every three months and every three years." She paused and grinned, "but whatever we can manage, whatever the amount of time is between meetings, I pledge that you all will not be forgotten down here." ■

—Barbara Clowdus



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Chamber office moves into new, temporary digs

The Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce completed its move out of its temporary home at the old post office building on Ricou Terrace in April, according to Ron Rose, executive director of the Jensen Beach Chamber.

They had been renting the space from the county for a nominal fee since their building was destroyed during the 2004 hurricane season.

"We are back downtown where we belong," Rose told those attending the May meeting of the Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Dolphin Bar & Shrimp House, "and I cannot tell you how good that feels."

The chamber's new home is at 1960 NE Jensen Beach Blvd., two doors from Jan's Place Restaurant, until the new Chamber headquarters building is constructed next to the Jensen Beach Community Center.

The new location houses the Chamber's executive office, the History Museum of Jensen Beach and the Entrepreneurship Foundation, and all of which also will move into the new building after it's completed.

"The Chamber has appreciated the use of office space in Martin County's old



The new, but still temporary, home of the Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce on Jensen Beach Blvd. downtown.

post office building," Rose added, "but we are thrilled to be back on Jensen Beach Blvd."

Rose reminded members that "naming opportunities" are still available for portions of the new building as part of the Chamber's ongoing fund-raising efforts.

"If you want to know more, just go to the website," he said, which is ChamberBuilding.com.

The new building will feature a community meeting room, distance educa-

tion and technology center, visitor information, the historical museum and the Entrepreneurship Center.

It will be constructed with Greenblock technology, according to the website, which utilizes insulated concrete forms. The stay-in-place polystyrene foam forms are stacked in the exterior shape of the building and then filled with concrete and reinforcing steel bars to create an airtight, high R-value building for energy efficiency.

The building also will be resistant to hurricanes, and the combination of foam and concrete has the added advantage of producing a quiet office interior.

The 3,650 sq. ft. two-story building, fronting on Jensen Beach Boulevard, includes 1,750 sq. ft. for the history museum.

Building amenities include a large board room for conducting monthly board meetings, as well as for meetings by and for beautification committees, business development and educational initiatives, a partially covered balcony overlooking Jensen Beach Blvd., and a landscaped courtyard. ■



Jensen Beach Chamber Calendar

Business After Hours

Tuesday, June 11, 5:30-7pm
Then and Now Gallery with
Mulligan's Beach House Bar & Grill
2019 NE Jensen Beach Blvd,
Jensen Beach
Cost: \$5

Networking Luncheon

Thursday, June 20, 11:45am-1pm
The Red Lobster
3544 NW Federal Highway,
Jensen Beach
Sponsor: YP Advertising
Speaker: State Representative
Gayle Harrell
Cost: \$20

Business After Hours

Tuesday, June 25, 5:30-7pm
Marciano's Ristorante
1897 NE Jensen Beach Blvd,
Jensen Beach
Cost: \$5

Morning Mix & Mingle

Thursday, June 27, 7:45am
Pineapple Cove
1010 NE Fresco Way, Stuart
(Behind Best Buy)
Cost: Complimentary

To RSVP, Contact

Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce
1960 NE Jensen Beach Blvd.
Call: 772.334.3444

Digital numbers skyrocketing

Kim Price Capen, publisher of Stuart Magazine, is not known for being restrained when she talks about the city's leading lifestyle magazine. She's passionate about it, which her audience at the May luncheon meeting of the Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce at the Dolphin Restaurant and Bar was expecting.

Less expected perhaps were the cyberspace numbers Capen announced.

"We print 11,000 copies of our magazine to distribute," she said, "which may not seem like a lot, but so far this year,

we've also had 348,000 page views on the Internet. I was blown away when I first saw that number...That's just an incredible amount. Just think what that means for our advertisers."

Stuart Magazine, which now offers digital and iPad versions, belongs to one of the longest-running city magazine companies in Florida, the Gulfstream Media Group, which includes Boca Life Magazine, The Palm Beacher, Gold Coast, Jupiter Magazine, and Fort Lauderdale Magazine, as well as four interior design magazines: Broward Design, Boca Design, Miami Design and Palm Beach Design.

The annual numbers for the entire group show 1,511,233 pages viewed and 31,336 magazines downloaded for the year 2012, according to Capen.

"As a business, not only can you submit your ad for the print version—which people still love to get a magazine in their hands," she added, "but you get to submit a digital ad (free of charge for the advertiser) where you can show videos or add the bells and whistles for the click-through of the digital readers."

She said that "anyone with a smart phone or iPhone, tablet, iPad, PC, or Mac" is considered a potential digital reader, and Stuart Magazine has the capability to track what pages those readers are viewing, reporting that to advertisers.

"The readers here in Martin and St.

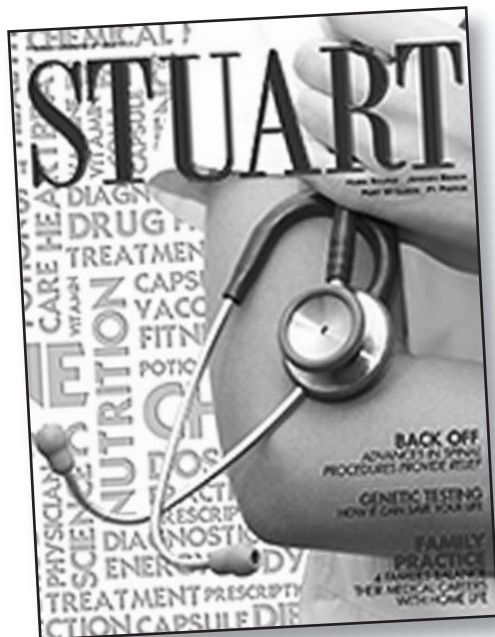
Lucie are very savvy," Capen said.

"They enjoy the digital versions and are interacting with our advertisers, who are loving it!"

The Facebook figures for the five lifestyle magazines are also growing quickly, she said, with more than 7,000 followers on Facebook added in 2012.

"Our numbers are growing," she said, "and I can see that they're going to continue to do nothing but grow even more."

