

Martin County CURRENTS

Volume 4 Issue 3 • September 2014

FREE



Not one, but two ethics complaints filed against commission chair by a Palm City businessman. Pg 5

How to make a square peg fit? Pg 7

THE HOUSES OF ZEUS PARK



The controversial modular home in Zeus Park viewed from the street.



Time for the next Honor Flight, arriving back at Palm Beach International Airport on Sept. 20. Pg 10



Pacific Legal Foundation adds Flash Beach Grille as a client to fight for their property rights. Pg 8

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Martin County CURRENTS

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Martin County CURRENTS

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The Martin Grade through Allapattah Flats is a ride back through time. Photo: submitted.

Public awareness is beginning to build as the Martin Grade Scenic Corridor nears its designation as one of Florida's

Scenic Highways. The initiative began more than a decade ago by volunteers to protect the tree-lined canopy of Martin Highway (County Road 714) between Allapattah Road (State Road 609) 10 miles west of Palm City and Warfield Boulevard (State Road 710) in Indiantown.

"A drive across the Martin Grade is a drive through the beauty of Old Florida," said local author Mary Dawson, to a public gathering at the Cummings Library in May. "... It takes you through land that time seems to have forgotten."

The Florida Scenic Highway Program, run by the Florida Department of Transportation, focuses on unique local roads that are sponsored by grass-roots community efforts that must follow a step-by-step process divided into three phases, Eligibility, Designation, and Implementation. A Corridor Advocacy Group, to which Dawson belongs, is responsible for completing the applica-

tion, developing the Corridor Management Plan, and developing a Community Participation Program that aims to involve the entire community.

The Martin Grade is now a Candidate Florida Scenic Highway after its application was approved by the Florida Scenic Highway Advisory Committee last fall. The Martin Grade Corridor Advocacy Group has now been authorized to proceed with the next phase of the project: the Corridor Plan.

The Martin Grade CAG is currently made up of interested parties along the corridor, who are seeking additional volunteers to join the effort.

"Designation as a Scenic Highway does not automatically keep the corridor from being widened, which would destroy the canopy," Dawson said, "thus broad community support to sustain a long-term commitment is needed."

For more information or to join the team, go to: www.sclands.org. ■

FROM THE CURRENTS PUBLISHER

Since I began publishing four years ago, this has been the longest

period that an issue of *Martin County Currents* was not published. Even the death of my brother two years ago, which literally knocked me off my feet for weeks, did not interrupt the flow of issues for more than two months' time. So, what happened this summer?

I filed in April as a candidate in the District 4 race for Martin County Commission. My opponent emerged victorious in the August 26 primary, but I was unable to publish *Currents* during the campaign.

Election laws are strict, but they also can be confusing, thus an attorney had to advise me as to whether or not I could continue to publish the newspaper while I was also a candidate; however, little case law exists that addresses these par-

ticular circumstances where the candidate alone produces, writes and edits the copy that appears in the newspaper.

It took 12 weeks to get an opinion, which, interestingly, differed from another legal opinion sought in frustration after such a long wait. At that point, however, the election was within 30 days, the law becomes even more strict, but at that point, the issue was moot simply because a political campaign is too demanding to tackle much else.

Over the past four years, this publication has grown significantly, and its readers are loyal. Some expressed concern that the newspaper will cease to be published, but I can assure you that the newspaper will continue. I am personally committed that it serves as an important voice in Martin County.

I apologize for the delay between issues. Please know, however, I am back on course with the September edition of *Martin County Currents*—and looking for writers! ■

--Barbara Clowdus
Publisher, *Martin County Currents*
Former Martin County Commission
Candidate, District 4

CUSTOM'S FACILITY APPROVED...
FOR NOW

The long-awaited approval to build a U.S. customs facility at Witham Field

happened at the Martin County Commission's April 5 meeting with a 3-2 vote. Commissioners Sarah Heard and Ed Fielding dissented. The first-of-its kind facility in the U.S. will process both marine and air traffic that now must go to Fort Pierce or West Palm Beach to clear customs prior to arriving at Stuart.

Commissioner Anne Scott, who previously waffled on the issue, read from a prepared statement that the customs facility proposal evolved from a "disorganized boondoggle" to a detailed plan. She congratulated Airport Manager George Stokus on the quality of his research.

"Although my vote will disappoint people I respect," she read, "I will vote in favor...This is not a good idea, but it's the right thing for this government to do."

Stokus reported that the county would retain the right to control the hours of operation, level of service and number of agents. He also said a customs facility could result in a 3 to 5 percent increase in air traffic, which was the

focus of the handful of comments expressed in opposition.

Martin County would build the customs facility with \$900,000 in grants from the Florida Department of Transportation and \$225,000 from the airport enterprise fund, Stokus explained. User fees would pay for the facility's operating costs, which in the first year are estimated at \$242,000, including \$140,000 for a full-time U.S. Customs inspector.

Earlier this year, the airport estimated user fees at \$15 per boat passenger and up to \$250 for heavy jets, but Commissioner Sarah Heard challenged Stokus on those predictions based on her observations of customs facilities at Naples and St. Augustine.

Stokus said that Stuart, which lies 60 miles from the Bahamas, cannot be compared to either of the cities that Heard used for comparisons. He also assured the commissioners that they can shut down the customs facility without penalty, if they so choose.

The Martin Marine-Aviation Alliance, comprising local business owners, pilots and boaters, also pledged \$50,000 a year of private funds for the next three years to cover any potential operating shortfalls during the start-up phase of the operation.

More than 60 residents attended the meeting in support of the facility, including Stuart Mayor Troy McDonald, who told the commission that a customs

facility would benefit Stuart's new partnership with Hope Town, Abaco, in the Bahamas. Stuart commissioners have expressed a keen interest in fostering tourism and trade with Hope Town.

No bids have been submitted for construction, which also will require county commission approval, as will commission acceptance of the FDOT grant and its corresponding stipulations. ■

ANOTHER LAWSUIT ON THE HORIZON?

Just as Martin County and the City of Stuart settled its differences under

Florida Statute 164 requiring mediation prior to a lawsuit, the Town of Jupiter Island invoked the same Florida statute that again forces the county to mediate its differences with another governmental body.

After two joint meetings, little progress has been made regarding the Town's insistence on pursuing a binding interlocal agreement between the county and the Town of Jupiter Island at the same time that the county is updating its state-required inlet management plan to ensure regular maintenance dredging of the St. Lucie Inlet. The plan does not require the county to identify funding sources.

Had the St. Lucie Inlet not been created 100 years ago by some enterprising residents, said Jupiter Island Mayor Harry Charleston at the July 9 joint meeting of Town and county commissioners, the beaches along Jupiter Island would be more likely the size of football fields.

"When that inlet was cut," he said, "it was like putting a noose around Jupiter Island's neck...and when the inlet is not dredged, the noose just gets pulled tighter."

The inlet jetty robs the island of its natural deposits of downdrift sand along the southern coastline, and some Sailfish Point residents say it also applies to updrift beaches. The beaches protect the properties, particularly from hurricane storm surges, as well as declining property values.

The residents of Sailfish Point, Loblolly, and the Town filed objections in March to the county's application for a Department of Environmental Protection dredging permit, which expired in April, the draft of which was just approved the first week of September. The county will now remain eligible for a \$500,000 grant from the Florida Inland Navigation District.

Meantime, the county commission will appoint one commissioner to represent the county's interest in further negotiations with the Town regarding the interlocal agreement and an updated inlet management plan. If negotiations fail again in this third attempt, the Town

may file a lawsuit against Martin County to protect its interests.

Mayor Charleston challenged Heard's assertion that she would not "jeopardize our environmental and economic health" by allowing the inlet to shoal over until unnavigable, reminding her that the Inlet became dangerously near to being closed five years ago, and again after Hurricane Sandy filled the impoundment basin with sand.

The Army Corps of Engineers dredged the sand this spring after Congressman Patrick Murphy sought and received hurricane disaster assistance. The county also funded additional dredging to allow additional time to identify a dedicated funding source for the approximate \$11-\$12 million dredging cost, which is required approximately every three years depending on weather conditions. ■

RESIDENTS RESPOND TO TRAGEDY

Donations are beginning to flow into both Seacoast National Bank and



the online fundraiser GoFundMe.com for the family of an 11-year-old autistic child, Charlie Birely, who lost his life in a boat fire August 31 and

left the family homeless.

Brian Birely, 59, and Karen Laake, 53, lived on the sailboat anchored in the St. Lucie River near the Sunset Bay Marina with Charlie and their 13-year-old daughter, Abigail, who was on land when the boat caught fire.

Authorities say an initial fire caused a propane tank to explode on the 46-foot vessel, thwarting the father's desperate attempts to extricate his son from the forward cabin. Birely and Laake were admitted to the burn unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, which kept the parents in induced comas the first week to promote healing, according to reports. The 13-year-old daughter is staying with friends.

In addition to the accounts set up for donations at Seacoast National Bank branches and GoFundMe.com, gift cards are being accepted for the family at Florida Arts & Dance Company, 938 S.E. Central Parkway in Stuart, where Abigail had been a student, as well as at Stuart Coffee Company, 55 SW Flagler Ave, which is accepting donations of clothes, misses sizes small to medium, or size 9 shoes, as well as gift certificates or gift cards.

Laake is a local artist and was the art manager at Stuart Coffee Company in downtown Stuart for two years. Brian Birely is a retired state employee. ■

THE BARN THEATRE

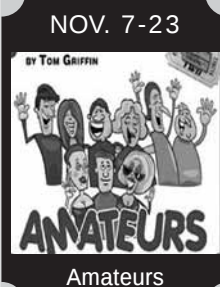
THE BEST IN COMMUNITY THEATRE

2014-2015 SEASON PREVIEW



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Things My Mother Taught Me
Sept. 26-Oct. 12

Olivia and Gabe are moving into their first apartment together. They've just packed up all of their belongings and driven halfway across the country to start a new life together in Chicago. Their moving day doesn't go exactly as planned, though, and things become slightly more complicated when all of their parents show up to help! Can a two bedroom apartment contain all of the love, laughs, worry and wisdom that's about to happen? Funny and touching, this one will make you laugh out loud and fall in love all over again.



NOV. 7-23

AMATEURS
Amateurs

JAN. 23 - FEB. 8, 2015



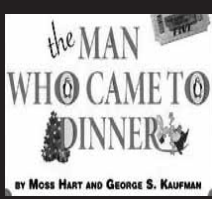
Bus Stop

MARCH 6-22



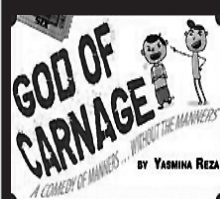
Nunsense

APRIL 17 - MAY 3



The Man Who Came to Dinner

MAY 29 - JUNE 14



God of Carnage

TICKETS ARE \$20

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(Bus Stop and Nunsense will offer special Wednesday performances at 8pm.)

