

FREE

Martin County CURRENTS

Volume 3 Issue 6
October/November 2013



**At the Indiantown
rodeo!... pg 22**



**Trailers in Zeus
Park? pg 25**



**Preservationists
celebrate
history. pg 14**

**No apathy
showing... yet**

Attendance at a regular Rivers Coalition meeting spills beyond the room's capacity signaling a continued interest in all things river related.
pg 30

FALL SALE

ON CRAFT BEER & WINES



IN HOBE SOUND
HOME OF THE CRAFT BEER REVOLUTION
9058 SE Bridge Road • 954.630.6665



**400 CHOICES OF CRAFT BEER
1,000S OF FINE WINES**

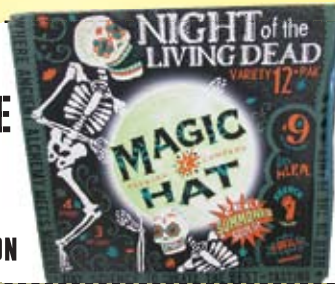
**PARTY HEADQUARTERS
FOR CRAFT BEER KEGS
CO² TANKS REFILLED**

UNWINED 99¢
A Smooth Rosé

(Must Present Coupon; Limit One Bottle per Customer; Expires 11.15.13)



**MAGIC HAT
NIGHT OF THE
LIVING DEAD**
\$14.99
A 12-PACK CARTON



**DAY OF
THE DEAD
CRAFT BEER**
All Flavors
\$9.99 A 6-PACK



**KENDALL JACKSON
VINTNER'S RESERVE
CHARDONNAY**
\$9.99



**IMPERIAL
CRAFT BEER**
from Costa Rica
\$5.99 A 6-PACK
\$10.99 A 12-PACK



SUMMER CRAFT BEERS \$5.99
Brooklyn, Harpoon, Sierra Nevada
A 6-PACK



**DOS EQUIS AND
BEERS OF MEXICO
FIESTA PACK**
\$11.99
A 12-PACK



**GOOSE ISLAND
SPECIALTY BEERS**
Matilda, Sofie, Pepe
Nero or Pere Jacques
\$2 OFF ANY 4-PACK



**OPERA
PRIMA**
All Flavors
2 FOR \$10



**FALLING
STAR**
All Flavors
2 FOR \$10



**HOFBRAU
MUNCHEN
ORIGINAL**
from Germany
\$8.99 A 6-PACK



\$2 OFF ANY BOTTLE OF WINE
Excluding Advertised Specials

(Must Present Coupon; Limit One Bottle per Customer; Expires 11.30.13)

\$1 OFF ANY CRAFT BEER
Excluding Advertised Specials

(Must Present Coupon; Limit One Bottle per Customer; Expires 11.30.13)

**OPEN
7 DAYS!
7 A.M. TO
MIDNIGHT**

Martin County CURRENTS

Features

10

No apathy, yet, though discharges abate

Attendance at a regular Rivers Coalition meeting spills beyond the room's capacity signaling a continued interest in all things river-related.

4

More alarms raised about Comp Plan changes

More than just large landowners object. The state also issued a stern warning to Martin County that it had overstepped its legal bounds when rewriting the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

16

IRSC President Edwin Massey lauded

Dr. Edwin Massey, president of Indian River State College, thought he was only to give a speech at the annual Business Development Board Awards Luncheon. He also had been tapped for one of the organization's highest awards, just a few weeks prior to Massey being honored as one of the nation's most outstanding college presidents.

25

Keeping 'trailers' out of Zeus Park

Some Hobe Sound residents in the Zeus Park neighborhood are protesting the arrival of a modular home on Apollo Street.

Calendar... 28-29

Columnists

Maya Ellenson
Art Kaleidoscope... 27

Suzanne Briley
Hopscotch ... 30

Rich Vidulich
Pompano Reporter ... 31

Barbara Clowdus
Unfiltered 12

Gordon Barlow
Outside, Looking In... 12

Directory

EDITOR

BARBARA CLOWDUS

772.245.6564

editor@MartinCountyCurrents.com

ADVERTISING

advertising@MartinCountyCurrents.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

calendar@MartinCountyCurrents.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

www.MartinCountyCurrents.com, click on SUBSCRIBE

Now offering FREE electronic subscriptions to Martin County Currents.

Go to www.MartinCountyCurrents.com and click on SUBSCRIBE. That's all there is to it! You will begin receiving your copy each month sent directly to your email inbox, along with periodic opinion pieces.

All the articles and opinion pieces are authored and/or edited by Publisher Barbara Clowdus, except as otherwise noted. All the typos, mistakes, grammatical errors, omissions, and misspelled words are hers alone, too. The good photos are taken by someone else. All contents are copyrighted 2013 Martin County Currents.

Critical testimony in the Lake Point mining and water



Sarah Heard.

restoration project lawsuit against environmentalist Maggy Hurchalla for tortious interference in their joint contract with the county and the South Florida Water Management District will come from Commission Chair Sarah Heard. She likely will be implicated in claims by Lake Point that Heard is attempting to either hide or has destroyed secret communications with Hurchalla about the Lake Point rock mining operation in southwestern Martin County.

Lake Point has asked that Martin County Circuit Court Judge James McCann order Commissioner Heard to sit for a deposition to explain alleged "missing" emails about Lake Point after Heard informed the Lake Point attorneys that her private email account had been "hacked," and all her emails except those from the previous three weeks had been deleted, according to court records, thus she was unable to comply with their requests.

Lake Point requested all the emails from Commissioner Heard's private account referencing Lake Point after the commission chair allegedly "parroted" Hurchalla's comments about the Lake Point operation during a county commission meeting, the suit alleges, and since Heard routinely conducts county business from her private computer.

Her email had been a Yahoo, web-based account, thus the emails still would have been recoverable, according to the Lake Point attorneys, but their efforts to recover them have been thwarted by Heard's private attorney, Scott Zappolo. No deposition date is expected to be set, according to attorneys, until the motions to dismiss charges against Hurchalla have been heard, and court dates are set in that case.

Lake Point also has asked for depositions from Melissa Meeker, former executive director of the South Florida Water Management District, and Kevin Powers, the SFWMD board member representing Martin County.

Attorneys for SFWMD have asked for a "protective order" from the judge for both Meeker and Powers, stating that they should not be compelled to testify. The motions will be argued before Judge McCann Nov. 12 at 8:30 a.m. in the Martin County courthouse. ■

The first hearing Oct. 11 in the Lake Point mining case

against environmentalist Maggy Hurchalla, whose attorneys argued that her rights are protected under the U.S. Constitution's first-amendment protection of free speech, resulted in a dismissal of one count for injunctive relief, which was refilled.

Hurchalla's attorney, Trey White of The

Rock Law Group, argued that Lake Point's lawsuit was intended only to preclude Hurchalla's ability to communicate with her elected officials, and that Hurchalla's public criticism of Lake Point had been shared by others.

"In the legal realm," White added, while arguing his motion to dismiss the charges, "this is considered pure speech."

McCann disagreed.

"If that's the case, there would be no argument," the judge said. "They're alleging that Ms. Hurchalla did it in a way that's not fair, not right, and not protected."

Therefore, the charge of tortious interference (interfering with Lake Point's contracts with the county and South Florida Water Management District and with Lake Point's ability to conduct business) will stand until the case is settled or goes to jury trial in Martin County, a change of venue from Palm Beach County where the suit originally was filed.

In Lake Point's first filing against Hurchalla on Feb. 20, attorney Ethan Loeb of Tampa asked a judge to order Hurchalla to retract her statements, particularly that Lake Point mining had destroyed 60 acres of wetlands and that the operation was not in compliance with county code.

The suit contends that although Nikki van Vonno, director of the Martin County Growth



Maggy Hurchalla.

Management Department, stated that no wetlands had been destroyed on the Lake Point property, Hurchalla continued to claim their destruction in emails to Commission Chair Sarah Heard, and which ultimately resulted in code

enforcement action against Lake Point.

The county also sent a letter to the South Florida Water Management District encouraging them to "dismantle" their agreement with Lake Point.

"The county commission took action based on Ms. Hurchalla's false statements," Loeb told the judge.

The Martin County Commission approved a final site plan in 2007 for an agricultural subdivision on the Lake Point Ranches Parcel of approximately 1,000 acres of the 2,266-acre Lake Point site. As part of the 2007 development order, the County authorized Lake Point to excavate and haul approximately two million cubic yards of lime rock from the subdivision.

The recession of 2008 precluded further development, and an interlocal agreement signed among the county, Lake Point officers and the South Florida Water Management District officials in 2009 changed the project's direction to that of a stormwater management and water treatment project.

Florida's first public-private partnership for environmental restoration, the Lake Point Restoration Project was made part of the Northern Everglades Restoration Plan to benefit the Florida Everglades, which emptied the property from the county's land development regulations, the suit contends.

About 10 percent of the water flowing from the C-44 canal would be cleansed at Lake Point as a stormwater treatment area before entering the St. Lucie, according to

continued on page 4

continued from PAGE 3

South Florida Water Management officials, who agreed to take possession and manage the stormwater treatment project after mining is completed in 20 years.

Lake Point obtained state mining permits from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The suit also contends that the county agreed to terminate the 2007 Development Order after Lake Point obtained those permits; however, the county commission refused to authorize the county staff to terminate the development order, an action allegedly based on Hurchalla's comments.

Several motions for dismissal have been filed and counter-filed, and will get first hearings on Jan. 29 before Judge McCann. ■

The state of Florida Department of Economic

Opportunity told Martin County: You better rethink the Comp Plan rewrites, because they're not legal as they now stand.

That's the same charge found in four lawsuits filed by landowners in September that challenged the rewrites saying that the county has created a new and broader definition of wetlands than allowed by the state; that a landowner can be forced to "restore" any changes to drainage on their property regard-



Robert S. Raynes, Jr.

less of how long ago they occurred or by whom; that the county has the right to take 25% of the native upland habitat of a development without compensation; and that all new development must "support, further and fight for a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon," which will eliminate too many other industries from consideration for economic development, according to land attorney Robert Raynes of Stuart, representing Midbrook 1st Realty that owns Hobe Grove, a proposed 2,800-acre development about 10 miles west of Hobe Sound.

"What happens when a research institute wants to locate here?" he asks. "It can't happen (under these amendments), because that would not comply with the county's rewrites that say only industries that promote the river will be accepted. That's not environmentalism, and I don't believe that's what people intended when they supported these rewrites. People just do not know how these amendments will affect them, even if they're not big landowners, because they simply were not told."

In addition to the landowners, a suit has been filed by the South Florida Water Management District charging that the county is attempting to usurp its authority to control water resources in the region, and a letter from the Department of Agriculture to the state

has charged that the county cannot override state law to interfere with bona fide agricultural uses of land.

The Pacific Law Foundation also sent a letter to Commission Chair Sarah Heard on Oct. 22 stating that although the public interest law firm, which was established in 1973, assumed that the county "did not intend to deliberately infringe" on the constitutional rights of property owners in Martin County, but as they are written, "the hundred plus pages of amendments raise serious constitutional concerns over the manner in which the revisions burden, restrict, and limit private property rights in numerous ways, which PLF believes are likely to result in an illegal taking of private property." They also warn the county that lawsuits are expensive.

After the Department of Economic Opportunity reviewed

the commission's final changes to its Comprehensive Growth Management Plan adopted in August, it notified Commission Chair Sarah Heard in a letter Sept. 25 that the issues raised by the Department of Agriculture and the South Florida Water Management District were "significant" and exceeded the county's authority.

"According to the reviewing agencies, the County appears to be attempting to adopt a local approach to water-management and agriculture-management issues that the Florida Legislature has specifically

found warrant a statewide and regional approach," said William Killingsworth, director of the Division of Community Development, in its letter to Heard.

"Comprehensive plans are intended to regulate growth and development," the Department of Economic Opportunity letter continued. "Agricultural uses, however, are expressly excluded from the definition of development."

The comp plan rewrites attempt to change the agricultural status of lands for tax purposes if a development has been proposed, according to state officials, even while that land still is engaged in bona fide agricultural purposes, and they prohibit the removal of "native" vegetation on agricultural lands, which many farmers call "clearing weeds."

State statutes that established the growth management law also require that the amount of land designated for future land uses, according to Killingsworth, "shall provide a balance of uses that foster vibrant, viable communities and economic development opportunities."

That lack of balance for land use was often cited in the four legal challenges brought by landowners in their legal petitions for administrative hearings. The legal petitions also cited the county's

—lack of specific standards based on scientific analysis and data, and adopting, instead, broad, undefined terminology such as "natural conditions" and "quality of life;"

—setting conflicting standards to determine population growth, in some sections referring to "peak population," which includes seasonal residents, and in other sections, "permanent population," residents who live in the county year round;

—and limiting commercial and industrial uses based on housing demand.

The lawsuits assert that population should not be a determinant of which industries and if a particular industry should or should not locate in Martin County, and that the lack of defined standards leads to arbitrary interpretation of development regulations by county commissioners.

The landowners filing lawsuits against Martin County include

Becker Holdings, owner of 10,000 acres of farmland on the Treasure Coast, Consolidated Citrus, Running W. Citrus and Tesoro Groves (King Ranch and Ag-TEC), Lake Point Phase I and Lake Point Phase II rock mining and water restoration project, and Midbrook 1st Realty (Hobe Grove), all asserting that the new amendments "create undefined and inconsistent standards that are impossible to administer in a fair, predictable manner," said Brian Seymour, representing Midbrook 1st Realty.

"(The amendments) were created and then approved by a majority of commissioners using a process that did not meet the requirements of the law," Seymour continued, "and did not advise the public of what was truly happening. Residents and landowners were not told how these changes would affect them."

Former county commissioner Maggy Hurchalla, who authored the rewrites and a 1982 co-author of the original Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, disagrees, asserting in the website she created for public input, www.martincompplan.com, that all entities, agencies and the general public had ample opportunities to comment at public hearings, workshops or posting directly on her website, which posts portions of comments by the South Florida Water Management District, the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture prior to the county's final adoption of the amendments August 13.

The changes or responses offered by Hurchalla in concert with county Growth Management Department staff in response to those comments also are posted, as well as the assertion that the county does have the authority to regulate water resources through its comprehensive plan.

"The amendment clearly states that policies will be consistent with state law," Hurchalla added.

Apparently, the South Florida Water Management District, did not consider the disclaimer sufficient, as it filed its own legal challenge by petitioning for an administrative hearing, and both the SFWMD and the Department of Agriculture requested that the DEO also file its own legal challenge, although it declined, due to its "limited resources" and considering that five other legal challenges had been filed.

The DEO encouraged the county to address "the significant concerns" raised by the SFWMD and the agriculture department "by entering into a compliance agreement," thus avoiding the cost of litigation.

In the meantime, the amendments may not be applied to any past or future development order until ruled on by the administrative judge and the DEO, which will review the judge's ruling, is satisfied that the amendments comply with state law. ■

THE BARN THEATRE

THE BEST IN COMMUNITY THEATRE

2013-2014 SEASON

Pin Curls

by
Gale Baker

TICKETS ON SALE NOW Pin Curls • Nov. 8 -24

Pin Curls is a transitional comedy set in 1944-1950. The story follows a small-town beautician who lays down her shears and joins the Army to follow her G.I. Joe. Problem is, he doesn't make the cut, but she does. It is a funny but poignant close-up of the women of World War II, when their husbands, lovers, and, worst of all, their hairdresser deserts them for Uncle Sam.

JAN. 24 -
FEB. 9, 2014

Squabbles

MAR. 7-23



Curtains

APR. 18 -
MAY 4

Deathtrap

MAY 30 -
JUNE 15Six Dance Lessons
in Six Weeks

Tickets are \$20 EXCEPT for Curtains at \$25.

Times are 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays

Tickets can be purchased at www.barn-theatre.com or 772-287-4884 or at the box office at 2400 East Ocean Blvd. in Stuart Monday-Friday 12-4pm or one hour prior to shows.

The new members appointed by the Board of County

Commissioners to each of the seven Neighborhood Advisory Committees, which were officially dissolved in February this year, were announced in September. Meetings have been scheduled to begin this month.

"We are hopeful that residents will be re-energized to become and to remain active in their communities," said Kevin Freeman, director of the Community Development Department and county liaison between the NACs and the county commission. "This is really a great opportunity for them, because they'll have a more direct line to the commissioners."

The Hobe Sound NAC needs no added encouragement from the county to become active, since many residents in the Zeus Park neighborhood, some of whom are NAC members and former NAC members, have been sending a torrent of emails to county commissioners expressing their dissatisfaction that a modular home suddenly appeared on a lot in their established neighborhood of site-built dwellings.

"This would not have happened if the county had just left the previous CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) alone," said Mike Ennis, former chair of the Hobe Sound NAC, at a community meeting called to decide a plan of action regarding the modular home.

"Before the county commission took over the CRA last year (November 2012), things like this (modular home) would have been brought before the local NAC members," he added, "and we would have discussed it, decided what the community wanted, and then it would have gone before the CRA....Everything had to be approved by the county commission, of course, but the idea was that the local communities had to be informed first, and they got to vote, and to have their say. That's the way it should've been done."

Decisions that were made previously by the CRA will now fall to the county commission, which appointed themselves as the Community Redevelopment Agency, rather than having an independent, all-volunteer board of residents.

Instead of meeting monthly, as the previous CRA did, the plan approved by the commission calls for quarterly meetings on the same days as county commission meetings with a set time of 4:30 p.m. instead of at 6 p.m. The commission will meet as a CRA on Nov. 19, which will be televised on MCTV.

Other new criteria includes funding, which previously was guaranteed for redevelopment activities through a percentage of tax increment funding, but the new ordinance adds that funding will be available only "if funds are available."

NAC eligibility also now requires that members be registered voters for a minimum of one year. The commissioners also decided that up to two residents who live no more than half a mile outside of the Community Redevelopment Areas also are eligible for appointment, and that the NAC serves only as an advisory group to "provide feedback on implementation and prioritization of projects." Decisions will be made by the commissioners at CRA meetings.

In a press release to NAC members, the

Community Development Department called the November meetings "a workshop session to welcome the recently appointed members and introduce them to the Community Redevelopment Program." Residents of all the neighborhoods also are encouraged to attend in addition to the NAC members.

Those appointed to the local NACs, and their terms, are as follows:

GOLDEN GATE

Jan Dalcorsio, a property owner, whose term expires in 2014. Joseph Hatton III, a resident, whose term expires 2015. Mariann Moore, a resident, term ends 2016. Althea Redway, business owner, term ends 2017. Michael Wilchak, a property owner within a half mile of Golden Gate CRA, term ends 2017.

HOBE SOUND

Mike Baker, a property owner within a half mile of the Hobe Sound CRA, term ends 2014. Bruce Duncan, a business owner, term ends 2015. Angela Hoffman, a resident, senior manager and property owner, term ends 2017. Gretchen Reich, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017. Luis Reyneri, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017.

INDIANTOWN

Craig Bauzenberger Sr., a resident, term ends 2014. Donna Carman, business owner, term ends 2014. Catherine Deninger, a resident and a property owner, term ends 2016. John Matson, a resident, term ends 2017. Bernice Simpson, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017.

JENSEN BEACH

Sharon Adams, a resident, business owner, senior manager and property owner, term ends 2014. Glenda Burgess, a property owner within a half mile, term ends 2015. Stephen Dutcher, a property owner, term ends 2016. Maria Lindberg, a resident, business owner, and property owner, term ends 2017. Robert McElroy, property owner within a half mile, term ends 2017. Frank Wacha Jr., a business owner, senior manager and property owner, term ends 2017.

OLD PALM CITY

Craig Ahal, a resident and property owner, term ends 2014. Joseph Gilio, a resident and property owner, term ends 2015. Jane Landrum, a resident and property owner, term ends 2016. Douglas Legler, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017. Thomas Plymale, a resident, business owner, and property owner, term ends 2017. Mike Searle, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017. Tracy Seegott, a resident, business owner, senior manager and property owner, term ends 2017. Rex Sentell, a business owner and property owner, term ends 2017. Chuck Smith, a resident, business owner and property owner, term ends 2017.