Contact Capen at Stuart Magazine by calling 772.634.1771 or go to www.stuartmagazine.com. ■





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Saturday, June 8**Stand Up for Autism**

The 2nd Annual Stand Up for Autism event in Jensen Beach will be Saturday, June 8, at the U.S. Sailing Center, 1955 NE Indian River Drive, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. After raising close to \$10K for the Treasure Coast Autism Project in its first year, organizers are excited to see the results of the paddle board event that features free admission, food, games, raffles, music, & paddle board demos available for all! Attendees also may sign up for the Recreational Stand Up Paddle Race and win some great prizes! Contact Jennifer, 772-486-5009, for more information about the event, or for sponsor and volunteer opportunities.

Saturday, June 8**World Ocean Day Celebration**

The Florida Oceanographic Society will celebrate World Ocean Day on Saturday, June 8, with an inaugural "Sand Sculpting Contest - Building Awareness While Leaving No Trace" event at Stuart Beach. Morning festivities start with a beach cleanup from 10 to 11:30 a.m. No pre-registration necessary, just meet on the beach at the north entrance, look for the tent. The sand-sculpting contest is from 12 to 4 p.m., a fun afternoon of creativity with a 3-hour window for teams to build a sand creation, 45 minutes for judging and public viewing, followed by a leveling of the field with particular attention to removing man made obstacles. Register your team of up to six people for a tax-deductible donation of \$25.

Saturday, June 8**Dig into Science**

Kids learn about the science that happens underneath the ground at three different libraries on Saturday, June 8: at 11 a.m. in the Peter & Julie Cummings Library, 2551 S.W. Matheson Ave., Palm City, 772-288-2551; at 2 p.m. in the Hobe Sound Public Library on Federal Highway in Hobe Sound, 772-546-2257; and at 4 p.m. in the Blake Library on Monterey Road in Stuart, 772-221-1407. Mad Science of Palm Beach presents the one-hour interactive performance for children free of charge. From the layers of the earth, to the critters that live in the soil, to natural phenomena that occur underground, children are going to discover amazing things by digging deep!

Saturday, June 15**White Shirt Night at Taste**

Helping People Succeed Foundation's White Shirt Night at Taste Casual Dining in Hobe Sound (at the Bridge Road and A1A intersection) will feature 12 noted area artists, who will paint tropical scenes from the Treasure Coast from 6 to 9pm on Saturday, June 15. A "VIP Sneak Preview" with the artists between 5 and 6 p.m. is \$100 per person and includes hors d'oeuvres and two drink tickets. General admission is \$50 per person with hors d'oeuvres and one drink ticket. Artists participating in the White Shirt Night are: Dan Mackin, Julia Kelly, Kevin Hutchinson, Ginny Jones, Jane Blatt, Carol Kepp, Sharon Ferina, Valerie Geever, Cindy Cooper, Pam Patterson, Robin Makowski and Paula MacArthur Cooper. Each guest may select several sketches from the artists. The sketches include palm trees, a hammock, sea shells, turtles, roiling water, Royal Poinciana trees, hibiscus flowers and more. Helping People Succeed also will have a number of aprons and linen napkins pre-painted for purchase at the event. For reservations or information, contact Helping People Succeed 772.320.0770.

June and July**Sea Turtle Walks**

Several organizations in the area offer night-time sea turtle walks during the annual sea turtle egg-laying season. The Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center, 890 NE Ocean Blvd. in Stuart, begins with an educational lecture on sea turtle biology and conservation, prior to exploring the beach. Time is 9 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, but call to confirm your spot. Fee is \$10 per person. 772-225-0505 or go to www.floridaocean.org.

The FPL Turtle Walks at 6501 S. Ocean Drive in Jensen Beach are conducted on Friday and Saturday nights in June and July. The presentations begin at 9 pm at Energy Encounter where you may crawl through a TED (turtle exclusion device) to see how a turtle can escape from a shrimp net and see models of the five different sea turtle species found on the Treasure Coast. Once a turtle is sighted, the group is taken to the beach to watch her lay eggs. Space is limited, so RSVP at 1-800-334-5483. Go to www.fpl.com/community/learning/marine_education_center.shtml for more info.

The Hobe Sound Nature Center will also conduct night-time sea turtle walks at Hobe Sound Beach on Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday nights, and again, reservations are required. The Nature Center's Interpretive Center & Gift Shop will open at 8:30pm, and the program will begin in the Jackson Burke Education Center's classroom at 9pm. A trip to the beach follows, to wait for nesting turtles. Walks could go on until midnight, but could be later, depending on nesting activity by loggerhead turtles. For reservations, call 772-546-2067. For more info, go to www.hobesoundnaturecenter.com.

All the walks are specially permitted by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and United States Fish & Wildlife Department. They follow strict guidelines established to avoid disturbing or harassing nesting turtles.

Weekend, June 28-30**CELEBRATION!**

This annual tribute to military veterans and those currently serving in active duty, is a fund-raising project of Ruby Lynn Production, a non-profit organization. All proceeds are used to support the Veterans Association and Honor Flight. Performers of all ages have volunteered their time and talents to come together to show all of our military heroes that they haven't forgotten their service. The 8th Annual Patriotic and Military Tribute, a musical "Celebration," will be at the Charles & Rae Kane Center on Salerno Road with performances Friday, June 28, at 8 p.m., Saturday, June 29, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday, June 30, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased by calling 772.834.0770, or go to www.kanecenter.org or www.rubyllynprod.org. For advertising or sponsorships, contact Carol at cgreff@comcast.net or call 561.317.1341.

Thursday, July 4**Star Spangled Stuart**

The 4th of July Celebration in downtown Stuart is slated to begin at 4pm in Flagler Park with music, food and lots of vendors, ending after the fireworks display on the St. Lucie River, which begins at 9pm. Star Spangled Stuart LLC was formed to plan, present and raise the \$50,000 needed to put on the annual festival, led by local business owner and former Stuart Main Street president Mark Brechbill. It is free to the public, and includes a concert by the Stuart Community Band at 7 p.m. To volunteer, contribute or for more information, call 772-287-1088.

All summer**Jammin' Jensen**

Every Thursday evening, the Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce invites Treasure Coast residents and visitors to stroll downtown Jensen Beach and experience an array of crafts, arts, paintings and more along Jensen Beach Blvd. The event is always free. For more info, call 772-334-3444 or go to www.jensenbeachchamber.biz.

Five applications for membership on the Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee

were received by the county's April deadline. Only one, Gretchen Reich, is one of the original members of the Hobe Sound NAC and has served for more than a decade in that capacity.