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SUNSHINE VIOLATIONS ADDED TO
ETHICS COMPLAINTS

Palm City businessman John McAuliffe, a 47-year-old



Sarah Heard

computer technology salesman who filed two ethics complaints against Martin County Commission Chair Sarah Heard, one in June and one in July, added a possible Sunshine Law violation to the list

in September for consideration by the Florida Ethics Commission.

Charging that Heard has exhibited a pattern of deception over the past nine years that allegedly includes under-reporting her assets on required annual financial reports by more than \$2 million each year, filing fraudulent expense reports, and accepting a gift valued at \$450 from an organization prior to a vote she cast in their favor, McAuliffe reported that the behind-closed-door, executive sessions by the county attorney, staff and county commissioners nearly two years ago to consider rejecting court-ordered payment of attorney fees by the 1,000 Friends of Florida is a Sunshine Law violation.

County Attorney Michael Durham reported at a county commission meeting that the case was still open as long as the amount to be paid had not been recorded. McAuliffe disagrees, because he says the case had been concluded.

"I believe that the Ethics Commission will find that it is a clear violation of our Sunshine Laws," he said. "That discussion should have taken place in public, particularly since they were talking about money owed to taxpayers."

Commissioner Doug Smith is the only commissioner who refused to take part in either of two, closed-door sessions regarding the 1,000 Friends of Florida refund of fees.

According to the state Commission on Ethics rules, once a complaint is filed, three procedural stages take place to determine if a possible ethics law violation has occurred. If the complaint is found not to be legally sufficient, the Commission will order that the complaint be dismissed without investigation, and all records relating to the complaint will become public at that time.

If not dismissed, the second stage of the proceedings involves investigation by their staff as to whether there is probable cause to believe that there has been a violation of the ethics laws. If the Commission finds no probable cause, the complaint will be dismissed at that point and will become a matter of public record.

If, however, the Commission finds probable cause to believe there has been a violation of state ethics laws, the complaint becomes public and usually enters the third stage of proceedings.

At this stage, the accused has the right to request a public hearing (trial) at which evidence is presented, or the commission may order that such a hearing be held. If the Commission concludes that a violation has been committed, it may recommend one or more penalties and issues a public report of its findings. The process can take several months.

McAuliffe had to agree to pay all of Heard's attorney fees should the complaints be dismissed prior to sending the commission several hundred pages of supporting documents to Morgan Bentley, chairman of the Florida Commission on Ethics. The complaints are considered confidential, until the Commission chooses to make them public after their investigation is concluded, but McAuliffe is not bound by such confidentiality rules.

He provided copies of the complaints and all supporting documents to the Sunshine State News and to The Stuart News, before posting them online at his website: www.truthaboutsarah.com.

"This has taken me months of working in my spare time to get everything together," said McAuliffe. "I didn't want to lodge a letter of concern without the paperwork to back it up. And I have everything."

Heard, who at first denied knowing about the complaint, has charged that McAuliffe's motives were "purely politically motivated," since Heard was in the midst of winning her fourth term as county commissioner when McAuliffe filed the complaints. It's a charge that McAuliffe adamantly denies.

"I am continuing my investigation," he added, and the county's email database verifies a number of recent public records requests submitted by McAuliffe. "Believe me, I'm just getting started."

Heard declined to comment further, although during the primary election campaign, she called her ethics "unimpeachable." ■

COMP PLAN AMENDMENTS

Much of the new language adopted by the county commission in its

rewrite of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Chapters 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 has been rewritten or stricken as part of the county's settlement with Consolidated Citrus (AgTEC) and Lake Point Phase I and Phase II; however, other portions of the amendments are still being challenged by Becker Holdings and Midbrook 1st Realty (Hobe Grove).

The settlement changes have been approved by the county commission and submitted to the state's Department of Economic Opportunity for review. It is expected that a final approval of the new language will be made by the commission in September.

Consolidated Citrus, which owns AgTEC, a proposed industrial development at the border of Martin and St. Lucie counties west of I-95, mounted a vigorous objection to the Comp Plan's new rule that would reclassify their agricultural property, primarily citrus groves ravaged by disease along with cattle ranching, to a commercial enterprise, whether or not they proceed with its development and for property outside the boundaries of the development, thus automatically subjecting them to higher property tax rates even when they are not actively developing the property.

State statutes prohibit such practices that threaten the viability of bonafide agricultural enterprises.

"The State of Florida cannot have, and will not tolerate, local regulations that are inconsistent with (a statewide and regional) approach," Jesse Panuccio, executive director of the Department of Economic Opportunity, wrote to Commission Chair Sarah Heard last September. The Department of Agriculture also sent a letter of caution to the county that it had overstepped its authority regarding agricultural lands.

"This is not just about a few people," said attorney Brian Seymour, representing Midbrook 1st Realty. "We want a comprehensive plan that really meets the Florida statute and really is balanced and fair for everybody in Martin County."

Representing Martin County in its negotiations with landowners is outside attorney Linda Loomis Shelley, former secretary of the Department of Community Affairs, which previously reviewed growth management plan amendments to ensure compliance with state statutes. That responsibility now falls to the Department of Economic Opportunity. ■

LAKE POINT CHALLENGE SETTLED

The Lake Point challenge has been fully resolved after the county also

agreed in April, and approved by a unanimous vote in July, to validate Lake Point's 2008 and 2009 agreements and contracts with Martin County and the South Florida Water Management District. The agreements recognize Lake Point as a state-permitted rock mining operation and water restoration project, not a residential development.

The county commission instructed the Growth Management Department in April to revoke the previous development order—a request by Lake Point

pending since January 2013—thus recognizing that the project is rock mining only and not subject to the county's residential development rules.

The revocation was part of the county's original 2008 agreement contingent upon Lake Point's success in obtaining state permits for mining aggregate from the Department of Environmental Protection.

Other challenges by Becker Holdings and Midbrook 1st Realty to the Comp Plan amendments still are being negotiated, including the county's method for calculating residential capacity. If no settlement is reached by the end of September, the challenges will proceed to a hearing before an administrative law judge. ■

LAKE POINT SUIT CONTINUES

The county's settlement with Lake Point regarding their

2008 and 2009 contracts and agreements with Martin County, however, may not be used as evidence in Lake Point's suit against Martin County and the South Florida Water Management District for breach of contract, or against Maggy Hurchalla for wrongful interference in

regard to those contracts, according to Lake Point officials.

Hearings have been scheduled in September, however, after several motions in May and in August to postpone those



Maggy Hurchalla

hearings were granted by Martin County Circuit Court Judge James McCann.

Lake Point's suit contends that Hurchalla's actions caused the Martin County Commission to refuse to revoke its residential development order, thus violating the county's agreement to do so if Lake Point was successful in obtaining state-approved mining permits and subjecting Lake Point—as a residential development—to code enforcement actions and fines.

It also says that Hurchalla allegedly interfered with agreements between Martin County and the South Florida Water Management District that caused the SFWMD to change course in its planned water restoration project that would divert approximately 10 percent of the water flowing east down the C-44 canal to the St. Lucie River estuary across Lake Point property to be cleansed before entering into the L-8 canal, where the water could partially fulfill West Palm Beach's drinking water needs.

Hurchalla charges that the project,

continued on PAGE 6

continued from PAGE 5

which would require a \$1.5 million investment by American Utilities to build the infrastructure and would compensate Lake Point for giving up sales revenue of aggregate in lieu of water restoration, is a scheme "to sell Martin County water."

Key to the Lake Point case, according to Lake Point attorneys, is the correspondence between Hurchalla and Martin County commissioners Ed Fielding and Sarah Heard, who both corresponded with Hurchalla through their private computers.

Nine months following a public records request for all correspondence on all devices between Hurchalla, Fielding and Heard, a "secret" email from Hurchalla to Fielding regarding Lake Point, and Fielding's response, was provided to Lake Point attorneys, prompting Lake Point's request for a more detailed search of both Fielding's and Heard's private computers.

The judge granted Lake Point's request regarding Fielding's computer, and also agreed that Hurchalla should sit for another deposition to verify that she had deleted Lake Point emails from her computer.

Heard told Lake Point attorneys that her personal, private computer had been "hacked," and many of her emails had been lost as a result. Attorney Ethan Loeb attempted to get copies of deleted emails from Heard's web-based, Yahoo account, but was denied by Yahoo, unless or until a criminal investigation is launched, or until Heard gives permission for a search, which she has not provided.

Lake Point has attempted to have Heard sit for a deposition to explain the process she followed to retrieve what Lake Point considers to be public records pertaining to her correspondence with Hurchalla housed on her computer, but the hearing dates have been postponed numerous times. Judge McCann likely will hear the Lake Point motion this month.

Judge McCann also will hear a motion by attorney Ginny Sherlock to have the case against Hurchalla dismissed. ■

LAKE O DIKE HEARINGS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District postponed public

meetings that were scheduled to be held Sept. 22-25 regarding rehabilitation efforts at the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

The meetings are being postponed due to delays associated with modeling being conducted for the dam safety modification study of the 143-mile earthen structure.

"Rather than provide incomplete in-

formation to the public, it is best to complete this important analysis," said Tim Willadsen, Herbert Hoover Dike Rehabilitation Project Manager. "Complete and accurate information is essential because it may have significant impacts on the potential solutions."

The meetings, which had been planned for Okeechobee and in Jupiter, will be rescheduled for a future date. ■

PRUITT IS 'BEST IN WORLD'

The 70-person St. Lucie County property appraiser's office, led by former

Senate President Ken Pruitt, won the biggest annual award the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) hands out -- the 2014 Distinguished Assessment Jurisdiction Award.



St. Lucie Property Appraiser Ken Pruitt

The award is presented to a national, state, regional or local agency that has instituted a technical, procedural, or administrative program that improves on prior programs, and is recognized as a component of a model assessment system and a contributing factor to equity in property taxation. The office was the lone recipient representing a local government to receive the award.

"Only one property appraiser's office in the world gets it," said David Reed, chapter affiliate representative manager, speaking from the IAAO's Kansas City headquarters. "In our business, it's a little like getting a Pulitzer -- it's a 'best of world' -- and this year it went to a Florida office."

Pruitt has come under fire by The Stuart News for more than a year for moonlighting with his Tallahassee lobbying firm, The P5 Group, while he works by day as the county property appraiser, an elected position. ■

RIVERS COALITION

The Rivers Coalition plans to have a booth at the Fort Pierce Jetty Jam,

a free public music festival hosted on the beach Sept. 20-21 by the Inlet Bar and Grill. A statewide volleyball tournament with a \$2,500 cash prize, live music from local bands, hundreds of vendors, and VIP tents (which require you to purchase a ticket) will take place on the beach. For more information, including VIP tickets and volleyball registration, go to

The Florida Today newspaper was the first to report the first week of September that a virus killing bottlenose dolphins along

the Atlantic coast has spread to the Indian River Lagoon.

