

FREE

Martin County **CURRENTS**

Volume 3 Issue 3 • July 2013

**Hobe
Sound
honors
fallen
soldier**

pg 10

**3 dolphin
studies yield
surprises...** pg 3

**6 bunnies
need names...** pg 5

**One Palm City
family enjoys an
'Extraordinary
Experience'...** pg 12

**Palm City Chamber
Prez speaks out...** pg 15



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Dolphin dorsal fins are like fingerprints; no two are exactly alike thus are used for dolphin identification.

The results of three significant studies of dolphins reveal some surprising facts about these treasured marine mammals:

Indian River Lagoon dolphins never venture into the Atlantic Ocean; dolphins apparently name and call each other by unique whistle sounds; and the leading cause of death of lagoon dolphins is asphyxiation.

Scientists from Mote Marine Lab near Sarasota reported that dolphins communicate to one another using distinctive whistles, which are not random noises.

"These whistles actually turned out to be names," said Dr. Randall Wells, lead researcher. "They're abstract names which is unheard of in the animal kingdom beyond people." They call to each other by name.

Their research also showed that dolphins don't swim in the wild with their own families, but make long-term relationships with dolphins from other families, using their distinctive whistles to "stay in touch" and to maintain group cohesion.

At the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, dolphin researcher Marilyn Mazzoil reported that Indian River Lagoon dolphins stay in the lagoon without ever venturing out to sea, and Atlantic Ocean dolphins do not come into the lagoon. More research is needed to reveal why that is.

Using the marks on the dorsal fins of 1,000 lagoon dolphins over the past 15 years, Mazzoil was able to identify at least three separate dolphin communities, each

of which stays within about a 30-mile radius of each other, she said. The males of the group tend to venture farther, however, and not with their families, leaving mothers and aunts to raise the young.

Mazzoil spearheaded the movement to create Florida's "Protect Wild Dolphins" specialty license plates to fund dolphin research. It's still available for sale to Florida residents, and its funds ensure continuing dolphin studies, said Mazzoil.

Another study released earlier this year from the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute found that lagoon dolphins have had a four percent death rate (14 of 350 deaths) over the past 15 years due to asphyxiation, an unusual cause of death for dolphins, according to a SeaWorld release.

The oceanside dolphins had no cases of similar asphyxiation either from line or spiny-fish ingestion, but in more than one-third of the cases identified, researchers found that lagoon dolphins had choked on fish ensnared with hooks that embedded in the esophagus or with monofilament line that became entangled in the mammals' larynx.

More than 400 lagoon dolphins have died since 2002, and many of the deaths have been from unknown causes, although scientists suspect water pollution and the loss of sea grass also as significant contributing factors. ■

Taxes are heading up. The "average" Martin County resident with a homestead exemption can expect

a three and a half percent increase in property taxes as part of the tentative 2014 budget, according to County Administrator Taryn Kryzda.

"The Board has done everything to hold down expenditures for the past few years, but residents have expressed their concerns with the conditions of our roads," Kryzda said in a county news release, "and without a larger increase in the tax base, a slight tax increase will be necessary."

Budget workshops began June 22, videotaped by Martin County Television, MCTV, and are online. An electronic copy of the 2014 Tentative Budget of \$361 million also is available on the county's website www.martin.fl.us. ■

The next meeting of the Rivers Coalition will be an evening meeting on Thursday, July 25, at 6 p.m.

in the council chambers of Stuart City Hall. It is open to the public. Leon Abood, chairman, said he will invite the Army Corps of Engineers to provide an update to the public.

The last appearance of the Army Corps at a Rivers Coalition meeting in March revealed that the much-touted Plan 6 to move water south out of Lake Okeechobee had been nixed by their engineers several years ago.

The engineers had determined that the water would dissipate, thus not accomplishing the objective of creating a southern flow from the lake into the Everglades.

That southern flow of water, scientists have determined, is the only remedy to

stop the polluted, freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee into the St. Lucie River, which environmentalists blame for seriously damaging the St. Lucie and Indian River Lagoon estuaries. ■

Golf legend Gary Player, who lives on Jupiter Island, will pose nude for the

upcoming ESPN The Magazine's "Body Issue," due out mid-July. The 77-year-old Hall of Famer will become the oldest athlete to bare all in the annual spread.

Other athletes appearing in the July 12 issue include fellow golfer Carly Booth, NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, NBA player John Wall, baseball player Giancarlo Stanton and Olympic volleyball player Kerri Walsh Jennings, according to an ESPN news release.

Player, who endures 1,000 sit-ups and 1,000 push-ups daily, said that he hopes the "exposure" will inspire others to take better care of their bodies as they age. ■

Key elements of the proposed changes to the Martin County

Comprehensive Growth Management Plan that conflict with state law and also

could threaten revitalization of Martin County's historic waterfront communities were footnotes to the approval by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council vote May 17.

In his report to members, Executive Director Peter Merritt said that the apparent 11 conflicts with state law, which were brought to the Martin County Commission's attention by attorney Kenneth G. Oertel, as well as Martin County resident Lee Weberman's objections to the restrictiveness of requiring a super-majority vote, are "important concerns" regarding the proposed changes.

"The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity should address these issues in the state review," he said in his report.

"However, regarding regional issues, no adverse effects on significant regional resources and facilities have been identified."

Merritt recommended, however, that the county should consider simplifying the plan to make it easier to understand by eliminating duplicate language and by transferring some of the details to the land development regulations.

He addressed the proposed setbacks from the water for already hardened shorelines in both his written report and in his oral comments to members, saying the proposed change would be an "...impediment to the redevelopment of waterfront areas...", adding that the county may want

continued on page 5



Tequesta Village Mayor Abby Brennan and members of the Tequesta police and fire squads dedicate a wreath at Village Hall to the 19 Arizona firefighters who lost their life in a June wildfire.

Under a light rain July 3 that seemed fittingly like tears from heaven, Tequesta Village officials and rescue personnel held a somber

remembrance of the 19 firefighters who perished in an Arizona wildfire in late June. A wreath was laid by Tequesta police officers and firefighters at Tequesta's 9/11 Memorial in front of the Village Hall during the evening shift change.

"As the residents in surrounding towns were fleeing the raging wildfires," said Tequesta Mayor Abby Brennan,

"these brave men were advancing directly into them."

The Village of Tequesta also sent an official request to the President of the United States the American flag be lowered to half mast on federal buildings in remembrance of the firefighters, the largest number of emergency personnel to be killed in the U.S. at one time since the 9/11 terrorist attack. ■

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Bunny #6, another white Rex-mix bunny whose curiosity is entertaining.



Bunny #2, a very shy brown bunny with tiny, white front toes.



Bunny #4, this Rex mix bunny is a bit of a trouble maker, because it's so curious.



Bunny #7, Momma bunny is Mango, who has been a good mother, but is ready for retirement.

Name that baby bunny!

A most unusual dilemma at the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast in Palm City has arisen. Seven baby bunnies were born while at the animal shelter, but they need to be named prior to going onto the Humane Society's online adoption site.

"We just never have had this happen before," says Tracie Harris, a volunteer rabbit foster mom who cares for many bunnies prior to adoption. She served as midwife when these bunnies were born June 1, and she still cares for them at her home.

"We don't get baby bunnies," she adds. "They always get dropped off to us when they're older, particularly after Easter; that's when we get overrun with bunnies, and they already have their names."

Rabbits are similar to cats in that they'll often recognize their own name, however, often choosing when or if they will respond. They also can be easily litter-trained.

Highly social animals, rabbits from the Humane Society can be adopted as indoor pets only. Most get along with and even will bond with a family's other pets, including cats, dogs, and even the family hamster.

The mother's name is Mango, and also

may be adopted. The babies, who appear to be of mixed breeds, will probably be small when fully grown, but not miniature. They are too young as yet to know definitely whether or not they are male or female, but it seems thus far that the males are brown and the females white.

"We will definitely know their sex by the time they are old enough to adopt," Harris says, "and they all will be neutered or spayed prior to adoption, which is part of the \$30 adoption fee."

The baby bunnies should be ready for homes by the first week of August, she says, but get those names sent to the Humane Society so their pictures can go online. Put "bunny names" in the subject line of your emails to tracieharris@comcast.net.

If you cannot wait, then Harris says that the Humane Society has lots of options.

"We do have some wonderful rabbits at the shelter now," she says, "including two Rex, a fuzzy lop-eared rabbit, a Netherland dwarf, two Dutch, and a Lionhead." Their photos are on the website at: www.hstc1.org.

They also have guinea pigs, 10-12 hamsters and mice, and, of course, a few cats and dogs. All waiting for you. ■

continued from PAGE 3

to consider additional exceptions to the shoreline protection zone within the Community Redevelopment Areas.

Martin County Growth Management Director Nikki van Vonno recommended to the commission that they postpone the final vote until August 13, so that county staff could address the state's concerns, however, they may have adopted the changes without additional delay. (Currents goes to press prior to the July 9 commission meeting.)

If the final vote is delayed until August, public comment, via email or US mail, should be addressed to Nikki van Vonno, Growth Management Department Director at nikkiv@martin.fl.us, or to Growth Management Dept., County Administrative Center, 2401 S.E. Monterey Rd. Stuart, FL 34996. ■

The members of the Hobe Sound Bible Church who traveled to Oklahoma

to assist in the tornado relief effort returned home recently with amazing stories of grace and the overwhelming task of clean-up that remains to be done.

"If you can imagine this," one church member told a gathering of Hobe Sound Toastmasters recently, "if this two-story church building was completely de-

stroyed and lay in a pile of rubble, but all you and 20 other volunteers were able to remove after two weeks of hard work, every day, all day, was only the size of a pencil, then you'd see how much work still needs to be done."

Each summer, the church sponsors short-term mission trips to several countries, including Costa Rica, Haiti, Guatemala, Colombia, Russia, and Ireland. In addition to Oklahoma, groups also went to Alaska and New Mexico.

For the countries overseas, a week of training is held at a boot camp in central Florida, and assignments to the various locations for the 80 people participating include disaster relief, medical assistance, building and maintenance projects, and assisting other missionaries serving in the various countries.

Participants raise their own funds to cover their transportation to and from their location, as well as their expenses while there.