She is a Realtor, and a resident who owns property within the Neighborhood Planning Area.

Another applicant, Bruce Duncan, had just been appointed—attending only one NAC meeting—before all the committees were dissolved, and another, Angela Hoffman, had previously been appointed but had not yet attended a meeting.

Duncan is a builder and president of the Duncan Group with offices on Robyn Street, which is within the Neighborhood Planning Area. He has lived in Hobe Sound off Gomez Avenue for more than 20 years, but not within the planning area boundaries.

Hoffman, executive director of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce, had previously been appointed to serve, but had not yet attended a meeting. She and her husband have recently become residents and property owners

in the Zeus Park neighborhood, which falls within the planning boundaries.

Luis Reyneri, a new Hobe Sound resident and property owner who lives near Zeus Park, also applied, as did Mike Baker, formerly of Port Salerno, who was the founding president of the Port Salerno Seafood Fest and lives in Hobe Sound, though not within the planning boundaries.

Members will be appointed for the Hobe Sound NAC, as well as for the other six historic districts, at the June 11 Martin County Board of County Commissioners meeting in Stuart. ■

The first time that former Martin County Commissioner Patrick Hayes spent the day kayaking—or trying to kayak

—the Loxahatchee River was a day that changed his life.

"I thought to myself, 'If this is how we're treating our only Wild and Scenic River, I wonder what we are doing to all the rest of our rivers?,' he said, "and I discovered, it was not good."

That was the first step, he added, of the three parts that comprise activism: awareness of the issue, acceptance of an

individual's role, and then action in his address to about 100 members of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce meeting at its regular breakfast meeting in May.

The quality of anyone's life can be no greater than the quality of the water and the environment in which he or she lives, Hayes added.

"So the next step requires stepping back, asking yourself what can be done," he said, which he did himself as he searched for his own answers, feeling insignificant to the task. "I decided just to allow God to use me in the best possible way."

That was the beginning of his own environmental activism over the past 15 years that ultimately led to his founding of the Loxahatchee River Coalition and to his recruitment as a political candidate for a seat on the Martin County commission, which he held for four years.

Much of the flow in the Loxahatchee River has been restored, Hayes continued, and its waters are known throughout the area as a clear turquoise blue; not the case in the St. Lucie River.

"We want our rivers more like the

Loxahatchee than the St. Lucie," he added, conceding that the Okeechobee Lake discharges down the C-44 canal into the St. Lucie and their deleterious effects pose "particular challenges" to scientists, activists and ordinary citizens.

"I would like to invite you, to enroll you, to be a 'do-doer'," he said, adopting simple life strategies to help conserve some of the millions of gallons of water currently wasted.

"We are wasting our most precious resource, the one on which all life depends—water," he said, drying up all our reserves of water. He suggested looking for the simple things that each person can do, such as adding a brick to the holding tank of a toilet.

"And if you can live with those results, then add another brick," he said. "I have some toilets at my house with three bricks."

At the same time, continue to look for your own opportunities to improve the environment, which will determine how we and our children will experience the natural world. Even though environmental issues seem to be on the verge of overwhelming, Hayes remains optimistic about the future.

"If we use technology, the technology that's available today, along with our awareness to improve our environment," he said, "then we have a fighting chance." ■



Representing the Osprey Cove Yacht Club Marina, residents recently received recognition from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as a "Clean Marina."

From left, Tony Greco, Larry Jawitz, Brenda Leonard (FDEP), Paul Cusumano, Ralph Milliken and Bill Richards (FDEP, retired). The marina is in the Osprey Cove residential gated community on the Intracoastal Waterway off Gomez Avenue in Hobe Sound. As a designated Clean Marina, they will participate in the implementation of a set of environmental Best Management Practices designed to pro-

tect Florida's waterways. It is a voluntary designation program with a proactive approach to environmental stewardship, and comprises FDEP, the Marine Industries Association of Florida, Florida Sea Grant Program of the University of Florida, U.S. Coast Guard and Auxiliary, the USCG Sea Partners Program and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. ■

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One of the happiest places in Martin County the past six weeks has been the Doc Myers Memorial Park

on Old Dixie Highway in Hobe Sound on Friday nights. More than 85 youngsters from age six to 19 from throughout the county got to participate—and have fun—playing soccer even though they're usually denied that opportunity anywhere else or at any other time.

This was another season of TOPsoccer in Hobe Sound that gives children with various developmental disabilities a chance to push themselves a little further—sometimes a lot further—than they ordinarily may have previously.

At the same time, another group of youngsters, those without disabilities, learn love and tolerance and respect for kids who must live with challenges, such as autism (now estimated to be one of every 88 kids in the U.S.) cerebral palsy, or other limiting conditions, when they volunteer as “buddies.”

Every year for the past four years, more young players and more volunteer buddies arrive; often the same players and buddies returning year after year, plus more. The program, selected last year as the most outstanding TOPsoccer program in the state and one of its buddies, Ryan Hughes, as the state's most outstanding volunteer, operates under the auspices of the Hobe Sound Soccer League and is expected to top 100 players next season.

“We're growing exponentially each year and that's okay,” says Tony Sementelli, director of the program. “This field actually is set up perfectly for that. We can put the big kids on one side (of the parking lot) and the younger kids on the other side, and the park is small enough so that we can manage the whole thing.”

Always a challenge, though, is making sure enough people volunteer since the program depends on having a buddy for each player, plus the addi-

tional adult volunteers to coordinate, to coach, to take care of business.

“We had a lot of new volunteers this year,” said Craig Woll, president of the Hobe Sound Soccer League, “and at the beginning, they some difficulty adjusting to the idea that not everything is going to be perfect. Actually, not much of anything is perfect,” he added with a chuckle, “but over time, they learn to relax, to go with the flow...that it feels good, it feels right just to be there, and they've been absolutely phenomenal this year.”

As returning players, new players, returning buddies, new buddies, new parents and new parents arrived for the first game, a happy, gentle chaos enveloped the park, punctuated by the yells of youngsters recognizing each other and seeing their coaches. They often ran and hugged, sometimes hugging “Mr. Tony” as he encouraged them to call him, while he steered them to get in line for their new jerseys.

“We used to give them their soccer balls (to take home) at the same time we gave them their jerseys,” he said, “and that turned into pandemonium. We discovered quickly that that didn't work, so now we wait until they're on their way home before we give them their own soccer ball.”