So far this year, 67 dolphins in the lagoon and ocean waters along Brevard County have died, 18 in August alone. Several cases are pending final results, but according to Megan Stolen, a research scientist at Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, Hubbs researchers found that one dolphin from the lagoon in Brevard County and three from the ocean have been confirmed as morbillivirus deaths.

Adam Schaefer, an epidemiologist at Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, said neither of the dolphin bodies found along the Treasure Coast in mid-August — one in the St. Lucie River near Stuart, the other in the lagoon near Vero Beach — tested positive for morbillivirus, a measles-like virus, and their cause of the deaths remains under investigation.

The morbillivirus dolphin deaths in the lagoon, however, herald biologists' worst fear that the virus could again gain a foothold in the lagoon, which happened during the 1980s, and spread south into Martin County waters.

"I'm hoping that some of the animals that have been exposed in the past will fight it off," Stolen told Florida Today reporters.

Biologists had already been tracking unusual dolphin deaths in the lagoon since January 2013, when more than 70 lagoon dolphins suddenly died, most within Brevard County. Few answers have been found, however, even after scientists opened a formal federal investigation into the lagoon's unusual dolphin deaths, although tissue tests still are pending.



More than 600 dolphins live nearly exclusively within the Indian River Lagoon, seldom, if ever, venturing into the ocean, according to researchers.

A separate bottlenose dolphin die-off last year in the mid-Atlantic prompted NOAA Fisheries to declare another "Unusual Mortality Event." More than 800 dolphins died or were stranded that year in the Atlantic from New York to Virginia. More than nine times the historical average of bottlenose dolphins died or were stranded in the mid-Atlantic region in July and August 2013, and NOAA officials point primarily to the morbillivirus as the cause, according to NOAA reports.

Studies show some lagoon dolphin have antibodies to morbillivirus, but that does not seem to ensure immunity. About a decade ago, researchers first began discovering more viruses, fungal and bacterial lesions on lagoon bottlenose dolphins, and more conditions that dolphins and humans share, such as hepatitis, meningitis and cancer. Biologists suspect pollution is driving the higher incidence of those conditions, according to the news report.

Do not touch any sick dolphins, said scientists, or any sick or dead wildlife. Residents should report sick, dead or injured wildlife by calling the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922. ■

www.fortpiercejettyjam.com or email rohan@fortpiercejettyjam.com.

Then the Rivers Coalition will have its quarterly evening meeting at Stuart City Hall at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 24. The meeting is open to the public. ■

NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY

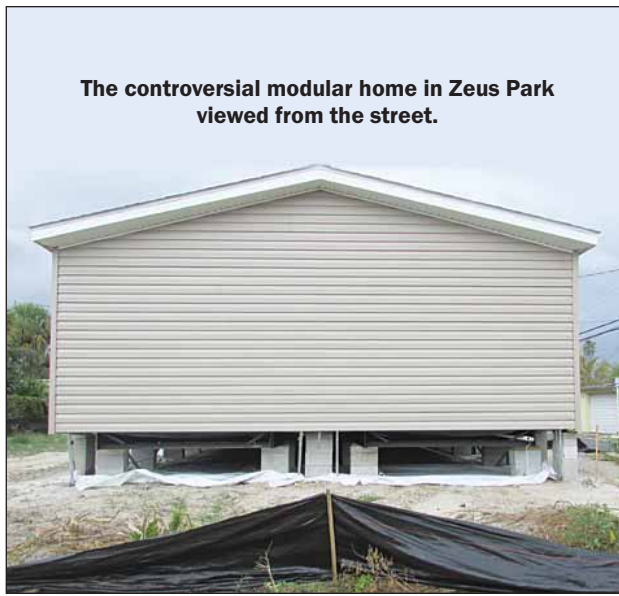
The River Center in Jupiter will host a National Estuaries Day Celebration on

Saturday, Sept. 27, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., which annually draws about 800 visitors.

The free event will feature kids' favorites like a bounce house, interactive games with a local fire truck, and face

painting. Everyone can enjoy various exhibitions from Loggerhead Marineland Center, Harbor Branch Ocean Discovery Center, and the Palm Beach Zoo, among others, and attend an engaging presentation from Busch Wildlife Sanctuary featuring live animals while Jupiter Outdoor Center presents kayak and paddle demos. Live entertainment scheduled for the day includes story time with Professor Clark the Science Shark. Refreshments will be available for purchase by the River Center.

Attendees may also enjoy the 6,000 gallons of aquariums and touch tanks featured inside the River Center. Refreshments and raffle tickets featuring prizes from local merchants and artists will also be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the ongoing educational and preservation efforts of the River Center. ■



Zeus Park: Fitting a square peg into a round hole?

The Zeus Park residents of Hobe Sound were ready to throw the Martin County Community Development Department staff out on their collective ear at the July Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting at the Hobe Sound Community building.

“We’re not interested in being told what we have in Zeus Park,” said Zeus Park resident Harry MacArthur, who owns Harry & the Natives restaurant in Hobe Sound, in response to a staff presentation that included walls covered with photos of Zeus Park houses, maps of Zeus Park lots, and charts that pinpointed differences in setbacks and lot sizes.

“We already know all that, and all we need is about 30 minutes with staff to tell ‘em,” he said. “...What we want to know is, how do we get rid of something that doesn’t belong here...and how do we keep this from happening again?”

The “house” that has drawn intense criticism of what residents believe is the county’s lack of oversight is a modular home brought into Zeus Park last April and mounted on top of dry-stacked concrete block with straps attached to ground anchors, facing the alley, amid neighbors with site-built homes facing their streets.

The building was removed after a county magistrate ruled that its foundation did not meet county code requirements for a “permanent foundation,” however, residents recognize it may

only be temporary pending the outcome of a Circuit Court judge’s ruling this fall. They are not pleased with that prospect, but they are adamant that a house they feel so obviously does not “fit” their neighborhood cannot ever be erected again on any of the remaining 90 or so buildable lots remaining in Zeus Park.

At issue, not only in Zeus Park but in historic neighborhoods throughout the county, is that the current layers of county code and regulations, topped by CRA design regulations that are not codified, have led to a morass of confusion as to what can and cannot be built, what can and cannot be changed on existing structures, the difference between code and “suggested” design regulation, and what is applied to whom and under what circumstances.

The missing piece is the creation of a form-based code for neighborhoods that has the regulatory teeth of county ordinances, according to county staff, but is based on what buildings look like and the overall impact of those buildings—as defined by the residents of a “neighborhood.”

“We want to preserve the existing

character of Hobe Sound,” said Kev Freeman, director of the Community Development Department, “and, indeed, all the CRAs (Community Redevelopment Areas), which are distinctively different from each other, by combining all the codes and design regulations into one place, so anyone, including residents, can look at it and know exactly what a building is going to look like after it’s built with no surprises.”

The zoning and county building codes have focused traditionally on such abstract points as the number of units per acre, the size of the setbacks, and optimum parking ratios rather than the community vision as a whole. As a result, planners, architects, homeowners, and staff must consult a multitude of code books with no graphic representation of what the final product will look like.

The issue is not limited to Zeus Park, Freeman said, but the Hobe Sound CRA was selected for creation of the first “Neighborhood Zoning” project in the county because of the existing controversy.

The new Neighborhood Zoning District for the Zeus Park neighborhood in Hobe Sound will be presented at the next Hobe Sound Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting on Friday, Sept. 30, at 6 p.m. in the Hobe Sound Community Center. More on the code can be found at www.zeusparkcode.com.

“This is not to add more zoning rules or codes,” Freeman said, “but to create a single zoning code in one place that will be simple, easy to understand, graphically represented, and will provide clear parameters to anyone who looks at it.”

But you can almost hear the question that will be asked: Now can we keep out modular homes? ■

--Barbara Clowdus

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Pacific Legal lobbs first salvo in Flash Beach Grille case

July 15, 2014, is a day that Anita and Robert Breinig, owner and chef of the Flash Beach Grille restaurant in Hobe Sound, will long remember. "The Pacific Legal Foundation called today to say they will take our case," said Anita Breinig. "I feel like a boulder has just been lifted off my chest."

The Breinigs, who grew a small catering business into a successful restaurant on Bridge Road in Hobe Sound, met an unexpected obstacle when they sought a liquor license two years ago to add a much-needed revenue stream for their popular fresh-seafood restaurant. The county commission gave a tentative yes to the liquor license, but its inspectors reported that the couple had violated the terms of the Preserve Area Management Plan for a 40x70 portion of their property—also known as a conservation easement—that they did not know existed.

"This is an easement the property owners knew nothing about because the county never bothered to record it," said Mark Miller, managing attorney for the Atlantic Center of the PLF in Palm Beach Gardens, which filed a suit against the county on August 28 on behalf of the Breinigs to stop the county's enforcement of the Preserve Area Man-

agement Plan behind Flash Beach Grille.

"As part of its enforcement crusade for this previously secret easement, the county is threatening Robert and Anita Breinig with massive fines, up to \$1,000 per day," Miller added, "that could cripple or kill their business."

The Pacific Legal Foundation, organized in 1973 by members of then-Calif. Governor Ronald Reagan's welfare reform team to defend the property rights of citizens, first notified Krista Storey, of the Martin County legal department, on July 18 that it would be representing the Breinigs. On August 28, Miller and other members of the PLF team held a press conference in front of Flash Beach Grille to announce the suit filed that day in Martin County Circuit Court.

Television crews and reporters gathered on the "beach" front lawn of the restaurant facing Bridge Road in Hobe Sound, along with about a dozen local citizens and patrons to hear Pacific



Attorney Mark Miller, of the Pacific Legal Foundation, addresses media questions August 28 in a press conference at Flash Beach Grille restaurant in Hobe Sound. On left are owners Anita and Robert Breinig.

Legal Foundation's announcement.

"Martin County should stop punishing property owners for Martin County's mistakes," Miller said, a theme that the attorney emphasized in his initial letter to Krista Storey.

"The failure to record was neither yours nor Mr. (Michael) Durham's mistake, nor the mistake of the current county commissioners," Miller said in his letter to the county's legal department. "Nevertheless, the mistake of

your predecessors should lead the county to conclude that the easement is unenforceable against the Breinigs and the Flash Beach Grille."

Prior to the lawsuit, Commissioner Anne Scott had responded to constituents asking about the fate of the local restaurant and about the county's responsibility to record the conservation easement by saying that the county is not required to do so.