PORT SALERNO

Ellen Asselin, a resident and property owner, term ends 2014. Gloria Burns McHardy, a resident and property owner, term ends 2015. Cynthia Oakowsky, a resident and property owner, term ends 2016. Edward "Butch" Olsen Jr., a property owner, term ends 2017. Catherine Winters, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017. Karen "Mike" Worden, a resident, business owner and property owner, term ends 2017.

RIO

Myra Galoci, a resident and property owner, term ends 2014. Debra Harsh, a resident and



Indian Street wears the crack-sealed dress becoming more common on Martin County roads.

Michelle Pouch, Michele VanderArk, Barbara Thommes, all from Tentlogix, the presenting sponsor of the Owl's

Howl Halloween Ghoulia, and Cindy Morley, of Eventful Moments, were among hundreds who attended this year's fundraiser Oct. 25 to benefit the Treasure Coast Wildlife Center.

The Barn Theatre cast member performed a live shadow performance of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and the Nouveaux Honkies jammed throughout the ghoulish event. In a Flagler Center draped in black swags, a dessert bar tempted party-goers with

a bubbling cauldron of caramel for dipping fruit, compliments of Eventful Moments.

"Thank you to all of the sponsors and participants who attended this year's Ghoulia to help support the Treasure Coast Wildlife Center," said Dan Martinelli, the center's executive director. "All proceeds from the event assist with the rehabilitation and return of sick, injured or orphaned wild animals to their natural environment." For more information, go to www.tcwild.org. ■

property owner, term ends 2015. Robert Hoza, a resident and property owner, term ends 2016. Jim Lopilato, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017. William Skaryd, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017. Robert Taylor, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017. M. Brent Waddell, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017. David Wishart, a property owner, term ends 2017. Rick Zurich, a resident and property owner, term ends 2017.

Each NAC may have up to nine members, according to Freeman. "The only NAC that had more than nine applicants was the Old Palm City NAC," said Freeman. "In the other NACs, all who had applied and met the eligibility requirements were appointed." ■

The county's Community Development

Department announced its schedule of meetings with the Neighborhood Advisory Committees for each of the community redevelopment areas. All meetings are at 6 p.m. and the public is encouraged to attend.

The Golden Gate NAC will meet Monday, Nov. 4, at the Cassidy Community Cen-

ter, 2895 Fairmont Street, in Stuart.

The Hobe Sound NAC will meet Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the Hobe Sound Community Building at 8980 Olympus Street in Hobe Sound.

Port Salerno NAC will meet Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the Port Salerno Civic Center, 4950 SE Anchor Avenue in Port Salerno.

The Indiantown NAC will meet Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the Elisabeth Lahti Library on Warfield Avenue in Indiantown.

The Old Palm City NAC will meet Nov. 18 at the Palm City Community Center in Leighton Park, 2701 SW Cornell Avenue, Palm City.

The Jensen Beach NAC will meet at the Jensen Beach Community Center on Jensen Beach Blvd., in Jensen Beach.

The Rio NAC will meet at the Rio Civic Center, 1255 NE Dixie Highway, in Rio at the Rio Civic Center.

All meetings are open to the public, and neighbors, business owners and interested residents are encouraged to attend. Plans for each area's revitalization will be discussed. For more information, contact Nakeischea Smith or Edward Erfurt, of the Community Development Department. 772.463.3288.

The results of the meetings will be reported to the Board of County Commissioners by Kevin Freeman, director of community development. ■



DENNIS S. HUDSON III
CHAIRMAN AND CEO

say hello

TO A BANK YOU CAN COUNT ON TODAY, AND TOMORROW

Since 1926, we've been right here — living, working and growing alongside the communities we serve.

We look to the future filled with confidence and anticipation. We're here to stand behind you as you take your next step forward. We believe in you.

say hello TO A MORE HUMAN WAY TO BANK

800.706.9991 | SEACOASTNATIONAL.COM



 **Seacoast**
NATIONAL BANK

Member
FDIC

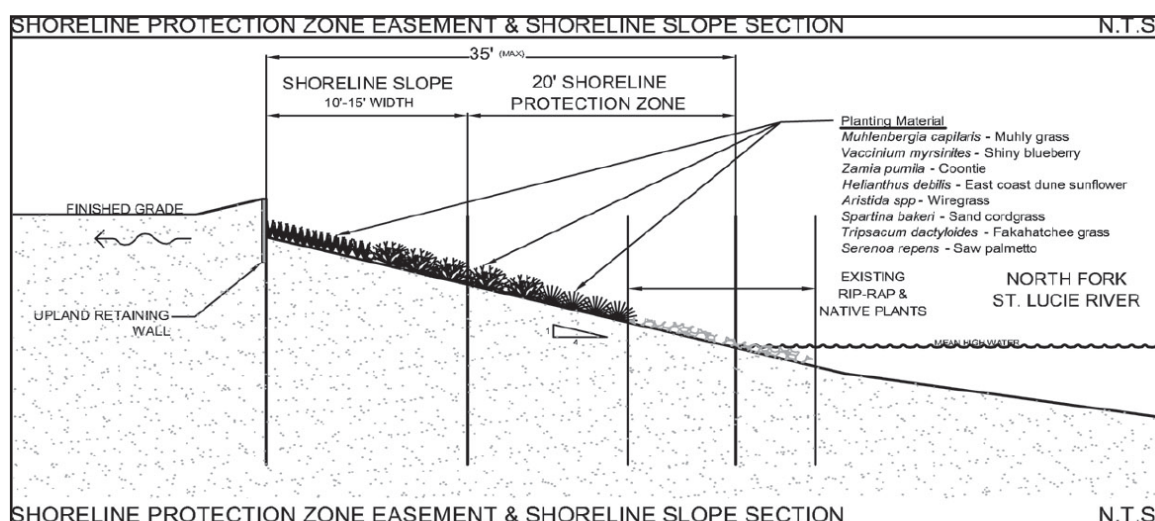
Floridian shows potential in shoreline protection

A short but significant hearing Sept. 10 on one phase of the final site plan to build residential homes at The Floridian seemed to confirm the criticism that a 75-foot shoreline protection zone exceeds what is necessary to adequately protect the St. Lucie River from water run-off across chemically treated lawns.

The plans submitted by environmental consultant Ed Weinberg, of EW Consultants in Stuart, at the Final Site Plan Phase II hearing during a county commission meeting received high praise from all the commissioners, including from Commission Chair Sarah Heard, a proponent of 75-ft setbacks even for hardened shorelines.

The design proposed by Weinberg, who holds a bachelor of science degree in biology, a master of science degree in oceanography, and has 25 years' experience as an environmental consultant, told the commission that he had been asked to design shoreline enhancements "beyond the minimum" required, which included a water-retention wall and double the number of native plants than is legally required.

"Construction of this retaining wall enables the potential water quality impacts of the lot development to be minimized because 100% of the runoff from the developed lot area is directed to the surface water management system," Weinberg said, "thus preventing any runoff from the developed lot area



from entering the river directly."

He also added a "shoreline slope area" that resulted in an average shoreline protection zone of 35 feet and includes rip rap already in place, some turf from the former golf course, and some mangroves, but no other vegetation. The plans call for fully replanting the area with native vegetation, he said, which is outlined in the Preserve Area Management Plan (PAMP) that specifies nine different species for diversity and nearly 13,000 plants, including additional mangroves.

The retaining wall and the shoreline plantings will be completed prior to the sale of lots to individual homeowners, thus ensuring the development's shoreline protections, according to Weinberg, and also not

required by the Comp Plan.

The plan will allow developer, Houston businessman Jim Crane, to build 10 single-family, waterfront homes in a proposed redesign of the former Floridian golf course that includes a 6,000-square-foot fitness spa, a golf learning center, 46 residencies, five cottages on a golf-course lake, and five homes on a spoil island. Commissioners voted 4-to-1 for approval with Commission Chair Sarah Heard dissenting.

The oft-cited criticism of the shoreline protection requirements of the recently rewritten-but-contested amendments to the Comp Plan is that the now 75-foot distance required of already hardened shorelines is an "arbitrary figure with no scientific basis," ac-

cording to land attorney Robert S. Raynes Jr., who represents the Floridian development.

Raynes helped craft some exceptions to the Comp Plan amendments addressing the shoreline protection zone for 1982 lots of record that are smaller than an acre, but the argument of many land attorneys, homeowners, real estate brokers, environmental engineers and others is that the 75-foot requirement is excessive, the need is unsubstantiated, and its potential for negative effects on property values are unnecessary.

"This is already affecting some local homeowners," said Raynes, who worked with environmentalist Maggy Hurchalla and Commissioner John Haddox on the shoreline supplemental exceptions.

"They've discovered that they suddenly cannot put a swimming pool in their back yard that they've planned for some time," he said, "which is not only frustrating and hurts the real value of their property, but imposes a requirement that also genuinely is not necessary in protecting our waterways."

The rewritten shoreline protection zone requirements of the Comp Plan will be reviewed, along with the other amendments, by an administrative law judge as a result of petitions filed in September by several landowners and the South Florida Water Management District. ■



A church that's been part of a community for more than a century

must be doing something right. The New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church on Pettway Street in Hobe Sound celebrated its 104th anniversary with a two-day celebration the last weekend in October that included an all-day Children's Fun Day on Saturday and an outdoor service under a tent on Sunday.

"Some said it would be too hot to have an outdoor service," said Pastor David George, in a voice that vibrates the marrow of your

bones, "but we have a breeze...God gave us air-conditioning when we needed it...as He does provide all things."

Every time the church reached what might seem to be an insurmountable obstacle over its long history, said Deacon Larry Dover, a Gomez resident, whatever was needed seemed just to appear, such as when they decided to pave the lot next to the church for their older residents and to build sidewalks to make it safer for their children.



"The county's regulations made it so expensive, it seemed impossible at first," Dover said, while the parking lot was under construction two years ago, "but then people started handing us checks. They saw what we were trying to do, and they wanted to help." Even some who were not members.

No one was surprised, though, because God seems to have a way of knowing what is needed and when, and the New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church is living proof.

Evidence among scientific and medical circles continues to mount that Tai Chi is highly effective in combating the incidence of falls by older Americans. Floridians Fighting Falls in Hobe Sound announced that weekly classes taught by Audrey Burzynski, a certified "Tai Chai for Better Balance" instructor, are available now in Hobe Sound.

The class will be conducted from 10 to 11

a.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Hobe Sound, 10100 S. E. Federal Hwy., on Mondays and Wednesdays. The session runs through Wednesday, Dec. 18, but attendees maybe join at any point. The cost is \$5 per class, but is a benefit of many insurance programs. For more information, contact Burzynski at the Floridians Fighting Falls office, 772.932.7264. ■

Evidence among scientific and medical circles

continues to mount that Tai Chi is highly effective in combating the incidence of falls by older Americans. Floridians Fighting Falls in Hobe Sound announced that weekly classes taught by Audrey Burzynski, a certified "Tai Chai for Better Balance" instructor, are available now in Hobe Sound.

The class will be conducted from 10 to 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Hobe Sound, 10100 S. E. Federal Hwy., on Mondays and Wednesdays. The session runs through Wednesday, Dec. 18, but attendees maybe join at any point. The cost is \$5 per class, but is a benefit of many insurance programs. For more information, contact Burzynski at the Floridians Fighting Falls office, 772.932.7264. ■



Hobe Sound Ministries announced this

season's schedule for the 17th Singing Christmas Tree at Hobe Sound Bible College. The

event, attended last year by more than 7,000 people, features 75 singers among a lighted Christmas tree with thousands of lights, a 25-piece orchestra, a children's choir and a drama cast of 50. The first production will be Wednesday, Dec. 4, and again on Friday through Sunday, Dec. 6-8, at 7 pm each evening. (No presentation on Thursday night.) Flying angels, kings and shepherds, holy family, live music, and the message and lights of the season all are part of this annual tradition in Hobe Sound. Admission is free, but an offering will be received. For more information, go to www.hobesoundsingingtree.com, or call 772.546.5696. The Hobe Sound Bible College is at 11295 Gomez Avenue in Hobe Sound. ■

The county Parks and Recreation Department

officially took over responsibilities for tourism the first of October from the former Convention and Visitors Bureau. The county commission had been critical of the CVB's performance and voted not to renew its contract Sept. 28.

Under the leadership of Parks Department Director Kevin Abbate, the county published an RFP (request for proposal) "to

independently analyze and report on the county's destination marketing opportunities and challenges," according to a county press release.

The county hopes to find an independent destination marketing expert to define the issues and concerns of stakeholders, to propose a tourism marketing organizational structure, revise the tourism strategic plan, provide recommendations regarding allocation of bed tax collections, and recommend changes to

the Tourism Development Council's duties and powers. The deadline to submit proposals is Nov. 6.

The next meeting of the Tourism Development Council, which is open to the public, will be Nov. 13 at 3 p.m. in the commission chambers of the Administrative Center, 2401 SE Monterey Road in Stuart.

For more information about the meeting, contact Shannon Nazzari, recreation and tourism administrator, at 772.221.2328. ■



Plans for a passenger rail service along Florida's east coast are moving along ...well, as fast as a

freight train. The last of the major hurdles for the All Aboard Florida passenger rail service fell in October, when a much-needed right-of-way between Cocoa and Orlando was finally obtained, according to a recent report in the *Orlando Business Journal*.

The Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority Board unanimously approved an easement purchase agreement with All Aboard, Florida, a sister company of FEC Inc., based in Coral Gables. The agreement allows All Aboard Florida to construct its rail infrastructure immediately parallel to the State Road 528 corridor, the only portion of the route from Miami to Orlando that already does not have FEC tracks in place.

It also means that construction can begin in 2014 to lay a second track within the FEC right-of-way between Cocoa and Miami, including Martin County.

The railroad will run passenger trains hourly between Miami and Orlando and back to Miami, right through Martin County between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m., with stops only in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach.

The \$1.5 billion private investment includes building train stations in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm that also will house retail stores, restaurants and hotels, as well as constructing bridge and grade crossing

improvements along the entire route.

The only bridge that will not be replaced is the St. Lucie River railroad bridge, built in the late 1920s by Henry Flagler and still structurally sound, it will remain the only single-track section in the entire system. It also will require some freight trains, which are up to two miles long, to stack along sidings, probably in Rio, to give the right of way to the passenger trains.

Since the 900-foot-long trains will need to slow down (they will be traveling at 110 mph through Martin County and 125 mph between Cocoa and Orlando), Stuart City officials are pushing for a train station stop in Stuart. The Martin County Commission opted out of a federal grant for \$1.2 million last year to help build a train station in Stuart, so the city will need to pursue its own funding options.

"We'd like for them to stop here," said Paul Nicoletti, Stuart city manager, at a meeting in October of railroad officials, government officials, and representatives of the Treasure Coast Regional Council, which is coordinating the project, at Stuart City Hall, but other cities vying for stops are Cocoa, Jacksonville, and Tampa, all of whom already have made entreaties to the railroad to extend the rail service. ■

Celebrating The History of Hobe Sound

Recognizing Those Who Assisted and Sponsored the
Publication of Hobe Sound's First Pictorial History

Join Author
Paula Cooper
at Harry & the Natives
for a Book Signing

Thursday, Nov. 21
6 - 8 p.m.

Harry & the Natives
Federal Highway &
Bridge Road Intersection,
Hobe Sound

A treasured
Christmas gift, too!



IT'S HERE!



THE 26TH ANNUAL JENSEN BEACH PINEAPPLE FESTIVAL 2013

OPENS FRIDAY, NOV. 8, AT 6 P.M. UNTIL 11:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, NOV. 9 -- NOON TO 11:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, NOV. 10 -- NOON TO 9 P.M.



JOEL CROUSE
Friday, Nov. 8 • 8pm



THE MARSHALL TUCKER BAND
Saturday, Nov. 9 • 6pm



KIDZ BOP KIDS
Sunday, Nov. 10 • 2pm & 4:30pm



JERROD NIEMANN
Friday, Nov. 8 • 9pm



LITTLE RIVER BAND
Saturday, Nov. 9 • 9pm



THE EXPENDABLES
Sunday, Nov. 10 • 7:30pm

THE PINEAPPLE FESTIVAL, held in the streets of downtown Jensen Beach, combines arts, crafts, food and midway rides with exceptional musicians. Consistently rated as one of the best street festivals in Florida, you don't want to miss it!

ADVANCE TICKETS & GENERAL ADMISSION

KIDS 12 & UNDER WITH ADULT FREE
STUDENTS AGES 18 to 13 WITH I.D. \$10.
GENERAL ADMISSION \$20
ADVANCE TICKETS \$15

MIDWAY RIDES \$20
WRISTBAND DAY SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 10
- RIDE ALL RIDES
FROM 12NOON TO 6PM

The entire festival site is general admission and includes concerts. Midway rides, games, food and beverages cost extra. Save \$5 when you purchase advance admission tickets after Oct. 8 at Sonic Drive-In locations in Jensen Beach, Ft. Pierce and Lake Park.

A limited number of STS Aviation Group Hospitality Area V.I.P. tickets are available online at \$50. Preferred Seating Tickets for a specified concert are also available online at \$30 at www.PineappleFestival.info.

It is recommended to park at Jensen Beach High School, 2875 NW Goldenrod Road, Jensen Beach and take the free shuttle bus to the festival. Shuttle bus service is provided by Acadiana Destination Services and will operate Friday (5:30 p.m. until Midnight); Saturday (11:30 a.m. until Midnight); and Sunday (11:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.). Shuttle buses run every 20 minutes.

For more information go online -- www.pineapplefestival.info

**HASSLE
FREE MOVING**



MOVING? CONSIDER SHIPPING YOUR BELONGINGS INSTEAD! **WE SHIP ANYTHING**

One Piece or a Whole House Full
(Ask About FREE Pick Up)

**Seabbranch
ShipCenter**

A Neighborhood Pack & Ship

SHIPPING SAVES TIME & MONEY.

FASTER, SAFER & MORE SECURE.

CONVENIENT, RELIABLE, NO HASSLES.

AVOID COSTLY DAMAGE.

Call Today! 772-287-9810

At the corner of SE Federal Highway and Seabbranch Blvd. in Hobe Sound, SeaBranch ShipCenter in the Seabbranch Square Plaza is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Easy access, plenty of parking and an experienced, friendly staff available to meet all of your packing, shipping and moving needs.

FedEx
Authorized ShipCenter

DHL
AUTHORIZED SHIPPING CENTER

**UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE**
APPROVED SHIPPER

\$25 OFF
**FREIGHT
SHIPPING**
Convenient, Reliable, No Hassles
No Limit
Expires November 30, 2013

COUPONS

\$3 OFF
SHIPPING
No Limit on Number of Packages
FedEx
Authorized ShipCenter
Redeem This Coupon For \$3.00
Off FedEx Shipping
Expires November 30, 2013

Will apathy return since discharges ended?

A concern often expressed by Leon Abood, chair of the Rivers Coalition, a diverse group of interests who have been fighting to stop the seasonal Lake Okeechobee discharges into the St. Lucie River for more than 15 years, is “how to keep people engaged, when they’re no longer enraged.”

Though the discharges had stopped and the river was beginning to return to its more natural blue-green color shortly before the most recent Rivers Coalition meeting Oct. 24, the public turnout at the coalition’s regular monthly meeting showed no signs of disengagement.

In fact, attendance exceeded “standing-room-only” at Stuart’s City Hall, spilling into the chamber’s hallway.

Abood gave credit, in part, to the fact that the guest speaker was former Lee County politician Ray Judah, an outspoken opponent of the Florida sugar industry, particularly U.S. Sugar, one of the largest owners of the agricultural lands south of Lake Okeechobee that have been optioned by the state for purchase. No funds, however, have been allocated by any legislative body or by the South Florida Water Management District to exercise that option, which expires in 2020.

“Fifty thousand acres is all that’s needed to finally, finally have a permanent solution,” Judah told the gathering, which would provide a flowway south for excess water during rain events, instead of being discharged into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers.

That purchase would entail removing approximately 15% of the sugar-owned lands from sugar-cane production, which opponents say would severely affect employment in rural areas.

Judah counters that having degraded waterways on both coasts and damaged fisheries as the result of the discharges cause just as much unemployment, if not more, and that a construction project of the magnitude proposed by Plan 6 would, in fact, increase employment opportunities.

Sitting in the audience was J.P. Sasser, mayor of Pahokee, a rural city “on the rim” of Lake Okeechobee, who testified before Sen. Joe Negron’s Senate Select Committee on the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon in Tallahassee during September.