They all were headed home again on Friday, May 30, the season over, until the next one begins in April 2014. Amid all the feasting on grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken, one youngster ran up to Sementelli, stood directly in front of him, not saying a word but wearing an ear-splitting smile, and holding out his fist for a fist-bump. Sementelli obliged, then the boy wordlessly disappeared back into the crowd.

Sementelli smiled. “What could be better than this,” he said. “It just doesn't get any better.” ■

The 2013 Hobe Sound Christian Academy Walk-a-Thon recently raised more than \$20,000 through the

efforts of students, families and local businesses. The funds will be used to make capital repairs and improvements to the school facility, including new windows and roof for the high school classrooms, the school announced, noting special appreciation to Capps Roofing, Pest Solutions, Water Blasting Technologies, Keith & Sons Landscaping, Town & Country Mortgage Lenders, Strategic Realty Services, and local author R. Joseph Ritter, Jr., founder of www.anticipatingchrist.com, for their contributions. ■



The new director of Hobe Sound's Cole-Clark Branch of the Boys & Girls Club is Sarah Roti, pictured with Ja'Kel Preston, 7, on left, and Katie Powell, 10.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County recently announced they had named Sarah Roti as director of

the Cole-Clark branch in Hobe Sound, replacing Alex Soares, who now is operations director for the organization's Indiantown branch.

Roti manages a staff of 11 to implement youth development programming to 120 children and teens each day during the school year and up to 150 each day over the summer. At the top of her agenda, Roti says, is ensuring that the club's academic programming continues to thrive.

“Our kids need to be ready for the real world once they're out of high school,” she says, “and we can help them develop the skills they'll need in college or in the workplace.”

Roti came to the Martin County Boys & Girls Club after a decade of service with the St. Lucie County club, where she ran the Keystone Club, Torch Club, and SMART (Skills, Mastery and Resistance Training) Moves program. She was also the teen director for a year.

Then she took a hiatus from the youth development field to explore a different career path, but discovered she was not happy. “I quickly realized my passion was working with children,” Roti says, and she came back to the Boys & Girls Club in August of 2012 as a pro-

gram director in Palm City. Then from October through March 2013, she was a program director in Port Salerno, where she was instrumental in boosting that club's overall membership and average daily attendance.

A Boca Raton native, Roti has been a resident of the Treasure Coast since the fourth grade with expectations of one day becoming a teacher. In college, after majoring in education, she figured out she would be able to influence a child's development more in an after-school program over a six-year period of time, she says, rather than just one year with a student in a classroom. She shifted her attention to Boys & Girls Clubs.

“I can't describe in words how rewarding it is to have a 25-year-old come back to the club and tell me their life story,” she says. She found her niche, and now she's found a new club in a new community that's happy to have her here. ■



Josh, aka Peggy Merritt, and fellow Rotarian Hap Mills from the Hobe Sound/Port Salerno club.

Josh the Baby Otter, an oversized, furry otter with an anti-drowning message presented by Rotary Clubs

around the world to preschool and kindergarten children, has been visiting Martin County this past semester, courtesy of the Hobe Sound/Port Salerno Rotary Club.

“We made the presentation and gave coloring books to more than 1,000 children this year,” according to Peggy Merritt, Rotary club secretary who finds she's often the only local Rotarian slim enough to fit into the otter costume that comes to life on school stages.

“Boy, is that costume hot,” she says with a grin, “but it's worth it as soon as I hear all the kids clapping and laughing and yelling at Josh. They'll remember Josh.”

The program was initiated by Blake Collingsworth, a Rotarian in Nebraska, following the drowning death in 2008 of his own toddler son. He wrote a book, “Josh, the Baby Otter,” to emphasize that a baby otter—or a human child—should never go near the water without an adult nearby and the importance of learning to

float. The program concludes with children pledging they will not go near the water without an adult with them.

Drowning is the number-one cause of accidental death for children between the ages of one and four, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the ages targeted by the program. Approved by the Martin County Board of Education, Josh the Baby Otter is available for presentation to libraries, day care facilities and other organizations, in addition to schools. Requests for a presentation may be made to club members Christine Moreno, 772-288-1020, or to Peggy Merritt, 772-530-8568.

Donations for the purchase of the coloring books have been received from Jupiter Island Pools, Davy Jones Pools, Flamingo Pools, attorneys Paul McMahon and Gloretta Hall, as well as Jan Otten, Richard Otten and Lillian Johnson from the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce.

Anyone who wishes to help cover the club's expenses to purchase the books, which are given to children free of charge, may send donations to HSPS Rotary Charity Fund, PO Box 33, Pt. Salerno, FL 34992.

"Over the years, I don't know how many presentations we've made," said former president of the Hobe Sound/Port Salerno Rotary Anthony Sementelli, "but if one of those presentations saved the life of just one child, all the effort and all the money we spend to do this would have been worth it."

For more information about the program, go to www.joshtheotter.com. ■



Veteran newsman Joe Crankshaw was guest speaker.

Veteran newsman Joe Crankshaw, currently a columnist with the Stuart News, stepped in at the last moment as guest speaker

for the Hobe Sound Toastmaster Club's celebration of 500 years of Florida history event in April.

Slated originally to speak was local



Hobe Sound Toastmasters International President Audrey Burzynski serves cake to guests.



Doris Fenner of Hobe Sound checks out the "fountain of youth."

historian and President of the Apollo School Foundation Kathy Spurgeon, who had fallen at her home, seriously injuring a leg that required surgery.

Organized by Toastmaster Brooke Samples, the "Stories of Florida" at the Hobe Sound College's Shmul Dining Hall attracted more

than 60 people, who were feted by members of the Toastmaster's Club with food and speeches, and regaled by Crankshaw's "honeymoon adventures" traversing Spain in search of Florida explorers' birthplaces, including that of Florida's most celebrated, Ponce de Leon.

"Ponce de who?, we were asked," Crankshaw told the audience, who discovered, as did Crankshaw and his wife, that Florida's venerable explorer is not so venerated in his homeland. "Ponce de Leon is of no importance; Florida is a place of no importance," Crankshaw said, "and his birthplace, Santervás de Campos, is small and there is nothing there."

It also appears that Ponce de Leon first attempted to land on the Treasure Coast, perhaps near Peck's Lake, but was driven away by mosquitoes and unfriendly natives. He received a warmer welcome when he landed near Melbourne, which has gathered steam recently among historians as the probable site of his first landing.