"The County need not and indeed could not record all ordinances and regulations that affect individual properties as exceptions to their titles," Scott said in her email, published on the county's website. "On the other hand, a seller has a duty to disclose to the buyer any latent defects, problems or conditions that he knows of that affect use of the property...The owner who sold the property to the Grille knew very well about the preserve area. He had faced code enforcement proceedings himself. He had a duty to disclose it to the buyers. Apparently he did not."

Two previous code enforcement violations had been levied on the property for failure to comply with the Preserve Area Management Plan, neither of which had been recorded, and were not discovered when the Breinigs paid for a title search prior to their purchase of the property three years ago.

"It's easy to say that we should sue the title company or the previous owner, or that we should move our equipment



The 40 x 70 preserve area behind the Flash Beach Grille restaurant. "You mean, this is all there is to it?" asked a news reporter, during the August 28 press conference. "This is not what I expected to see."



A house sits within a couple of feet of the Breinigs' rear property line. "So, are we going to tear down that house now because it does not meet the minimum setbacks," asked Commissioner Doug Smith, during the public hearing May 6. "So I ask, where does (government intrusion) end?"



Flash Beach Grille chef Robert Breinig in front of the area behind Flash Beach Grille where he cleans fish he catches himself or purchases from local commercial fishermen, and the freezer where the seafood is stored, located on the contested preserve area behind the restaurant.

from behind the building and make it a preserve, or that we should sell the restaurant and start over somewhere else," Anita said, "but people who say that don't really understand the situation. Taking any of those options means losing our business that we've worked so very hard over the past 15 years to build."

Originally a hot dog stand, the building does not have room for a freezer or for dry storage, which the Breinigs accommodated by using the space behind their restaurant to hold storage lockers, a freezer, and their catering trailer, which is fully licensed for preparing food and is the back-up kitchen for the restaurant.

LONG-STANDING ISSUES

The county's Growth Management Department reported that it had prepared three different configurations for restoring the preserve area, but none of them accommodated the Breinings storage or operating needs. (Members of their staff are scheduled to visit the site for the first time on Sept. 19.)

"The building was too small for a full-service restaurant," said Anita, "but we saw the property had land around the building and thought that when the time was right, we could expand...Had we known we could not use the property in the rear, we would never have purchased the building in the first place."

Hobe Sound locals said that "everyone around here knew about the problems with the property," which fronts Bridge Road and lies inside the commercial district of the Hobe Sound Community Redevelopment Area with paved parking lots both east and west of it. But apparently the Breinigs did not.

The Martin County Commission voted 3-2 (with Commissioners John

Haddox and Doug Smith dissenting) on May 6 to force the Breinigs to comply with the preserve area requirements, or face up to a \$1,000-a-day code enforcement fine, which was due to begin around July 1. It also would require that the Breinigs remove the locker they currently use for dry food storage, their freezer, as well as their mobile kitchen, which the Breinigs say will force them out of business. They have not complied.

The isolated preserve is smaller than the updated preserve requirements as outlined in the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. According to the Growth Management Department staff report, more than 1,000 mini-preserve areas currently exist in Martin County, with 22 of them less than a quarter acre in size on non-residential properties and nine of those falling within Community Redevelopment Areas.

The county commissioners had voted in a separate vote at the May 6 meeting to require that all mini-preserve areas be enforced, regardless of how small or whether located in commercial areas. In a surprise move at the end of the May 20 county commission meeting, Commissioner John Haddox asked that his May 6 vote to enforce all mini-preserve area requirements be rescinded.

"My question is," he asked, "does exempting these 22 areas, or at least those less than a quarter of an acre in size, in any way harm our environment or our wildlife or our conservation efforts?"

Haddox said that he felt that the staff's report had not looked at the property in the context of being in and around other preserve areas, particularly in Hobe Sound, where Jonathan Dickinson Park comprises 11,500 acres in permanent preserve. The Hobe Sound Wildlife Refuge adds another 1,035 acres, and the Atlantic Ridge preserve adds another 5,800 acres, a total of



A sign the Breinigs posted at their restaurant following the May 20 commission meeting where Commissioners John Haddox and Doug Smith attempted to have the Growth Management Department reexamine the basis of their report recommending that Flash Beach Grille be forced to comply with its Preserve Area Management Plan.

18,035 acres already in permanent preserve in and around Hobe Sound.

OTHER PRESERVE STANDARDS UNMET

Haddox noted as well that the Flash Beach Grille lot does not meet other preserve requirements of providing adequate food and water for wildlife, or be contiguous to other preserve areas or part of a wildlife corridor.

Haddox also reminded his fellow commissioners that their primary instruction to the reorganized Business De-

velopment Board was to assist existing businesses in expansion and renovation, he said, insisting that the commission's actions regarding the mini-preserve areas, therefore, were counter-productive and contrary to their own goals.

"That route between A1A and Route 1 on Bridge Road is commercial," he added. "There's no way that .06 of an acre should be a preserve area. It's a commercial property in a CRA, and we're encouraging development...I think we need to send this back to staff, and it needs to be much more thoroughly decided, and just because the Comp Plan has it doesn't mean that it's right."

The only other commissioner who agreed with Haddox was Commissioner Doug Smith; therefore, the motion was defeated in yet another 3-2 vote, with Commissioners Sarah Heard and Anne Scott emphasizing the need to apply the law equally to all residents. (See Commissioner Heard's remarks and follow-up letter from Growth Management Director Nicki Van Vonno on Page 13 of this issue.)

"I hope the county will ultimately realize that the law supports the Breinigs..." Miller said. "I hope the county commissioners will not seek to unlawfully penalize a successful small business owner in Martin County." ■

--Barbara Clowdus

An advertisement for "About Time Clock & Watch Repair". It features several images of timepieces: a large ornate wall clock, a small red alarm clock, a gold pocket watch, a silver wristwatch, and a small black alarm clock. A circular text box says "WILL BUY WORKING OR BROKEN MECHANICAL (WIND-UP) WATCHES." The text "Fine Watch & Antique Clock Repair" is written in a cursive font. Below that, it says "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." The address "8858 SE Edwyn Street • Hobe Sound" is listed, along with the location "(Between McDonalds and the Boys & Girls Club)" and hours "Monday-Friday 9-5 • Saturday 10-2". The business name "About Time" is written in a large cursive font, with "CLOCK & WATCH REPAIR SERVICE" in smaller text below it. Two palm trees are illustrated on either side of the business name.

Honor Flights bestow and beget honor to vets, volunteers

An often unintended consequence of Honor Flights, which heap deferred praise onto World War II veterans for their service and salute them as heroes, befalls most volunteers: They are the ones who feel honored to have had the opportunity to share what often becomes an incredibly intense, exceptionally rewarding day in the life of one veteran's visit to "their" national memorial.

"From the very first time I served as a Guardian," said volunteer Roz Johnson, a City of Stuart employee in the human resources department, "I was hooked, and I volunteered again and again. I cannot ever see myself not being a part of this organization."

Johnson now serves on the board of directors of the Southeast Florida Honor Flight hub based in Martin County, a 501c-3, all-volunteer organization dedicated to taking WWII Veterans to the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. at no expense to the veteran. Their next flight is Sept. 20.

The hub, formed in 2008, serves veterans from Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee, and Palm Beach counties,



WWII veteran and former Navy Seabee John Pereira, of Stuart, reads his mail during the Honor Flight "mail call" on May 24. His son wrote, "I didn't really think about it before, but I realize I've never thanked you for your service to our country." Photos: Barbara Clowdus

but they also do not turn away veterans from outside the area. The CEO of the Southeast Florida hub is Todd Tucker, a Martin County firefighter, as are other board members, who are instrumental in raising the funds to ensure that four flights a year from the Treasure Coast can continue at a cost of approximately \$30,000 per flight.

"In one weekend, our guys raised \$60,000 just by standing at intersections while our residents filled up those boots," said Martin County firefighter J.D. Davidson, also an Honor Flight board member. "That's amazing, but that also shows you the kind of county we live in, too."

Their hub was chosen due to its sterling reputation for organization to coordinate the three-day, 70th Anniversary Commemoration of D-Day Honor Flights to Bedford, Va., site of the D-Day Memorial, then on to Washington D.C. before returning to Palm Beach International the weekend of June 6. Thousands attended the services in Bedford, including more than 300 D-Day veterans, which received national media coverage.

The usual Southeast Florida Honor Flight, however, is a one-day excursion that begins at 4 a.m. in Stuart, traveling by chartered bus to Palm Beach International Airport, then by chartered plane for up to 100 veterans and their Guardians—volunteers who pay \$400 for their own expenses—plus Honor Flight volunteer staff and medical personnel, then by bus to the Iwo Jima Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Washington Memorial—then back on the bus with a stop and break for lunch in between memorial visits, back to the airport to fly back to Palm Beach International Airport, and bus back to Stuart by around 9 p.m.

"We're all exhausted by the time we get back to Stuart," said Johnson, "except the vets. They're usually still fired up



Roz Johnson



J.D. Davidson



Dr. Andy D'Errico



The Southeast Florida Honor Flight veterans line up for a group photo at the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.



Flags of our Heroes honors those WWII veterans who did not live long enough to make the flight to Washington D.C.

from all the excitement and ready to go."

Pomp, pageantry and salutes await the veterans at every stop, and in between they are honored by fire trucks and rescue personnel at intersections. Citizens and veterans line up waving flags, and a ceremonial washing of the plane by fire rescue water trucks happens at each airport take-off and landing.

"I didn't really know what to expect," said veteran John Pereira, of Stuart, a former Navy Seabee who took part in the invasion of Okinawa and was on the May 24 Honor Flight, "but I didn't expect this."

A highlight of every trip happens on the flight home when suddenly "Mail Call" is announced and manila envelopes full of letters are delivered to each veteran from family and friends, thanking them for service not often previously acknowledged, eliciting chuckles and sometimes tears. Honor Flight volunteers, like secret elves, contact family members and collect the mail prior to the flights, and no one ever knows, exactly, what's inside until they're opened.

One veteran received a letter from his

daughter, who had unexpectedly died two weeks prior to the flight, but he could not read his daughter's last words to him. "I'll save it for later," he said.

"Later" is a luxury, as time is running out for most World War II veterans. The youngest on the May 24 flight was 85, the oldest nearly 99. Terminal illness and infirmities do not daunt the volunteers, however, which include a medical doctor and an EMT on every flight. After all the WWII veterans are offered an opportunity to take an Honor Flight, the volunteers will seek war heroes from the Korean and Vietnam wars next.

"There are far more deserving veterans than there are Guardians," said Donna True, program services coordinator for the Southeast Florida Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and a Guardian who had taken her 11th flight on May 24.