“The people to the northeast and northwest think they can fix their rivers’ problems by sending all the water south and drowning us out,” Sasser testified, as reported in Sunshine State News. “We haven’t had a seat at the table yet, and we think it’s time we’re included.”

Sasser told the Senate panel the “sugar towns” south of Lake Okeechobee number about 85,000 in population, and he reminded the Rivers Coalition audience that it’s not just two or three sugar companies

farming south of the lake.

“When it comes to the sugar industry, there’s more than one,” Sasser said. “There are many, and some are small, individual farmers.”

Abood told Sasser that “it took a lot of guts for you to be here tonight, but I want you to know, we appreciate it.”

Both activists agreed that the situation will require cooperation and a unified effort, and both agreed to spend more time on opposite coasts. “We got a big, big thing to fix here,” Sasser said.

What happened?

According to South Florida Water Management statistics, we had the wettest start to the rainy season (May through July) since 1968; the wettest April through September since 1960; with above average rainfall in Martin County, a 26% above average rainfall on Lake Okeechobee, and a 20% above average rainfall on Everglades agricultural lands.

As a result, the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon suffered from massive discharges of Lake Okeechobee water—released because the integrity of the Hoover Dike was threatened—estimated to have been more than 130 billion gallons from May through October, resulting in toxic algae blooms, high bacteria levels, millions of pounds of sediment, and five times the annual pollution limit set for phosphorous and nitrogen by the Department of Environmental Protection, according to Mark Perry, executive director of the Florida Oceanographic Society and a proponent of Plan 6 to move water south and eliminate the need for discharges.

“In the St. Lucie Estuary we now have 100% mortality of oysters, an estimated 80% loss of seagrass habitat and the St. Lucie Inlet State Preserve reef is covered with silt,” he said. “I’m sure our coastal reefs are really going to show some destruction too.”

Thousands rallied in protest, and local, state and federal politicians paid attention, although many residents criticized what they



Residents are remaining engaged in river issues as evidenced at the regular meeting of the Rivers Coalition on Oct. 24, which filled up every seat inside Stuart City Hall chambers.

considered was a slow response. The State Senate Select Committee was formed (with its report due the first week of November) with a promise of additional funds from the state budget including a million dollars to replenish oyster beds and replant seagrasses; Governor Rick Scott visited the St. Lucie Lock (but did not acknowledge the 300 protestors gathered), which resulted in a pledge

of \$40 million for the C-44 canal project and \$90 million over the next three years to raise another two miles of the Tamiami Trail, currently blocking water flow into the Everglades.

Rehabilitation work continues on the Hoover Dike with new contracts awarded recently by the Army Corps of

Engineers to help repair culverts around Lake Okeechobee, and the SFWMD expanded its water farming and initiated other projects to move water south.

Congressman Patrick Murphy organized a bipartisan congressional hearing that brought national attention—in large part because 40 advocates were willing to travel to Washington D.C., many by bus—and Sen. Bill Nelson convened a scientist roundtable. Commissioner Ed Fielding has formed a six-county collaborative of Indian River Lagoon counties to coordinate local efforts and set priorities, which will meet again Nov. 6 in Indian River County.

ANOTHER RALLY PLANNED

Local activist Evan Miller announced that a second Phipps Park rally at the St. Lucie Lock and Dam will be held Saturday, Nov. 9, at 10 a.m. to celebrate the end of the discharges, and “to send a message to our politicians” that voters are paying attention and staying involved.

What’s next?

More than 40 statewide organizations are active in the fight to save the St. Lucie, Indian River Lagoon and Caloosahatchee estuaries, and most propose these priorities:

—Hold polluters accountable. The water in Lake Okeechobee is clean, says J.P. Sasser, “just ask our scientists,” and all the cities around the lake are on sewer systems, not septic tanks. The pollution comes from the water flowing into Lake Okeechobee from the north, due to fertilizer, stormwater, wastewater, and sewage, which then gets flushed into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers.

Quantifiable reductions in phosphorous and nitrogen (which septic tanks do not remove from waste) should be mandatory and on an established timetable for all waters flowing into the Okeechobee basin. Martin County also needs to begin a serious and concerted effort to move residents off septic systems to a sewer system, particularly for properties adjacent to water bodies.

—Store more water on private lands north of Lake Okeechobee and in the estuary basin, which will require funding projects that partner public agencies with landowners to store water on farms and ranches.

—Demand that state and federal politicians follow through with funding for all 15 of the Everglades restoration and Kissimmee River restoration projects, including CEPP and the Indian River Lagoon South Project, and demand that they make Plan 6 the “very next Everglades Restoration Project to be funded,” said Mark Perry, and he added a message for residents: “Stay mad. Stay on fire. Stay connected.” ■

—Barbara Clowdus

Say YES to Tennessee!



GREEN
RIDGE
trails

The BEST of All Worlds

Green Ridge Trails is a Peaceful Rural Community:

- Only 10 miles from the convenience of a major supermarket and national home improvement/department stores
- Only minutes away from the Obed Wild & Scenic River
- 20 miles from the Town of Oak Ridge
- 35 minutes from Knoxville Airport and 40 minutes from lovely downtown Knoxville

Build Your OWN Home

Building Lot 3.25 Acres
\$29,000



Featuring Home for Sale - \$350,000

A Very Affordable Mountain Arts & Crafts Home on 2.31 Acres
Overlooking Beautiful Cumberland Mountain

3 Bedrooms, 3 ½ Baths, 3 Floors with Full Basement, 2750 sq.ft. Living,
4125 sq.ft. Total Under Roof



Call Alyse Porter, Platinum Properties Real Estate Inc.
561-309-6874 (c) | 561-694-2220 (o) | 800-760-6212
AEPASSOC@AOL.COM www.GreenRidgeTrails.com

Editorial: Heard flushes common sense from decision

The dilemma facing the owner and operator of Flash Beach Grille in Hobe Sound, Anita and Robert Breinig, got little attention in the press when they went before the county commission in October asking for relief.

The enforcement of Comp Plan protections for a tiny, isolated, weed-infested patch of ground directly behind their restaurant on Bridge Road...not behind their lot, but immediately behind their back door...could force this viable-but-struggling Hobe Sound restaurant out of business.

Even more chilling were some of the commissioners' responses to their plight, which foretell what's at stake for residents in the upcoming fight over the commission's recent amendments to the Martin County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

Commissioner Anne Scott's response to the Breinigs, however, was welcome relief from the usual lock-step behind Commission Chair Sarah Heard, who made it abundantly clear that common sense has no hold on her decisions.

"We're not even allowed to mow the weeds anymore," Anita Breinig told county commissioners at their Oct. 22 meeting. The Breinigs use that spot of ground to park their fully licensed and duly inspected mobile catering trailer—actually, they depend on it—to fulfill the outside catering requests that keep their business afloat.

After they chased out a vagrant from the lot, who had started camping out there, and put up a fence to keep out

others, they started getting code violations from the county. The problem? That area is part of the "preserve" that the original owner had been required by the county to set aside decades ago and is protected by a Preserve Area Management Plan (PAMP).

Long forgotten, except for occasional and sporadic violations issued over the years, the Breinigs did not know about the PAMP and would not have known when they purchased the property, because the violations did not show up in the usual title search.

They decided to fight to keep their business open by getting an exemption from the rules. They hired an environmental consultant who analyzed the property and determined that what was growing in that lot were, indeed, weeds, which was reported to the commission.

They attempted to work with the county growth management staff to comply, but the two alternatives presented to them both still required removal of the trailer, leaving them no choice but to take it to the commission.

"We just cannot operate our business without that trailer," she told them.

Commissioner Ed Fielding found their unwillingness to remove the trailer in spite of receiving code violations "troubling." We find it even more troubling that Fielding would prefer that they shut down their business, which is what essentially he was demanding that they do.

Fortunately for the Breinigs, Commissioner Scott has eaten at that

restaurant, which is right on Bridge Road and on her way home to Jupiter Island. She has met the owners, may even at times have used their catering service, but even if not, anyone who has eaten at Flash Beach Grille gets to know either Anita, or Robert, or their daughter, because they give their customers that kind of attention.

They also work hard, dedicating excruciatingly long hours to their business, which anyone with a restaurant—or any small business for that fact—knows all too well. The options in front of them undermine their success: selling, probably at a loss now that the PAMP is recorded with their deed, restoring native plants on that isolated PAMP, which may well be required by the county, or hiring an attorney—all are beyond their means.

Scott reminded the commission that one of the primary purposes of PAMPs is to provide a wildlife corridor, which is impossible if they're isolated and surrounded by other development as is the case at Flash Beach Grille. She proposed a temporary solution: that the county stop issuing violations to the Breinigs while county staff investigates how many "micro-PAMPs are out there," and wait for the staff's study to determine the best course for managing them.

The commissioners, by law, could not just eliminate that one particular PAMP, which is what the Breinigs had hoped for, but can only approve changes to it—unless of course an amendment to

the Comp Plan introduces some alternatives for these isolated, tiny parcels of soil that do not genuinely contribute to wildlife conservation or to environmental protection.

The backlash from environmental activist Ginny Sherlock was swift, as evidenced on her blog the following day: *"The decision of all but Commissioner Heard to suspend compliance with the Plan for this property owner until the rules can be changed was disturbing and raises concerns about your commitment to our Comp Plan."* That sounds like a threat.

It also demonstrates clearly that neither common sense nor an understanding of the Comp Plan's requirement that a balance must exist among environmental protections, economic opportunity, individual property rights, choices in housing, and arts and culture in order to create a vibrant community.

We cannot subjugate all else, including the Breinigs, to arbitrary environmental regulation, which also forms the basis of the legal arguments against the rewritten Comp Plan amendments.

That's not environmentalism, and more to the point, that's NOT what residents want. They want common sense and balance.

This is an Opinion Page

You're invited to share yours here by sending an email to editor@martincountycurrents.com, or post a comment on our website at www.MartinCountyCurrents.com.

We'll destroy our democracy, one (good) religion at a time

By Bruce Duncan, Guest Columnist
Hobe Sound

Ignorance and religion will destroy this democracy. Most of you who just read my first sentence had a visceral reaction. What do you mean I'm ignorant? My religion is the one true religion, and it will not destroy this democracy. Yours will.

The First Amendment prohibits the making of any law "respecting an establishment of religion," or impeding

the "free exercise of religion," known commonly as freedom of religion. Implied is the pact that if we the people grant religious self-determination to everyone, then each and every person assenting with that freedom must also grant that liberty to the rest of us.

So why are so many politicians and their constituents trying to ram their religion down everyone else's throat? Why are laws being passed all over this country to stifle and curtail the free expression and practice of that freedom, and why are you the voter allowing it to happen?

Religion, the formal worship of a divine being, takes many forms. If we are truly to be the democracy the founding fathers envisioned, then all religions must be tolerated, including those who choose not to believe at all. All religions and their doctrines must be excluded from government, and government necessitates that, by law, it must remain impartial to all; to do less demands measurable proof that your consecration is the one true devotion. That substantiation simply does not exist.

The next time your selected representatives starts with religious discourse, ask them to stick to issues that can be legislated, unless of course you wish to

have a religion prescribed to you, as did the early colonists who fled England.

Ignorance is simply the lack of doing your homework. To some degree we are all guilty of not doing our homework, especially when it comes to politics. We find it easier to use subjective knowledge than to research the truth, which by the way is usually exceedingly hard to come by.

I think it, therefore it is true. For example, it is not hard to find an expert on the economy, the debt, global climate change, abortion, doomsday scenarios, Syria, international relations, god, sex, education and so on. Almost any coffee shop, bar, restaurant, park, street corner, or neighborhood has an abundance of experts, but when you begin to question the proficiency of the person making a statement about an issue, you typically find out they don't have a clue. It's just, "I think it, therefore it is true"... ignorance.

Ignorance will destroy this nation. It is incumbent upon every citizen to demand the truth in all things public. It is incumbent on every citizen to do homework about the issues. It is incumbent upon every citizen to consider the impact on all of the citizens of this country when deciding who will get your vote, not just those in your socio-

economic caste.

There is not a single one among us who can live independent of the society we live in, despite what the doomsday preparers would have you believe. We are far better off having an informed, questioning electorate than one that is ignorant, unreceptive, and acquiescent.

The First Continental Congress undertook a monumental task of contriving a document that would define a nation, which took a few goal-oriented brilliant men and women to bring this country into existence as an independent realm with so lofty a goal as freedom and equality for all in all things human. There are other countries that have attained similar status, but only after America displayed for all that such a nation can thrive.

America today has equally brilliant men and women, but we lack an unselfish compass heading. Like the founding fathers who directed their altruistic efforts toward establishing this democracy, we need to conquer our ignorance, set aside personal religious beliefs, and work towards a country and a world where all of us are as equally treated within our society as we are anthropologically evolved.

Martin County
CURRENTS

**December Gift
Guide!**

**20% discount
on any size
display ad.**

Call 772.245.6564

or email:

advertising@MartinCountyCurrents.com

Call today!

Pet peeves revisited...one more time

Whenever this column's topic is pet peeves, readers promptly send me theirs. Much to my surprise, *their* pet peeves apply most often to *me*. Thus far, they've included:

—Slow walkers on a sidewalk. Guilty. I'd rather stroll, but I should tell you that I also talk, think and write slowly—just in case any of those peeve you, too.

—Jangling, noisy jewelry. Guilty. I wear a charm bracelet that jingles whenever I'm typing or moving about a room, which tops the lists of more than one person complaining about that tiny tinkling noise.

—Wind chimes hanging from trees. What? You consider wind chimes to be noise, too? Guilty again.

See? The whole exercise can be somewhat injurious to one's ego.

Other irritants readers have written to me about, though, hardly seem to be true "peeves," such as whistling as someone works.

Holy cow, I revere people who can whistle. Period. And if they're whistling while they're working, they're exceptionally happy doing what they're doing. That puts us listeners in rarefied company. Granted, a whistling librarian might be a little disconcerting, but a whistling stockboy? That's to be celebrated.

—Singing along with a radio. Same category as whistlers—shared happiness—as long as they're not tone deaf

and don't know it...and even then, it seems to me, you could at least smile at their wonderful, operatic delusions.

—Kids' fingerprints on car windows. This one just floored me, but maybe it's because I enjoy children so much that I cannot comprehend why anyone would complain about their presence, which is exactly what a child's fingerprints, nose prints, footprints on anything, anytime, anywhere represents.

Many other pet peeves, it seemed to me, indicated just a pessimistic attitude about life in general, and according to a recently published psychological study, people indeed generally are split between "likers" and "haters." Some people tended to like stuff even though they didn't really know much about it, and about an equal number of people in the study had the tendency to hate stuff, regardless of what it was.

The authors of the article argue, therefore, that this initial stance towards anything and everything is a facet of personality. In the same way that you can be either extroverted or introverted, you can also be a "liker" or a "hater."

Those pessimistic pet peeves from readers must have come from "haters," I think. Certainly, if the study is accurate, there's an equal number of people out there that I'll never hear from—because they like everything!

I'm somewhere in the middle, I guess,



Barbara Clowdus

Unfiltered

because these are my latest pet peeves.

— The revolving trays inside microwave ovens drive me crazy. They never seem to stay on those little revolving wheels. They tip stuff over, make a mess and can rumble louder than a growling stomach.

— Bottles of supplements that make you think you got your money's worth only to find about 20 tiny tablets under the cotton stuffed on top. At least the cotton is a consolation prize.

Since we're talking medications, though, let's include those pills that come in boxes sealed in foil bubbles—intended to appear that you have even more than you *didn't* get from a bottle—sealed with foil forged from stainless steel.

— Finding that your old phone chargers strategically placed around your house and office don't fit your new phone. And neither do the ones stuffed away in a cardboard box at the top of the closet. Phone chargers should be like light bulbs—one universal size

that fits all phones. That way even a stranger could loan you theirs if you forgot to pack yours.

— People who text other people during my conversations with them, whether we're on the phone (yes, I can tell when you're doing it) or face-to-face. Maybe I won't loan you my charger.

—People who call me, but leave their phone number only once, their voice fading away at the end as if I already know the number, which I don't, forcing me to replay the message over and over and over again. Sometimes I give up, but my conscience won't let me forget about it, so the next day, I try again. Over and over.

— People who say things that are borderline mean, then follow it with a laugh and, "I'm just kidding." That's bullying, but somehow they engage in it like a sport, dunking insults left and right. I don't get why they don't get it. Whatever happened to, "If you cannot say anything nice, then say nothing at all"?

Now my readers are going to let me know the things that irritate *them*. That's fair. Be forewarned, though. I've already given up my charm bracelet, but the wind chimes? No. Sorry, they're staying in my back yard...well, maybe I'll take down all but one. Maybe.

Syria and the human-rights experiment

I had meant to write this on Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday, but it's not till next month, and Syria wouldn't wait. She is not as well known as she ought to be, and not as much revered. I revere her, because she fought for the recognition of what she called "human rights." All her efforts came to naught, and the world loves a winner. In the end, not enough of us believed in basic rights for all humans.

Her greatest achievement was the United Nations' adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, passed as a General Assembly

Resolution in 1948. What she had done was persuade the UN member-states of the day to commit themselves to acknowledge and respect a list of defined "basic rights" for all humans.

It was a first. All previous lists of basic rights had applied only to specific tribes, castes, classes or nations. The US Bill of Rights applied only to US citizens as then defined, the Rights of Man only to the French, the Magna Carta only to the English nobility, the Ten Commandments only to the Israelites and their cultural successors. ("Thou shalt not kill", for instance, did not apply to foreigners; hence all the mass smiting reported in the Books of Moses.)

The Universal Declaration was formulated in the wake of the Nuremberg Trials of German nationals and allies. The idea of a universal standard of behaviour was a new concept in international law. For the first time, national laws were accepted as being ab initio subordinate to the Declaration whenever they were incompatible with the newly agreed standards of behaviour. [My words, my interpretation.]

"I was just following orders" and "I was just obeying my country's laws" were dismissed as illegitimate reasons for doing nasty things to people. Killing ethnic minorities (Jews, Gypsies, Slavs) was "a crime against humanity". So was



Gordon Barlow

Outside, Looking In

torture; so was imprisonment without a fair trial. Above all, so was waging wars of choice, because wars give cover to all kinds of atrocities.

After a nod of acknowledgment to a notional spirit of universal brotherhood, the first listed "human right" in the Declaration is "the right to life..." There was nothing in the resolution about chemical weapons or nuclear weapons or any other sort of weapons. All that UN member-nations undertook to do was to recognise no distinction in the worth of human lives, regardless of race, nationality, etc.

It failed from Day One, of course. How could it not? Tribal and national loyalties are always paramount. Mrs Roosevelt should have had the wit to know that. The human DNA is not designed to spurn loyalty to one's own kind. All humans believe they are exceptional, and their families, home communities and nations. Patriotism trumps the brotherhood of man, every time.

Does any American think it's worth

the death of any single member of his family or home community to stop the chaos in Syria? Of course not. I once read about a bumper-sticker at the time of the Iraq invasion, which read "WHY CAN'T EXXON SEND ITS OWN DAMN TROOPS?" It made sense to me, but it never caught on.

Today there are patriotic young gamesters in air-conditioned offices in several army bases who are paid good money to wipe out foreign villagers at the press of a button once or twice a day. Is it a good thing that our boys aren't being killed and mutilated, and "the others" are? Well, yes, of course it is. Only anarchists and communists would even ask the question.

It's been interesting, watching the human rights experiment, and I for one am sorry it never got off the ground. A world without respect for foreigners' rights is a world forever at war, and that bothers me. I have grandchildren, who may one day find themselves as targets. (They live in Norway, and Norway has lots of oil. More oil than Syria, actually. Oh boy.)

In the age of drones, foreigners (Jews, Gypsies, Slavs, and their modern equivalents) can be slaughtered left, right and center – without the slightest personal risk to the slaughterers. Good grief! Eleanor Roosevelt never envisioned such a situation.

Martin County
CURRENTS

Publisher and Editor

Barbara Clowdus

Website Design

Sonic Fish Studios

Martin County Currents, formerly Hobe Sound Currents, 2652 SE Janet Street, Stuart, FL 34997. The entire contents are Copyright 2013; all rights reserved.