This annual summer adventure is called Touching Lives for Christ (TLC) and this year they celebrated their 25th anniversary. During those 25 years, more than 1,000 people of all ages have traveled to countries around the world assisting where needed, according to a church press release. Some have returned later to the country they visited to work as full-time missionaries.

And when they return to Hobe Sound, you can bet they have riveting stories to tell. ■

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Editorial: Commission grabbing power above all else

Attorney Ginny Sherlock, who has a habit of demanding in her emails what our county commissioners are to do or not to do, appears to be the puppet master behind an outrageous grab for power.

She slickly arranged a private session with the commission to plead her case not to pay the sanctions and attorney fees ordered by a judge for an appeal she filed on behalf of the Conservation Alliance and 1000 Friends of Florida against Martin County, many members of which are Jupiter Island residents.

Puzzle pieces are beginning to come together, and the picture is an ugly one.

Apparently, Sherlock's pulling the strings for someone else, probably a group of someones, which appear to be those who want to protect their privileged lives, their private, quiet sanctuary above all else—certainly above what's good for the ordinary, hard-working citizen who is raising a family and commuting to work out of the county because opportunities here are limited. They aren't able to keep abreast of the county commission.

They're simply too busy making a living.

We were warned two years ago by a Bridge Road property owner in Hobe Sound who laughed at the plans being developed to revitalize the dilapidated downtown. He told county Community Development staff then it would never happen.

"Jupiter Island won't let it happen," he said. "They want nothing to change."

Just two months ago, another Jupiter Island resident, Commissioner Anne Scott, said nearly the identical thing: "I like Hobe Sound just the way it is. I don't want it to change."

Yes, the county turned a corner

with the rewrite of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. We know that residents absolutely do not want to look like Broward or Palm Beach counties, but the Comp Plan had successfully thwarted the Harmony and Hobe Grove developments and others.

The prohibition for buildings over four stories was in place already. All wetlands in the county were protected, delineated or not. So what has been accomplished with this new "strengthened" Comp Plan?

We now have a new definition of a wetland, which residents may encounter when they want to fill that low spot in the back of their property, or put up a fence, or even a shed.

We now have a 75' shoreline protection zone not only for natural shorelines, but for hardened ones, as well, which residents may encounter when they want to repair a storm-damaged seawall or rebuild a driveway or replace an old swimming pool deck, even with pervious pavers.

And we know the expanded setback will stop cold the revitalization of Rio's waterfront, and perhaps Jensen's as well, which would have boosted the county's economic health without imperiling the lagoon's health.

Most people have no clue what's coming.

Most worrisome is the broad brush used to qualify any project for the super-majority vote. Just about anything that happens in this county will now need a four-to-one vote to be approved.

Most residents expected that power to be applied only when super developments—the DRIs like Harmony's 4,000 homes—were being considered. *Now, any development project of any size and scope will be strangled.*

Instead of just admitting they want zero growth, they wave the flag of environmental protection in front of every action they take.

We learned two years ago watching Commissioners Ed Fielding and Sarah Heard—when they extolled the virtues of septic tanks at the headwaters of the Loxahatchee River in their fight to keep an urban boundary from being touched—that their motives are political, not environmental.

Had the environment truly been their priority when considering the Jensen Beach mooring field, it would have been approved.

Our national ocean scientists advocate the use of mooring balls to protect endangered reefs—as is done in the Florida keys. Scores of state and national parks use them to protect their seabeds, as do a host of countries around the world.

It's embarrassing to think that our good citizens would fight to have boats drag the bottom of the Indian River Lagoon with their anchors, to maintain boat owners' rights to squat in our waters, literally as well as figuratively, ensuring that the pollution and damage will continue indefinitely.

The commission also has erased all reference to the Business Development Board in the Comp Plan.

Do residents believe that jobs are essential to their quality of life? Of course they do. Now the commission seems to be poisoning itself to eradicate the board completely, along with the convention and tourist bureaus, just as they eradicated the Community Redevelopment Agency and squashed the Neighborhood Advisory Committees.

We also don't like that with the

first county commission meeting after the election that every meeting was launched with criticism of the seasoned, talented County Administrator Taryn Kryzda by a chorus of the same people singing the same song obviously written by one author—that we now know was Ms. Sherlock—until Kryzda had rewritten her contract in January to make preservation of the environment her top priority above even sound fiscal management.

Then just last month, the chorused call for her dismissal came again during the public hearing on the mooring field, because county staff had "not followed instructions" by commissioners to bring them alternatives to the mooring field, echoing one of those Sherlock orders emailed to commissioners.

The Jensen Beach mooring field would have brought people here. The Rio revitalization project would have brought people here. A retrofitted Bridge Road and revitalized downtown Hobe Sound would bring people here.

We know now, the customs facility won't happen, and there's little hope for Pitchford's Landing, or even the travel center on Kanner Highway.

If the 2013 commission power grab succeeds, it will be long remembered. Maybe we just found out how unlucky a number 13 really is.

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Turning a truck stop into a travel center

My life experiences tend to be more humble than those of others, I've discovered, and that's okay. Maybe that's why I really don't mind having traces of garden soil under my fingernails or sand between my toes from postponing manicures, but those experiences also seem to provide me a different perspective when it comes to real-life issues like the proposed truck stop on Kanner Highway.

The very first newspaper articles described a proposed interstate travel center as potentially "a noisy, traffic-congesting, smelly truck stop." For most of three decades as I struggled to ensure that my six children maintained family ties cross country, were enrolled in colleges regardless of how far flung, or graduated from the same, required travel for thousands of miles on interstate highways. Truck stops became beacons to me not only for gas, but for food, rest, and help if I needed it.

No, we didn't travel in an RV, as many, many families do these days, and neither did I drive a tractor-trailer, but never was I snubbed for parking a station wagon in a truck's space whenever I simply could not stay awake to drive. Many times, we slept right where we parked.

Almost always, we also could find real food, regardless of the hour, and friendly directions to the nearest mechanic, if

need be. The washrooms were more spacious and always cleaner than a gas station's, and never did I feel threatened as I walked through a well-lit truck stop parking lot alone or with my children at night. Some motels offered much less.

Part of the reason I felt safe, I'm sure, was because of the respect always extended to me, both on the road as a driver, as well as off the road, by the truck drivers themselves. Seldom was I ever bullied on the highway or cut off in traffic by an 18-wheeler. Instead, I was often given the right-of-way when it was not mine, signaled it was safe to pass him or her when I could not see, and when my car broke down, truck drivers most often pulled off the road to help.

Especially dear to me is a truck driver whose name or face I'll never know. He may have saved my daughter from grave harm on one of her 10-hour, middle-of-the-night interstate dashes home from college. She had pulled onto the highway's berm when she realized she could not make it to a rest room in time, returning to her car from behind some roadside bushes to discover she'd locked the keys inside, the car engine still running.

She attempted to flag down a motorist without luck. Panic-stricken, she climbed onto her car roof, jumped up and down, waving her arms until a tractor-trailer



Barbara Clowdus

Unfiltered

pulled off the road. Not until that moment did she realize the potential danger she faced.

The driver, however, was kind. He listened to her dilemma, then used a screwdriver to pry open her car's moonroof, unintentionally shattering it, but enabling him to reach the door lock. He brushed the bulk of the shattered glass off the driver's side seat, then covered the rest with a blanket from his truck. Before she drove away, he gently admonished her about pulling off the highway, giving her directions to a phone booth so she could call home. Yes, that was some time ago.

No, not all truck drivers are saints, but the majority are solid citizens, and a growing number are women. A business that caters to them, supports their vital contributions to our country's way of life, and to our economy should be lauded, not vilified. The proposed travel center location would be nearly perfectly situated on property isolated

from housing developments between the Turnpike and Interstate 95—rather wide boundaries, those are.

Today's fuel-efficient trucks require that diesel-only stations morph into diesel/gas stations suitable for all road travelers. More likely the majority of spaces at Kanner Highway will be filled with motor coaches and large recreational vehicles than big rigs, and inside will be not only candy bars, oil and anti-freeze for truckers, but trinkets, T-shirts and caps for tourists...and brochures lauding local attractions.

The potential for adding fuel tax and sales tax revenues to our strained county coffers will be weighed against neighbors' complaints, being fueled by a local artist whose one-woman campaign includes photos of a some garbage bags dropped by a litterbug on a side street behind the business, not the owner's responsibility, but a misrepresentation that damages her own credibility.

How about some active listening on both sides? How about some creativity that might lead us to an artists colony at a travel center? Okay, that's unlikely, but it does seem fitting for the Martin County I know to be able to offer a safe harbor for the distant traveler, not just tractor-trailer rigs, but to families traveling in RVs—or even stuffed in station wagons.

My love affair with France

International Driving Permits are valid for twelve months, and I must have bought mine just before leaving Australia in 1963. When it expired, I was in the middle of France with Chris and Annika. Chris was South African – one of the fellows I shared a flat with in London – and Annika was his Dutch girlfriend.

We had been down to Andorra and Spain for a couple of weeks, and would be back in London in a few days – if the gendarmes didn't catch me driving without a valid licence. Also, our wallets were all but empty, so we couldn't even pay a fine. We had to go without breakfast to afford a new Permit. (Annika had lost her purse two days into the trip, and we scraped by without its contents; it had been a frugal vacation since then.)

As it transpired, the cost of the Permit wasn't the problem. As a polite-but-cold bureaucrat in Grenoble explained, it was the issuance of a Permit that was the problem. Permits could only be obtained in one's country of residence. One cannot issue one in France to someone who doesn't live in France. "But madame! I am not in my country of residence. I am here!" [Basic schoolboy French, you understand. "Je suis ici!"] Shrug. "Then you must go back to your country of residence", she

said. "How will I get there?" "Drive." "But it would not be legal for me to drive in France without a Permit." It was like that Harry Belafonte song, "There's a hole in the bucket, dear Liza..."