"People just cannot believe that I would pay \$400 to volunteer for an Honor Flight," she said, before adding the all-too-familiar refrain, "but after you do it once, you're hooked." ■

--Barbara Clowdus



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Local artist, friends roll out original Bukowski film

The summer night at Hobe Sound Commons on Robyn Street remained undisturbed. An occasional moth attracted to an unlikely light shining through an open overhead door of the largely vacant warehouse was the lone witness that something remarkable was taking place inside.

Surrounded by other businesses now shuttered for the weekend, the Commons' internal transformation, yet one more time for art's sake, was being choreographed by artist, writer and filmmaker Stephen A. Stone. Retired now, at least as much as a creative muse can stop creating, Stone was pursuing a dream previously postponed by the realities of life—to produce a film based on his own adaptation of the work of prolific poet and writer Charles Bukowski, renowned for his raw depiction of ordinary lives.

"Bukowski has almost a cult following," said Stone, in his Seabranche home surrounded by original artwork, his own, and that by friends. "His work particularly appealed to those of us who came of age in the '60s."

Stone was living in New York City, where he had been trained at the School for the Visual Arts, at the time he first discovered Bukowski through his friend Marty Balin, lead singer of Jefferson Airplane. Stone was struck by Bukowski's uncomfortable honesty, and he competed vigorously for the rights to produce what became perhaps Bukowski's most famous film, "Barfly," starring Faye Dunaway and Mickey Rourke in 1987.

Undaunted, Stone procured the rights to a collection of Bukowski's short stories with the intention of producing his own film. Selling the idea proved difficult at the time, and Stone, who had moved to California and was working with tattoo artist Ed Hardy, shelved the project to pursue other objectives.

Eventually, he returned to New York, and married a woman 35 years ago who had become a close friend—artist and fashion designer Boshia Stone.

It was Boshia who, not too long ago, suggested that perhaps the time had come to produce her husband's film—not the full-length version, but a film based on just one of Bukowski's short stories. The idea appealed to Stephen, who wrote an adaptation of Bukowski's "The Gut Wringing Machine."

"It is an allegorical story about life, about what happens to many of us," he says. "We forget our goals as everyday life wrings out all our early aspirations; thus we lose our individuality, and, too often, we become just a number, going through life by rote."

It was a theme that underscored much of Bukowski's work as he railed at the world for having minds "full of cotton," as people pursued mindless jobs in return for regular paychecks, their dreams long evaporated.



The cast of the Stephen Stone adaptation of Charles Bukowski's short story, "The Gut Wringing Machine," includes, first row from left: Christopher T. Gendron, Les Shenkel, and Stone, who made a cameo appearance in the film; second row, Boshia J. Stone and James Hook; back row, Leo Arbezniak, Jeff Long, and Michael Claren. Photo: Leo Arbezniak

Stephen turned to his friends, some of whom are professional actors and cameramen, for assistance with the project, and Boshia went to Jan and Bob Webster, who own The Commons, which has been previously the site of two contemporary art shows.

"They are so supportive of the arts and of the talented, creative people we have right here in Hobe Sound," Boshia said. "They did not hesitate to grant us permission to build a sound stage at The Commons."

A friend of the Stones, artist Michael Claren, had recently given the couple one of his original paintings, "The March of the Outcasts," that unintentionally resonated with the theme of Bukowski's short story. Copied and enlarged, it became the moody backdrop of shapeless, mindless bodies moving in a long processional across the stage.

Josef Utto of Hobe Sound built the gut-wringing machine, so finely crafted, viewers will believe that it might actually work, and Hobe Sound artist James Hook built other props.

Professional actor Les Shenkel, who lives part time in New York and part time in Wellington, took the leading role of Bagley, and Burt Reynolds Theatre Group members James Hook and Jeff Long, filled the roles of Danforth and Barney, respectively.

One character role was left, Herman, which was filled by Hobe Sound photographer Leo Arbezniak, who had no previ-

ous acting experience.

"When your friends ask a favor, what the heck," Arbezniak said, "what are you gonna say, 'No'?" But it turned out to be great fun, although I'm no actor. I was most impressed, though, that everyone took this project very seriously. I mean, we shot film until 4 in the morning....that takes dedication."

Stephen had wanted to shoot during the evening and night-time hours due to the summer heat, and with three cameras rolling, the shoot was a challenge; however, the most difficult part was synchronizing the film shots during editing, he said.

"Michael Claren did a wonderful job editing the picture and sound," Stephen added. "That's how you get the flow you need, from one camera angle to the next, but it helps to have great cameramen like Michael and Chris Gendron. It would be impossible otherwise."

Nadia Utto assisted with clappers, and Boshia was the set and costume designer. The film, which Stephen estimates will be about 15 minutes long, is nearly ready for showing, which perhaps will also be premiered at The Commons, where it was birthed.

"It will be a celebration," Boshia said. "It not only will be the premiere of an original film, written, produced and edited by Stephen Stone, but it also will demonstrate that it's never too late to fulfill your dreams. That's what all this is about, really. It's never too late to pursue a dream." ■

—Barbara Clowdus



Filmmaker Stephen A. Stone with two of his scripts, his original based on the short stories of Charles Bukowski, and the script on his left for his adaptation of "The Gut Wringing Machine." Photo: Barbara Clowdus

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Editorial: Freedom, Fourth of July & Flash Beach

The Fourth of July reminded us briefly of the sacrifices of others long ago and far away. Because of them, we expect the liberty that resides within our DNA—our soldiers' gift to us now and our founders' improbable dream fulfilled.

Their sacrifices ensure Americans, like the owners of a small restaurant in Hobe Sound, the freedom to pursue their dreams. They would have applauded Robert and Anita Breinigs' initiative to tap their own skills 15 years ago to create a successful catering business with a toddler in tow.

They would have nodded in approval as that business grew on reputation alone, the Breinigs' clients referring other clients to this caterer, a terrific chef who presented his dishes in a way that complemented their finely appointed homes.

His partner, his wife, coordinated each event with panache. Her gregarious personality and show-stopping smile became the face of Flash Catering. He called her “the brains” of the business; she called him “my rock.”

They purchased a mobile catering trailer hitched to a truck, when it wasn't hitched to their boat. As their customer base grew, they often were encouraged

“to take the next step.” Open a restaurant in Hobe Sound, their customers said, which required as much or more in resolve than in the critical analysis of their prospects for success. Our founders would have recognized that kind of decision making, steeped in risk.

The Breinigs opened their first Flash Beach Grille next to a liquor store on Bridge Road. Although still boom times in 2007, their early morning and lunch menu drew few residents. They switched to lunch and dinner, and the number of locals swelled. They squeezed tables on the sidewalk between the curb and front door. Less than ideal, but still their customers came.

They were closed more days than open back then, choosing to spend long days on the water with their daughter as they collected the seafood they would later serve. Then the town's long-awaited sewer line came down Bridge Road, forcing the fledgling restaurant nearly to close, because diners could no longer park at their front door.

The Breinigs' business barely survived by feeding lunch to construction crews. Next came the Great Recession, but snowbirds' catering orders lifted the restaurant's revenues enough to stay open. Their daughter learned to do her

homework among the grouper, snapper and conch fillets in the kitchen.

The little business had adapted to the unexpected, and our founding fathers would have smiled.

With the recession receding, the Breinigs pushed themselves yet higher—providing exceptional experiences by sharing exquisite meals with friends. Then county government came and said, no, you cannot serve meals on china and glass, only paper plates and paper napkins will do. That's the rule when you don't have a sewer line connection. Then the relentless whispers in their ears began to suggest: “Buy the vacant restaurant next door.”

After months of negotiations and title searches, they did just that. The building itself, which originally housed a hot dog stand, was too small, but if they stored their staples outside temporarily, they could expand later. They wanted to pay their own way.

The Breinigs would share the American experience of land ownership, of shaping a business from nothing except toil and skill, and of summoning the courage to take the next step to fulfill their dreams. We know our founders cheered.

All their dreams, sweat and toil

nearly evaporated last fall after county officials revealed that a tiny preserve, 40 ft x 70 ft, their only space for storage, a garden or expansion, was part of their property. Oops. Although never recorded, the spot was deemed vital to Martin County ecology—even more vital than keeping a small business alive.

Somehow, even Hobe Sound's other 18,000 acres of conservation preserve needed this 300 square yards more. Somehow, even though Flash Beach Grille lies in a commercial corridor, this tiny lot has been deemed vital to wildlife and plants. Not so vital to a family. Not so vital to keeping alive the American dream. We bet our founding fathers hung their heads.

When three commissioners said—and you already know which three—that they cannot alter a law they made in order to do what's right, to keep from taking away the Breinigs' ability to offer Hobe Sound more than hot dogs and to provide themselves a livelihood, we wondered, why not?

The Pacific Legal Foundation asked the same question and more. They'll take the case of Flash Beach Grille v. Martin County, and the Breinigs are no longer alone. We think we heard a 300-year-old cheer.

Letters to Editor

Seven things to do before sending water south

There is no Plan 6. It represents a concept from the 1990s — a changing and growing concept.

Want proof? Recently the Rivers Coalition began supporting water farming. The coalition now speaks of conveyance, cleaning and storage.

Plan 6 is a rally chant without any actual reality. The chant should be, “There is no one silver bullet.” Why? Can you say, “Miccosukee?”

We cannot send masses of water south. We cannot let it flow until it is cleaned of the poisons down to 10 parts per billion.

Next, there are 1.4 million acre-feet of water to address. This amount of water is what had to be flushed from Lake O last season.

We need to do a series of things before that south flow could happen:

1. The Orlando area needs to hold and deal with its own water instead of flushing 800,000 acre-feet of water south to flood us.

2. The Kissimmee River needs to be totally restored back to the winding oxbows of the past. This slows water, filters water and holds some of it. Water used to take months to flow to the Lake. Now it arrives in six hours.

3. Lake O needs its channels dredged of the muck.

4. There needs to be temporary storage and water farming wherever possible while different projects come on line.

5. Counties need to create areas to hold and filter their own stormwater.

6. Source-point polluters need to be identified to stop the massive flows into our waters so the water can arrive in Lake O closer to the 10 parts per billion instead of the 200-plus PPB it does now.

7. And then, the water can flow south and west at a mild rate and get a final scrub in stormwater treatment areas before heading to the Miccosukees' land.

Donald Voss
Fort Pierce

Customs facility bad deal for residents

I have been a resident of Mariner Cay HOA in Stuart for 14 years. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Customs facility at Witham airport. I am a boater and I am enrolled in the Frequent Boater Program which allows me to phone into the Fort Pierce facility without reporting in person (Customs still reserves the right to make me report within 24 hours). Frequent

travelers to the Bahamas, as well as fishing charter captains, have used this benefit for years. The need for the facility and the benefit for marinas and businesses is overstated, as it makes no difference in your port of entry.