Phone: 772.245.6564

www.MartinCountyCurrents.com

editor@martincountycurrents.com

ads@martincountycurrents.com

Our historical past spotlighted

More than paying attention to old buildings, Historic Preservation Month in October celebrated the people, places, and events that forged today's Martin County.

Among the dedications and tours of many of the county's historic buildings were presentations about the history and plight of the St. Lucie River, and the rich but tumultuous history of the commercial fishermen of Port Salerno, one of the state's few remaining working waterfronts.

"Each year, our list of partners and community participation in celebrating Martin County's unique heritage has grown," said Joette Lorion Rice, chair of the Historic Preservation Advisory Council of Martin County. "It's hard to believe, but when we started six years ago, we had eight events on the calendar over a one-week period. This year, we had more than 40 events, most of them with no admission charge, and we've expanded to a month-long celebration."

Historic Preservation Month coincided this year with the launch of a year-long celebration of the city of Stuart's centennial.

"The centennial celebration really elevated awareness of the events and historic places we have in the county," Rice said.

"The timing (of Historic Preservation Month and the Stuart Centennial kick-off) was just absolutely perfect, and we are so lucky to live in a place where our government officials and so many residents truly appreciate and want to celebrate our heritage."

A particularly significant addition to the month's events this year was the student essay contest in Martin County schools for fifth-graders. Mariyah Smith, of Hobe Sound Elementary, submitted an essay about her great-great grandfather, Willie Pettway, which was selected for first place by a committee of retired teachers.

Pettway was a pioneer in the Gomez/Hobe Sound area, and the Pettway family still operates the store he founded at the corner of Dixie Highway and Pettway Street in Hobe Sound.

"Since the inception of Martin County Historic Preservation Month, the board has wanted to do an outreach with the schools," said board member Louise Andrews. "I learned that Florida history and Martin County History are taught at the fourth-



Visitors check out displays depicting the history of the renovated Apollo School in Hobe Sound as part of Historic Preservation Month.

grade level, and since school had only recently started, we chose to open the competition to 5th grade students, who were already knowledgeable about historic places and people."

Seven of 13 elementary schools participated, totaling 51 essays submitted by 10 teachers. Each school winner received a certificate and book. Bessey Creek, Citrus Grove and Hobe Sound Elementary had multiple winners.

The month culminated with a preservation awards banquet that honored Preservationists

of the Year, Greg and Alice Luckhardt, both retired Martin County school teachers. Mrs. Luckhardt was named the 1986 Outstanding Social Studies Teacher for Florida and in 1990 was listed in the premier edition of "Who's Who Among American Teachers."

They also established and managed Lucky's Flea Market until the property was sold in 2000. Since then she has been a freelance historical researcher and award-winning writer, as well as an active member of the board of directors for the Stuart Heritage

Fine Watch & Antique Clock Repair

WILL BUY WORKING OR BROKEN MECHANICAL (WIND-UP) WATCHES.

You can rely on About Time's reputation for meticulous work and superior service to repair your heirloom clocks and watches, even the most challenging.

8858 SE Edwyn Street • Hobe Sound
(Between McDonalds and the Boys & Girls Club)
Monday-Friday 9-5 • Saturday 10-2

About Time
CLOCK & WATCH REPAIR SERVICE



Historic Preservationists of the Year, Greg and Alice Luckhardt, on right, are introduced by Stuart historian and veteran newsman Joe Crankshaw, the 2012 Preservationist of the Year, and Historic Preservation Board Member Sandra Thurlow. Photos: Submitted



Joette Lorion Rice, Chair of the Martin County Historic Preservation Board.



A rare opportunity to see the work that has been done thus far to restore the historic Golden Gate building was afforded the public during the Historic Preservation Month activities. Congressman Patrick Murphy had to cancel his appearance due to the government shutdown in Washington at the time, but he promised organizers a visit in the near future.



The dedication of the plaque for the historic Port Salerno Colored School took place inside the one-room schoolhouse. Former student and principal at the school, Marian Carpenter, is at the desk. The event was attended by a number of former students of the late Costella Williams.

Museum. She also is a researcher for the Elliott Museum and the House of Refuge.

Mr. Luckhardt, also a Stuart Heritage Museum board member, began collecting and producing digital copies of vintage photos, postcards, yearbook pages, business cards, advertisements and memorabilia from the Stuart Heritage Museum and the Elliott.

He also gathered local newspaper articles, social events and obituaries from the reels of microfilm at the Blake Library, many dating back to 1913, in order that they may all be compiled in a searchable digital format, which he named, "The Digital Community Scrapbook."

"By collecting, recording, and sharing Martin County's history, Alice and Greg have fostered an appreciation of our unique heritage and the benefits of preserving it," said Rice, during the awards presentation, "and it is encouraging to know that young people, such as our Student Essay Contest winner, Mariyah Smith, are inspired by the history of their ancestors and are willing to share their story with us." ■

LECTURE AND TOUR OF THE BURN BRAE PLANTATION PLANNED

The Burn Brae Plantation historic house, built by Rudolph and Annie Krueger in 1904 and restored by their great-granddaughter, Anne Krueger Stimmell, and her husband, Bill Stimmell, will be the subject of a free Stuart Heritage program at the Lyric Theatre on Tuesday, Nov. 12.

The house also will be open for a tour on Nov. 16 that includes a trolley ride from and a tour of the historic feed store that houses the museum with the purchase of a \$15 ticket, as part of Stuart's Centennial celebration. The Stuart Heritage Museum, 161 SW Flagler Ave, in the old feed store, is hosting the special event from 10 am to 3 pm.

The public will be able to board a trolley car at the museum and travel to the Burn Brae Plantation, which has been the family home for various Krueger family members since it was built. Anne and Billy Stimmell have lived in the Krueger house for more than a decade, but they spent several years restoring the house, which began in 1997.

The tour will be conducted by many of the Krueger family members. Visitors will be returned by trolley to the museum, where refreshments and a tour of the historic 1901 building housing the museum will be offered.

Tickets are available at the Museum Monday-Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm. Phone (772) 220-4600.

WINDOW ART AUCTION PLANNED AT APOLLO SCHOOL NOV. 16

Visitors to the freshly renovated Apollo School in Hobe Sound during the Historic Preservation Month open house on Oct. 12 commented

often, "I cannot believe how beautiful this building is."

Sharing the attention and a torrent of positive comments was Kathy Spurgeon, president of the Apollo School Foundation, who has steered the project over the past 16 years of fund raising

and grant writing to its near-completion today. The next fundraiser will be Saturday, Nov. 16 for landscaping and other "niceties."

"I just couldn't be happier with the way the building renovation has turned out," Spurgeon said. "Look at these windows and this gorgeous floor....and to think that I walked on these very boards when I was a child."

Another tour and open house will be Saturday, Nov. 16, when the historic two-room schoolhouse will be open to the public for a cheese-and-wine event, which will include a most unusual art auction.

"We have taken the original windows from the school and given them to selected local artists to create their art on the windows," she says. The artists include Dan Mackin, Nadia Utto, Cynthia Cooper, April Davis, James Hook, Carol Kepp, Carey Chen, Tess Dirks, and Chris Perez.

The school's renovation was financed through fund-raisers, local donations, and a historic preservation grant provided by the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, assisted by the Florida Historical Commission. Some of the donors and the contractors who have worked on the project will be recognized at the open house.

"Please plan to join your friends for an evening of wine, music and art at the Night at the Apollo," Spurgeon said. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at www.ApolloSchool.org. The school is at 9141 SE Apollo Street in Hobe Sound.



MY NOMINATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IS ...

By Mariyah Smith, 5th Grade Student

Hobe Sound Elementary School

Willie Elwood Pettway born 1903 in Chatham, Alabama, to Annie Mae Pettway Pinder was a remarkable pioneer to Martin County. Willie along with his mother and other three siblings moved to Martin County in 1929. At the tender age of 21, Willie began to build his empire. He became the first African-American businessman in the Gomez (north Hobe Sound) community. He owned several acres, a trucking company and a grocery store.

Willie owned a flatbed truck, which he used to build his first venture. He would haul shovels, shell rock and yellow sand for other business owners. Willie also farmed land in the area which is known today as Loblolly. He paved the driveway and parking lot of another historical business here in Hobe Sound known as Algozzini. Willie was a hard-working man.

Willie was a landowner of more than 70 acres located today on Powerline Road, which is still owned by his children that are still living, Alice, Annie Mae, Hazel, Samuel and Jack. Back then he purchased land for as low as 25 cents, which isn't much today but was a lot then. When he passed away in 1951 at the early age of 48, his Mattie had no choice but to sell some of the land in other areas to support their 14 children.

Pettway Grocery located on Pettway Street in Gomez was also something accomplished by Willie Pettway before his death. He built the brick building with his two sons Samuel and Sonny. He taught his children how important it was to work hard. The store was the first black owned grocery store in Martin County. They carried sodas, meat and were famous for their penny cookies which were the size of Moon Pies. Pettway Grocery still stands today and is operated by Annie Mae, Willie's daughter, who is also my great-grandma. The grocery store has been in business for over 70 years. It is the same building, floor, and counter. The roof was replaced by Duren Roofing Co. two years ago.

I, Mariyah Smith, nominate Willie E. Pettway to the Martin County Historic Preservation Board because he was more than a historic person but an inspiration to me. He was my great-great-grandfather which makes me want to accomplish things he did and more. To me he's like my hero. While researching Willie Pettway I learned a lot about my family history and my community.



A proud essay contest winner Mariyah Smith, a fifth grade student at Hobe Sound Elementary School, is congratulated by Stuart Mayor Eula Clark and Martin County Commissioner Doug Smith.

WINE, WOMEN & SHOES (Clothing, Handbags, Jewelry & Gifts, too!) EVENT

Celebrating
**JUNO SHOE GIRL BOUTIQUE'S
1ST ANNIVERSARY & OPENING**
of Our New Glass House

THURSDAY NOV. 14 • 1-8 P.M.

Light Faire Menu, Surprise Sales, Raffle, Gifts for the First 20 to arrive



**Regular Hours:
Tuesday-Saturday
10am - 6pm**

11766 SE Dixie Hwy
(Just south of Bridge Road)
Hobe Sound

**SHOES, CLOTHING,
HANDBAGS & JEWELRY BY:**

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| • Nina Gelardi | • Jon Josef |
| • Sacha London | • Charles David |
| • Lola Sabbia | • Palm Beach Sandal |
| • Patricia Green | • Shoes By Paige |
| • Escapada | • Kaeli Smith |
| • Matchpoint | • Atelier 5 |



COME JOIN THE FUN!

772-675-4877

IRSC President: Martin County's 2008 vision still relevant

The keynote speaker, Dr. Edwin Massey, president of Indian River State College, reminded business leaders at the Business Development Board Annual Awards Luncheon at Mariner Sands Country Club in September that Martin County created its vision for the future five years ago.

A multi-county, multi-agency Life Sciences, Research and Technology Accord was signed in September 2008 by all the cities, all the county commissions, every school board, every Chamber of Commerce, every college and university, and every economic development agency in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties, "now known as the Research Coast," Massey told the gathering of Martin County business leaders and government officials.

They had assembled at the country club to honor some of the county's premier businesses for their entrepreneurship, leadership and service to the community.

"I put it on my desk; I still have it on my desk today," he said, "because the framework that we worked out at that time is relevant today."

He urged attendees to get a copy if they don't have one and to refer to it often, because the accord addresses lifestyles, high-tech and emerging technologies, manufacturing, and commercialization of products.

"Are any those not relevant?" he asked.

He said he's used the accord as a blueprint for IRSC's direction for its facilities, programs, involvement in second and post-secondary education, in entrepreneurship and business resources, including the services of the IRSC Entrepreneurial Development Institute on the Chastain Campus in Stuart, and the free resources of the Business Resource Center.

Massey said that paying attention to product development and establishing a company vision were the keys to success, and he used the days that you decide "to catch up" as an example of losing focus.

"What happens?" he asked. "You proba-

bly didn't get anything accomplished, because you didn't have a plan for that day, you didn't have a vision."

The vision for Martin County and for economic development is powerful, he continued.

"Vision creates energy," Massey explained. "If you have a vision for the day, you're going to create energy to do it, and energy creates passion. Passion leads to success."

He encouraged his audience to stay focused on the vision and on the product, because it's too easy to get bogged down in processes, regulations, policies and structure, which in the absence of vision, leads to failure.

AWARDS PRESENTED

A bit of levity was introduced when the law group Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith was named the Character Counts Award winner.

"You mean a lawyer won a character award?" was a common quip among the luncheon tables. "Only in Martin County could that happen."

When the list of accolades and accomplishments by the Stuart law firm was read, however, it was clear why the attorneys were chosen for the award that is given in partnership with United Way and Character Counts!

The 85-year-old firm actively embodies the pillars of Character Counts!, particularly in its dedication to the support of nonprofit organizations that benefit children and families in need. In Martin County, LLL&S supports the Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast, United Way of Martin County, Molly's House, Whole Child Connection, Healthy Start Coalition, Tykes and Teens, The Education Foundation of Martin County, Martin Health Foundation and others.



Dr. Edwin Massey, president of IRSC



Jeff Leslie, ITS Fiber



Julian Andrews, Coaxicom



P.J. Anson, STS Aviation Group

Managing partner Gary Lesser, who accepted the award, credits his grandfather—firm founder Joseph Lesser—with inspiring his belief in community service.

"When I was young my grandfather shared something with me that has guided my entire life," Lesser said. "He told me everyone is born in debt—debt to their family, to their community, their church or synagogue and to their country...We have a whole lifetime to pay off that debt, and a life of giving back is a lifetime well spent."

OTHER BDB BUSINESS APPRECIATION AWARDS INCLUDED:

Business of the Year: TURBOCOMBUSTOR TECHNOLOGY



TurboCombustor Technology, dba Paradigm Precision, a DPG Company specializes in the complex fabrication of gas



BDB Executive Director Tim Dougher, left, presents the Business of the Year Award to Gary Bennett, Precision Paradigm, along with emcee Bob Brunjes, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers.



Dr. Edwin Massey, president of IRSC, receives the Charlene Hoag Award from the previous year's winner, Taryn Kryzda, on right. On the left are Beth Gaskin, the new provost at IRSC, and Patty Alan, the previous provost at IRSC, standing next to Dr. Massey.



Gary Lesser, of Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith, with Angela Hoffman, executive director of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce, who nominated the firm for the Character Counts! award. Photo: Jennifer Ahern.

turbine engine parts. Their core capabilities include laser services, air flow measurement, thermal coatings, electrical discharge machining and TCT BLAST(tm). They provide these services for gas turbine engines used in commercial aviation, military aviation, power generation, the marine industry, rotary wing and unmanned aerial vehicles. www.tct-inc.com.

Business Expansion: ITS FIBER

 ITS Fiber, a subsidiary of ITS Telecommunications Systems, Inc. (ITS Telecom), provides business level communications services including metro level broadband, data, voice, and managed IT services. They have served residences and businesses in Western Martin County and Indiantown since the 1930s. With the 2010 completion of their 100% underground, redundant fiber-optic network and the opening of the ITS Fiber Data Center in 2013, ITS has grown from being a local service provider to a forward-thinking communications and technology company. www.fiber.com

Export Excellence: COAXICOM COMPONENTS

 Coaxial Components Corp., also known globally as Coaxicom, began manufacturing at its Florida facility in 1984. Coaxicom offers a broad line of SMA, SSMA, 3.5mm, BNC, N and TNC, as well as 50 & 75 ohm snap, screw and slide-on SMB, SMC and SSMB. Its selection of in-stock inter- and intra-series adapters; attenuators; terminations; phase adjusters; torque wrenches and cable assemblies allow quick delivery. Custom products, specifically designed and engineered to customers' specifications are produced in the Florida facility. www.coaxicom.com

Entrepreneurship: STS AVIATION GROUP

 Since its inception in 1985, STS Aviation Group has been growing and changing to meet the ever-evolving needs of the aerospace industry. Originally a small company based in Reno, Nev., they are now in Jensen Beach and one of the industry's leading providers of aerospace staffing, engineering services, aircraft components supply chain management and line maintenance. www.stsaviationgroup.com

New Business of the Year: TATTOO YACHTS

 The owners of Tattoo Yachts, LLC, have been the overseas distributors for MacGregor sailboats since 1990, and have exported thousands of boats. They owned the UK dealership for almost 20 years, which was one of the highest volume MacGregor dealerships in the world. Tattoo Yachts, LLC is a new boatbuilding company in Martin

County. This has been in the works for some time, and they have already built tooling for a 22' power sailer. www.tattooyachts.com

Charlene Hoag Award: DR. EDWIN MASSEY

The Charlene Hoag award is presented each year to an individual whose characteristics include devotion to family and vocation, commitment to service to the community and leadership toward the goal of improving our quality of life. "Dr. Massey demonstrates these leadership characteristics," said Tim Dougher, executive director of the BDB, "and he shares Charlene's commitment to involvement in the community." ■



Martin County's business report

The Business Development Board of Martin County is the county's official economic development organization and Enterprise Florida, Inc. partner. In its annual report, Executive Director Tim Dougher announced nine relocation and expansion projects with 443 new direct jobs and more than \$20 million capital investment in Martin County. These companies purchased or leased more than 171,000 square feet of existing vacant space.

"The pipeline continues to grow," Dougher says, "and our team, which includes Jill Marasa and Jennifer DuBey, is currently working on 52 company expansions or relocation projects."

Training grants were expanded for Martin County businesses through the assistance of BDB staff with the application process. Four companies were awarded training grants that totaled \$369,000 through the state of Florida.

For a complete annual report, or for more information about the organization visit www.bdbmc.org.

National recognition came again to Dr. Edwin R. Massey, president of

Indian River State College, on Oct. 4 when he received the highest chief executive officer award presented by the National Association of Community College Trustees, a nonprofit educational organization of governing boards representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees of community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States and beyond.

Massey holds a Ph.D. Degree in zoology with a concentration in marine biology and was selected from among more than 1,200 state and community college presidents. He was awarded the Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Officer Award during the association's leadership conference in Seattle. Massey was previously named a finalist for the award after being named the Southern Regional CEO of the Year in August.

Hired by IRSC as a biology professor in 1973, Massey was named president and CEO in 1988. He has received national acclaim for the school's high-tech curriculum, facilities and cutting edge innovations, yet keeping tuition costs low.

Cardinal Cleaning

with
ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS
Call 772.245.0437

HOME • OFFICE • NEW CONSTRUCTION

Insured and Background Verified

PUT YOUR \$\$

WHERE YOUR IS

Do Business With Chamber Members

Presented By: the Council of Chambers of Martin County



Elite Salon & Gallery

Clients of the Elite Salon & Gallery in Hobe Sound say they are impressed with its new location next to the Old Dixie Cafe North on Federal Highway in Hobe Sound, because they are surrounded by original works of art.



"I just think the artwork is displayed so much better here," said Bobbi Bernardini, who had stopped in for a hair color touch-up and a pedicure. "We can enjoy it so much more."

Elite client Bobbi Bernardini is a good sport about being photographed while getting toes and roots touched up at the Elite Salon.



For 14 years, the Elite Salon has been a full-service salon comprising hair stylists, nail technicians and cosmetic professionals to provide residents and visitors with non-surgical facelifts, liposuction, facials and other healing therapies along with hair care, waxing and nail services—all within an art gallery.



Michigan snowbird Wanda Robinson, hair stylist at Elite Salon.

Hair stylist Wanda Robinson has been a stylist for 47 years of her life. "I love it," she says. "There's just nothing else I'd rather do." This is her "third season" at Elite, she says, as she is a snowbird herself, traveling each year between Michigan and Hobe Sound. Her specialties include perms, color, short cuts and swingy styles, as well as updos.



Elite hair stylist and nail technician Melinda McKin.

Hair stylist Miranda McKin, whose beautiful skin is cared for by Taryn at the Elite Salon, has been at the salon for more than three years. She specializes in color, highlights, long hair, young styles and updos, and is a nail technician, as well.



Chloe Poston, the daughter of Elite hair stylist Melinda McKin, gets pressed into service to help make signs announcing the new location of Elite Salon & Gallery next door to the Old Dixie Cafe North on Federal Highway in Hobe Sound.

Formerly located on Bridge Road at the A1A intersection, the Elite Salon & Gallery carries the works of renowned artist Robin Lee Makowski, (as well as signed, numbered and limited edition giclee reproductions and lithographs), the African works of artist K Mayr Britton, as well as work by local artists, including Suzanne Briley, all of which are for sale.