"I cannot tell you precisely," Crankshaw added, "but I can tell you this: Ponce de Leon kept miserable records." The explorer's notations on his map of "La Florida" of the location of "friendly" and "unfriendly" natives changed the course of the state's history, he said.

As to why the lack of respect among Spaniards for Ponce de Leon?

"He didn't bring back any gold; he didn't bring back any silver; and he didn't bring back any slaves," Crankshaw said, in sharp contrast to other Spanish conquistadors. In fact, Ponce de Leon's expeditions to the New World had drained the Spanish treasury.

And did Crankshaw and his wife explore Ponce de Leon's birthplace?

"No," he conceded. "After all, it is small and there is nothing there."

The Toastmasters, sponsored by the Hobe Sound Chamber, meet in Hobe Sound on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For more info, go to <http://1206922.toastmastersclubs.org>. ■

See this bright smile on Jan MacDonald's face? It's a new-born-baby-in-the-family smile,



the AMAC insurance agent's first GREAT grandchild, Brooklyn Tragos, born in Tallahassee.

"Aren't newborns wonderful," she says, as if anyone in Hobe Sound—

or anywhere else—would disagree. In anticipation of the event, McDonald died her hair pink in honor of Brooklyn. Too bad the photo fell on a black and white page in the newspaper! ■



From left: Callie, Addison, Ruby, Emi, Abigail and Madison, the girls of Daisy Troop 30054, Hobe Sound.

I just wanted to pass along an event that truly had great impact on me, and I believe on some others at the Hobe Sound public beach recently.

I took my Girl Scout Daisy Troop on a beach clean-up project.

The parking lot was packed to the gills, and the beach was full of tourists and snowbirds. After some quick rules and a plan, we spread out over the beach and in about 15 minutes we had collected an alarming four grocery bags of trash of all sorts.

Maybe it is because our troop consists of six adorable little girls (ages 5 and 6), or because they are incredibly cute in their blue Girl Scout vests, but they attracted a lot of attention. They were asked what we were doing, and in accordance to their age, their responses were fairly blunt and direct: "Cleaning up all the trash you people make." She meant no harm, of course, and to her it was just that simple.

We turned it into an "I Spy" game, and the girls ran from one item of trash to another, pointing and yelling, "trash, trash, trash," so one of us adults could go pick it up and put it in the bag.

As I watched my girls cleaning up the beach they love, I noticed something else. People on their blankets and in their chairs began to react to them. As

they weaved in and out of all the people soaking in the rays, with those words "trash, trash, trash" being shouted next to where they were lounging, the idea behind what we were doing began to soak in. A lady reached out and picked up the empty water bottle tossed on the sand next to her and put it in her bag. One man actually got up and looked around his area for some trash that the girls could "spy" and clean up. Several others thanked the girls for cleaning up the area. It was a moment that truly touched me.

I am a glass-is-half-full kind of person. I try to teach my troop that people are inherently good, but even I can lose faith now and then. But I'll tell you this, on that day I felt like there is still hope for this species of ours. I realized how big and a miraculous a child's voice and/or actions can be no matter how small they are. They can start a movement, even at age six, they can change the world, even if it's for just 30 minutes on a local beach in their hometown. ■

—Jenn Cochran, Hobe Sound
Troop Leader
Girl Scout Daisy Troop 30054

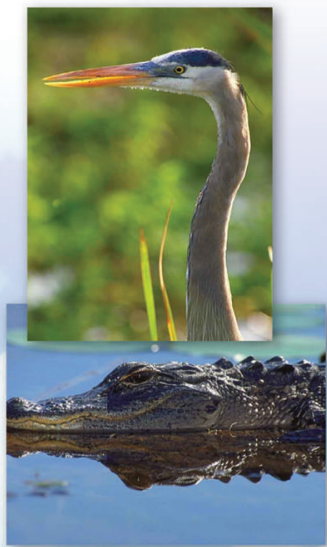
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One day in the story of my life



Suzanne Briley

Hopscotch

There is no way to describe my life but "zany." When I was growing up, I would open the fridge and the milk would automatically fall out, or open the medicine cabinet and the Mercurchrome would hit the white mosaic tile floor, spilling its bright orange contents into the cracks leaving a permanent stain. My life was always far from ordinary. It continues in Hobe Sound.

For instance, yesterday was a typical day: To start it off, there were loads of artists coming to paint in my barn (a weekly happening) with side shows. After mowing the grass in the garden, dragging out tables, putting up easels, sweeping the floor, moving the car and taking care of mother (age 99) tending to her needs, the barn filled with people starting to work. There was standing room only.

One artist brought her son, a retired banker. As therapy for his depression, he is painting on large palm fronds that fall out of trees. He is on heavy meds. Everyone encourages him. His friend silk screens shirts, paints on underwear and burial clothes.

I noticed that the person next to her proceeded to use charcoal to draw scenes of church interiors on large papers partly from memory. She has tremors. Next to her a person was gluing palm fronds on canvas and painting over them; another young woman who had a stroke was painting on canvas using only her fingers.

Someone was dying fabric, which was drying on my washing line, and my mother sat in the corner painting a portrait of her great grandson hanging out of a tree. Not far from her, there was an artist actually sitting up in my tree house, painting. There are more people coming in and out, some to watch and others to set up.

I leave them to fend for themselves and head out to the Hobe Sound Library to end my own solo painting exhibition there. I am to go and collect them by 11 a.m. I clean out my car to make space, but mother decides to abandon her portrait and ride with me. Now there is no room for my husband, Ed, to go along to help bring my pictures home. On the way out of the house, someone calls on the phone to buy a painting, and I tell her I will leave it in the library for her.

When I arrive at the library to leave the painting there that had just been purchased, carrying it along with me, I am told I can't leave it in the library. Mother is sitting in the hot car waiting for me, so I hurriedly accept the offer that a kind person makes to deliver a painting for me. Unfortunately, I have lost the person's telephone number who purchased the painting. I can't

call her, so that doesn't work.

I rush home to find my bank on the phone (they have tried to reach me for two days, they said) and as I try to listen, I see my dog, Sophy, throwing up on the back porch. It is going down into the wood floor cracks. I call Ed for help, but he can't hear because he is deaf.