In the past, US Customs has set up a temporary office at Sailfish Marina during heavy travel times. They used an existing office, and they were able to inspect traffic right on the spot without the 24-hour limit. I feel it's a better way to go, especially of unannounced.

Where it will have an impact is on air traffic. Our community, as well as others surrounding the airport, already are victims of the noise and jet fuel pollution. The additional air traffic will only make it worse. If you check, you will find there have been many complaints registered about airport noise.

I urge you to seek a different solution without spending millions of taxpayer dollars on a facility that is not needed.

Frank Potucek
Stuart

County commissioners have their own agendas

I wish you had included (in your previous editorial) the refusal of the Martin County Commissioners to accept \$500,000 free money from the state to put in a monitored, organized mooring field in Dutcher's Cove (at the southern base of the Jensen Beach Causeway). All I see

on a daily basis (I live atop Tony Roma's) are homeless/squatters going from shore to the abandoned boats and back to shore and to that blue motel, drugs and booze all day and night. A planned mooring field would have ended this behavior and brought more good \$\$\$ and commerce to downtown Jensen Beach.

Not to mention that all the “tree huggers” who argued against it, citing that “Johnson sea grass” would be detrimentally harmed, don't know squat about the damage that anchoring, re-anchoring, anchors dragging, boats popping their anchors and grounding against the shore, etc., etc. (Ten boats that adjust their anchors three times a week is 120 scars in the seabed a month, times 12 months. Do the math.) as opposed to the planned 50 mooring balls that would be stationary and develop their own mini-ecosystem per mooring ball. And also the fact that the building of that new bridge and the yearly Lake Okeechobee discharges ruined any life that was there a long time ago.

This Board of County Commissioners has their own agenda. I was on the original NAC for Jensen Beach, and they terminated me and all others just to start a new NAC. It's politics as usual. No wonder they have a free reign to forward their own agendas. No one wants to deal with the baloney (in the famous words of YouTube sensation Foxy Brown, “ain't nobody got time for that.”

Joey Eaton
Jensen Beach

Fear of retribution channels money into PACs



Barbara Clowdus

Unfiltered

The summer of 2014 brought me great joy—and at times, near terror—in an unexpected experience: running for public office. In spite of the long days and the stress of shouldering good people's expectations, I would not trade one day of it to do anything else. What a challenge!

Although, admittedly, trying to remember everything sometimes led to re-

membering nothing, my brain benefited from the exercise.

The rewarding part, though, was meeting the exceptional people of this county, who drew me into their lives with stories of their own struggles and hopes, who humbled me with their contributions and their unshakable faith that I could, indeed, make a difference, not as much for them as for their children and grandchildren, all of whom, it seems, want to live here one day.

I cannot blame them for what I want most: to shape a county that not only treasures its environment, but can offer a future for its children. That universal desire never was more evident than at a recent economic summit at IRSC's Chastain Campus, when the heads of

local manufacturing firms revealed that their own children had taken better jobs out of state than even their parents could offer them here.

One company keeps a file of applicants who were born here and live elsewhere, because these applicants are looking for a way back to Martin County. "(Their training) is a good investment, because you know you can retain them. Once they come back here, they're not going anywhere else." You can bet on that.

The flood of political postcards omitted that message, because most came from PACs that are prohibited from being directed by candidates. PACs exist to hide contributors' names, but don't be misled into thinking these are just the big guys. PACs also are fed by local contributors who

fear retribution from those who hold power.

At the beginning of my candidacy, I was undaunted, at first, by a political consultant's advice that I would need to raise a minimum of \$60,000. I struggled to raise \$41,000, after being told repeatedly that businesses and individuals could not/would not associate their name with mine. (Those who did are my heroes.)

One highly respected professional who lives in Hobe Sound told me, "Barbara, you don't understand. I live here. My children are in school here. I cannot give you more than my vote, because these people are mean."

But he could, as did countless others, contribute to a PAC. That's the climate of fear here that must change. Martin County deserves better. ■

Only request: just apply the rules

Commissioner Sarah Heard's response as to why she voted against Flash Beach Grille.

By Sarah Heard

The reason that the County Commission voted to require Flash Beach Grille to restore their preserve area is that we are upholding our laws. I'm sure that you want to elect commissioners who will uphold our laws. In fact, we gave Flash Beach Grille over a year and a half to comply.

Following is a letter explaining the history of this facility written by Nicki Van Vonno, our growth management department director. I want our local businesses to flourish, and I want them all to have a level playing field with consistent application of the rules.

FROM GROWTH MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR NICKI VAN VONNO

The Flash Beach Grille, operated by Flash Catering, LLC, is located at 9126 SE Bridge Road in the Hobe Sound Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). The project originally received final site plan approval for a restaurant in 1990. As part of that approval, a Preserve Area Management Plan (PAMP) was included which called for 15.6 percent of the site be preserved as native upland habitat. The original site plan shows the dimensions of the preserve area to be approximately 40 foot by 70 foot area (2786 sq. ft.) on the south side of the lot located behind the restaurant. Portions of the preserve area are also incorporated into a 25 foot "landscaped buffer" along the south property line, as shown on the site plan.

Martin County has strict environmental protection laws. The County has required upland preserve areas since 1990, and wetland protection since 1982. These rules are often cited by residents for their reason for wanting to live in the special and unique place that is Martin County. Staff is not authorized to change a preserve area or exempt a property owner from complying with the rules which are contained in our Comp Plan. Only the County Commission can do that and only if the rules provide

waivers or exceptions that can be granted to a property owner.

While the County did not record development orders with or without preserve area management plans in 1990, the preserve area was known to prior owners of the site. The property had at least two code enforcement actions against prior owners for not maintaining the preserve area. According to the current owners, the prior owner did not disclose this information to the current owner.

When the owners of the Flash Diner came to the County for a liquor license in November 2012, the staff performed a site visit and documented preserve area viola-

tions. The owners represented to the County Commission at the meeting to receive the liquor license that they had brought the preserve area into compliance. Subsequent staff visits in March 2013, indicated that violations were present. This resulted in code enforcement action.

Staff advised the owners to seek a change in the preserve area. Staff worked with the owners and their representatives over the course of six months to bring this request to the County Commission in November, 2013. Rather than request the preserve area be modified, the applicant requested that the Board eliminate the preserve area entirely. The County Com-

mission directed staff to review the matter of undersized preserve areas and to report back to them. While that review was underway the Board directed that no enforcement action be pursued against the owners of Flash Diner. On May 6, 2014 the staff brought the review back. The Board reviewed the material presented. To grant the owner's request to remove the preserve area would require a comp plan amendment. The Board chose to maintain its plan policies and directed staff to proceed with the code enforcement action.

The business was never shut down during this time frame by any action of Martin County. The County Commission and their staff are following the Comp Plan and have tried to assist the owners to do so as well. ■

Boston runners triumphed!

After the Boston Marathon tragedy struck last year, we knew we would come to Boston this year, not only to exhibit at the Expo, but to watch the race on Patriot's Day, also known as Marathon Monday.

The hard work and around-the-clock hours in the (Runner Jewelry Inspired) shop was worth every second of being part of one of the world's greatest races, and cheering on customers and runners from all over the world.

The energy in the city was electric. You could feel it all around you. Outside the venue residents were happy and excited that their great city was on a world stage. Bostonians have always been a proud bunch, but even more so over this weekend. The Red Sox were in town, and nearly everyone was either wearing the local team shirts or Boston Strong apparel.

We listened to stories from our customers. One that stuck out the most was a customer telling me: "I had to come back. I didn't want last year to be my last memory of the Boston Marathon." The Boston Athletic Association opened the race to an additional nearly 10,000 runners who "had to run."

Monday morning we had to be at our pre-planned location to watch the race. A



Marie Scholl

Guest Columnist

long-time friend of Paul's (my significant other, born and raised in Boston) lives around mile 2, so we rushed over with our Dunkin Donuts coffee in hand before the roads closed.

What we saw next was a bit unexpected, but quickly understood. Hundreds of state troopers and local municipal police cars were headed toward and away from the finish line. At least 10 bomb squad trucks mixed with many large, black SUVs, with hidden red and blue lights flashing, continued on while helicopters buzzed above.

State police stood in formation within eyeshot getting their morning debriefing, and police dogs were on standby with their partners at the intersections.

Young kids lined the streets likely unaware of the events from last year. They were running around and chasing each other, as it was finally warming up after a

streak of cold weather. They were drawing messages to the runners in the street with chalk and happily squealing away! Fire hydrants along the route were painted yellow and blue and bright yellow daffodils were everywhere.

We walked down to the local bar, T.J.'s, for a drink and music around 8am. What a fun little spot that is! Dozens of motorcycle pipes and loud rock 'n roll blared through the air. Everyone was happy...talking...and laughing. This is their annual "holiday" party, which was short lived because we had to rush out to see the first wave of runners.

As we were walking back to our post, dozens of participants running on prosthetics or in racing wheelchairs, passed by. Tears popped out of my eyes when last year suddenly became very real.

We stood and cheered the runners through the entire race yelling: "You made it to Boston! You worked hard for this! Pace yourself; it is hot today! You got this!" Over and over. So many thank yous came right back to us.

Thank you to everyone who came to run and to support the "Great American Race." Hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised for charity. That weekend was proof that although terror may cause pain, it doesn't win. ■



Now until Sept. 28 Pictorial History of Indiantown

Photographer Kevin Boldenow will exhibit his images in "A Pictorial History of Indiantown." The fine art photography exhibit opened this month at the Elizabeth Lahti Library on Warfield Avenue in Indiantown and will remain on display through Sept. 28. No admission charge.

Sept. 26 and 27 Port Salerno Mermaid and Pirate Festival

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26 and 27, mermaids and pirates will gather along the waterfront in historic downtown Port Salerno for the first annual Port Salerno Mermaid and Pirate Festival. Live music, food, family-friendly activities, tropical drinks, real pirates, squiggly mermaids, and a bountiful selection of vendors will be available for plundering. Pirates and mermaids of all ages are welcome.

Sept. 10 to Sept. 21 Exhibition: ArtyBras

The Lighthouse Art Center is hosting its 5th Annual ArtyBras, an exhibition and silent auction of artfully embellished and adorned bras donated in support of the fight against breast cancer. The ArtyBras will be auctioned at



the Pink Cocktail Party and Fashion Show on Oct. 21 in Tequesta, but creating and donating the special bras will be

accomplished from September 10 to 21. Anyone interested in participating in the bra contributions may call 561-746-3101 or visit online www.lighthousearts.org/call-to-artists for more information. Contributing artists receive ONE FREE ticket. General admission is \$25 and reserved runway seating is \$40. All proceeds will benefit the Margaret W. Niedland Breast Center at Jupiter Medical Center and the Lighthouse Art Center.