"Bounty," a watercolor by Robin Lee Makowski.

THE ARTWORK

Watercolorist Robin Lee Makowski, Art Studio coordinator at the Elliott Museum on Hutchinson Island, is a well known professional artist who teaches painting and print making. Her luminous paintings evoke the lushness of a tropical climate.

The paintings of Hobe Sound artist and author Suzanne Briley are as full of fun as she is, bringing a light note to the gallery's walls.



Taryn Stamm's private office displays the original paintings (none of which will be reproduced or printed as lithographs or giclee prints) of Jupiter Island buildings by Hobe Sound artist Suzanne Briley.

Taryn Stamm, licensed in both Florida and California, is a medical aesthetician, master facial specialist, makeup and airbrush artist, and facial and body-waxing expert. She takes

miles off faces, and has a private room within the salon to work her miracles. She performs non-surgical facelifts (micro current), medical peels (Jessners, TCA and salicylic), resurfacing treatments (glycolic, lactic, pumpkin, AHA, peptide, enzyme), age and/or sun spot removal treatments, skin firming/wrinkle reduction treatments, skin tag or mole removal, and provides customized facial treatments, acne treatments, rosacea/eczema/sensitive skin treatments and non-surgical liposuction.



The artwork, jewelry and gifts give Elite Salon & Gallery a distinctive ambiance.



GIFTS

Beautiful jewelry, scented essential oil soaps, and an array of hair care products make the perfect hostess gift or stocking stuffer this holiday season.



"Perfect Pair" by K Mayr Britton.

The work of K Mayr Britton dominates the Elite Gallery with true-to-life African scenes. You can almost hear the drumbeats of the African bush.



Nina Gelardi, owner of Juno Shoe Girl in Hobe Sound, getting ready to move her signature shoe ornaments into The Glass House.

Juno Shoe Girl in Hobe Sound has a lot to celebrate during its first anniversary party Nov. 14. "We're expanding our inventory,"

says owner Nina Gelardi, "and we're expanding our space."

The "Wine, Women & Shoes" (and handbags, jewelry, and gifts) event will be from 1-8 p.m. with gifts for the first 20 guests to arrive. All attendees can partake of wine, appetizers, and raffles throughout the day as they shop.

Gelardi is hosting one of her now-famous parties to celebrate the renovation of the historic greenhouse attached to the same building owned by Michelle and Adrian Reed, at 11766 SE Dixie Highway in Hobe Sound, just south of Bridge Road on A1A.

"This greenhouse was here on the grounds before the buildings were built," Gelardi says. "I saw a photo of it in Paula Cooper's 'History of Hobe Sound,' but it needed extensive renovation before anyone could use it."

A new coating of polyurea on the roof, some new wood, and Gelardi now has ad-

ditional space to add products to her own line of designer sandals.

"We're going to add a line of Italian shoes," she says, "but we're also adding gifts, candles, dinnerware and hostess gifts. We'll be using the space to host trunk shows for guest designers, as well, but this historic building is what will make it all so very special. Can you imagine? This is the original door with the original doorknob."

She'll be getting help in the interior design and layout from Terri Paiva, who owns an arts and crafts design business in Palm City, the Beach Daisy. Many items have not yet been delivered, so The Glass House will not be fully decked out in time for the party.

"That's okay. We're still going to have it open for guests so they can enjoy it," she says, "but we're not going to call it the greenhouse anymore, because there's nothing green about it." ■



Originally a greenhouse to grow palm trees for Hobe Sound and Jupiter Island residents, the historic building will become "The Glass House" for the Juno Shoe Girl Boutique.

The Council of Chambers of Martin County has launched

a campaign to "Put your money where your heart is" by doing business with fellow chamber members. Posters, stickers, e-flyers, advertisements and social media promotions are starting to show up across Martin County, from small businesses to box stores, at cash registers, in office windows and in local publications.

"The Council of Chambers has promoted 'buy local' campaigns that encourage member-to-member business for decades," said Joe Catrambone, president of the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce. "We recently saw a need to re-vamp and re-energize our messages."

For more information, contact one of the local Martin County Chambers of Commerce; Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce at 772-546-4724 or www.hobesound.org; Indiantown Chamber of Commerce at 772-597-2184 or www.indiantownchamber.com; Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce at 772-334-3444 or www.jensenbeachchamber.biz; Palm City Chamber of Commerce at 772-286-8121 or www.palmcitychamber.com; or the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce at 772-287-1088 or www.stuartmartinchamber.org ■



The Business Development Board of Martin County

received two Silver Awards for Excellence in Economic Development from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The first award was for its Martin County "Board Meetings... Don't Have To Be Boring" Ad Campaign for communities with populations of 25,000 – 200,000.

The BDBMC also received an award in the Special Purpose Website Category for its newly designed www.yesmartinfl.com site. The honor was presented during the IEDC Annual Conference in Philadelphia during October. "The Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognizes the Business Development Board of Martin County as

being one of the leading organizations in the industry for innovation, creativity and successful strategies," said IEDC Chair Paul Krutko. "These awards are meant to honor the organizations and individuals who are dedicated to making a positive change in their communities."

"This organization uses creative solutions and inventive ideas, and offers other regions a wonderful example to learn and benefit from," Krutko added. "The award represents an acknowledgment and appreciation for the Business Development Board of Martin County's dedication to continuous growth within itself, as well as improving the industry overall."

The idea for the advertising campaign was developed by BDB staff utilizing actual Martin County CEOs for a mock "board" meeting held around a surfboard on Stuart Beach.

The BDB was also recognized with an Award of Excellence earlier in the year from the Southern Economic Development Council for the same ad campaign. ■

Send your favorite CEO...or maybe your least favorite...

to the "dog house" on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 2-4 p.m. to raise pet food and cash donations for the pets of needy seniors in Martin County. It requires a \$250 donation to send someone to the dog house, but it's for such a worthy cause.

Those "in the dog house" will in turn contact their friends and colleagues to make donations in order to have them released from the dog house, which will be located at Animal Care Extraordinaire, 987 SE Monterey Road in Stuart. Pet food donations will be distributed to low-income, homebound seniors who receive Meals on Wheels through the Council on Aging of Martin County.

"For many seniors, their pets are their only family and their beloved daily companions," said Cathy Knowles, manager of Meal Services for the Council. "Those who are on limited incomes often struggle to buy pet food. We want to ensure that the seniors and their pets receive proper nutrition."

Each year, Stuart veterinarians, Dr. Ronald Ball and Dr. Wayne Diamond of Animal Care Extraordinaire, collect pet food donations for the pets of needy seniors. The veterinarians will take turns in the Dog House with the goal of exceeding last year's donations of one ton of dog food and \$1,400 in contributions.

The teens of the Boys and Girls Club's Keystone Club will also be at the event, selling hotdogs, snacks and beverages to benefit their own program, "Hope for the Homeless." ■

Palm City Fall Fest: a great day for family fun!

Each year, the Palm City Fall Fest gets bigger and better. More than 4,000 residents, friends and family agreed as they gathered at the Col. Justin Wilson Park on Saturday, Oct. 26, for the fifth annual festival hosted by the Palm City Chamber of Commerce.

"We were delighted with the beautiful weather," said Carolyn Davi, Chamber executive director, "the smiling throngs of children and their families and friends, wonderful entertainment, gracious vendors, and terrific car show participants."

That just about wraps up the entire day, except that Davi also acknowledge the support and help that came from the Martin County Parks Department staff, the Martin County Sheriff's Department deputies, the "outstanding" Palm City Chamber board members, and Chamber volunteers whose sweat equity made the event possible.



Lisa and Michael Knapp, parents of Emily and Kara.



The booth by the Presenting Sponsor, Lively Orthodontics of Stuart.



Tug of War in the Children's area.
All Photos: Swan Photography

Activities included pumpkin decorating, face painting, fun and games in a children's activities area; a vintage car show; numerous

vendors who featured arts, crafts, massages, delicious treats, food and drinks, and more. The presenting sponsor was Dr. Mark

Lively, of Lively Orthodontics P.A. in Stuart, and to see a complete list of sponsors, go to www.palmcitychamber.com. ■

Inspiring kick-off for Palm City Chamber Adopt-A-Class

Guest speaker for the Palm City Chamber's annual Adopt-A-Class Kick-Off Breakfast, Pastor Tom Mullins, Ph.D., founder of the Christ Fellowship Church, was so inspired by the program that aids Martin County teachers that he donated \$1,000 each to Martin County High and South Fork High school teachers. More than \$44,000 has been raised thus

far this year from local businesses, chamber members and individual donors, which was dispersed to school principals by Adopt-A-Classroom Co-Founder Barbara Essenwine during the meeting at Sand Hill Cove on Sept. 25. The Adopt-A-Classroom fee is \$200 per class for teachers to use to enhance the educational experience in their own classrooms. "Our very generous community has al-

lowed us to continue this program for the past 22 years," said Carolyn Davi, executive director of the Palm City Chamber, "and we have raised more than \$1.2 million for the wonderful teachers in Martin County schools over that time period."

In his address, Mullins shared the moving life stories of some of the children he has helped through the Christ Fellowship

Church, one of the largest in the United States, inspiring a standing ovation at its conclusion from the 130 Chamber members and guests who attended.

Donations to the Palm City Chamber Adopt-A-Class program are still being accepted for this school year. Visit www.palmcitychamber.com, or call the Palm City Chamber office at 772-286-8121. ■

One heck of a surprise for Palm City's Carolyn Davi

Astounded Carolyn Davi, of the Palm City Chamber of Commerce, greeted here by former Chamber President Nick DiTerlizzi, walked into a surprise party at Piper's Landing Yacht Club on Oct. 16 organized to celebrate her 25 years as the Chamber's executive director. More than 120 friends, neighbors and colleagues attended.

"When I got out of my car and saw who was walking through the parking lot," said Ed Ciampi, former chair of the Martin County Commission, "I was really impressed at the kinds of people who know...and care about Carolyn, and would take time out of their lives to come here....It speaks to the breadth of her influence."

A Who's Who of former and current



Former Chamber President Nick DiTerlizzi with Carolyn Davi, executive director of the Palm City Chamber. Photos: Swan Photography

local, state and federal politicians, as well as business executives, CEOs, chamber executives and other public officials and personal friends, filled the yacht club lobby for a buffet and drinks as former chamber presidents extended "gentle" remarks for a woman who prefers to keep out of the limelight as she works to promote Chamber objectives, grow membership and to grow the businesses of Chamber members.

"I'm telling you," said Chamber President Mike DiTerlizzi, "being Chamber president is the easiest job in the world. All you need to do is to say, 'Yes, Carolyn. Yes, Carolyn. You don't even need to stop watching the football game...just say, Yes, Carolyn.'"

The most touching tribute came from

Toby Oberdorf, who credited his company's success to Davi's personal attention and promotion among Chamber members.

"I cannot thank her enough," he said. "My family and I owe everything to her." ■

PALM CITY CHAMBER'S NEWEST MEMBERS



**East-West
International Trade, Inc.**

Stasha French
901 SW Martin Downs Blvd.
Palm City
(772) 426-9919, Ext. 154
Eastwest_stasha@bellsouth.net



**Livingston
GlassWorks, LLC**

Brian Livingston
3508 SW Armellini Ave., #4
Palm City
(772) 631-2491
www.Livingstonglassworks.com



JClee Realtor

Jeffrey Clee
1161 SW Pine Tree Lane, Ste 100
Palm City
(772) 634-0123
JCleeRealtor@cs.com

PALM CITY CHAMBER CALENDAR

THURSDAY MORNING SOCIAL, NOV. 14

Keiser University College of Golf
Speakers: Julie Snyder, Sports Medicine,
Fitness Technology, Exercise Science
Dr. Eric Wilson, executive director of
golf operations, PGA Master Professional
1860 Fountain View Blvd.
Port St. Lucie
8 to 9 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20

Breakfast with Benefits - 7:30 to 9 a.m.
"Special Networking Event"
Martin Downs Golf Club
3801 SW Greenwood Way, Palm City
Sponsor: Costco Wholesale, Inc.
\$20 admission

THURSDAY MORNING SOCIAL, NOV. 21

Children's Home Society of the
Treasure Coast
Sabrina Barnes, Executive Director
1532 SW Mapp Road, Palm City
8 to 9 a.m.



The Toots Armellini Businessperson of the Year Award went to Nick Blount, of FPL, second from right. Presenters included, from left, Joe Catrambone, Judy Armellini Dusharm, Richard Armellini, Sarah Armellini, and Chamber Chair Michael Dadko, far right.



The Chairman's Award was presented to Elliot Paul, Elliot Paul & Associates, for his outstanding service to the community. From left, President Joe Catrambone, Elliot Paul, and Chair Michael Dadko.

Stuart/Martin Chamber ends year with awards

Nick Blount, external affairs manager at FPL, naturally spends much of his time in public arenas, but his above-the-norm commitment to his community was recognized in October by the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce when he was tapped as the 2013 Business Person of the Year.

Blount and other award recipients were recognized Oct. 5 at the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce Annual Installation and Awards Dinner at Mariner Sands Golf & Country Club in Hobe Sound.

The Business Person of the Year Award was renamed this year to "Toots" Armellini Business Person of the Year Award in honor of the late Toots Armellini's years of service and contributions to the Chamber and to the Martin County business community, as a whole.

Mrs. Sarah Armellini, their daughter, Judy Dusharm, and son Richard Armellini were special Chamber guests at the dinner.

The Chairman's award went to Elliot Paul, Elliot Paul & Associates, the Lifetime Achievement Award to retired CEO Ken Ferguson, and the Ambassador of the Year Award went to Lisa Satur, of Harbor Com-



The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to retired CEO Ken Ferguson. From left, President Joe Catrambone, Ferguson, and Chair Michael Dadko.

munity Bank, all of which were presented by Chairman Michael Dadko, UBS/Sailfish Wealth Management Group.

Joe Catrambone, president/CEO of the Chamber, presented the President's Award to Bill Barrett, Gator PC, for his dedica-

tion and support to the community and to the Chamber.

Other recognitions included: former Chamber Chair Tom Vokoun, AECOM, presented with a Chairman's Recognition plaque for his outstanding year; Shaun Plymale, Chapman & Plymale Law, P.A. and to Kevin Powers, Indiantown Realty, for their years of service.

The Honorable Judge Darren Steele installed the 2013/2014 officers and directors,

including: Chairman John O'Brien, Gulfstream Aluminum & Shutter Corp.; Chair-Elect Pete Lashenka, Seacoast National Bank; Vice Chairman Ryan Strom, Team Parks, Inc.; Vice Chairman Janice Norman, Century 21 IRP Realty/Norman Page Team; and Past Chairman Michael Dadko, UBS/Sailfish Wealth Management Group.

Directors are David Armellini, Armellini Express Line, Inc.; Lynne Barletta, Visionary School of Arts; William G. Carson, Forward Electric & Air Conditioning; Miguel Coty, Martin Health System; Rob Gluckman, Esq., Treasure Coast Urgent & Family Care; Robin Hicks-Connors, RHC Fundraising Consultants, LLC; Donald Mader, Southeastern Printing; Elliot Paul, Elliot Paul & Company; Stacy Ranieri, The Firefly Group; David Smith, Galaxy Aviation of Stuart; Linda Weiksnar, Esq.; and Cray Buchanan PA.

Ex-Officio Directors include Treasurer Gordon Proctor, Proctor, Crook, Crowder & Fogal CPAs; Paul Nicoletti, Stuart City Manager; Doug Smith, Martin County Commissioner; Laurie Gaylord Martin County School Board; Beth Gaskin, Indian River State College and President/CEO Joseph A. Catrambone.

For more information about the chamber, contact info@stuartmartinchamber.org or call (772) 287-1088, or go to www.stuartmartinchamber.org. ■



Lisa Satur, of Harbor Community Bank, was selected the Ambassador of the Year for the Chamber, and the award was presented by Chair Michael Dadko.



Chamber President Joe Catrambone, left, presented the President's Award to Bill Barrett, of Gator PC, for exceptional community and Chamber service.

Operation Thank You in Stuart

Operation Thank You kicks off Tuesday, Nov. 5, at the Stuart Martin County Chamber with a breakfast at 7:45 a.m.

The event, which will continue through Friday, is an annual "celebration of appreciation" to thank Chamber members and survey their business needs, according to a Chamber press release.

The new 2013/2014 Welcome Guide and Business Directory will be delivered with goody bags containing assorted promotional items and information from Chamber members. The breakfast is sponsored by Seacoast National Bank. For more information, call 772-287-1088 x111, or email lisat@stuartmartinchamber.org.

Personal chef Chris Trovitch, left, of the Ale House, and Indiantown resident Bob Aker, center, both spent two afternoons grilling ribeyes and hot dogs for the VIP ticket holders, including Martin County Commissioner John Haddox, far right. "My reason for being here?" said Akers, in answer to a question. "I live next door to David Powers, and he said, 'Whatya're doin' Friday night?' So, here I am."



Sewall's Point Commissioner Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch and her husband, Ed, enjoy a change of pace from their St. Lucie River activism.



FPL's
Nick Blount

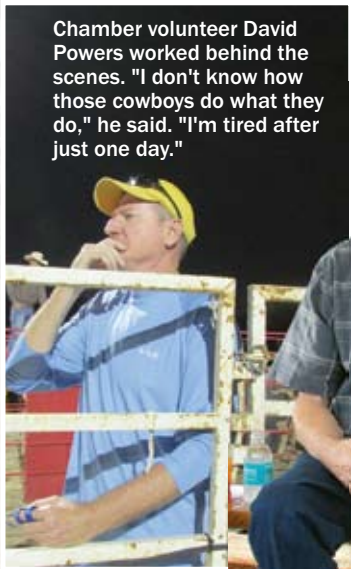


Special guest Patricia Moody, in white shirt, who sang and signed the Star-Spangled Banner on Saturday, wanted a photo with the rodeo queens, including Hilary McKeich, far right, executive director of the iTown Chamber of Commerce.

Carl Newton,
Seacoast National Bank



Chamber volunteer David Powers worked behind the scenes. "I don't know how those cowboys do what they do," he said. "I'm tired after just one day."



Shawn Kell,
iTown Chamber
president



And the most beautiful
princess of all? Carli
Watson of Indiantown.

Indiantown's
Art Matson



RODEO!

Presenting sponsor Seacoast National Bank provided a sea of Seacoast green and lots of volunteers, including, from right, Mary Lopopolo, Eileen Hatt and Larry Lopopolo at the ticket booth.



Photographer Matt Stone surveys the crowd.



More American than apple pie, the Indiantown Rodeo at Timer Powers Park sponsored by the iTown Chamber of Commerce roared into town Oct. 25-26, creating family memories and spine-tingling performances for thousands.

The family of fallen soldier, Army Staff Sgt. Justin Johnson of Hobe Sound, was honored for the 24-year-old's sacrifice during opening ceremonies Friday night.

Saturday night's dedication to Americans with Disabilities included Patricia Moody's touching rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, leaving many in the audience with teary eyes and responding with a standing ovation.

It would not be the only time the crowd came to their feet with exciting exhibitions of traditional cowboy skills, including riding bucking broncos, or one-ton, bulls...that is, trying to ride them....for eight, breathless seconds.

If you were not in Indiantown that weekend, you missed an event to remember. Mark your calendars now for Oct. 17-18, 2014, so you won't make that same mistake again.

Singer Brooke Eden, right, poses for a photo with Grace Hulen, daughter of Dan and Amy Hulen.



Debbi
Denning



Smithsonian Exhibit at Elisabeth Lahti Library

As the word begins to trickle out to the rest of the county that a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit has been installed at the Elisabeth Lahti Library, residents are beginning to make the trek to Indiantown to experience it.

"I'm just a history buff," said Wayne Friese of Hobe Sound, who went to Indiantown on Oct. 19, opening day of the Journey Stories exhibition. Free to the public, it will remain in Indiantown until Nov. 30.

"When I think of how hard Lewis and Clark had it when they explored this country," Friese said, then paused, "actually, how hard all of our ancestors had it when they came here, I'm just amazed."

The Journey Stories exhibit was funded by grants from the Florida Humanities Council along with local funding from the Arts Foundation of Martin County and Women Supporting the Arts.