She shrugged again. I tried another angle. "Could I perhaps obtain a French domestic licence?" A snort, this time. Out of the question. Ah well, what can you do? I would have to drive back to London illegally, and take my chances with the gendarmes. Sadly, I made a careful note of her name and title. If the Police stopped me and demanded a current Permit, I would ask them to phone her and she could explain the situation to them – *n'est-ce pas?*

Of course it's hard to generalise about a nation of fifty million; but by and large the French are a practical people. Principles, laws, rules, regulations – none of them are set in stone. Every once in a while they can be set aside in the interests of peace, goodwill, and sometimes even personal convenience. My middle-aged antagonist glared at me for 15 seconds, shook her head in disgust, sat down and typed the Permit. I kissed her hand passionately, made it plain that if she and I had been alone in the office her marriage vows might have been in danger, and got



Gordon Barlow

Outside, Looking In

out just before she smiled. I've loved France ever since, and everything about it – except perhaps its rulers' predilection to torture its colonial subjects; its rulers tend to be nasty people. And, to be truthful, I don't love Marseilles, either. Nobody loves Marseilles.

Almost 30 years later, another example of the same practicality – this time in Martinique, a French Overseas Department in the Caribbean, where I was due to represent the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce at some EU-Caribbean conference or other. It was a bit of a shock to be refused entry because I didn't have a visa in my Australian passport.

On earlier visits to France (Martinique is part of metropolitan France, constitutionally), no visa had been required. Unbeknownst to me, the rules had changed since then. Australia had for some reason (the Rainbow

Warrior affair, perhaps?) begun requiring visas from French visitors, and France had retaliated.

Under the new rules, I had to be put back on the plane that brought me. But, well, this was an international conference at which France's prestige would be on the line; and I assuredly would have been granted a visa if I had applied; and the plane wasn't departing until the next morning; and... The young gendarme shrugged and gave me a rueful smile as he stamped me in and wished me a pleasant stay.

Nobody's perfect, of course. French people can be very rude, especially to foreigners who don't speak French well enough. I've been the victim of that. The best way of countering the rudeness is to insist on speaking French to the rude one – very badly, loudly, and at length. Keep at it until he or she runs away sobbing in despair. Then turn to whoever is still around and ask gently (in French) if they speak English.

You'll be surprised how many are willing to try.

Gordon Barlow, an independent political commentator and writer, was born and educated in Australia. He currently lives and writes in the Cayman Islands.



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Gene Martello, owner of the new Working Cow ice cream parlor, Ice Cream & More, on U.S. 1 at the entrance to Hobe Heights,

found out how difficult it is to attract attention to a new business in Martin County.

"You can't put out any signs in this county," he says, "and I'm not talking about junky signs. I'm talking about professionally made, good-looking signs to let people know where you are."

County code enforcement officers required that Martello remove all the signs that he'd put in the right-of-way or even on his property with his parlor's name last week, including a large banner and the tall feather flags so popular and so effective at attracting attention.

"I just don't get it," he adds. "The county wants us to stay in business, right?, so we can provide revenue to the county, but then they don't want to do anything to help us attract customers. It makes no sense. I can't even put balloons in the parking lot."

It's the same complaint other businesses have made over the past several months, particularly in Port Salerno, where Basin Seafood on Salerno Road resorted to putting up several American flags across the top of its building to attract attention.

When Martello discovered that there



is no ban on American flags, he adopted the same strategy, lining the shop's parking lot with large American flags, timed well due to the July 4th holiday.

"But we also started stocking a new, all-American ice cream flavor," Martello says, with a grin. "It's apple pie ala mode...can't get more American than that." ■

Juno Shoe Girl was the first business to move into the vacant St. Onge building



on A1A in Hobe Sound last year, its always festive displays brightening the historic downtown district.

Next came Tony Grimaldi Landscape Architecture, whose owner, Tony Grimaldi, met the Strategic Realty leasing agent, Jac Crawford, at a Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce event. Grimaldi moved his business two months ago into the large corner office that formerly housed the Indo-Chic Imports boutique.

Now the word is out that the vacant office adjacent to Juno Shoe Girl in the same building will soon begin filling with antiques. We can hardly wait for official word.

At the end of the street, a law firm purportedly is moving into the now-empty Cottage Caché building. That's all well and good, but when will Hobe Sound get a cupcake and coffee shop? ■

Rev. Rodney Loper, senior pastor of Hobe Sound Bible Church, was recently



awarded a master's degree in pastoral ministries from Trinity Theological Seminary. Rev. Loper came to Hobe Sound as an associate pastor in July, 2007, becoming senior pastor in January 2010. Rev. Loper and his wife, Melissa, have four children, Scott, Brianna, Brooklyn and Colton. Hobe Sound Bible Church is an interdenominational community church on Gomez Avenue. ■

Hairstylist Shannon Wildermuth of Hobe Sound, mother of two children,



became a licensed hair stylist four years ago, and moved to Hobe Sound two years ago. She recently relocated to a different hair salon, Hair Designs, on A1A south of Bridge Road,

and she's worried that her old customers will not find her.

"It's beautiful here," she said, referring to the new building surrounded by a shaded, brick-paved lot and new landscaping. "I'm really happy here, but if people don't know where this is, they might have a hard time finding me."

The new salon is approximately two miles south of Bridge, past Jenkins Landscaping, on the west side of Dixie Highway.

Her specialty is coloring and highlights. Her customers' gray roots may soon be showing, so let them know where Shannon is working now. ■

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A community pays its last respects

Celebrating America's independence became even more poignant in southern Martin County as family, friends and strangers gathered to honor the life and service of a fallen soldier.

Staff Sgt. Justin R. Johnson, 25, of the Banner Lake community came home from Afghanistan on July 3, and after a wake at the Peaceful Valley Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Banner Lake on July 5 and service at the Hobe Sound Methodist Church the following day was laid to rest at the South Florida National Cemetery near Lake Worth with full military honors.

Fellow Staff Sgt. William Foster, who had accompanied Sgt. Johnson's body back to the U.S. from the Bagram military base where he had been killed during a June mortar attack, described Sgt. Johnson as "always upbeat...always smiling." He made a promise "to always be there" for the family, especially Sergeant Johnson's young son, Justin Jr.

"Won't nobody replace your father," Foster said to the four-year-old known affectionately as June Bug. "Nobody. But what I can tell you, is that I will be there for you also."

Sonia Randolph addressed the gathering during the wake about her only child.

"I want to thank the Lord for giving me 25 wonderful years," she said.



The family of Sgt. Justin Johnson, including his mother, Sonia Randolph, and his four-year-old son Justin Jr., arrive at the church to celebrate Justin's life.

"...Pray with me and for me, so that I can release my baby to rest."

During the funeral service the following day, military officials presented Sgt. Johnson's family with the Bronze Star medal and the Purple Heart.

The Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce reached out to all of Martin County chambers to join the Banner Lake community in southern Martin County to honor Sgt. Johnson.

"This was a tragedy close to home," said Dan Hulen, president of the Hobe Sound Chamber. "It just seems appropriate that we reach out to help lift up



Hobe Sound Chamber President Dan Hulen with three of his daughters await the arrival of the Sgt. Justin Johnson family for funeral services at the Hobe Sound Methodist Church on Saturday, July 6.

the family and to show our respect."

Chamber members, friends, and Banner Lake neighbors wore blue and waved U.S. flags in front of the Methodist Church on Saturday. Pockets of families also could be seen along U.S. 1 in Hobe Sound and along Bridge Road who had stopped to pay their respects. A dozen veterans groups, including motorcycle clubs, took part, providing a motorcycle escort from Hobe Sound to the Lake Worth cemetery. Police officers and firefighters from throughout the county also paid their respects, escorting the family and erecting an American flag in an archway over Bridge Road.

"You know, I really didn't want to get out of bed so early this morning," said Jan Otten, membership director of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce, as she stood in front of the Methodist Church. "But then I thought, Justin gave his life for us. I can get out of bed."

A college fund for Justin's son and a scholarship in Justin's name for high school students are being created now, and a tree will be dedicated to Justin's memory in Banner Lake Park in mid-



Jan Otten, of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce, spent Saturday morning alongside other Hobe Sound residents along U.S. 1, showing their respect for Sgt. Justin Johnson's sacrifice.



A dozen motorcycle clubs, many of them comprising veterans, took part in escorting the Johnson and Randolph families.

August. The tree was donated by Becker Tree Farm and Aaron's Towing has donated the plaque.

Donations towards buying a memorial bench to install next to the tree are being accepted now by Lisa Dames of Banner Lake, who is coordinating these activities with Sgt. Johnson's family. For more information, contact the Chamber office at 772-546-4724, or [HYPERLINK "mailto:info@hobesound.org"](mailto:info@hobesound.org)info@hobesound.org. ■

—Barbara Clowdus

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Guest Speaker: Susan deCuba,
new CEO of Treasure Coast Hospice
Cost: \$10 Members/
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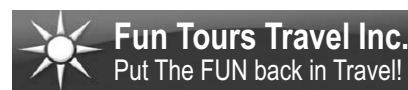
Wednesday, July 31, 5:30-7pm
First Citizens Bank
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J&R Outfitters host two chambers at iTown

An "eye-opening experience" was what many Hobe Sound Chamber members and guests called the Indiantown Chamber's After-Hours Social in June.

They spent time together in a joint event to explore J&R Outfitters and take an Old Florida Wildlife Tour hosted by owner Joey O'Bannon, a licensed professional hunter, on a covered, custom-built swamp buggy (even handicapped accessible). The gathering divided into groups of 25 for the hour-long tours.

"This is what Florida looked like 100 years ago," O'Bannon told his guests, as they gazed at wetlands, pine scrub, cypress stands and grass plains that are the result of more than 30 years' work to remove exotics and fill agricultural drainage canals.

The 4,000-acre game preserve eight miles west of Indiantown has been restored to an all-natural, Florida habitat. Not one Brazilian pepper or melaleuca anywhere in sight, which elicited abundant words of appreciation from guests.

In spite of the natural beauty of the landscape, however, the animals caught even more of the spectators' attention. Great herds of deer, antelope, and water buffalo seemed endless; the swamp buggy getting remarkably close before alarming the animals enough to move. A dozen cameras on board snapped photos.



Joey O'Bannon, Owner
J&R Outfitters



Touring the 4,000-acre site of J&R Outfitters was easy to do riding inside a custom-built swamp buggy.

The animals have no fear of the swamp buggy," O'Bannon explained. When hunters come to the preserve with hopes of bagging a water buffalo, deer, or other wild game, they are on foot. Only those armed with cameras approach the animals in a swamp buggy, he said.