Saturday, Sept. 20 International Coastal Cleanup



Volunteers from more than 90 nations around the world will come together to participate in the International Coastal Cleanup, spearheaded globally by the Ocean Conservancy and coordinated locally by Keep Martin Beautiful. This year's International Coastal Cleanup occurs on area beaches around Martin County from 8 a.m. to noon. Registration is requested in order to ensure that all waterways in Martin County are targeted. Register by calling 772-781-1222 or email events@keepmartinbeautiful.org.

Sept. 26-Oct. 12 "Things My Mother Taught Me"



The touching comedy, "Things My Mother Taught Me," opens the 44th Barn Theatre season on Sept. 26. 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, Sept. 27 IRL Science Festival

Celebrate all that makes science fun and raise money for the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at the same time during the inaugural Indian River Lagoon Science Festival on Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:30a.m. to 3 p.m. at Museum Pointe Park on south Hutchinson Island. Free admission. For more information, call 772.242.2259.



Saturday, Sept. 27 Port Salerno Mermaid & Pirate Party

Come dressed as a mermaid, pirate, fishermen, or crusty sea creature and enjoy a party along the scenic waterfront of the Manatee Pocket in downtown Port Salerno. The Port Salerno Mermaid & Pirate Party will feature Live Bands, Blackbeard's Pirate Ship, Great Food, Tropical Drinks, and other fun and exciting happenings at this nautical-themed event. The party is a precursor to the upcoming and widely anticipated Port Salerno Mermaid and Pirate Festival on April 17-18, 2015.

Saturday, October 4 Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

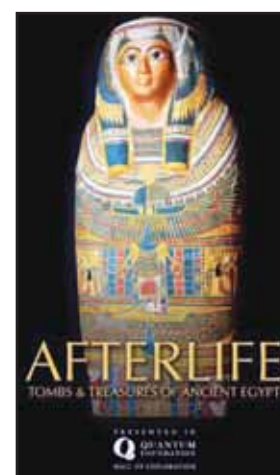
Men will step up and out in their red, high heels for SafeSpace's fifth annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event set to take place in Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties on Oct. 4. SafeSpace is looking for men to join these one-mile walks to step up against domestic violence and support the Treasure Coast's only domestic violence outreach center. For more information or to sponsor or register for the event, call SafeSpace at 772-223-2399 or visit www.safespacefl.org.

Oct 11 and 12 15th Annual Stuart Craft Festival

The 15th Annual Stuart Craft Festival is Oct. 11-12 from 10am to 5pm on Osceola Street in downtown Stuart. The craft show was established to support the arts, the local community and the Stuart Main Street programs and to raise awareness of breast cancer. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call 561-746-6615 or visit www.artfestival.com.

Beginning Saturday, Oct. 11 Afterlife: Tombs & Treasures of Ancient Egypt

The South Florida Science Center and Aquarium will host the North American premier of Afterlife: Tombs & Treasures of Ancient Egypt beginning Saturday, Oct. 11. The exhibition will have interactive components and guests can step into the centerpiece of the exhibition, a full-size reconstruction of the burial



chamber of the great Pharaoh Thutmose III. On tour for more than 10 years, and seen by more than 4.5 million people worldwide, Afterlife will be coming from a wildly popular tour in Asia, where science-seekers lined up for more than six hours for a glimpse at the largest current touring exhibition of authentic

Egyptian material. The exhibit will run through Saturday, April 18, 2015.

Admission to Afterlife: Tombs & Treasures of Ancient Egypt and the Science Center's permanent exhibits is \$19.95 for adults, \$15.95 for children aged 3 to 12, \$17.95 for seniors aged 62 and older, and children under 3 are free. Admission for Science Center members is \$8. (Planetarium shows and miniature golf are not included in general admission pricing.) The South Florida Science Center and Aquarium is at 4801 Dreher Trail North, West Palm Beach, and is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, and on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm. For more information call 561-832-1988 or visit www.sf-sciencecenter.org.

Saturday, October 11 5k Run/Walk Stampede!

Hobe Sound Early Learning Center's annual fundraiser, the ever-popular 5k run/walk on Saturday, Oct. 11, will host their check-in from 5:30am to 7am. Pre-race sign-up is \$30, and

event day sign-up is \$35. The Dunkin's Fun Run pre-race fee is \$5 and event day fee is \$10. The event will take

place rain or shine, and also includes a chip timer and score. Multiple awards will be given. For registration information contact Mike at 772-334-3469 or call the Learning Center at 772-546-5462. On-line registration may be completed by visiting ultrasignup.com or hobesoundearlylearningcenter.org.



Oct. 16-18 Children's Museum Haunted House



The Children's Museum at Indian Riverside Park will transform into a haunted house for those brave

enough to navigate the spooky corridors October 16, 17 and 18 from 7pm to 10pm. (This may frighten some children because it will be scary, but delightfully so.) Tickets are \$5 per person. The Children's Museum is located in the heart of Indian Riverside Park at 1707 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach. For more details call the museum at 772-225-7575.

Oct. 17 and 18 Indiantown Rodeo

The Indiantown Chamber of Commerce has announced that the 67th Annual Indiantown Rodeo will take place at Timers-Powers Park on Friday, Oct. 17, and Saturday, Oct. 18. Gates will open at 5p.m. The rodeo is presented in affiliation with the prestigious Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA), and is professionally produced by the 4L Rodeo Company. Features include Bareback Riding, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Saddle Bronco Riding, Tie-Down Roping, Barrel Racing, and Bull Riding. Tickets are now on sale at any Seacoast National Bank branch. For sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, or to learn more about the 2014 Indiantown Rodeo, visit www.indiantownrodeo.com or call 772-597-2184.

Sunday, October 19 Scavenger Hunt for Hibiscus

The Hibiscus Children's Center Inaugural Spoil Islands Scavenger Hunt is Sunday, Oct. 19. This is a BYOB (bring your own boat) Boat party. Launch times are staggered from 8am to 11am at South Causeway Wayside Island, Stan Blum Memorial Boat Ramp and Ft. Pierce North Causeway Wayside Island Park. The Marooned Beach Party will be held at Bottoms Up Raw Bar and Grill in Ft. Pierce. The party is open to the public and a portion of the liquor sales will be donated to Hibiscus. Early registration is \$100 a boat and after Oct. 15 registration is \$125 per boat. The price includes four participants; \$25 per each additional person. The event is limited to 100 boats. For registration information call 772-340-5750 ext.466.



Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 Stuart Air Show

For the first time ever, the F-22 Raptor (US Air Force) and the AV-8B Harrier (US Marine Corps) will perform as part of the 25th Anniversary of the Stuart Air Show from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 at Witham Field in Stuart. The Stuart Air Show is one of only 19 Raptor demonstrations and one of only six Harrier demonstrations scheduled across the country this entire year, according to air show organizers. The jets will perform on Saturday and Sunday.

The weekend kicks off on Friday night, Oct. 31, with two events: Families can enjoy Halloween festivities in addition to a nighttime air show including aviation performances, fireworks display, carnival rides and live music. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The Dirty Flight Suit Party includes dinner and premier seating for the Friday night air show and entertainment. Guests will also be able to meet many of the performers, military personnel, sponsors, supporters and VIPs involved with the air show.

Throughout the weekend, visitors will be able to explore vintage and modern aircraft, including the DC-3 from the 1930s, the Beechcraft T-34 Mentor from the 1940s, and the Sikorsky Black Hawk Helicopter. The F119-PW-100 Turbofan from Pratt & Whitney, which powers the USAF F-22 Raptor, will also be on display. The Road to Victory Military Museum will present an action-packed WWII re-enactment with re-enactors in vintage uniforms and WWII era military equipment and artillery.

Discounted tickets are now available for sale online at www.stuartairshow.com. The website also offers information for volunteer opportunities, sponsorship levels and booths available. For more information contact Beverly Jones at 772-220-0444 or at Beverly@bbjonespr.com.



Saturday, October 25 Palm City Fall Festival

Palm City will host its 6th annual Fall Festival from 10am to 5pm, Saturday, Oct. 25, at Lance Corporal Justin Wilson Memorial Park at 2050 SW Mapp Road. The venue will have food, beer, arts and crafts, live music, pumpkin decorating and more. The car show will end at 4pm. Admission is free. For more information call 772-286-8121 or visit palmcitychamber.com.



Nov. 7-9 Jensen Beach Pineapple Festival

The Jensen Beach Pineapple Festival is the weekend of Nov. 7, 8 and 9 in the streets of historic downtown Jensen Beach. Festival gates open at 6pm Friday night with the events concluding Sunday at 9:30pm. This is a family-friendly event with a unique variety of music for all ages. The Pointer Sisters, Cole Swindell, Atlanta Rhythm Section, Before You Exit and Natural Vibrations are some of the scheduled performers. Tickets are \$20 for General Admission; children 12-years and under are free with a paying adult and students 13-17 (with an I.D.) can purchase \$15 tickets at the gate. A variety of other ticket options are available, which include VIP seating, parking and complimentary appetizers. For more information detailing special tickets visit www.pineapplefestival.com. A \$15 discounted advance general admission ticket will be available for purchase at Sonic Drive-In Restaurant locations in Jensen Beach, Ft. Pierce, Lake Park, Vero Beach and Lake Worth. The \$15 advance admission tickets go on sale Monday, Oct. 13 through Thursday, Nov. 6.

November 8 and 9 13th Annual Juno Beach Holiday Craft Festival

The 13th Annual Holiday Craft Festival Nov. 8 and 9, and will set up at AIA between Donald Ross Road and Loggerhead Park in Juno Beach from 10am to 5pm. The festival is free and open to the public. For more information call 561-746-6155 or visit www.artfestival.com.

Nov. 17-22 Tykes & Teens Festival of Trees

The 7th Annual Festival of Trees, which supports the counseling and substance-abuse prevention programs of Tykes & Teens, will be Nov. 17-22 at the Courthouse Cultural Center on Osceola Street in Stuart. For sponsorship opportunities or to donate a tree, call 772.220.3439.

To list your event here, send Who, What, Where, When, Why and How Much? Information to calendar@MartinCountyCurrents.com.





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The 14-U Martin County Cruisers Fastpitch Softball team is introduced as they enter the ESPN Championship stadium in Orlando.

Donors send Cruisers to World Series

After a heart-breaking 2013 season, when the Martin County Cruisers qualified but were unable to raise sufficient funds to play in the USSSA Fastpitch Softball World Series in Orlando, several donors stepped up to the plate. In mid-July, the Cruisers made it to Orlando. After a week of play, the 14-U team faced elimination in a nail-biter on Friday night. They won in a dramatic come-from-behind last inning, with a 6-run, two-out rally. Unfortunately, they were knocked out Saturday, three games from the finals.