In the meantime I discover that Ed has taken two cycle racks from the barn and donated them to Goodwill (without asking me) and neither one of them are ours. I rush to collect them before it is too late but they are gone.

Mother needs some cards mailed, but we are out of stamps. I hurry to the post office while everyone in the barn is waiting for me to return so we can all eat lunch together under the tree. There are not enough chairs so I try and find some, just as my ex-husband calls to say he is bringing some books by to leave. I tell him to leave them on the front porch, because there is no place for him to park.

The county comes to trim the trees along the road, and my car is in the way and has to be moved. Back in the barn, the bi-polar man has used the toilet, and I know he didn't shut the lid and vermin might appear. (There are worries in my mind!)

Mother announces to everyone that she and I will play a piano duet and invites everyone to come inside. (Ed is trying to take a nap in the other room.) Just then a real estate broker knocks on the front door to ask if the house is for sale. (He heard it might be?) We invite him in to listen to the duet.

Mother and I give a stellar performance, and as people start to leave, the recycle truck arrives requiring me to rush outside and move my car. Again. When I come back inside the phone is ringing. It is the woman calling about not finding her painting she was supposed to collect in the library. I arrange to take it to Steinmart and meet her there in the car park on Saturday. As we speak I see Sophy throwing up on the carpet. (She goes to the vet tomorrow.) I clean up the barn and find that someone has left their clothes in my studio, the books are on the front porch and a notice has appeared about a dock we built in Tequesta 12 years ago.

I invite Mother, Ed and friend, Dot, to go to Taste restaurant for dinner (where I used up the last of my credit), but Mother said that Dot talked too much because she drank three glasses of wine. I only drank one, but felt like I could have finished off a whole bottle! We came home and Mother and I watched an old video from the library. A Russian film about 12 chairs. I fell sound asleep on the sofa. Mother was still going strong at 11 p.m.

Tomorrow she packs to go home to Atlanta without knowing that Sophy has chewed a hole in her travel case. It will be another day for me... ■

Suzanne Briley, who lives in Hobe Sound, is an artist, author, entrepreneur, environmentalist and world traveler. She may be contacted at hopscotch@hscurrents.com.



Ghost Ship



Ecorces #7



Hemingway House

Art as the inner picture of the soul



Maya
Ellenson

Art
Kaleidoscope

To the great joy of art lovers, Hobe Sound community life has perked up lately by an exceptional project initiated by the Martin County Library system. Local artists are invited to present their artwork and share stories with the public in a cozy and relaxing ambiance.

Paintings by a self-taught, Parisian-born artist, Natalie LaBord, known to the world as Natalie L., were featured in the Hobe Sound Library Community Room throughout May. The library recently hosted an opening reception for the public to meet the artist.

Charming and graceful, a true Parisian, Natalie L. delivered a fascinating narrative of her spiraling transformation from which she emerged as a successful and highly innovative artist. While a slide show of her

life unfolded in slow motion on the wall, the mellow tunes smoothly played by Joette's Strings Duo enhanced the intimate feel.

Like her great self-taught forerunners – Van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Henri Rousseau – who embraced the art as the only quest in life, Natalie's desire to become an artist became her vital mission. She abandoned a successful career in tourism in 2001, embarking on a spinning adventure of self-fulfillment that carried her far away from Paris and from her past.

As she camped and hiked all over France, sailed to the French islands in the South Pacific - Bora Bora, New Caledonia, Isle of Pine - and later to Australia, painting *en plein air*, Natalie was slowly but surely evolving into a professional painter. Inspired primarily by Van Gogh, Dali, Magritte and Picasso, she developed her own individual style and artistic vision.

The waves of change she immersed so deeply altered not only her career, but her destiny as well. While sailing around the world, she serendipitously met her husband, the Sea Captain, who lovingly brought "his precious sea pearl" to Florida. Currently, as a Hobe Sound artist, Natalie L. is involved in various mural projects and other cultural

events. She's been widely exhibited both locally and overseas.

First a watercolor artist, Natalie gradually moved to different mediums and painterly techniques. In her seascape, "Ghost Ship," she employed for the first time palette-knife impasto to create layers of deep texture. In this lyrically tuned painting, she revealed not only the blues of the ocean and the sky but also the color inside the color – its inner dimension. Artist Paul Gauguin once noted: "One does not use color to draw but always to give the musical sensation which flows from itself, from its own nature, from its own mysterious and enigmatic interior force." That's the effect Natalie pursues.

The same enigma of color described by Gauguin is unveiled in her Key West painting, "Hemingway's House." Lyrically repeated patterns and meaningful details infuse the painting with a deeply subjective mode. We see not the building, but the entire world concealed inside. It's no longer just the house, but Hemingway's creative universe resurfacing gracefully out of celestial blues.

Natalie L.'s Florida landscapes have been infused with Van Gogh's lucid insight into nature, but currently, as her paintings become less objective and appear stripped of materiality, Natalie tries to combine momentary sensations so deeply cherished by impressionists with the universal concepts of abstractionism.

"As my tastes evolved toward contemporary art, I've been gradually steering away from representational paintings," she says. "A projection of this transition, my newest series 'Ecorces' was inspired by the abstract patterns of nature; I was hiking in Australia the first time I observed the bark of an Eucalyptus tree and that literally opened my eyes to a world that was hitherto completely unknown to me. It was a revelation and I wanted to create something with it since then. It took me 13 years to find the idea to incorporate tree barks in my work."

Unlike conceptual abstractionism, in whose universe thought is often disconnected from nature, in Natalie L.'s art, the two are elegantly balanced. In her world, a tree with its one-of-a-kind bark is the Sphinx itself. As

beautifully put by Edvard Munch, "Nature is not only that is visible to the eye . . . it also includes the inner picture of the soul." ■

Russian-American Maya Ellenson, who holds M.A. and PhD degrees in Russian language and literature from Moscow State University, has lived in Martin County for eight years. A free-lance writer, she has a particular interest in world culture and art.

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Artist Natalie L., on right, speaks with residents during the exhibition of her work at the Hobe Sound Public Library during May. Other paintings are exhibited on her website at www.NatalieL.org.

Young Hobe Sound skier a future Olympian?

This time last year, 11-year-old Lacie Greenwald of Hobe Sound—now a 6th grader at Jupiter Academy—first made headlines after winning a bronze medal in the 2012 NASTAR National Ski Championship in Winter Park, Colo.