"There had to be a local partner," said Vi Nichols, a member of Women Supporting the Arts, "which would create their own local 'journey stories' to become part of the main exhibit." The library fulfilled that obligation



Wayne Friese of Hobe Sound, left, and Anne Menassian of Jensen Beach enjoy the Smithsonian Institution's Journey Stories exhibit at the Elisabeth Lahti Library in Indiantown, on display through Nov. 30.

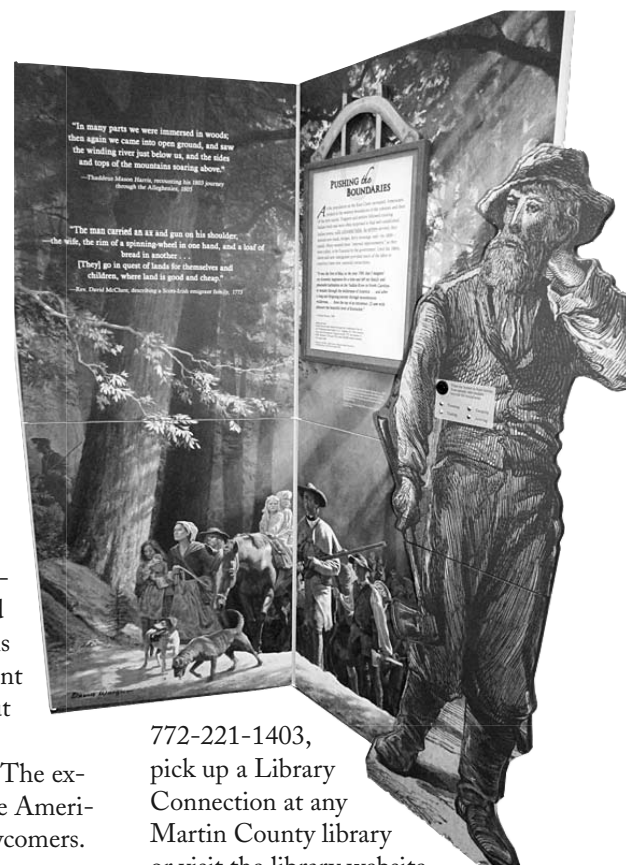
by transforming one corner of the Community Room with Indiantown students' own exhibit and journals, their prerecorded

voices telling their own stories.

The rest of the room is filled with interactive exhibits that tell the tales of how we and our ancestors came to America—from Native Americans to new American citizen. It quickly becomes clear that regardless of our ethnic or racial background, everyone has a story to tell. Simply push a button, and you'll hear it.

Events exploring the Journey Stories themes have been taking place at all Martin County libraries and will continue in the months following the Smithsonian exhibit, which does not shy away from telling not only the stories of those risking their lives and leaving behind all their possessions and their family to cross a continent or to cross an ocean, but also about those who came here without any choice, such as enslaved Africans. The exhibit also shows the lives of Native Americans pushed aside by all these newcomers.

The Elisabeth Lahti Library is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Wednesday from noon-8 p.m. To learn more about this and other Journey Stories events throughout the Martin County Library System, call



772-221-1403, pick up a Library Connection at any Martin County library or visit the library website at www.library.martin.fl.us.

Elisabeth Lahti Library is at 15200 SW Adams Ave., at the intersection of Warfield Boulevard in Indiantown. To reach the library by phone, call 772-597-4200. ■

Save THOUSANDS on your new Package Air Conditioner for Your Mobile Home!



**Current Model, New-In-The-Box
R410a, Super-Quiet, High Efficiency 13SEER
Top Shelf Manufacturer**
(Carrier and Rheem)

**10 YEAR
LIMITED PARTS
WARRANTY!**

Just One Example:

3 Ton (36,000 BTU) Cool Only **\$1,799**
3 Ton Reverse Cycle Heat Pump **\$2,149**

Professional installation available! We have negotiated for you with local licensed contractors (whom you deal with directly) an excellent \$1350 flat rate installation fee, NO LAST MINUTE SURPRISES. Includes building permit. Install it yourself and save even more! Owner/builder permits available in Martin County.

You may need some additional components (no additional labor charge): electric element **\$125**, pad up to **\$175**, programmable thermostat with wire **\$115**, duct up to **\$75/25 ft.** section, electric whip and box **\$75**, collars **\$30**, in rare cases custom sheet metal shrouds up to **\$150**.

Flagship Marine Inc.

Stuart, Florida - Since 1995
email: sales@flagshipmarine.com

For Complete Pricing
and More Detail call us:
772-283-1609
or go to our website:
www.packageairconditioning.com

Witham Field customs facility under public scrutiny

Arming residents with the facts related to the proposed customs facility at Witham Field in Stuart was undertaken over the past few weeks by an alliance of air and marine industries, as well as other businesses, interested in its potential economic benefits for Martin County.

They visited all the county's chambers of commerce and other organizations in preparation for the final vote by the Board of County Commissioners on Nov. 4 to either authorize continued pursuit of funding to build the facility, or kill the idea altogether.

Speakers at the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting Oct. 10 in support of the customs facility included Hobe Sound businessman Pat Martin, a co-founder of Preserve Martin County, Alex Beringer, president of Air Charters of Stuart, and Ike Crumpler, principal in Upstairs Communications, representing the Martin Marine-Aviation Alliance.

"A customs facility at Witham Field will be good for the economy," said Martin, "not just for Hobe Sound, but for the entire county."

The first facility of its kind anywhere in the state that will serve both aircraft and boats, the proposed facility was approved by the previous county commission in 2011, at which time the commissioners prohibited the use of any ad valorem taxes for either construction or maintenance.

"Taxpayers will not spend a dime on it," said Crumpler.

After successfully applying for an economic development grant from the Florida Department of Transportation in 2012, plus an additional \$400,000 from the county's Airport Enterprise Fund comprising aviation fees, George Stokus, airport manager, thought he had sufficient funding in place for construction.

"But the bids came in much higher, the lowest one being \$1.2 million," Crumpler added. "We are confident, though, that grant funding (for the balance) will be in place."

Following construction, operation of the facility, estimated to be \$250,000 annually, would be paid for through user fees that will be charged boaters and pilots, ranging from \$15 per passenger for boats and from \$30 to \$500 per aircraft, garnering an annual revenue estimated to be in excess of \$400,000 annually. Should the number of users be lower, however, the balance of the operational costs would be paid through the Airport Enterprise Fund.

Stuart's nearness to the Bahamas and its position on the St. Lucie Waterway allowing access to Okeechobee and the west coast of



Ike Crumpler



Alex Beringer

Florida provided impetus for US Customs/Border Patrol approval of a combined aviation/marine customs facility, according to Crumpler.

"Will this increase the use of the airport? That's a possibility, but probably only slightly,"

Crumpler said. "Anyone coming into the country must go through customs at either West Palm Beach or in Ft. Pierce, which is a major inconvenience for residents, but it also means that we lose the revenue that residents and tourists might spend on local shops, restaurants, rental cars, etc. We want to keep those dollars here in Martin County, not lose them to St. Lucie or Palm Beach counties."

Already approved to build a customs fa-

cility at Witham Field elevates its status as an international airport, according to Alex Beringer, president of Fair Wind Air Charter, positioning it better for future funding, including during such crises as the government sequester, which threatened to shut down control towers at smaller airports.

"We want the Witham Field tower to stay open," said Beringer, a member of the county's Airport Noise Advisory Committee, "not only for safety, but in order to control the air routes."

Significant noise reduction to residential neighborhoods around the airport has been the result of carefully selecting the routes pilots are to take.

"Without a tower," he added, "they chose their own route."

Being classified as an international airport, though, does not mean Witham Field will become a commercial airport with major airlines, and it will not impact its current curfew of 11 p.m.

"Witham Field is not certified for commercial aircraft," Beringer added, "so that should not be a concern (of residents)."

Purpose, passion, plan all part of 'the Sweet Spot'

Each year during the Hobe Sound Christmas Parade, residents expect to see Scott Fay, CEO and partner of Treasure Coast Irrigation/Rood Landscape, atop a John Deere, donning a cowboy hat and an ear-to-ear grin, as he joyfully leads a posse of tractors through Hobe Sound's historic downtown.

Fay was just as joyful as he stepped on stage Sept. 13 at the Mariner Sands Country Club—this time wearing a suit and tie and leaving his tractor at the shop on Bridge Road—to address the Council of Chambers luncheon, hosted by the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce.

This "son of a preacher man," Fay delivers his message similarly, so it's not a surprise that his passion for life and leadership principles led him to accept another role, vice president of the John Maxwell Team of life coaches, and to author his first book on leadership, *Discover Your Sweet Spot*, which he talked about to the gathering of business men and women from throughout Martin County.

"It's a tiny space," he said, tapping the baseball metaphor of hitting a baseball with a bat in a certain spot that gets maximum results with seemingly minimum effort.

"It's a specific place," he added. "First, we hit it by accident, then with practice, we hit it with purpose, and when we get really good, we get to learn to hit it consistently."

His message, often dotted with metaphors from the dozen landscaping businesses he's acquired over the past two decades, offered direction to not only finding that sweet spot, but living in it, by following three basic principles of understanding your purpose, discovering



Scott Fay

your passion, and devising a plan that melds both.

"If you want to live in the sweet spot where your life truly is effective, folks," Fay said, "it's just minor details."

He used his own life experiences as an example for the three leadership principles of purpose, passion and plan, pointing to the times that he'd sought other ways of making a living than landscaping, which had been his passion. He even established a

successful lawn maintenance company as a teen, which paid his way through Hobe Sound Bible College. When he sold it, his life went off course, he said, until he returned three years later to landscaping, pulling weeds for Roy Rood's 21-acre nursery in Jupiter.

Just a little more than a decade later, he purchased Roy Rood Landscaping and rolled it into the Treasure Coast Irrigation company, where he'd applied 13 core values to create the fifth-largest green company in Florida, winner this year of a national award for superior performance in a technically challenging landscape project at the historic Jupiter Inlet lighthouse.

"When you're willing to put your passion and your purpose together with a strategic plan, a plan that makes sense," he says, "now you've got your DNA, you've got your heart, your talents, your motivation, your commitment, your conviction, the things that you're willing to sacrifice for, then you'll be successful."

To find your sweet spot, Fay's book may be purchased through Amazon.com. The author also donated some of his books to the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce to sell, with those proceeds going to the chamber. For more information, call 772.546.4724. ■

POMPANO FISHING MADE EASY!



SPECIAL:

**FREE DEMO OF GCP SURF
RODS AND AKIOS REELS AS
SEEN IN FLORIDA SPORTSMAN
"GEAR AND TACKLE FORUM"**

Carolina Cast Pro Series Graphite Rods
"Cast further than you ever thought possible"

Akios Long Cast Reels
"Engineered to last and cast smoother
than any reel around"

Surf Fishing Charters
targeting POMPANO Casting
and Surf Fishing Seminars.

RICH VIDULICH. AUTHORIZED DEALER
www.pompanorich.com
richvidulich777@hotmail.com
www.carolinacastpro.com
www.akiosfishingtackle.com



HOBE SOUND CHAMBER CALENDAR

**COUNCIL OF CHAMBERS
BREAKFAST WITH
CONGRESSMAN
PATRICK MURPHY**

Monday, Nov. 4, 7:45am
Martin Downs Golf Club
3801 SW Greenwood Way, Palm City
\$25/person. RSVP Required.
Register at www.stuartmartinchamber.org

MONTHLY CHAMBER BREAKFAST

Thursday, Nov. 14, 8-9:15am
Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County
11500 SE Lares Ave., Hobe Sound
Sponsored by: Law Offices of
W. Trent Steele
Guest Speaker: Kim Waser,
Quit Doc/Tobacco Free Partnership
\$10 Members/\$15 Non-Members
Call: 772.546.4724

Residents: Zeus Park turning into trailer park?

As if a meteor had soared to earth and crashed, the arrival of a manufactured home this month on a freshly rezoned lot in a traditional Hobe Sound neighborhood of site-built homes created just as much noise, dust and drama as an otherworldly event.

It's also created cohesion and resolve by the neighbors, life-long residents and newbies alike, to protest vigorously and to fight what they consider a major threat to the character—and to the property values—of the Olympia plat homes, more commonly known as Zeus Park.

"Part of the issue is whether or not this is a 'modular' home," said Hobe Sound resident and real estate broker Mike Dooley on Oct. 23 to a packed community building at the heart of the affected neighborhood, "which I think, personally, is just a super strong mobile home."

The house is at 9211 SE Apollo Street in Hobe Sound, an approximately 95' x 65' lot, and is owned by Stuart and Jane Greenberg of Pine Tree Lane in Palm City. It arrived at its destination facing the Old Post Office Alley in two parts, on a wheeled chassis, and was promptly assembled among homes valued in the \$350,000 to \$500,000 range atop dry-stacked, hollow concrete blocks by a mobile home moving company.

The steel chassis and wheels remain attached, and the entire structure is now tied down with more than two dozen steel straps to ground anchors in what Greenberg called "a compacted, engineered" foundation. The Jacobsen-built modular home certifying construction that meets state and county hurricane standards, the home includes a roof reinforced to withstand 170 mph winds, according to permits issued by the Martin County Building Department.

Those permits are properly displayed on the property, but the site also grew a dozen or so hand-painted protest signs overnight saying, "Zeus Park is no Place for a Mobile Home" and "What were you thinking?"

County code does allow modular homes in all areas that are zoned for residences, but it also requires that homes "complement" others in the same neighborhood. A modular home on dry stacks of concrete blocks does not pass muster, many residents have said in emails to Commissioner Anne Scott.

They also have questioned the Hobe Sound Community Redevelopment Area's set of design standards, many of which, residents say, have caused great irritation and additional expense whenever they undertake exterior remodeling projects, yet they do not seem to apply to the manufactured home.

"I don't understand why these objections are coming now," said the building's owner, Stuart Greenberg, in a recent phone interview. "Why didn't anyone protest for the three months that the development signs were up?"

Greenberg was referring to the signs announcing that a zoning change was being sought for the lot, which was approved last April in a 4-1 vote of the Martin County Commission, with Ed Fielding dissenting. Upon recommendation of the Local Planning Agency, the commission changed the former, outdated business zoning to RS-5, for a single-family home. The lot is smaller than the 7,500 sq. ft. standard lot normally required by county code, but Community



The Apollo Street modular home, now tied down and red-tagged, as its owners, Stuart and Jane Greenberg of Palm City, wait for the county's ruling to begin landscaping. Photo: Barbara Clowdus

Redevelopment Area standards allow smaller lot sizes and shorter setbacks.

Greenberg also insists that Hobe Sound residents are rushing to judgment without considering what the final aesthetics of the plan will achieve: "A really pretty house with a beautifully landscaped lot," he says, "and I'd much rather spend money on landscaping than I would on a lawyer."

The home's installation was "red tagged" last week by the Building Department, stopping construction in order to bring the contractor's paperwork into county compliance and to give County Attorney Michael Durham time to review the permits and prepare a report for the county commission.

Among the questions that he will address: Does this home and its foundation meet state and county codes? Or was a mistake made by the county? Does the county have any other option to appease Zeus Park property owners while still meeting federal standards under the Fair Housing Act?

The homeowners of Olympia Plat and the Old Hobe Sound plat east of A1A decided not to wait on Durham's ruling and voted to create a neighborhood nonprofit, pool their funds and hire their own attorney, Virginia Sherlock of Stuart, to investigate and take action.

"A great win would be getting that thing out of here," Dooley told the gathering, "but a win would be to get it on a slab founda-



Protest signs were erected on the property as soon as the manufactured home was moved on site. Photo: Submitted.

tion, then we'll look down the road at how to keep any more (manufactured homes) from coming in here."

The "new" Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee, dissolved last February by the county commission, will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m. in the Hobe Sound Community Building in Zeus Park, and is open to the public. Representatives from the Community Development Department and the county attorney's office will be on hand to answer questions. ■

— Barbara Clowdus



SALT WATER DAMAGE? CHLORINE?

Go to
DEANNA
at **THE HAIR COMPANY**

EXPERT COLORIST • SAAVY STYLIST
COOL COSMETOLOGIST

MAKE-YOUR-HAIR-SHINY-AGAIN

SPECIAL \$15

Clarifying Treatment

Call for appointment
772.634.2571

9025 SE Bridge Road,
Hobe Sound

**THERE'S ONLY ONE
DEANNA ROTHGEB!**





OPEN MONDAYS FOR DINNER!

OLD DIXIE CAFE

NORTH

Come to your favorite diner for home-cooked, real food served by friendly staff in a congenial, happy place in Hobe Sound.

WE'RE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
11189 SE Federal Hwy
Regular hours: 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Beginning Sept. 9, on Monday nights too, 5-8 p.m.



Mary's Shelter provides hand-up assistance

Just when she thought she had her future figured out, 20-year-old Zilpa Mecklembourg, with a university acceptance letter in hand, discovered she was pregnant. After high school, she had decided to pursue a career in nursing, which now seemed impossible to achieve for a young woman whose family lived in another country.

"I always dreamed of becoming a nurse," she says, "and when I found out I was pregnant I thought I would have to put my dreams on hold, but Mary's Shelter provided me with the confidence and direction I needed to continue focusing on and achieving my goal."

Mary's Shelter of the Treasure Coast, a transitional home in Stuart, provides residential and non-residential services to pregnant women and their newborns in need of a supportive environment, due either to a lack of suitable housing or favorable family relationships. While caring for women in need, Mary's Shelter also prepares mothers for independent living through counseling, education and job training.

"Our residents come to us at a very difficult point in their lives," says Mary's Shelter Operations Manager Kim Martin-Gaudet, "so we work hard to keep them focused and on track."

The first Mary's Shelter opened in 1983 in West St. Paul, Minn., by founders Jan and Noel Lindsey to provide struggling, pregnant young women guidance and a healthy, safe place to stay. The need continued to grow as did Mary's Shelter, which added four more homes across the U.S., including in Stuart in 2010.

Those who visit Mary's Shelter of the Treasure Coast often express surprise at its "homey" atmosphere. A remodeled home nestled in a quiet Stuart neighborhood, the facility is equipped with a full kitchen, living room, office space, a study area, five bedrooms and two nurseries to accommodate up to 10 women.

In addition to providing a nurturing, comfortable environment, women at the

shelter have the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs to help them learn self-sufficiency skills, as well as how to parent a healthy baby.

"Before I learned about Mary's Shelter," Mecklembourg says, "I had no where to go and no one to turn to. Now I have the strength, courage and ambition to pursue my dreams and provide my daughter with a great future."

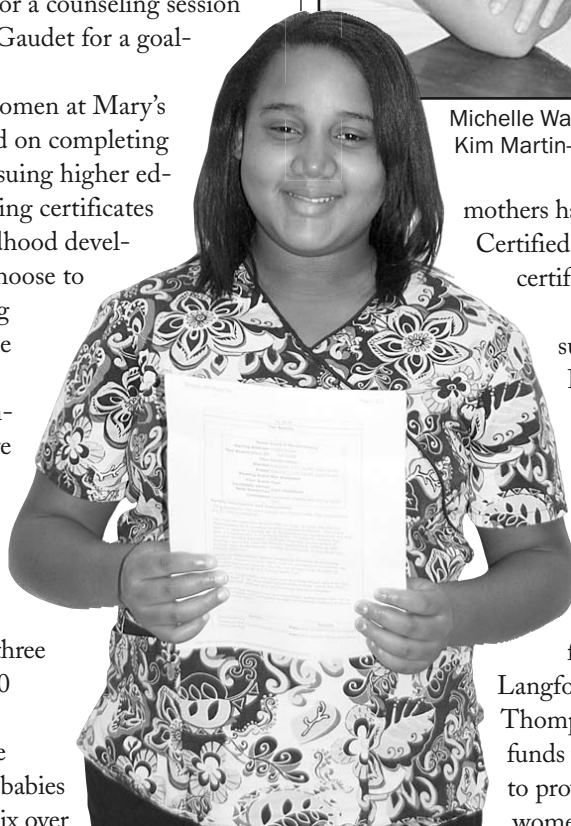
Programs offered through Mary's Shelter include job readiness workshops, health and wellness programs, credit and budgeting, breastfeeding classes and mental health counseling. Each week all residents meet with Mary's Shelter Executive Director Gina Thompson for a counseling session and with Martin-Gaudet for a goal-planning session.