The huge herds include species that are extinct or nearly extinct in the wild, including the Barasingha, also called a swamp deer, extinct in Pakistan and nearly extinct in India; Père David's deer, a large deer with backwards pointing antlers, extinct in China; and the Blackbuck antelope with tail, wavy antlers, considered threatened in India.

The axis deer, the most common deer species in Indian forests, seemed to have the largest herds at J&R, but so many large herds moved across the land,



Chamber members gather on the long front porch of J&R Outfitters west of Indiantown.

it was difficult for guests to determine the one with the largest number. In all, the lands hold six species of exotic deer and four species of antelope, as well as white-tailed deer common to North America.

Dwarfing all the deer herds, however, were the herds of water buffalo, some of which stood their ground as the group rolled past. "That is the most dangerous animal out here," O'Bannon said, and no one would argue that.

The grounds also are home to alligator, snipe, quail, turkey, wild hogs, and dove, as well as a bevy of trained hunting dogs, and a working cattle ranch, all of which is open to the public.

For more information or for a tour, contact J&R Outfitters at 772.597.4757, or go to www.jroutfitters.com. ■

—Barbara Clowdus



Asian Water Buffalo



Père David



Barasingha

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The Loxahatchee River

gives Palm City family an 'Extraordinary Experience'

When you paddle the Loxahatchee River, you enter a world heavy with the sense of being watched. Some say the ghosts of Seminoles and soldiers who died in the Second Seminole War of 1838 still inhabit the hammocks and wetlands of Riverbend State Park in Palm Beach County through which the Loxahatchee flows.

Others say it's simply that hundreds of eyes of the unseen swamp creatures who live there follow the movements of any intruder.

Either way, it does not matter. The feeling may come to you simply because you are in a natural world that seems remote, yet lies only minutes away from urban life. Instead of the swoosh of traffic and blare of sirens, you hear the osprey cry, cicadas hum, and frogs croak...or is that an alligator?

The atmosphere changes, your senses are keen to it, and you know you are experiencing something extraordinary. That's the feeling Patrick Hayes, former Martin County commissioner, seeks for his guests who hold the winning bid for an "Extraordinary Experience" that Hayes donates to nonprofit organizations seeking auction items for their fund-raising events.

John and Renay Rouse of Palm City were recent winners of an Extraordinary Experience, and Hayes gave them the

choice of kayaking the Loxahatchee, snorkeling in the turquoise high-tide waters of Jupiter Sound, taking an electric-boat tour of the Indian River Lagoon, or riding bicycles in off-road trails in Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Riverbend Park, or along the river at Halpatiokee Park near Stuart.

They, along with their two daughters, Jacqueline, 11, and Caroline, 9, chose kayaking the Loxahatchee, although Caroline at first expressed some reservations because of the alligators that live in the river.

"At first, she just did not want to do that," said her father, "but given some time to think about, she decided that she'd try it. She wanted to do it."

As it turned out, heavy rains that fell the week prior to their adventure swelled the river, making it deep and swift. "It really no longer was an option," Hayes said, "not for inexperienced kayakers, especially kids, so we stayed in the park and kayaked a river trail. The

water was high in spots, but not fast."

The weather was perfect: warm and sunny under some clouds, with a cool breeze that tempered the heat. The family gathered at the entrance to Riverbend State Park on Indiantown Road in Jupiter Farms, where they would pick up kayaks, paddles and life jackets from River Outfitters, a commercial enterprise, but first, Hayes gave them a lesson in the Loxahatchee's travails over the past century, pulling out laminated maps, diagrams and photos that he carries everywhere with him in the back of his SUV.

So significant have been the changes to the watershed that it's not easy to know where to start, so Hayes begins with photos taken of himself sitting on one of two Loxahatchee River dams about an hour's paddle from the parking lot where the group stands. The photo shows no water cascading over the wooden-log structure, with weeds growing through cracks between the logs.

"When I saw this, I thought to myself, 'If this how they treat the only Wild and Scenic River in the state...it was the first and, at the time, the only federally designated Wild and Scenic River...how do they treat the rest of their rivers?'"

Hayes turns over the laminated sheet of photos, and on the other side, the same place in the river has water so deep the dam disappears. Another photo shows that kayaks can be launched directly from the roof of Trapper John's historic boat house that's 10 feet above the riverbank, and a favorite place for tour guides to take visitors.

Hayes shakes his head as he studies his own pictures. "It's just unbelievable what was happening...it's that sudden jerk between two extremes that kills the river," he said, "and seeing this, that's when I got active in water issues."

DITCHING AND DRAINING

Just like the St. Lucie, the Kissimmee, the Caloosahatchee, and the Halifax rivers, the watershed of the Loxahatchee had been ditched and drained to turn swamps into citrus groves, sugar cane fields, cattle and pasture lands, and urban developments, shrinking them, strangling their flow of water on some days, flooding them on other days, until their existence and the existence of all the creatures dependent on them is threatened.

THE ROUSE FAMILY OF PALM CITY BEGINS ITS LOXAHATCHEE RIVER ADVENTURE.



The Loxahatchee River kayak/canoe trail inside Riverbend State Park is well marked.



Personal tour guide Patrick Hayes, far right, told them to get up some speed before shooting through the culvert.



Renay and John Rouse kayak the Loxahatchee River for the first time.



Snail eggs on which the endangered bird of prey, the snail kite, feeds. "These eggs are always laid above the water line," said Patrick Hayes, guiding the tour, "but how do they know how high the water will go?"

"The Loxahatchee River has lost at least six miles of riverbeds, and its watershed now is considered to be only 250 square miles," Hayes told the family, "instead of the 650 square miles it used to be."

He slips out a map of Florida, one that he has shown often to visitors to his former Martin County Commission office, to joint meetings of the Martin County and Jupiter Island commissions, to friends and family, and now to his Extraordinary Experience guests.

The brightly colored map shows the historic water flows throughout Florida of 100 years ago, before canals were dug connecting the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers to Lake Okeechobee, before the Kissimmee River was dredged and straightened, before any ditches drained the Loxahatchee and a sheet of water naturally flowed south from Lake Okeechobee to feed the River of Grass, the Florida Everglades, filtering the water before it entered Florida Bay.

"It's amazing to think how much we've destroyed in really so little time," he added, "and how much it's going to cost to put back just a fraction of what was here in the first place."

He pulls out an aerial photograph of a 17-acre stormwater treatment area in Tropical Farms near the C-44 Canal to filter 468 acres of water runoff at a cost of \$3.8 million, without the cost of purchasing land. "It works, but that's only one," he adds. "Many others have been built as part of the Everglades restoration plan, and many more are planned,



Canoe Outfitters assist families with getting on their life vests and getting their kayaks successfully onto the river.



Guide Patrick Hayes uses laminated charts, maps and photos to tell the story of the Loxahatchee River. "The best thing that ever happened to the Loxahatchee was being designated Wild and Scenic," he says, "which brought federal dollars to restoration...that, and not getting the discharges from Lake Okeechobee like the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers do."

but right now, we don't have the funds to build them."

Some of the drainage ditches have been filled to help restore the Loxahatchee; others remain.

PHOTOS ILLUSTRATE THE PAST

In considering the age of his audience, Hayes talks fast, moving from topic to topic quickly, shuffling his laminated sheets like a deck of giant cards to find just the right one. His intent only is to touch on the topic of river restoration, because the task looms large. He knows the best way to ensure stewardship of the rivers, however, is not to lecture them about it, but to get them outside and on the water.

So the group heads to the River Outfitters building as the first step in getting on the water.

Renay Rouse, who has never kayaked previously, insists she wants to share a kayak with her husband. Both her daughters get fitted with life vests and climb onto their open kayaks, and off they go through the park, at first fol-

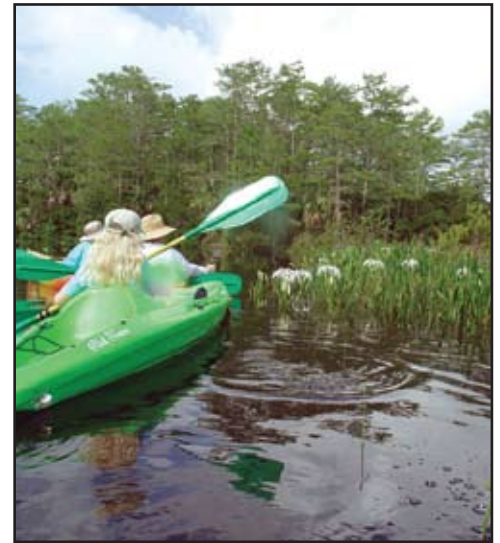
lowing Hayes, who's paddled the trail often, to ensure no one gets lost.

"The trail within the park is pretty well marked," Hayes told them, "but it's easy to get a little lost the first time you're inside. If you're on the river itself, however, that's a different story. You go downriver, usually to the dam. It's impossible to get lost; then you turn around and come back, which takes a couple of hours. If you want to go to Trapper Nelson's, you better plan on spending four or five hours on the river."

If you want a full-day excursion, you can start at Riverbend in Jupiter and paddle to Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound, a challenge made somewhat easier because the river flows north., he said. If arrangements are made in advance, River Outfitters will go to Hobe Sound and cart you and their kayak or canoe back to Riverbend.

THE RIVER EXPERIENCE

Soon the girls start pulling ahead, delighted in the freedom and growing more confident over time. Every turn in



The perfume of swamp lilies is subtly sweet.

the river reveals a different ecological wonder: lily pads growing so thick they appear impenetrable; cypress knees protruding around another bend giving the illusion that a sleeping giant lies below; turtles stacked like stones on a log.

Suddenly Caroline gives a squeal. "An alligator, I see an alligator," she says, pointing to where a young gator had slipped off the muddy bank, disappearing under the tannin-brown water.

"That's unusual," Hayes says. "You don't usually see alligators inside the park...now in the river itself, yes, you're going to see lots of them, and they're big."

The formerly reluctant Caroline spotted two young alligators by the end of the family's adventure. While scooping water into her kayak to cool her legs, she also made a friend with a minnow, whom she named George, before she released him into his natural habitat.

The family collected the empty shells of a large invasive species of snails that now inhabit the riverine system, their shells floating among the sawgrass after they die. They spotted osprey and hawks overhead. The brilliant red of a cardinal flashed from the opposite bank.