This year, she not only has a gold medal under her belt in the national competition in Aspen, Colo., but her coaches are beginning to compare her form to that of world champion skier Mikaela Shiffrin.

"After the season last year," said Lacie's father, Dr. Brett Greenwald, "we spent a good portion of the summer with the Canadian World Cup Coach Michel Pratte again on the glacier in Whistler (British Colombia, Canada). We worked really hard."

The local chiropractor knew that Lacie and he, also a fledgling skier, were about to step up to tougher levels of competition. His division would include previous champions and professional skiers, and Lacie would be moving up to the next age group in NASTAR, the National Standard Race, the world's largest public grassroots ski race program, founded in 1968 by Ski Magazine.

As it turned out, though, the ski organization changed her category to U-12 and then U-14, so she still qualified for the Under-12 group, Greenwald said.

"Then in late October/early November, we went out to Copper Mountain to



Lacie Greenwald with her parents, Dr. Brett Greenwald and Jeneane Wakula, also a skier, but who is nursing an injury.

again race with this coach, along with many of the skiers on the U.S. and Canadian Olympic teams," he said. "This is where Lacie and I had a breakthrough."

They happened to sit on a chairlift with a U.S. Ski Team member, Scott Snow, who gave them some solid advice. They also met some Olympic coaches over the next few months, including Tommy Kirchoff, a published author, who has coached such greats as Ted Ligety, currently considered the world's best skier, said Greenwald.

"He was very impressed with Lacie," her father added, "and how well she skies at such a young age."

Chip Chilson, an award-winning professional skier who coached Lacie during

January, made the same observation, comparing Lacie's form to that of Mikaela Shiffrin, after he watched a video of the Gold Medalist at 11 years of age.

"The developmental similarities between Lacie and Mikaela are stunning," Chilson wrote in an email to Greenwald. "Same stance, balance, upper & lower body positions, rotary skills, dynamic turn shape, ankle & knee drive to allow world class angles, and tipping and steering of the ski...Lacie's form is on par with Mikaela's at the same age."

Does that mean Lacie has the potential to be an Olympian?

"Absolutely," said Chilson. "(That's) the exciting dream and goal for any young and aspiring athlete with great talent. Lacie is still too young for the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, but 2018 would be an excellent goal."

After their intense training, father and daughter entered the NASTAR Eastern Championships in Vermont in February, Lacie competing in the U-12 Division and her father in the 40-44 Division, both considered difficult divisions. Lacie won a Gold medal and her dad took the Bronze, no small feat for a new skier who makes his home in Florida.

"Lacie beat the field in her race by 1.5

seconds, which is unheard of," her father boasted. "In fact, she was the second-fastest female on the course under the age of 30. That is quite an accomplishment, as these older skiers are much stronger than my 73-pound little girl."

Next came the Nationals in Aspen on March 22-25. On the first day, Lacie was in second place behind one of the girls who beat her the previous year, but on the second day, Lacie dominated the field again, winning by 1.5 seconds to an "easy" first-place victory, considering that 1.5 seconds often is the total spread between first and last places in many races.

"I again skied over my head," Greenwald added, "and captured the Bronze medal."

Although new to skiing, Greenwald is a former Team USA soccer player, so his and Lacie's athleticism comes naturally. That experience also shapes how he mentors Lacie.

"I want to make sure that it remains fun for her," he said. "Soccer became more of a job than fun for me, and I want to make sure Lacie and I have plenty of fun time outside of our skiing."

But on their last "off day" together, Greenwald recalled, instead of zip-lining, sleigh-riding or even shopping, Lacie told her father, "Let's go ski some powder together, Dad." No one on the slopes could tell who was happier that day: Dad or daughter. ■

HoSo Strikers tally another great season

The Hobe Sound Soccer Club U11 boys travel team had another successful season, capping the year by recently winning the President's Day Cup in Jupiter. During the regular season, the Strikers competed in the Palm Beach Soccer League and the South Florida League, playing teams from Southern Florida, including Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Naples.

The Strikers had a winning record in both leagues and entered the Presidents Day Cup in Jupiter to close out the season. They won all four of their games by scoring 22 goals and giving up 1 goal on a penalty kick.

The Strikers were led by their suffocating defense with Jack Ungerland, Jeremy Earle and Dominique Jadusingh as well as the incredible play of their goal keeper Macguire Stuckey. Macguire posted a shutout in three of the four games and the only goal that got past him was on a penalty kick. Throughout the season, these four players combined to form one of the top defenses in both the Palm Beach League and the South Florida League.

At the Presidents Day Cup, the Strikers had a very potent offense with several players entering the scoring column. Three Strikers had hat tricks, scoring three goals in one game. Those three players were Gabe Robert, Armondo (Joel) Niz, and Dominique Jadusingh. Jadusingh had his hat trick

in the evening game against the Palm Beach Gardens Predators.

The Strikers entered halftime losing for the first time in the tournament 1 to 0. Jadusingh responded in the second half by scoring three goals, two of which were long range shots from beyond the penalty box. His play inspired the Strikers and led them to score seven unanswered goals in the second half and win the game 7-1.

This victory earned the Strikers a spot in the championship game where they secured a victory by beating Royal Palm Beach 4-0. Throughout the weekend the Strikers received plenty of offensive fire power. Other Strikers who scored multiple goals in the tournament were Trevor Natalie, Sasha Fiumara, Shane Meyer, and Plentio Arcila. While he was unable to play in the tournament, midfielder Christian Leach made huge contributions to the team this year and was another key player in the Strikers' success.

Over the past three years the U11 Boys Strikers have attracted several top players in the area who joined the team. Any players interested in joining this team or the club should visit www.hobesoundsoccer.com for more information.

Most of the core group of players for the Strikers were introduced to soccer by playing Friday nights under the lights in the Hobe Sound Soccer Club's Recreational program when they were 4



Top, from left: Coach Randy Earle, Jack Ungerland, Dominique Jadusingh, Shane Meyer, Macguire Stuckey; Bottom, from left: Plentio Arcila, Gabe Robert, Armondo Niz, Trevor Natalie, Sasha Fiumara, and Jeremy Earle

and 5 years old. If you have not attended one of these Friday nights, I highly encourage you to come out and watch the kids get started in soccer and enjoy what might be the best burger in Hobe Sound cooked by the president of the Soccer Club Craig Woll.