Some of the women at Mary's Shelter are focused on completing their GED or pursuing higher education and receiving certificates in nursing or childhood development. Others choose to receive job training through Workforce Solutions Youth Connections to enable them to secure jobs with reputable businesses and organizations throughout Martin County.

Over the past three years, more than 70 women have been helped through the shelter, 27 healthy babies have been born—six over the past six months—and all of the mothers assisted have left the shelter as stronger, more independent women, according to Thompson. Also in the past six months, three mothers have earned their GEDs, and two



Michelle Watkins, left, meets with Mary's Shelter Operations Manager Kim Martin-Gaudet to plan for her future by defining and setting goals.



Stuart resident Zilpa Mecklembourg received her Certified Nurse Assistant certification in August with the help of Mary's Shelter in Stuart.

mothers have received their Certified Nursing Assistant certifications.

Those kinds of successes led to a Frances Langford Foundation grant of \$12,500 recently awarded to the local charity.

"We are so grateful to have received this grant from the Frances Langford Foundation," Thompson adds. "The funds will help us continue to provide pregnant women in need with a healthy and stable living environment until they get back on their feet."

There is no monetary fee for women to stay at Mary's Shelter, which is entirely dependent on sales from the Mary's Shelter Thrift Store on Colorado

Avenue in Stuart, charitable contributions and grant funding. Instead of a fee, residents are enrolled in a point system that reinforces education on budgeting, while allowing them to pay for rent, food and supplies for their babies. Points are earned in place of cash by successfully completing volunteer hours, shared shelter chores, or completing hours at their place of work.

In August, Mecklembourg successfully completed the certified nursing assistant program through Paramount Training.

"Now that I'm a CNA, I can gain experience in the medical field," she says, "and once my baby is born and the time is right, I will be able to take the next step and further my education to one day become a nurse."

For more information about Mary's Shelter, or to learn about how you can help the organization, contact Gina Thompson at 772-223-5000 or visit www.maryssheltertc.org. The Thrift Store, open six days a week, may be reached at 772.220.7888. ■

—Evelyn Lespinasse
Special to Currents



**NO JOB TOO BIG
OR TOO SMALL!**

STEVEN LOFSTEDT
Lawn Service

**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
LICENSED • INSURED**

772.781.1022 • Stuart

Annual golf tournament to aid Mary's Shelter

Mary's Shelter of the Treasure Coast will host its fourth annual golf tournament at Willoughby Golf Club on Dec. 13. A unique aspect of this year's event is that if a lucky player scores a hole in one, they will drive off with a brand new Audi or Infiniti sponsored by Audi Stuart and Infiniti Stuart.

Last year the sellout crowd raised more than \$48,000 to benefit the organization with programs focused on positively impacting the lives of homeless, pregnant women throughout the Treasure Coast.

The tournament includes a full round of golf at Willoughby Golf Club, a cocktail reception, a silent auction and hole-in-one prizes. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

The tournament fee is \$150 per player and includes lunch. To pre-register for the event, or to sponsor a prize, call 223-5000 or email gina@maryssheltertc.org.

Landmark's mural #13: a 'domino' of good things



**Maya
Ellenson**

*Art
Kaleidoscope*

The mural, considered to be the most democratic art the United States has ever produced, relates to the public directly without any guiding intermediaries found in museums or art galleries. Free of a snobbish vestige of elitist undertones, cached in the fine arts by hook or by crook, the mural sends a more straightforward and powerful message than its academic counterpart, and thus benefits from an immediate public response.

Wall paintings, whether it's a fresco or a mural, are supposed to heal, enlighten and connect, creating a community culture with its own aesthetic style, social values, and ethics. As the Hobe Sound artist Nadia Utto stated on her website in her mural manifesto: "Murals quickly become local landmarks and the visual emblem of community. Murals start a domino of good things – people internalize them as a sign that things are changing. As each and every mural becomes internalized . . . we won't be able to imagine having lived without it."

In 2009, a non-profit organization, The Hobe Sound Murals Project, set off a train of beautiful wall galleries along Bridge Road, on Dixie and Federal highways, and Banner Lake Park by Nadia and other local artists. As a result, 12 murals have been painted. This year's project will concentrate on Federal Highway, supporting the goal of visually connecting Hobe Sound's main business corridors, and, ultimately, offering mural tours, according to a recent press release.

Halted temporarily due to intermittent rain, a new epic project #13, called Four Seasons, is tenaciously moving to completion. Gracefully balanced on a scaffold, Nadia has been beautifying the west wall of Copley's RV Center at 9797 SE Federal Highway in Hobe Sound. A four-part mural, with each band representing one of the four seasons, creates an imagery of pathways of America at various times of the year, inviting you to climb into an RV to explore the pastoral beauty of America with its rich seasonal



Hobe Sound artist Nadia Utto at work on Mural #13 on the north building of Copley's RV Center on Federal Highway in Hobe Sound.

overtones beyond the comfort zone of Florida sunshine. And, besides, this country is known for its citizens taking mind-blowing road trips and seeking adventure.

In a way, the road has become a sort of a blueprint to our mindset, as it was mainly the road that inspired the first settlers' quest to the unknown and later on spawned a uniquely American musing on "the road not taken" by American poet Robert Frost. The road is not just a preferred setting for a book or a movie. It's a reflection of ourselves.

Another American poet, Walt Whitman, brought to light this very quintessence of American psyche in his "Song of the Open Road." "Oh public road . . . You express me better than I express myself," utters one of the greatest poets of this country.

Nadia's mural delivers in a beautiful, pictorial language the same tune, set by Walt Whitman in 1856, that repeats itself like an echo throughout U.S. culture. Both realistic and poetic, Nadia's wall painting fills what she identified as the gaps between the gorgeous Florida landscape and the architectural vacuum that leaves a person somewhat lost amidst.

People don't like to walk any extra distance in-between the parking space and the place they shop for all they see are the plain, repetitive and unresponsive walls, she asserts. "They unconsciously avoid the emptiness.

It's their visceral reaction," Nadia says. "The murals fill in where there is a lack of ambiance or pronounced architectural styles. We expect to see the familiar images anywhere we go. It can be a face or a landscape — something we value, recognize and relate to."

Mural #13 is about to open a "domino of good things" as it comes closer to its final touch. Committed to the integrity and style of

her mural philosophy, Nadia Utto's latest piece brings an aesthetic dimension to local businesses, enhancing their presence in Hobe Sound. Walls that were once blank, can now speak to us — they are alive, which is Nadia's creed.

And it also suggests that the businesses settled inside are thriving too, thus sending a

reassuring message to the community in times of economic uncertainty. As we drive down US Highway 1, past Copley's RV Center, who sponsored the project, it no longer feels like it's stuck on the dark side of the road. Instead, we get a glimpse of a fascinating alternative space we most likely will be tempted to explore.

This latest landmark mural summons up the classical, etched-in-your-mind music, of seasons by Vivaldi and Tchaikovsky. And now it's Nadia's turn to voice — by means of her vibrant images — the splendid tunes of

U.S. scenery, enticing us to embark on a long and exciting journey, for the worst thing that could ever happen to this country would be . . . inertia. ■

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.



Hobe Sound artist Nadia Utto at work on Mural #13 on the north building of Copley's RV Center on Federal Highway in Hobe Sound.



**IN-HOME CARE
FOR SENIORS**

At Always Best Care, every client receives extraordinary care in an inspiring environment with caring, compassionate people. Our caregivers will help you or your loved one stay in your home by providing the highest levels of care and companionship. Contact us today for a free care consultation. We're dedicated to exceeding your expectations ... *always*.

Call 772.205.3888
www.treasurecoast.alwaysbestcare.com



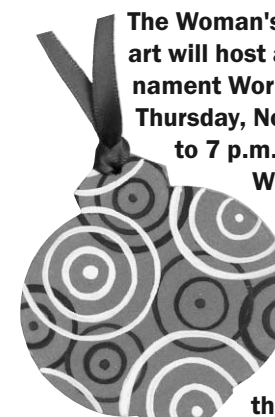
2nd and 3rd Fridays Music on the Riverwalk

Enjoy free, live musical performances on Stuart's Riverwalk stage at 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. on the second and third Fridays of the each month. The stage is behind City Hall, 121 SW Flagler Avenue, Stuart, on the beautiful, "pristine" St. Lucie River. For more info, call 772-288-1010 or 772-485-1609.

Tickets on sale now The Nutcracker

Some things can't wait, and buying tickets for one of the season's favorite family traditions—watching **The Nutcracker**—is one of them, especially when the dancers of the **Florida Arts & Dance Company of Stuart** will be performing the ballet at the **Lyric Theatre** in downtown Stuart. Tickets for the special gala event at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5, which includes a special reception with light hors d'oeuvres, followed by the 7 p.m. performance, are \$45. (Other performances are Dec. 7-8.) Tickets are on sale now at the **Florida Arts & Dance Co.**, 938 SE Central Parkway, in Stuart, or by calling 772.288.4150. Ticket purchases help support the programs offered by the dance academy.

Thursday, Nov. 7 Holiday Ornament Workshop

 The **Woman's Club of Stuart** will host a **Holiday Ornament Workshop** on Thursday, Nov. 7, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the **Woman's Club of Stuart**, 729 East Ocean Blvd., Stuart, to honor the spirit of the holidays and help create a family heirloom. Cost is \$20, which includes admission to the class, plus all supplies to make a beautiful ornament. No artistic experience is required. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 772.283.5120, 772-261-4644, or visit www.womansclubofstuart.com. The club has been providing scholarships to young women for 50 years, awarding scholarships totaling \$16,000 in 2012 to young women in Martin County high schools.

Thursday, Nov. 7 Art for Living Calendar Reception



Thirteen area artists featured in **Helping People Succeed's** 2014 Art for Living Calendar, will attend the **Seacoast National Bank** calendar-signing reception Thursday, Nov. 7, between 6 and 8 p.m. in the **Seacoast Main Lobby**, 815 Colorado Avenue in Stuart. Featured artists include: **Dennis Aufiery**, **Jane Blatt**, **Nanette Carton**, **Cristina de la Vega**, **Susan Fowler**, **Kevin Hutchinson**, **Julia Kelly**, **Valerie Lally**, **Dan Mackin**, **Pam Patterson**, **Nancy Smythe**, **Erin Weinberg** and **Theresa Woleslagle**. Tickets are \$75 per person and include a calendar, a drink ticket and hors d'oeuvres. Reservations are available online at hpsfl.org, by calling **Lynn Austin** at 772-320-0773 or emailing laustin@hpsfl.org. On Sunday, Dec. 1, the artists also will be available for a calendar signing at **Barnes & Noble Bookstore** in **Jensen Beach** from 2 to 4 p.m., and on Saturday, Dec. 7, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the **A.E. "Bean" Backus Gallery**, 500 No. Indian River Drive in **Fort Pierce**. Calendars are \$20 each. **Helping People Succeed** is a non-profit organization that serves more than 4,500 families in **Martin**, **St. Lucie**, **Okeechobee** and **Indian River** counties with programs and services for babies, families, adults with disabilities and most recently, newly-organized after-school programs for elementary, middle and high school students with autism spectrum disorder.

Beginning Nov. 8 Comedy at The Barn Theatre

"Pin Curls," a poignant comedy about the women of World War II by local playwright **Gale Baker** will be presented by **The Barn Theatre** from Nov. 8-24 with performances at 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20 and are available Mondays through Fridays at the **Barn Theatre box office**, 2400 S.E. Ocean Boulevard, Stuart from noon to 4 p.m. Tickets can also be obtained by calling 772-287-4884 or on-line at www.barn-theatre.com.

Saturday, Nov. 9 Firefighters Chili Cook Off

The **Tequesta Firefighters**, in conjunction with the **Tequesta Brewing Company**, will host the highly anticipated **3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off and Beer Tasting Event** on Nov. 9 at **Paradise Park** in **Tequesta** from 2 to 6 p.m. Fifteen fire departments will compete this year, as visitors enjoy live music, lots of other fun activities and plenty of cold beer. Last year the event raised more than \$13,000 for **Honor Flight**, a non-profit organization that takes WWII veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the WWII Memorial, an honorable cause that local firefighters in **Palm Beach** and **Martin Counties** have chosen to support. The **Cook-Off** falls just two days before **Veterans Day** this year. Cost is \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door for ages 21 and over. To buy tickets, call 888-612-4194 or visit www.tequestachilicookoff.com.

Saturday, Nov. 9 7th Annual Craft Fair in the Woods

Find handmade Christmas decorations, jewelry, woodcraft, fine art, baked and canned goods, fabric, yarn, paper and wire crafts, home and yard decor and so much more at the **Annual Craft Fair in the Woods**, Saturday, Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at **Freedom Ranch** in **Okeechobee**. Relax and enjoy a barbeque dinner and a bowl of swamp cabbage. Experience nature up close on a swamp buggy ride or be intrigued at the arena demonstrations. There will be plenty to do, see and buy for the whole family. **Freedom Ranch**, 11655 Hwy 411 SE, **Okeechobee**. For info, call 863-763-9800 or email craftfairinthewoods@gmail.com.



Sunday, Nov. 10 Cambridge Theatre presents Top Notch Duo

One of **Hobe Sound's** biggest values in entertainment, the **Cambridge Theater**, announced that its first show of the season will be **Sunday, Nov. 10**, at 7 p.m. Tickets are only \$15 for an evening of exceptional entertainment by the **Top Notch Duo** singers, who will perform old standards that will get your toes tapping. For more information, call 772.545.2614. The theater is at 8201 SE Constitution Blvd, **Hobe Sound**. Upcoming shows include **Sounds of Soul** (music of Motown) on Jan. 12, comedian **Troy Thirdgill** on Feb. 9 and **The Marlinaires**, vocal and multi-instrumentalist musicians on March 9.



Weekend, Nov. 9-11 Indiantown Salute to Veterans

Indiantown knows how to honor its military veterans. The **Salute to Veterans Weekend** on Nov. 9 - 11 will include a fish fry and dance on Friday evening and a golf tournament on Saturday morning at **Indianwood**. There's a little break for a nap, then you can go listen to some live music at the **VFW Post** in the afternoon and into the evening. Sunday morning will be the "I'll Walk a Mile with a Veteran" parade followed by a community picnic and building dedication at **VFW Post 6023**, 16701 SW Morgan Street, **Indiantown**. Contact the Post at vfwpost6023.org or **Indiantown Chamber** 772-597-2184 for more information.

Monday, Nov. 11 Veterans Day Parade



The annual downtown **Stuart Veteran's Day Parade** will begin at noon on **East Ocean Blvd.** in **Stuart**, ending at **Memorial Park** for a short ceremony. More than a dozen military units are slated to march, as well as scout troops, firefighters and members of the **Martin County Sheriff's Department**. A helicopter flyover will signal the beginning of the parade. For more info, go to **HYPERLINK** "<http://www.stuartparades.com/>" "www.stuartparades.com."

Friday, Nov. 15 Catsablanca at Mariner Sands

An evening of mystery, intrigue and unforgettable fun to benefit the sheltering, adoption and community edu-



cation activities of Domino's House no-kill cat shelter in Palm City will be Friday, Nov. 15, from 6-10 p.m. at the Mariner Sands

Country Club near Hobe Sound. Attendees will enjoy cocktails, buffet, and silent auction, while solving a live-theater mystery! Tickets are \$70 in advance/\$80 day of event. For info, contact javmn@hotmail.com, or maris@dominshouse.org or call 772.781.5592.



Friday, Nov. 15 Through the Looking Glass

A contemporary retelling of the children's classic Alice in Wonderland, "Through the Looking Glass," will come to life Friday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 16, at 8 p.m. at Maltz Jupiter Theatre with eye-popping sets, costumes, magic and puppetry for a family to enjoy. The original musical is a collaboration between North Palm Beach writer/composer John Mercurio and the Theatre's producing artistic director Andrew Kato, who conceived and is directing the piece. Through the Looking Glass follows a modern-day Alice who is having trouble fitting in with her peers at school. To learn how to face her rivals, she works through her feelings in her dreams and literally steps through a "looking glass" to transport herself into an enchanting land. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. For more information and to purchase tickets, call 561-575-2223 or visit www.jupitertheatre.org. 1001 E Indiantown Road, Jupiter.

Saturday, Nov. 16 Classical Guitar



A free classical guitar concert by Jan Wissmuller will be at the Hobe Sound Public Library on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 3-4 p.m., in partnership with the Treasure Coast Classical Guitar Society. Wissmuller came to Florida in 2010 by way of New England and California. He studied music at MIT,

University of Toronto and Harvard University and has taught music theory and composition at Boston University.

The Treasure Coast Classical Guitar Society is a community for classical guitar enthusiasts to promote appreciation of the classical guitar, provide opportunities for guitarists of all levels to meet and play together, and sponsor professional concerts. For more information, visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.tccgs.org/"](http://www.tccgs.org/)

Opening Nov. 16 Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition

The South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, formerly the South Florida Science Museum, will host the legendary Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition from Nov. 16 through Easter weekend 2014. The exhibit will have nearly 100 legendary and priceless artifacts on display, taking visitors back in time to 1912 as they enter the exhibit, each receiving a replica boarding pass of an actual passenger on board Titanic. They then begin their chronological journey through the life of Titanic, moving through the Ship's construction, to life on board, to the ill-fated sinking and amazing artifact rescue efforts. The Science Center features more than 50 hands-on educational exhibits, an 8,000 gallon fresh and salt water aquarium featuring both local and exotic marine life, a digital planetarium, conservation research station, Florida exhibit hall and an interactive Everglades exhibit. All exhibits will be open during the Titanic's special showing. Advance tickets will be \$13 for adults, \$9.50 for children aged 3 to 12, and 11.50 for seniors 62 and older. Tickets can be purchased on the Science Center's website at www.sfsciencecenter.org. Members and children under 3 are free. The South Florida Science Center and Aquarium is at 4801 Dreher Trail North, West Palm Beach, and is open Monday - Friday from 9am-5pm, and on Saturday and Sunday from 10am-6pm. For more information, call 561-832-1988 or visit www.sfsciencecenter.org.

Weekend, Nov. 16-17 FIRST EVER Stuart Seafood Festival

The 1st Annual Stuart Seafood Festival Nov. 16 and 17 at Memorial Park in Stuart will benefit the Rivers Coalition and feature fresh seafood, live entertainment, kids activities, nautical vendors and fun! Festivities kick off at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16, and Sunday, Nov. 17, ending at 7 p.m. The entertainment lineup for the day includes the Killbillies, Fresh Catch, and the Amber Leigh Band. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the gates. Kids 12 and under are free. Parking is also free. Contact Lindsay Nickerson at 772.631.9084 or by email at Lindsay@NickersonAndCompany.com for more information.

Saturday, Nov. 23 Tequesta Fest

One of the most family-friendly events on the Treasure Coast, the Tequesta Fest, will be from noon to 5 p.m. at Paradise Park, 1 Main Street in Tequesta. Free for Tequesta residents; non-resident admission is \$10 per person; \$1 for 62-year-old and above; free for five and under. Admission includes, (with a wristband) trolley rides, games, midway rides, face painting, entertainment, some reduced prices on food, and access to all vendors, which grow in number each year. For more info, go to www.Tequesta.org.



Sunday, Dec. 1 Grammy-Winning Artist at the Lyric

Grammy-award winning artist Terry Barber, from Palm City, performs at the Lyric Theatre in downtown Stuart on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. An internationally known and locally loved countertenor, Terry Barber will host a fun-filled event with vocal performances by Barber and young, up-and-coming artists who are part of Barber's nonprofit organization, Artists for a Cause. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for students and can be purchased at the Lyric Theatre box office or online at www.lyrictheatre.com.

Saturday, Dec. 7 Hobe Sound Christmas Parade

The Hobe Sound Chamber will host its 28th Annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 1 p.m., sponsored again this year by Treasure Coast Irrigation/Rood Landscape. In addition to the parade, a Holiday Arts & Crafts Stroll will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dixie Highway next to Taste Restaurant for gift shoppers. The Arts & Crafts Stroll will feature locally made items that are sure to make great holiday gifts for friends and family members. Floats and decorated vehicles are created by local businesses, schools and organizations. Hear musical selections from Dancensound DJ and local middle and high school bands. Kids can meet Ronald McDonald, Smoky the Bear, a coterie of clowns and Mrs. Claus and Santa Claus. Call the Hobe Sound Chamber at 772.546.4724 for information.