As the family finished their odyssey through the park, they all expressed appreciation to Hayes for their "Extraordinary Experience," made all the more interesting because they had a personal guide.

"I've been to a lot of truly interesting places," said John, who produces outdoor programs for public television, "and I've spent a lot of time kayaking rivers, but today was truly special. This experience far exceeded my expectations." The entire family, including the girls, want to kayak the Loxahatchee again.

Hayes grinned.

Later he reflected on the day: "I give away Extraordinary Experiences because it kind of forces me to get back out there on the water," he said. "It's too easy to get too busy, and neglect doing the things we should be doing for ourselves. The most memorable experience of my life was the first time I paddled the Loxahatchee, but every time, even now, it is an extraordinary experience." ■

—Barbara Clowdus

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Palm City Chamber takes stand on 'frivolous' lawsuits

Editor's Note—The Martin County Commission will meet in an executive session July 9 (closed to the public) after Currents goes to press, so the question as to whether or not the Commission will waive court-ordered sanctions and attorneys fees to be paid by the Martin County Conservation Alliance and 1000 Friends of Florida in a suit against Martin County will have already been decided. The Palm City Chamber of Commerce took a public stand against waiving those fees in a letter to Commission Chair Sarah Heard, which follows:

On May 24, 2013, Ms. Virginia Sherlock sent a letter to you requesting that the Board of County Commissioners "waive any claim for attorneys fees or other sanctions from the Martin County Conservation Alliance and 1000 Friends of Florida or their counsel in connection with the challenge to the Valliere Amendment." The Palm City Chamber of Commerce is adamantly opposed to your waiving such fees and sanctions on behalf of the citizens of Martin County.

The First District Court of Appeal declared the claim by the Conservation Alliance and 1000 Friends of Florida "failed to assert or establish material facts and controlling law" demonstrating they had standing under the law.¹ The Court stated that the Appellees, includ-

ing Martin County, were "wrongfully required to defend an appeal that should never have been filed"² because the Conservation Alliance and 1000 Friends of Florida could not substantiate their claim.

The court explicitly notes Martin County Conservation Alliance's track record in previous lawsuits, stating that Appellants knew or should have known from their experience with previous cases that no material facts justified their appeal. The Court firmly stated that the appeal was completely meritless and that sanctions were fully justified under Florida statutes.

The Martin County Conservation Alliance and other similar groups have sued the citizens of Martin County nine times over the last nine years. Martin County prevailed in every one of these lawsuits, but had to spend approximately \$1,000,000 of the taxpayers' money to defend itself. It is our position that there is absolutely no justification for the taxpayers of Martin County to continue to support the frivolous, litigious behavior of the Conservation Alliance, 1000 Friends of Florida, and other similar groups.



Michael DiTerlizzi,
President
Palm City Chamber
of Commerce

It is time to stop the frivolous lawsuits, collect the justified rewards of prevailing in a frivolous lawsuit, and not waive any of the fees, costs or sanctions that have been awarded by the Court. To do otherwise creates a precedent for future lawsuits to present similar requests. With the award of fees, costs, and sanctions in the legal challenge to the Valliere Amendment, you have an opportunity to recover a fraction of what Martin

County taxpayers have spent over the last nine years for legal fees and costs incurred in defending lawsuits without merit.

Ms. Sherlock compares this request to that of waiving fees from code enforcement violations. She states that this is often the case when the violator showed no bad faith or malicious intent. This is not a fair comparison. The Martin County Conservation Alliance and 1000 Friends of Florida did not inadvertently or unknowingly violate county or city code. They filed the lawsuit intentionally and knew and took the risk of incurring the "dire consequences of extracting costly sanctions." It is time to pay the piper and stop subjecting the citizens of Martin County to frivolous lawsuits.

In considering the waiver for the

Conservation Alliance and 1000 Friends of Florida, the Board of County Commissioners should consider how this action compares to the recent demand by the Board of County Commissioners that the Business Development Board pay Ms. Sherlock \$50,699 in legal fees for a lawsuit that was settled out of court. If Ms. Sherlock can collect her fees from Martin County, shouldn't Martin County be able to collect its costs from the Conservation Alliance, 1000 Friends of Florida and their associated counsels?

It is our belief that a vote to waive the claim against the Martin County Conservation Alliance and 1000 Friends of Florida in connection with the lawsuit concerning the Valliere Amendment is an abdication of your responsibility as representatives of the taxpayers and borders on malfeasance. We believe that you have an obligation to collect what Martin County is due on behalf of the citizens of Martin County.

We respectfully request that you vote no to waiving Martin County's claim as requested by Virginia Sherlock. ■

—Michael DiTerlizzi, President
Palm City Chamber of Commerce

^{1,2} Martin County Conservation Alliance and 1000 Friends of Florida, Inc., 73 So. 3d 856, 858-59 (1d Dist. Ct. App. 2011).

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Mooring field: Rose gives in, but doesn't give up

Most of all, frustration showed through Jensen Beach Chamber Executive Director Ron Rose's voice as he addressed the Martin County Commission in June at the public hearing to determine the fate of the Jensen Beach mooring field.

"I don't know what to say," as Rose, standing at the lectern, waded the paper in his hand bearing his prepared remarks.

Not often does Rose not know what to say, and indeed he had invested much time in attending meetings and addressing Jensen Beach Chamber members to elicit support—ticking off a list of benefits each time—for what seemed a positive project not only for the downtown business community, but for residents, visitors and for protecting the environment; however, a long line of speakers preceding Rose at the hearing had asked commissioners to stop the project, primarily because it would be located in a manatee protection zone and a portion of the area had sea grass growing, although less than one percent of one quadrant.

"I agree with Commissioner (John) Haddox," Rose said, who had along only with Commissioner Doug Smith, agreed that a carefully planned mooring facility was a good project for that location, particularly if reduced in size to exclude any possible sea grass impact.

"There needs to be a solution out there. It's a mess," Rose continued. "You all know it's a mess."

The "mess," which has plagued Jensen Beach residents for more than a decade includes derelict and "ugly" boats anchored off Jensen Beach Causeway in the Indian River Lagoon, whose



A drawing of the now-defeated Jensen Beach mooring facility in relation to an old sea grass beds survey. An updated proposal by county staff was to reduce the size of the mooring field to completely eliminate any possibility of interfering with sea grass, but still the plan was rejected by commissioners, 3-2.

live-aboard occupants frequently pan-handle on the beach and dump their waste into the water.

Even though their anchors drag bottom and many are polluting the water-

way, state law protects their right to anchor in any navigable waterway. Only abandoned "derelict" boats can be removed by the county; the rest are protected by law.

The 34-acre mooring facility would have eliminated those issues by also employing a full-time dockmaster, and would also have permitted legally policing the waterway in and around the mooring field to prohibit any anchoring of boats except those moored to a submerged ball.

The construction of the facility would have been paid for with grants already received by the county, which had spent more than \$400,000 in permitting and design costs, contracting with environmental engineers, Coastal Systems International, Inc., to conduct an environmental survey, to meet with, compile and process permits with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, prepare a Mooring Field Management Plan, all of which had been completed and approved.

With the commission vote came the realization that any mooring project would need to start from scratch, which would include finding a new location and applying for new grants. The previous grants are non-transferable to other locations, according to county Coastal Engineer Kathy Fitzpatrick.

Rose announced at a Jensen Beach gathering that he intended to continue pursuing a solution. He has sought a partnership in doing so with two of the most vocal opponents to the mooring field, Indian Riverkeeper Marty Baum and Jensen Beach activist Jackie Trancysinger, whom Rose said had agreed to assist his efforts.

In the meantime, not much change can be seen along the Jensen Beach Causeway. ■

Rep. Harrell cheers efforts of Chamber members

Only one question came from the audience for Florida Representative Gayle Harrell, of District 81 that includes Jensen Beach, when she addressed the Jensen Beach Chamber's luncheon meeting in June at the Red Lobster restaurant on Federal Highway.

Dick Hall, of Out2News, asked how she felt about the "Common Core" education standards that have been adopted recently by many states, and formerly denounced by many groups, including the Martin County Republican Executive Committee.

"As a former teacher, I absolutely believe in standards," she responded. "Unfortunately, there's much misinformation going around creating a lot of contention about these standards, and I wish people would understand that Common Core came from a consor-

tium of 45 state governors. This is not a federal program."

Forty-five states, the District of Columbia and four U.S. Territories have adopted the standards, which are intended to provide an understanding of what students are expected to learn in math and English to be successful in either college or after high school. The curriculum and teaching methods are left to the state and county school boards.

Adoption was pushed in several states, however, in order to qualify for federal Race to the Top education grants that require states to set education standards that meet broad requirements.

"This does not mean that we're not going to be teaching social studies and literature," she said. "We will never give that up."

Harrell also gave members a glowing



State Rep. Gayle Harrell takes a moment for a photo op with a Jensen Beach Chamber member.

report of the results of the last legislative session, including that legislators were able to put aside \$2.5 billion of this year's state budget for reserves, a dramatic change from the previous six years where \$7 billion had to be cut due to the decline in tax revenues.

"Without the dollars you generate," Harrell told the gathering of business people, "we, the Legislature, would have no budget. Everything you do keeps the economy rolling." ■

JENSEN BEACH CHAMBER CALENDAR

Luncheon Meeting

Thursday, July 18 (11:45am-1pm)
\$20

Chillin' The Most Restaurant & Bar
4304 NE Ocean Blvd.

Hutchinson Island

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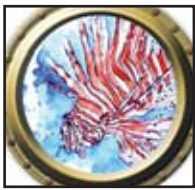
Speaker: Jason McNamara,
Workforce and Veterans, and
Barbara Essenwine, Adopt-A-Class.

Morning Mix & Mingle

Thursday, July 25 (7:45am) \$5

Rooster's Daytime Café
891 NE Jensen Beach Blvd.
Jensen Beach

Saturday, July 13 Reef Builders Tournament & Lionfish Round-Up



How fortuitous that an invasive species winds up being such good eating! The Martin County Artificial Reef Fund Committee will

host the 7th Annual Reef Builders Tournament along with the 3rd Annual Lionfish Round-Up on Saturday, July 13. (Captains/divers briefing will be Friday, July 12, at the Reef waterfront restaurant in Port Salerno. The tournament helps fund the artificial reef program in Martin County. For more info, call Betty at 772-223-1685 or email: info@mcacreefs.org.