The Hobe Sound Soccer Club prides itself on being a not-for-profit Soccer Club that offers extremely competitive teams at a low cost to the youth soccer players in our community. In large part,

the club would be unable to do this without the hard work of its volunteers such as Steve Merritt and Craig Woll and the sponsorship dollars donated from local businesses in our community. If you'd like to make a donation to support the soccer club and the youth of Hobe Sound and Stuart, please visit the website for more information. [HYPERLINK "http://www.hobesoundsoccer.com/"](http://www.hobesoundsoccer.com/) www.hobesoundsoccer.com. ■

—Randy Earle

Any lady pomp chasers out there?



**Rich
Vidulich**
*Pompano
Reporter*

Under the radar, some really neat women are conquering pompano daily. Their passion has led these pompano ladies to become more proficient than we would expect. I will feature three tomboys whom I feel especially deserve attention: Dorothy Kite, Pompano Julie of Jupiter, and Pompano Sharon of Stuart.

All three have fished most of their lives, yet they all have settled on targeting the silver sides that taste the best. They are so spirited that when they fish, their focus is absolute. Whether it's windy, rough, cold or hot, these gals are internally fueled to cast, crank and land pompano. They also all take great joy in the by-catch and the release of the fish that are not so tasty.

These sports-fishing women can play a large fish to the beach with patience and strength, which leads me to an intriguing story about Dorothy Kite. I was conducting a pompano seminar at Valero's Bait and Gas in Stuart this past spring and met this wonderful lady angler. She quizzed me on river knowledge and informed me of her tactics. I was amazed at her unique methods of fishing for pompano out of her little but perfect, well-suited boat. She didn't follow traditional pomp strategies, but had formulated her own. After a very cool exchange, I expressed interest in writing a little story about "Pompano Dorothy."

By the way, I will not share her secrets and violate a friendship that I'm lucky to have, but here's how she describes herself, as told in her own words: "Fishing is something I've loved to do since the first time I ever went as a little girl. I've always enjoyed it, no matter what kind of fish I was fishing for—snook, redfish, trout, grouper, etc. About 10 years ago I was introduced to pompano fishing, and since then it has become



Pompano Julie of Jupiter shows off her prize.

my favorite fish to target despite this year's poor turnout. The first time I hooked into a pompano, the fight was different from any other fish and I **LIKED IT!** Pompano bite soft and fight hard; they hover across the top of the water and cut back and forth super fast. They make several runs and fight hard until they are in the boat. The bonus of catching pompano is they are best-eating fish you will ever have."

Her favorite method of cooking pompano is simple: Season your filets with lemon juice and some fresh, torn basil; dot with butter and bake...but don't overcook. Stop as soon as the fish flakes with a fork. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

A couple of years ago, I met Sharon and Eddie—friends for more than 30 years—on Stuart Beach, where they have "team fished" the past three winters as they chased the silver nuggets. They are both pretty darn good, and Sharon is a fierce competitor. She's from Massachusetts and had not surf-fished before coming to Stuart. She's angled rainbow trout and pulled on haddock offshore and has also co-caught black fin tuna up to 700 pounds. Her new ambition is casting a large spinning rod and nailing whiting and pompano.



Dorothy got some "help" from her pooch to haul in a couple of beautiful poms.

The photo shows a 16-inch, 4-pound pompano she charmed with clams back in March. She's currently in Arizona with her grandchildren, and says she will be more than ready to launch another attack on her favorite fish this upcoming season. I recently knighted her "Pompano Sharon." Hey, a big thanks to Eddie for helping me with this story, and by the way he went conventional and is ready to cast and crank with the big boys. Watch out, this Stuart duo is poised and ready for their next adventure.

Then there are Julie and Warren, the most dedicated pompano duo I've ever met. Warren is always learning, and Julie is the best surf-wife team member that I know. Julie is a cool 76 years young, and I've not seen a better caster on south Florida beaches. She is strong, pretty, petite and inspiring to watch. They have followed my leads and studied the locals every season.

She and Warren are so happy to participate but also to catch pompano! She's quick to bait up, diligent to overhead cast accurately, and is attentive to viewing the tip for a bite. Warren rakes the fleas, but when there is a need, Julie will grab the rake and harvest fleas, too.

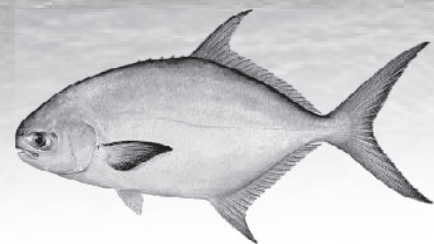
They told me a pompano duo means working together just like they do making rigs. "We knot together," she says. Quick story: They were fishing and got a strong hit and the spike went flying into the ocean. Warren dashed into the water to retrieve it, and returned, rather soaked, with the rod. That's determination and love.

They fish every available pompano day of the season, and then scoot for the

North Carolina mountains for the summer. I can only hope and pray that I will see them on our beaches for many more seasons. They make surf fishing a special life unto their own. I'm blessed to be able to share this and be their friend.

Keep on casting and cranking! ■

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Pompano Sharon puts most of us on Stuart Beach to shame with her catch.



“What’s on my mind is the same thing that’s been there for 45 years on this (Memorial) day. When I returned from Vietnam, the shrink at the VA said, ‘You should open up and talk about all this, and then you can forget about it.’ I told her: ‘You are the crazy one here. How can I forget about my buddies who were wounded or killed? Or humping all day through the jungles and rice paddies when it was so hot and humid you could hardly breathe? Or how about being so scared on an ambush when a enemy company was passing by within a few feet of you that you were wishing your heart would just quit beating, because you knew they could hear it pounding in your chest? How could I forget all we went through every day when others back home were protesting, dodging the draft or running to Canada and calling us baby killers?’ That was the end of therapy with her. Now my therapy is talking to my fellow grunts who went through the same thing I did. So, yes, I do have a lot on my mind this Memorial Day and all days for the past 45 years, so I humbly ask everyone to think good thoughts on this day, mourning our fallen Heroes.”

*Nathan Duke
Buckhannon, West Virginia*

The family of Martin County Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Wade Mallard (seated) joined thousands along Osceola Street in Stuart on Monday to watch the Memorial Day Parade, an annual tradition that includes a helicopter flyover, followed by a commemorative service at Memorial Park to honor American soldiers who died in service to their country.