Saturday, Dec. 9 Children's Christmas Sale

Before or after the Hobe Sound Christmas parade, head to St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Port Salerno for another family tradition: the Children's Christmas Sale. No, they're not selling children, but will provide an opportunity for children ages 4-14 to experience the joy of giving by providing inexpensive gifts for them to purchase for their family and friends. All gifts are priced from 25 cents to \$5. Each child should bring a list of people for whom they want to buy presents. A "Santa's elf" will guide the child through the parish hall to the gift tables. After making their selections, the child will proceed to the wrapping room where all gifts are wrapped and tagged ready for the Christmas holiday. Proceeds from the sale go to community outreach. 5150 SE Railway Ave., corner of Cove and A1A. 772-286-5455.

Memories, observations from my African Journal



**Suzanne
Briley**

Hopscotch

Not that long ago, I flew from London to Nairobi, Kenya, for an extended trip deep into the heart of Africa. Landing early in the morning, I was greeted by a blood red sunrise, my guide and a companion.

We settled into his dusty Land Rover and set off on our great adventure, quickly passing through the lively city, past the famous Norfolk Hotel and the city market, before reaching open spaces with a few huts, small shacks and views into the far distance. The road gave way to tracks through a dusty landscape with thorn trees and giant ant hills.

I held my breath. On the left side of the Land Rover, a giraffe stood feasting on the thorn tree. He was at least 18 feet tall, and I could see his beautiful chocolate brown eyes, long lashes and his lips delicately picking over the thick thorns to find his favorite food. A giraffe is born standing up, so he is perfectly adapted to feeding. As we continued to drive, I saw many more of these lovely, graceful animals.

Zebra stood on the side of the road in groups, not moving but quietly watching us. There were hundreds of them wearing black and white pajama stripes!

It was May, the middle of winter in Africa. The sun was warm, the temperature near perfect. I would call it superb. It was dry, and the sky was a piercing blue. I had much to look forward to as we headed toward the migration of the million wildebeest, a highlight of my journey.

As there is order in nature, animals are designed accordingly. I learned that the wildebeest migration happens exactly at the same time each year. Many die as they cross crocodile-infested waters, little ones, born to run, must struggle nonetheless to keep up with the massive herds of more than a million strong. The sight and sounds of them are unforgettable.

They are rather dear little creatures, and look sort of like a small mule with a beard. With thin, sharp, spindly legs, they are exceedingly fast. My favorite time spent with the wildebeest in a dusty Land Rover out in the plains of the great Nrongoro Crater was at sunset. It was the greatest show on earth.

NRONGORO CRATER

The Nrongoro crater is famous for having the largest concentration of animals in the world. I was among them. Surrounding us were hundreds of thousands of gazelle, antelope, up to a thousand cape buffalo (very dangerous animals which have been known to attack Land Rovers), great traveling packs of cruel and vicious hyenas, hartebeest, and wart hogs. It seemed as if each species of animal was either hunting for food, making a kill, resting or sleeping (in the case of lions). The 5,000 miles of plains in the crater were without roads, so having an experienced guide was a must!

Our lodge stood at 7,000 feet above the crater, and although we could look down on the endless space of landscape below, it was too distant to see the animals. Often a mist also would gently obscure our view. A roaring fire awaited us inside the lodge, and I was quickly surrounded by happy faces and friendly people wearing welcoming smiles wishing us "Jambo" (hello in Swahili).

We left at dawn, spending the day following a pride of lions. A group of them were feasting on their kill. The sun was high and the golden lions blended with the pale yellow grass. I could see their ears sticking up, and their faces were mask-like. The guide pointed at a huge male lion with a Metro Golden Mayer mane and tail. He stood facing the wind, not far from me, while roaring at two female lionesses. Man is his only enemy. Later, I was thrilled to see a young lioness with a cub at a watering hole taking a long drink.

For lunch, we had a picnic in the grass by a hippo pool. The rushes and weeds were high, but I could see the eyes and ears of hippos protruding from the water. A large, fierce-looking crocodile sunned himself on a rock nearby. I felt overwhelmed by the abundance of natural wildlife. It was all around us. Everywhere we looked, night or day, there was something marvelous to see!

A large male hippo struggled to climb the bank, but he was so fat and square that it all caved in and he landed with an enormous splash, making us laugh. Just watching animals in their natural habitat and learning their behavior taught me a lot

about life. It would appear that as humans, we have lost our sense of playfulness! Hippos, vegetarians with poor eyesight, forage at night and are responsible for killing many people as they simply walk right through a camp or tent.

A RARE SIGHT

Later, in the afternoon we tracked seven rhinos. They are very rare, and at the time there were 15 left in the crater. These giant animals weigh up to 5,000 pounds. Sadly there were only 500 left in all of Tanzania then. They are hunted and destroyed by poachers for their horns. I saw one rhino about

a year old, and three others lying in the mud! Another very large one stood in the marshes. It was a wonderful sight.

The most memorable sight in the crater, however, were the elephants. I saw them from a distance in the tall grass and thought they were stones. Three were feeding. The wind was blowing softly, and the last glint of the sun caught their tusks making them glow a fluorescent white. They were graceful and aware always of our presence.

Elephants mate for life. They also have the "right of way," and our Land Rover would stop to let them pass, often in groups of seven or eight. When one dies the other stands close by in mourning. A touching sight.

NATURE'S BALANCE

Around 200 million years ago, Nrongoro Crater was formed when the

volcano erupted. It is in perfect balance with an ecosystem functioning to provide the needs of the animals dependent on rainfall and slim rivers. In the middle is Lake Manta, intensely alkaline and not potable to animals and humans, but used by as many as two million flamingos as they thrive in the shallows. These birds are able to filter the blue-green algae through a spoon-shaped bill and utilize it, feeding 10% of their body weight per day.

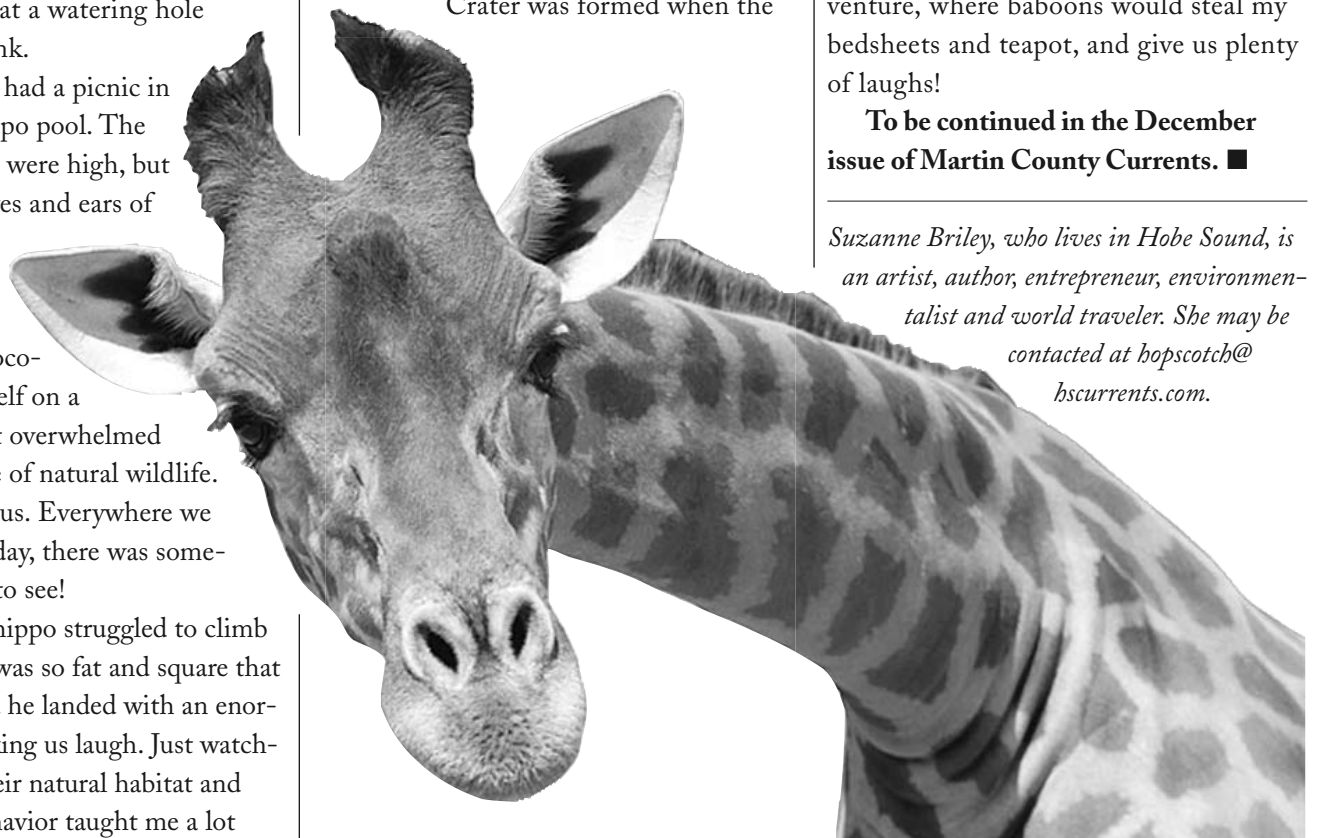
The lake was a deep blue and the Flamingos stood straight across in a line, their excrement nourishing the algae to create a perfect balance, causing them to turn pink. The lake was a shimmering pink itself caused by a slight movement of their wings. Nearby, fox-like jackals lurked in the grass ready to feed on the newly hatched birds.

After two days in the crater, we passed through the Olduvai Gorge, famous for the discovery of a homo sapiens skull by Dr. and Mrs. Leakey around 1964. It was thought then to be the beginnings of man. It took us some four days to get into it, reminding me of a slate mining pit in Vermont! Very dry and very isolated.

A small visitors hut sits at the rim with a guide to explain the meaning of the findings. A footprint found in the lava suggested that the evidence was about 175 million years old. Outside the gorge, I met my first Maasai warriors with their cattle as we proceeded to our tent and campground for the next adventure, where baboons would steal my bedsheets and teapot, and give us plenty of laughs!

To be continued in the December issue of Martin County Currents. ■

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





Everglades City is a hub of commercial fishing. Photos: Harvey Eubank



Everglades pelicans wait their turn to make a dive for fish.

Pomp fisherman's story began in the Everglades



**Rich
Vidulich**
*Pompano
Reporter*

Historically, the die-hard pompano fishermen don't fish for much all summer. For the last 30 years or so, a diverse group of locals and many from the Northeast started prospecting for pomps after Labor Day. Some were farmers, some harvested stripers and bluefish commercially, and some wintered here to fish for the "delicacy of the South."

There always were cliques who had a leader of sorts, who compiled ideas and theories about the fishery. A few had a sixth sense about pompano, and some were just followers of the legendary greats. Jealousy grew earnestly, especially amongst the locals who weren't in the loop. Not to say some locals were proficient enough so as to develop wonderful relationships with the Northern tribes, but the commercial fishery was huge and everyone caught fish anyway—at least enough to keep the peace.

Then, of course, there always were those fishermen who elected not to get up predawn to capture the early bite, so binoculars and hidden shadows became the signature of what a few of us called "Bucket Jumpers." Add today's cell-phone technology, and the beach front becomes a military wack job!

Until the late '90s, the signature migratory fish start date was the Harvest Moon, which is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox. Depending on the year, the Harvest Moon can come anywhere from two weeks before to two weeks after the equinox. For us in the Northern Hemisphere, the 2013 autumnal equinox came Sept. 22, so the Sept. 19 full moon counted as the Northern Hemisphere's Harvest Moon.

The blues, mackerel and pomps ordinarily would be driven south by Arctic fronts, and for so many years, everyone from everywhere came here to take part in this miraculous event. Well, with the earth's oceans now warming up, that mid-September event has declined to become virtually non-existent. Today the water temps off Long Island have just dropped below 80, and we need ocean temperatures much lower than that to move

pomps south. Obviously, I cannot offer debate over "the when" the run will begin, until the seasons evolve.

While I was dwelling on the changes over the last 30 years, I remembered a wonderful character from the 1950s. His name was Totch Loren Brown, and his own story in his own "Everglades lingo" is rendered by Peter Mathiessen in a book titled, "Totch, A Life In The Everglades."

A resident of Chokoloskee, Totch was one of the very first commercial fishermen in the Everglades. For 10 years, he netted mullet for 4 cents a pound until the recession and the price dropped to a penny. After serving in World War II, Totch returned to the Everglades and started a family. He heard someone in Miami was buying big crabs for 30 cents a pound, so he decided to catch crabs.

Handcrafting 20 traps and tying them to hollow old coconuts for buoys, he set out to make some serious money. The next morning he took his small hand-carved boat out to harvest his first catch, but someone had stolen all his traps.

While idling with his 2 h.p. outboard back to shore he thought deep and turned around to go back. He dove into the water and discovered that coconuts only float for a while, and then water log and sink. This set him back two months waiting on Sears to deliver buoys to Ft. Myers. Naturally he killed some gators, sold some skins, made enough money to go pick up his buoys. Long story short, he caught a lot of stone crabs and found the guy in Miami named Joe who would buy them. Joe's Stone Crab became, and still is, a landmark on Miami Beach.

Totch started studying some new silvery flat fish showing up down in the Keys every September around the Harvest Moon. Flipping, jumping and skittering everywhere, Totch said "they were numerous beyond your imagination." He sewed several mullet nets into one big, ole gill net. That night he set the net where he saw them earlier feeding.

First haul next morning resulted in about 200 pounds of pompano. At 50 cents a pound, life was hysterically good! Totch was the first recorded commercial pompano fisherman. In his own words he would tell his wife, Loren, every September that he would be gone for a while, because he was going "pompanoing."

He described the nets full of pomps as "golden nuggets." Later more netters evolved, and the chase was on. These first harvesters of pompano became the little-

known "Pompaneers."

Totch loved the wild Everglades, and knew when the park was opened in 1947 that things would change. The founders were run off and the Indians had to move.

"We never altered the architectural landscape of the park," he said. "Shoot, the politics of the day wanted to drain this whole place and sell the acres for pennies."

In 1984 Totch was still alive and commented on the current state of affairs: "Today's tourists don't understand the history, and disrespect this treasure of God's engineering." He was also asked his opinion of commercial fishing.

He responded: "Greed, real estate, high-powered boats and sugar cane has done

more to destroy the Everglades than the regulated commercial fisherman." Totch often talked about the water being dammed by farmers, and the big lake dredging some arteries to the ocean.

Totch's diary is written plain and simple and just the way it was! A used version is available on Amazon for about \$1.50. Read it to learn the tidbits that have become the complex matrix comprising south Florida...and a little bit about the golden nuggets. ■

Rich Vidulich, a commercial pompano surf fisherman who traverses the beaches of Martin County and points north for his "golden nuggets," lives in Jupiter. Send comments or questions to Pompano@MartinCountyCurrents.com.

Thank You

2013 iTown Golf Sponsors, Members and Residents...

- Aunt B Beeline Treats
- Blue Team Restoration
- BMS Catastrophe
- California Vines
- Coastal Blinds by Heritage
- Commissioner John Haddox
- Dee Stefanos
- Divit the Clown
- Elite Business Associates
- EW Consultants
- Forward Electric
- FPL
- Good Samaritan Medical Center
- Harbor Community Bank
- Indiantown AirConditioning
- Indiantown Cogeneration
- Indiantown Gas
- Indiantown Non Profit Housing
- ITS Fiber
- JR's BBQ and Saloon

- Knight Integrated
- Orange Star Rods
- Orchid Island Citrus
- Power Steam
- Sam's Club
- Speedy Rooter/AGC
- The Firefly Group
- Towne Park
- Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center
- US Securities
- Valspar Paints
- Walls Alive
- Waste Management
- YMCA

iTown
Indiantown Western Martin County
Chamber of Commerce & Welcome Center

Please save the date for next year. First Saturday of September 2014.

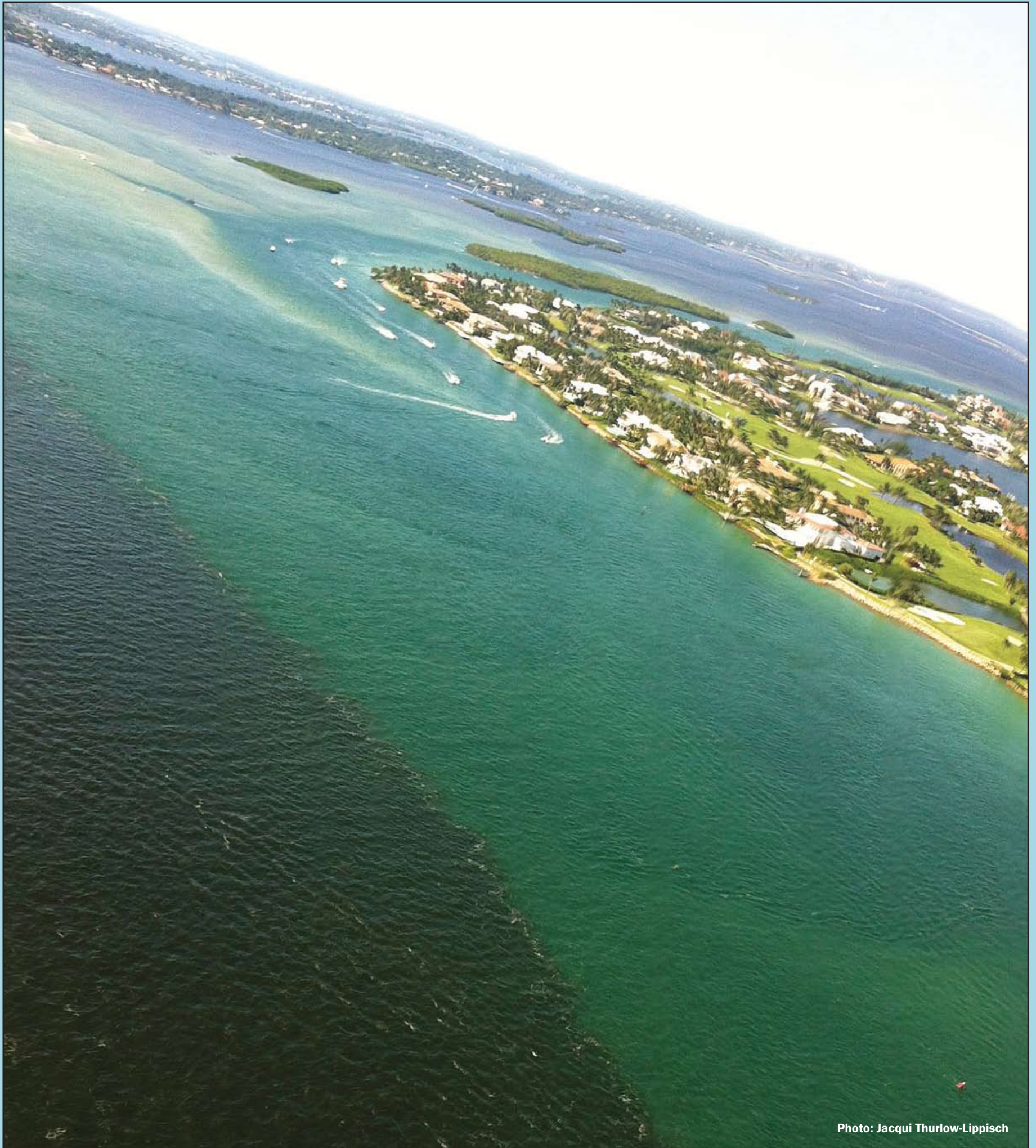


Photo: Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch

Lest we not forget

Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch kept hundreds, perhaps thousands, of keenly interested residents and friends of Martin County informed with aerial photos of the Lake Okeechobee discharges as they traveled through the St. Lucie and headed both north and south into the Indian River Lagoon and into the Atlantic. This photo was taken during Week 22 of Lake O's black discharges, after they'd been cut back enough to allow in some fresh seawater on an incoming tide into the St. Lucie Inlet. "The sight of blue water does not tell the tale of the lagoon's sea grasses and oysters and life thereon," she says in her post. "That has all but vanished. May we not forget them."