Sunday, July 14 Pet Festival & Dog Wash

You can get your dog bathed and help the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast's shelter animals at the same time at the Stuart Green Market's Pet Festival & Dog Wash on Sunday, July 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 121 SW Flagler Ave., next to City Hall. Admission is free and the suggested dog wash donation is \$10. All proceeds benefit the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast. Special music, specialty pet vendors, a Green Market basket raffle and HSTC dogs for adoption on-site from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information about the Pet Festival & Dog Wash, call Natalie Parkell at 772-233-0297 or email stuartgreenmarket@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, July 16 Sunset Paddle & Naturalist Tour

A spectacular sunset kayak paddle tour of the Wild & Scenic portion of the Loxahatchee River led by River Center naturalists will embark from Jonathan Dickinson State Park at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16. The cost is \$10, in addition to regular park admission fees. The park is at 16450 U.S. 1, just south of Bridge Road in Hobe Sound. The naturalists will point out the various and unique habitats, wildlife, aquatic animals and vegetation that are located throughout the journey. The River Center will provide kayaks, paddles and life jackets to registrants, but participants need to bring water. The group will launch from the boat ramps at Jonathon Dickinson State Park. The paddle is beginner level and suitable for children accompanied by a parent or guardian. Participation is limited, and participants must register in advance by calling the River Center at 561-743-7123.

Thursday, July 18 Italian Bingo Night at St. Luke's

For an Italian dinner plus a bingo card for \$10, go to St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 5150 SE Railway Avenue in Port Salerno at 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 18. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m., followed by bingo at 6:30 p.m. For info, call 772-286-5455.

Saturday, July 19 Kids Fishing Clinic



The River Center has partnered with Fishing Headquarters of Jupiter for a kids fishing clinic, ages 5-15, on Saturday, July 19, at Carlin Park in Jupiter from 9am to noon. Cost is only \$10, and fishing equipment is provided. The event begins with an interactive lesson under the large picnic pavilion, where kids will be taught fishing fundamentals such as knots, lures and baits; fish identification and regulations; casting; fishing safety; an overview of different fishing equipment; and more. Then they get to fish! Parents may attend, but need a license to fish. The Fishing Clinic will be led by River Center educator Nicole Sciandra, an expert in fishing Florida waters. To register, call the River Center at 561-743-7123.

Tuesday, July 23 Love is Listening

The Council on Aging of Martin County will host nationally renowned dementia educator Michael Verde on Tuesday, July 23, at 1 p.m. at the Kane Center for a free presentation, "Love is Listening." The discussion will center on using empathetic communication to connect individuals with Alzheimer's is free and open to the public. RSVPs are requested by calling 772-223-7800. Free respite care is available.

Saturday, July 27 Taste of the Tropics

A family-friendly, free educational event to showcase the variety of fruit-bearing plants that grow in Martin County's subtropical climate will be Saturday, July 27, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Blake Library on Monterey Road in Stuart. Taste of the Tropics will offer a wide variety of tropical fruits and vegetables to taste, as well as providing methods and recipes for preparing them. The festivities also will include a steel drum band, lemonade, and face painting for children in the library courtyard; vendors offering tropical fruit trees, vegetables, herbs, jewelry, garden



treasures, earth-friendly mulch, locally prepared foods with a tropical flair, garden manure from 4-H youth, books, and more. Master Gardener volunteers will be available to answer gardening questions. The event is organized by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Martin County Extension Master Gardeners. For more information, visit <http://martin.ifas.ufl.edu> or call the UF/IFAS Martin County Cooperative Extension Office in Stuart at 772-288-5654.

Saturday, July 27 Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup

The Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast with the support of the Florida Inland Navigation District will hold the 6th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup on Saturday, July 27. To register, go to www.TCWaterwayCleanup.com and click "Online Registration," scroll down and complete the form (or download the pdf version and mail it in). When participants arrive to the site of their choice on the cleanup day, they will receive their cleanup supplies, T-shirt and instructions. For more information, contact April Price, 772.285.1646, or follow on Facebook.

Sunday, August 4 Kids Triathlon at Sailfish Splash



A triathlon for kids ages 5-12 to compete in swimming, running and biking will be Sunday, August 4, at the Sailfish Splash Waterpark on Sunday, August 4, beginning at 7 a.m. Organized by the Martin County Parks & Recreation

Department, the event requires preregistration before August 2. There is no registration on race day. Participants also must have SA Triathlon membership or purchase a one-day membership on race day for \$10, in addition to the triathlon entry fee of \$35, which includes waterpark admission. Triathlon families receive a 30% discount on waterpark admission. Age divisions are 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. There will be awards for first, second and third in each age group as well as finishers medals (medals for ages five and six only) and T-shirts for all participants. For more info, call 772-221-1419. Sailfish Splash Waterpark is at 931 S.E. Ruhnke St., Stuart.

Ending August 31 PB&J Drive for House of Hope

Be sure to help Alyssa, 12, and Anthony, 14, Golino, two highly motivated Martin County youngsters, reach their goal of collecting one ton of peanut butter and jelly for House of Hope by August 31. This is the third year they've embarked on the project to help stock HOH food pantries. They collected 1,000 pounds last summer. For a list of collection points, contact their mom, Gina Golino, at 772-221-1660 or gina@fwd-electric-air.com.





Hobe Sound neighbors and friends filled the social hall of the Hobe Sound Community Presbyterian Church for the annual Hobe Sound Fourth of July Parade. Photo: Elora Fucigna



Pastor Chip Falcone and his wife, Aimee, had to jog to keep up with their son, Nathaniel, who took off like a racer.



The Reyneri family, new residents living on Mercury Street, took part in their first Hobe Sound Independence Day celebration.



Suellen Millroy comforts her granddaughter, Lorelei, who's not happy following the gun salute outside.

Hobe Sound celebrates Independence Day

The flyer for the Hobe Sound Fourth of July Parade around Zeus Park said it was being organized by "No one in particular," but those who participate each year know that the Fucigna family plays the biggest role as organizers and cheerleaders. This year was no different.

Two things changed, however, for the

13th annual celebration: The Hobe Sound Community Center was no longer the center of activity (too costly) and Hobe Sound resident Pauline MacArthur, 98, did not feel up to singing the National Anthem (she's earned a break).

As participants gathered in the social hall of the Hobe Sound Community Pres-

byterian Church, which stepped up to the plate offering a site, guests were greeted by Tom and Cindy Fucigna and their daughters, Elora and Isabella.

"When I asked Pauline what her secret was for singing the National Anthem," Tom told the crowd at the beginning of a short, patriotic program, "she said, 'It's

easy to sing the National Anthem. Just sing it loud.'"

Thus, Tom, his wife, Cindy, and the youngsters in the group not-so-loudly led the singing before VFW members, a bagpiper, fire-

fighters, and residents walking, jogging, riding bikes or golf carts, pulling wagons or pushing carriages—many of which were decorated in red, white and blue, and just as many were not—began their quick trek around the Zeus Park Circle.

After 20 minutes in the bright sunshine, participants returned to a air-conditioned social hall to indulge in some cookies, cupcakes, muffins and fresh veggies, as their children played games and had their fingernails turned into patriotic symbols.

The event, as American as all the backyard barbecues that followed, was dedicated to the memory of Hobe Sound soldier Sgt. Justin Johnson, who sacrificed his life in Afghanistan, in part ensuring that friends, neighbors and even strangers may march around a park on any day they choose.

—Barbara Clowdus



The 13th annual Hobe Sound 4th of July Parade had few spectators—nearly all were marchers.



Bicyclists and baby carriages took over the street.

Grads give thumbs up for Citizen Fire Academy

Two of the most recent graduates of the Martin County Citizen Fire Academy, Hap and Barbara Harrington of the Ridgeway community in Hobe Sound, are effusive in their praise of the program.

"Everyone in Martin County should attend this program," Hap says. "It is fabulous. I was expecting it to be good, but it even exceeded my expectations."

Recognizing that the public seldom sees firefighters in action, the Martin County Fire Rescue Department created the seven-week program in order to give an up-close and interactive look at local Fire Rescue Departments. The Harringtons, along with about a dozen other participants, spent time with the fire chief, firefighters, paramedics, lifeguards and emergency dispatchers to learn what's required for emergency medical services, fire suppression, 911-dispatch, budgeting, training, as well as aero-medical and special operations during two-hour sessions from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The next series will begin in Stuart on Sept. 11.

One name was drawn for the privilege of riding in a fire-rescue truck, in this case Barbara Harrington, but midway through the ride, the crew needed to respond to a serious accident on I-95.

"The firefighter looked at me," she re-



Martin County Fire Chief Joe Ferrara, left, with new Citizen Fire Academy graduates, Hap and Barbara Harrington of Ridgeway.

counted, "and he said, 'Oh well, looks like you're just going to have to ride along with us,' which was all right with me."

But instead of heading toward the Interstate, the truck returned to the Tropical Farms firehouse, where firefighters had staged a mock accident to demonstrate their live-saving skills. "I'll never forget that day," Barbara says with a grin, after watching the crash "victim" being rescued, stabilized and air-lifted from the scene by a helicopter.

To register for the next class, call 772-288-5710, or to learn more about the program, visit www.martin.fl.us, click on "departments," "fire rescue," and "citizen fire academy." ■

A family's detour leads to student's career path

South Fork High School graduate Athena Carson, of Hobe Sound, learned of her life's biggest challenge at the dinner table in January of 2012. Her mom had breast cancer.

The ensuing double mastectomy, attendant complications and difficult treatments required resilience and strength of her mom, which inspired her daughter.

"I feel as if this bump in the road opened my eyes to a future career," Athena says. "At seventeen years old, I did not quite know what I wanted to study, until now." She decided to pursue a career as a Registered Nurse.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Florida, recognizing Athena's dedication to school and family, awarded her a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the University of Central Florida after graduating last month in the top 10% of her class at South Fork and dual-enrolling at Indian River State College.

She also participated in the Academy of Health Science and Medicine and volunteered for Advocates for the Rights of the Challenged (ARC).

The Visiting Nurse Association of



Scholarship winner Athena Carson, right, with her mom, Toni, a breast cancer survivor.

Florida, a home health care nonprofit serving more than 15 counties, has provided \$50,000 in scholarships over the past several years.

"This year, the VNA of Florida is proud to award \$5,000 to six students in Martin and Okeechobee counties," said Jennifer Crow, communications director. "We couldn't be happier with the caliber of students who will benefit from this financial aid."

Other VNA scholarship

recipients include: Amanda Lowe, Clark Advanced Learning Center; Emily Morrow and Estrella Hernandez, Okeechobee High School; Jessica Brooke Morris, Martin County High School; and Dustin Boudreau, Jensen Beach High School.

Her mom's illness put a financial strain on the Carson family, which has three teenagers at home. Athena's concern for how she will pay for school has been abated partly by this scholarship.

"It's going to help pay for my apartment, books or classes," said the young student. "I'm really grateful for that."

But the achievement Athena speaks of most often is not her own. She's happy to report her mom is now cancer free. ■

—Rikki Klaus

Port Salerno Pocketwalk gateway dedicated

One of the most popular and highly touted Community Redevelopment Agency's revitalization projects, the Manatee Pocket Gateway and waterfront pedestrian plaza in Port Salerno, was officially dedicated June 13.

Completion of the 1,580-square-foot waterfront pedestrian plaza that incorporates stingray-shaped shade umbrellas, benches, lighthouse-shaped lights, and art-embellished pedestals and pavers happened a few months previously, but the boardwalk connecting the gateway to the rest of the pocketwalk was completed only weeks ago.

The signature piece of the project, a sculptured wall depicting swimming manatees and native fish, was created by local artist Sue Lampert, of IronShore Studio, through a grant from the county's Art in Public Places program, coordinated by Linda Fasano. The project was led by Community Development Director Kev Freeman, who attended the dedication, along with Fasano and Lampert.

"This project was perfect for melding the Art in Public Places program with a community redevelopment project," Freeman said, "because opening up the waterfront to public access has also increased public access to art, and it will—actually, it is already if you look at the number of



Kev Freeman
Director of the Community Development Department

people moving through here now—provide a broad audience to increase awareness and appreciation of local artwork."

Also on hand for the official dedication was community activist and businessman John Hennessee of Port Salerno, who served on the Port Salerno Neighborhood Advisory Committee for more than a decade, then was appointed to serve on the now-disbanded Community Redevelopment Agency, during which time the pocketwalk and the pedestrian plaza was planned and construction launched.

"There's immense satisfaction in seeing such a beautiful project finished," Hennessee said, "and I hope progress (on the project) continues."

When Hennessee first moved to Port Salerno, the waterfront view was blocked by a three-foot tall concrete barrier, which also blocked access to the Manatee Island Restaurant and Bar that voluntarily paid for part of the construction of the pocketwalk. The restaurant also volunteered to



Metalwork artist Sue Lampert, right, enjoys the view of Manatee Pocket along with some Port Salerno neighbors. Part of her gateway artwork is on the far right.

maintain the pedestrian plaza at its own expense in a new public-private partnership.

The Board of County Commissioners hosted the event, which was attended by commissioners Doug Smith, Anne Scott and Chair Sarah Heard, who addressed the crowd of county officials, local citizens and business owners.

"Not only has this project improved aesthetics and views, but it's also improved pedestrian access to the waterfront," Heard said, according to a county news release. "This completion of this project is already positively impacting local businesses."

The Manatee Pocket Gateway is on the east side of SE Dixie Highway (A1A), just south of Salerno Road, and provides public access to a large segment of the Manatee Pocketwalk. ■



Linda Fasano, coordinator of the Art in Public Places program, with community activist and former CRA chair, John Hennessee.



The Port Salerno pedestrian patio at the gateway to the Manatee Pocketwalk is dotted with metalwork sculptures by artist Sue Lampert. Photos: Barbara Clowdus

Fishermen dispense Seafood Fest funds to local organizations

For the past seven years, the Port Salerno Seafood Festival hosted by the Port Salerno Commercial Fishing Dock Authority, brings thousands of families to the historic fishing village on the Treasure Coast to sample fresh-caught fish prepared a dozen different ways, drink some tall glasses of beer, and breath deep the sea air.

The day starts early and ends late with dancing and great music under the stars swelling attendance as its reputation grows for great arts and crafts, too, as well as giving visitors a close-up look at one of Florida's few remaining working fisherman's waterfront communities.

What gets less attention, though no less important, are the donations made to local charities and organizations that make a positive difference in the lives of those who live in the Port Salerno area. Following its tradition of hosting a great party, the Fishing Dock Authority hosted a party in late June at Pirate's Cove Resort to dispense this year's festival proceeds, which thus far have exceeded \$12,000, according to April Price, of April Price Associates, who coordinated the event.

"Some of the proceeds also will go to the Port Salerno Christmas tree-lighting," Price said, "and to meet other requests that come in," including giving away 50 to 80 bikes each December to Port Salerno children.

Recipients of the donations included the Martin County Boys & Girls Club, Keep Martin Beautiful's Coastal Cleanup, Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast for its Treasure Coast Waterway



Bruce Stiller, far left, and Butch Olsen, Jr., of the Port Salerno Commercial Fishing Dock Authority, present a "check" for \$2,000 to Morgan Kopani and Renee Booth, representing the Boys & Girls Club of Martin County. Photo: April Price

Cleanup, Port Salerno Elementary School, the Road to Victory Museum and the Stuart-Sunrise Rotary Club, all of whom had representatives at the party.

Donations were also given to the Martin County Life Savers Group, the Port Salerno Little League, the Port Salerno Pine Rest Cemetery, and the Port Salerno United Methodist Church.

"We had a great time (at the party)," said Morgan Kopani, outcomes director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County, "and what a check!"

To stay abreast of the Port Salerno Seafood Festival and its schedule, go to www.facebook.com/PortSalernoSeafoodFestival. ■

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Flying high in the summer



**Suzanne
Briley**

Hopscotch

It's "high summer" in Hobe Sound and vacation time again! Many of us are flying elsewhere and enjoying ourselves in various places. I have just returned from my 63rd flight across the Atlantic. That's not bad for a person who is terrified of flying and has a back problem. (That is, a "yellow streak" running down it!)

I have experienced an engine fire on my first flight, mechanical failures, an engine failure on take-off, and a landing in the wrong airport. It is all part of the great adventures that I would have missed had I stayed on the ground. Not to mention the wonderful world I have seen!

I have made the best of my fears over the years and recall some amusing stories and incidents that I remember and some stories told to me by others. A few of them have made flying memorable! Here is a favorite:

A flight attendant recently told me of a happening on a trip to the west coast. A RAT got itself into a seat in first class (most likely entering in through a beverage container box) and finding its way under a seat. After finishing off a meal of crumbs, it chewed its way through the leather cushion and appeared through a hole in the top, head poking out.

Luckily, there were few passengers on the flight, and the terrified and surprised crew confronted the rodent with determined force, while trying to stop the passengers from confrontation with Mickey Mouse. The innocent passengers carried on, enjoying the flight, without ever knowing that a chase was on and the rapid rodent was captured by a jubilant crew while flying through the cabin.

A new "stewardess" remembers an old woman sitting next to a window and continually ringing her bell for assistance complaining that the tire on the plane was flat. Over and over she continued to whine until finally the stewardess looked out the window to discover that she was right. "Stop the plane...the tire IS flat!"

This tale reminds me of how much fun we had in the "old days" when flying was fun! There was no security, a friend or family member could board the plane with you and sit next to you until departure. I treasure a photo of my young daughter sitting inside a jet en-

gine, legs dangling, on the Zurich airport runway. A steward placed her there for amusement.

I often flew with my sister (an American Airlines stewardess) as a passenger. More than once the engines were running as we arrived and the plane was waiting to depart. Passengers and crew waited patiently as my sister ran up the runway to the flight deck and to her job as a stewardess.

She made a "Trainee" sign for me to wear, so I worked in the cabin serving lots of extra drinks and let a dog out of its cage to run the aisle. The two of us sang a duet, and I performed my knife swallowing act to a cheering audience.

On an overbooked flight a passenger stood in the aft section and during take-off sat in the lavatory on the toilet seat. (Door shut.) He did the same upon landing. He was just happy he got on board.

A religious pilot once handed out booklets to each passenger upon boarding. Later, in a scary storm, he announced on the PA system, "Folks. I have done all I can, and now the rest is UP TO THE LORD."

During the days of streaking (where one would strip off their clothes anywhere and anytime and run naked through the crowd) a free-spirited, young male passenger on a flight to New York shed his clothes in the lavatory in the aft section. He then ran for the front lavatory where he had stashed a second set of clothes to wear...only to find the lavatory occupied. He returned to the rear among cheering fans.

My friend, president of KLM, told me of a plane going down in the Amazon river. It was in 1949 and times were tough for any airlines; frugality was important. After the passengers safely reached shore and spent the night in a shelter, they returned the next day to claim their belongings.

The clothes and items had been dried in the sun and laid out along the river bank to be collected by their owners. It all went well and there were no complaints. These days are different, but there is still some creativity to be found.

I read that some flight passengers used duct tape to subdue a fellow traveler who had become unruly. Not a bad idea?

Heathrow (London) has installed pianos for people to play in the airport. I had a great time playing "boogie" in the departures lounge last week when I came through! So far, no complaints! ■

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

Art as a medium of wholeness



**Maya
Ellenson**

*Art
Kaleidoscope*

Hobe Sound Library is keeping its pledge to feature local artists – a project initiated in the spring by the Martin County Library System. A recently launched show offers two types of visual arts: abstract paintings and glass fusion fantasies, done by a married couple, Jen Dacota and Barry Blecher. The exhibit is open through July 15.

The diverse nature of the show is really outstanding. At the opening, Barry impressed the audience with his alchemy of fusion that results in a stunning novelty of expression in art glass.

Jen Dacota, whose work has been chosen for various juried art shows nationwide, exhibited paintings full of deep lyricism, innovative technique in employing tar, and a vibrancy of colors.

The artists' journey projected on the wall in meaningful slides kept the audience mesmerized.

As we learned, Jen Blecher adopted a screen name, Dacota, for one particular reason: "It sounds so much more melodic," she said, prompting a proud smile from Barry.

Jen has painted on a variety of available surfaces: walls, ceilings, jeans, various fabrics. Although she received her B.A. in Art Education in New York, for a mother raising three daughters, painting remained a hobby.

Things changed dramatically after Barry had a stroke, and soon after Jen experienced a brain hemorrhage herself. That's when the art converted into a channel of what Carl Jung called "individuation," or as Jen said, "When one door closes, another one opens."

From that point, Jen's creative self-realization process spiraled up and became her full-time vehicle for healing and self-expression. Aesthetically akin to the ab-



Glass fusion artist
Barry Blecher.

stract expressionists of the San Francisco Renaissance of the '60s, she turned to an abstract style to convey freely her talent and inner craving for totality.

Her painting *Metamorphosis* depicts a 10-rayed flower that carries a beautiful imprint of wholeness. Its circular shape is reminiscent of a mandala, which in Indian philosophy is used as a symbol of both the Self and the entire Cosmos.

Looking at images of Barry's MRI, she got a deep insight into the human brain that inspired her absorbing "Brain Series." Brain as microcosm became Jen's sacred metaphor for an unlimited source of creativity.

"I really began to paint as a personal



Metamorphosis by Jen Dacota.



challenge to myself," she said, after her stroke had resulted in both visual and concentration deficits. "No longer being able to read very much, or drive, I thought painting might stimulate other areas of my brain to compensate of my losses."

Her medical condition also affected her vision, which eventually opened her fingers to a mystical sensation of color. At one point, painting by fingers prevailed over using brushes.

Jen adopted tar as her painterly medium for creating depth and texture. By using mixed media, the artist empha-

sizes the inner meaning of her multi-layered pictorial message. In *Morning Barn*, tar is thickly applied in the foreground, and that creates dramatic vibration of colors and incites us to enter nature's mysterious winter spectacle.

Jen's art is born out of inward visions rather than external impressions – the mode that evokes reflection of Max Ernst: "The painter should close his eyes in order to see the image with his spiritual vision."

Meanwhile, the exquisite geometry of Barry's glass fusion reveals the same craving for wholeness as the paintings of Jen.

"Glass fusion has allowed me to expand my creativity in ways I never dreamed of," Barry said. "By using glass I design brilliant, vivid patterns from my imagination."

However, it takes much patience and precision to come up with an ideal form, the artist explained.

Some of his glass designs remind one of yantras – eastern meditation geometric figures that symbolize the union of the personal and temporal with the timeless and collective. That's why his glass patterns appeal to so many. In Barry's world, it's almost no images of the sensuous world, and yet we recognize them all.

The main leitmotif of his art is infinity. "Time is no time factor. There is no beginning and there is no end," he commented on his piece called *Infinity*. His



Infinity and *Moonbeam* are glass fusion works by Barry Blecher.

recently sold *Moonbeam* piece shifts our focus from personal to universal, reminding us that art is the only unfailing medium for embracing life with its eternal interplay of opposite elements.

German philosopher Martin Heidegger wrote that "pain gives of its healing power where we least expect it." For Jen and Barry this very power is found in art. ■

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 Jen Dacota with some of her featured works on display at the Hobe Sound Public Library until July 16. Photos: Maya Ellenson.

Hobe Sound skier Lacie Greenwald back in Canada

While the rest of us swelter in the summer heat in south Florida, 12-year-old Lacie Greenwald and her dad, Dr. Brett Greenwald of Hobe Sound, are skiing on a Canadian glacier. The trip is part of Lacie's continuing training.

Already recognized as the best racer in her category in the country by some of the top ski coaches in the United States and Canada, the skiing duo will spend two weeks at the Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, where the Olympic and Paralympic Alpine Skiing events took place in 2010 and where Lacie has trained previously.

This is the second year she has participated in the Michel Pratte Ski Camp, offering summer glacier skiing exercises on its toughest race course, using intense ski performance training in preparation for the Eastern Championships in Okemo, Vermont, in February 2014 and the National Championship in Aspen, Colorado, in March.

Lacie will spend five hours each day



Lacie Greenwald

training in the adult division, according to professional skier and coach Michel Pratte, former racer in the European Cup and World Cup and coach of the Canadian National Alpine Women's Team. Pratte runs PratteSki International, which hosts ski camps.

"Whistler offers every service to ensure the best summer ski camp venue in the world," says Pratte. "Lacie will train on Blackcomb's most popular glacier under superb weather conditions and majestic views."

Lacie must travel for 45 minutes to ascend the glacier in a chair lift. Then she'll board a bus that will take her to the top of the race course, where she will begin her training in Giant Slalom and Slalom courses. Return trips to the top will require a T-bar that will pull Lacie back to the top in five minutes to start the exercise all over again.

Pratte will have a video crew present to film her skiing so that the coach can provide individual feedback, and so her parents will have a memento of the summer.



Lacie Greenwald, 12, working hard but having fun, too, while training at camp on a Canadian glacier.

"After two weeks of extreme training on the terrain at Whistler," says Lacie's mother, Jeneane Wakula, "Lacie will be able to ski any type of environment."

She began competing in 2010 at age 8, and after winning progressively more difficult races each year, her goal now is eventually to compete as part of the U.S.

Ski Team in the Olympics.

In a few days, Lacie will be back home again in Hobe Sound, where life will return to "normal," and her father, a chiropractor and owner of Treasure Coast Health and Wellness, will return to his practice, at least until Lacie needs to get ready for the next race. ■

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Beach subjects on my fishy mind



**Rich
Vidulich**
*Pompano
Reporter*

June extended the pompano season, and May was the first solid Spring Run that Hobe Sound has witnessed in years. Every angler caught plenty of delectable pompano.

This year the beach eroded enough to hold the Silvers longer than expected. The sand fleas relocated off the sand bars and toured the beaches, giving us miles of rods and a quantity of fish to make our anglers happy. A late winter and yet a splendid ending. Hobe Sound probably saw more commercial and recreational anglers from the Martin-St. Lucie region than ever, resulting in bitter fights for parking and early-morning beach positioning than in the past 10 years. I was proud to hear of the peaceful co-existence that most of the anglers displayed. Catching and fishing were working and the ocean worked its wonders.

The big, but not-so-big, surprise was the negative spring run of Martin and St. Lucie county beaches. As well planned as is now the norm, those beaches were handsomely adorned with new beach sand to combat erosion and I guess help the sea turtles. Two dredges pumped sand onto these beaches through miles of rusty pipes until the offshore survey pipes were level with nice sand.

Naturally the approximate 150 feet of extended beach at a varying height of 4 to 5 feet accomplished what the contractual agreements specified. In the meantime, a surf zone that usually exhibits the best spring run of most of South Florida experienced "No Run."

Thus the transfer of anglers to Hobe Sound.

I felt the need to explore this event. The May tropical depression rapidly depleted around 50 feet of the added coast line. The planned "turtle friendly" beach slopes vanished and bore the escarpments (a neat word for steep cliffs).

The new beach elevation was built pretty close to the old sand dune berm. One could easily see the grayer sand transition to the whiter bleached-out dune sand. From the cliff back to the dune was level, sort of a plateau. During the commencement of the project, we were nailing pomps readily until the soiled sand was actively shot up on the Jensen Beaches. We experienced some gentle northeasters that readily ripped the sand dust particles south, and the Stuart ocean became a turbid mess.

Water from the rain runoff and lock openings went north as the southerly May winds started. Now the wretched combo of suspended re-do sand and muddy fresh water inhabited the shoreline. Oh boy! End of story!

Fishing the dead sea for anything alive became a challenge.

I can't finish this piece without adding some of my thoughts. On June 14, I visited the Stuart beaches and made the following observations. To better depict my script, I took some pictures. One good fishing buddy who lives on the beach took me on a hands-on tour.

I learned of the numerous turtle misfires just shy of the escarpments. I saw a few nest egg survey stakes on top of the plateau about 10 feet from the edge of the cliff. The small swells were actively de-plenishing the beaches, and the shoreline break was a foul brown. The new sand had numerous black particles in it, perhaps dried bits of tar or oil-based material.

Six weeks since the fill was completed and there were no sand fleas around the wet tidal lines. Since 1996 approximately 30 million dollars worth of labor and sand have been blown onto the Martin County beaches.

A local newspaper addressed how the new plateau slopes could be evened out at precise parcels to better accommodate future turtle nesting. Quote: "We (the EAI) will gently kick and push sand from near the top of the cliff toward the ocean, attempting to level it into a gradual slope. Shovels won't be used because they could inadvertently slice into a hidden nest."



A beach escarpment makes life difficult. Photo: Rich Vidulich

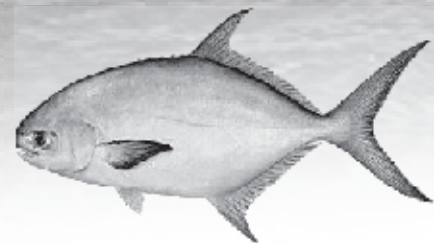
Also stated in the same column was the factoid that the sand that was put on the beaches didn't just disappear! Next, it said that some of the sand is just offshore and is already being pushed back onto the beach. My experience is that this re-do sand will come back on southern swells, but it's a fact that Northeasters move the lightest sand particles littorally along the shoreline with a very high percentage of beach movement. Also the past re-do projects have been found to extend out to more than 20 meters of water depth.

Last but not least is the particle size of the composite sand that we are placing on these beaches. Normal beaches have a mix of heavier and lighter granules. Our beaches are being replenished with a combo of old re-do sand and deeper digs through layers of "Lake O mud." Nothing like a nice mix of turbidity and phosphates to help destroy the natural fauna and flora that supply the nutrients to maintain a coastal fishery.

Very last, the latest sand is at minimum half the size of a natural beach sand particle. Small wonder our migrations are swimming outside this zone, and we have become merely a "Drive Thru" with an occasional water quality day exhibiting a diminutive bite.

I have more thoughts, but I need to spare myself of the anguish of telling you all about it. ■

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**MAKING FOURTH OF JULY MEMORIES**

Ella Barker, 5...almost 6...of Hobe Sound is ready to take part in the annual Fourth of July Parade around Zeus Park in the heart of the Hobe Sound community. A participatory parade, most of the parade watchers became the parade units comprising residents who walked, rode, jogged and sang their way around the short circle at the rear of the Hobe Sound Community Presbyterian Church.