They ended up in 13th place out of 56 teams, playing the teams that eventually placed first and second.

Highlight of the week was entering the ESPN Championship stadium to a crowd of 10,000 cheering parents, families and friends, and sharing the field with legends of the game like Cat Osterman and Jen Gladding of Martin County, just inducted to the UF Gators Hall of Fame. All three Martin County Fastpitch teams did well, with the 10U placing 5th, 12U placing 9th, and 14U placing 13th. ■

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New gallery affirms Hobe Sound as art mecca

If you did not know her, your first impression of Lydia Sudick, who owns Lydia Sudick Fine Art in Hobe Sound, is that she must be trained in classical ballet. She moves her body around her second-story gallery on Bridge Road with the grace and deportment of a prima ballerina.

Slightly uncomfortable talking about herself, she steers conversations to the artwork displayed on her walls, about which she's passionate, but then slowly this art historian and certified art appraiser gives up nuggets about herself along the way.

She plays polo, a tidbit that actually commands a fairly large place in her life and is what brought her to Hobe Sound in the first place. The sport probably explains the fluid strength inherent in her movements, although she was sidelined for several months after having a painful, allergic reaction to stepping on a sea urchin in California.

"I thought for a while I might lose my foot or even my leg," she said, "and I still have some trouble, but it's largely behind me now."

She was visiting polo friends here when she fell in love with Hobe Sound, she says. "Soon I was doing art appraisals, and I began thinking I should open a gallery here."



Art historian and certified art appraiser Lydia Sudick opens a gallery in Hobe Sound.



The Lydia Sudick Fine Art Gallery is on the second floor of the Mancuso building on Bridge Road in Hobe Sound.

Passionate about horses, she was delighted to learn that the space she settled on for the gallery is next door to the Pegasus Foundation in the Mancuso building, which has been particularly supportive of equine rescue. "The gallery's location could not be more serendipitous," she says, with an easy smile that lights her face.

The same could be said about the artist she chose for her opening this summer, Baroness Waltraud von Schwarzbek, whose style of painting

meshes perfectly with Sudick's own European background. Born in New York, Sudick spent 15 years growing up in France, where she attended the American College in Paris as an undergraduate, and later pursued a master's degree in business administration through the University of Hartford (Connecticut).

Her interest in and passion for the Old World masters led to her seeking and obtaining her art appraisal certification in New York. Opening a gallery first in New York, then in California, and now in Hobe Sound was a natural progression, she adds.

"I cannot imagine doing anything else with my life," she says, at least when she's not on the back of a polo pony.

A 'NEW' OLD WORLD MASTER

Selected for the Lydia Sudick Fine Art inaugural exhibition throughout the summer were the works of a living master, Baroness von Schwarzbek, a German-born American artist. She inherited her noble title from her late husband; what she took from her own family is a thriving talent and rich cultural heritage.

Descended from artists, she graduated from the National Academy of Art in Munich, and was soon tapped by Columbia Pictures, United Artists, and Warner Brothers in the U.S. as an illustrator, even as her paintings of floral still-lives began to draw worldwide acclaim.

"I am very happy to feature paintings of a living master in my gallery," Sudick says, "where the living and old masters talk to each other."

Indeed, Luca Giordano's masterpiece of around 1750, "Allegory of Fame," shines amidst Baroness Schwarzbek's spectacular paintings, reflecting a wide array of painterly styles, executed with equal craftsmanship, talent and originality.

Often compared by art critics to 17th-18th artists for her virtuosity in rendering floral still lifes, the Baroness developed her own pictorial technique, working in oil on wooden panels. "It takes a few months to create a composition like this," pointing to her centerpiece, "Nature's Wonders."

Compared to works of her Dutch predecessors, however, the Baroness's



Lydia Sudick with her gallery's featured artist Baroness Waltraud von Schwarzbek.

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"Autumn Gold #2" by Baroness Waltraud von Schwarzbek.



"Nature's Wonders" oil on wood panel by Baroness Waltraud von Schwarzbek.

floral arrangements are more fluid and alive. Their feminine rhythmic cadence shifts the observer's perception from floral opulence to an overflowing energy and music.

"As an artist, I always avoided shortcuts," she says. "Art of painting is all about craftsmanship and discipline. ... Art is about harmony and beauty," a personification of classic elegance, intelligence and a sparkling, vibrant personality, traits of both artist and curator.

Occasionally criticized for adhering to conventional and realistic methods without heed to emerging pictorial conduits in the post-modern era, her critics miss one crucial point: By mastering Dutch realism, the Baroness perpetuates the art of floral painting itself. Her subject matter becomes classic art with its infinite possibilities, existing beyond the dichotomy of old and new aesthetics, as do her mesmerizing landscapes, canyons, wildlife scenes and dazzling variations of Monet's ponds and lilies, all of which open a new dimension in impressionism.

Even as she works with a palette knife rather than a brush in most recent works, she reveals the very pulse and



"Monet's Pond" by Baroness Waltraud von Schwarzbek

veins of impressionism, sculpting expressive and vibrant texture, imbued with dancing floating light. When we look deeply, we sense a romantic tonality palpitating underneath the strokes, evoking

Kant's category of the Sublime, the notion that sparked the whole movement of European and American romanticism, the prequel to impressionism.

Her painting, "Autumn Gold #2" is a mysterious interplay of shade and light, the whole piece embodying a bewitching fusion of impressionist spontaneity and romantic, dreamlike moods and tones. The Baroness connects heaven and earth, accentuating vertical Gothic outlines, flowing downwards, revealing her own impressionist signature.

"Sky sets the mood of my landscape," she says, "and determines its palette and soul."

Baroness Waltraud von Schwarzbek is not just a native of Bavaria, the land of enchanting scenery and fairy-tale castles. She comes from Germany where the concept of aestheticism – the alpha and omega of Western culture -- has been coined and developed in our modern sense by its great philosophers, Baumgarten and Kant. Her magical floral compositions and palette knife spectacles, full of penetrating lyricism, revive the visual alchemy of the "Beautiful and Sublime."

The Lydia Sudick Fine Art Gallery is at 8958 SE Bridge Road in Hobe Sound. Telephone: 772.932.7988. The Baroness von Schwarzbek website <http://schwarzbekart.com/index.php>. ■

--Barbara Clowdus and Maya Ellenson

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Rafael Zelaya and Tim Dougher at the site of Fresh Shrimp USA in Indiantown.

BUSINESS GROWS SEAFOOD

Forty acres of land in Indiantown are being quickly transformed into

another farm. Unlike its neighbors, however, the farm will not be home to cabbages, cattle or chickens. These rustlers will herd shrimp.

Fresh Shrimp USA uses a unique indoor water aquaculture system to maintain a year-round growing season, as opposed to open-air facilities that are seasonal. The company's system also eliminates the need for harmful chemicals and reduces risks from weather, bird predation and pollutants, according to a press release from the Business Development Board of Martin County.

"We began working with the company's leadership several years ago on site location," said Tim Dougher, BDB executive director, noting that the company was seeking a site with sufficient land availability to allow expansion. A recent spike in Asian shrimp prices after a virus decimated their industry has made shrimp farming in the U.S. more viable.

"This is a wonderful project for Indiantown," Dougher said, "and I'm thrilled to see it come to fruition." ■

NEW JUPITER ISLAND CHIEF

Robert Garlo was named director of the Jupiter Island Public Safety

Department, following the retirement of Director Chief Ted Gonzales, who first joined the department in 1980. He served for 34 years, one of the town's longest-tenured employees.

Garlo has been employed for the past three years as administrative assistant and accreditation manager at the Jupiter Island Public Safety Department, and was formerly assistant manager of the Village of Tequesta, where he had served previously with the Tequesta Police Department. He oversaw all Village operations until retiring in 2007. He

joined the Jupiter Island Public Safety Department in 2011.

"I'm grateful not only for this incredible opportunity but also for the chance to have learned so much about the commitment and culture of Jupiter Island Public Safety Department from Chief Gonzales," said Garlo. "I'm humbled by and excited for the chance to serve this one-of-a-kind community." ■

BEST IN SOUTH FLORIDA

PAC Seating Systems in Palm City was recently named the South Florida

Manufacturer of the Year in the small to mid-size employee category by the South Florida Manufacturers Association. A market leader in custom and VIP jet business seating, PAC Seating Systems earned top honors from among 20 other competitor entries from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee counties.

"PAC Seating Systems is a high-performing manufacturer," said Phil Centonze, lead judge, "and we are proud to have them in our South Florida manufacturing business community."

PAC Seating Systems, founded in 2002, is the only custom manufacturer in the world focused on private and business jet seating products, including divans, track-and-swivel seats, bed frames and jump seats. ■

WATCHING YOUR HOUSE

Kevin and Lisa Green recently launched their new home watch service

called While You Were Out. The company offers home watch inspections, property maintenance and concierge services. While You Were Out serves Port St. Lucie, Stuart, Palm City, Jensen Beach, Fort Pierce, Hobe Sound, Hutchinson Island, Sewall's Point, Vero Beach and Port Salerno. They can be reached at 772-475-6449 or WhileYouWereOutHomeWatch@gmail.com or go to www.WhileYouWereOutHomeWatch.com. ■

BUILDING OUR FAVORITE BOATS

A premier builder of offshore center console fishing boats, Ocean Master

Marine, is moving its headquarters and manufacturing facility to Martin County from Palm Beach County, where it was founded in 1975 by Mark Hauptner.

"Martin County is the perfect location for our company," Hauptner said, in a press release from the Martin County Business Development Board, which

aided the company's relocation. "It's a different atmosphere; it has a more open-country feel and a lot more water."

Hauptner has designed, built, and raced boats for more than 50 years, holding 14 world records, six national championships and is included in the American Powerboat "Hall of Champions" and the "Gulf Hall of Fame."

Hauptner's new partner, Charlie Modica of Hobe Sound, also has distinguished himself on the water as an avid sailor. He was part of the Martin County Sailing Team, the sailing team at Connecticut College and the training partner on the 2008 U.S. Olympic Sailing Team.

Ocean Master plans to expand its current product line and introduce new models, requiring the addition of two dozen more employees to Ocean Master's current staff of six, according to the release. The new location has about 50 percent more usable space than their previous West Palm Beach site.

One of the unique features of their manufacturing process is that Ocean Master sells its boats factory-direct. The company encourages customers to stop by the factory.

"The marine industry, specifically manufacturing, is a vital part of Martin County's economy," said Tim Dougher, executive director of the Business Development Board. "We look forward to a wonderful working relationship with the company and will make their transition to our area seamless." ■

ONE MORE PATENT PENDING

Ecosphere Technologies, a U.S. technology licensing and

and manufacturing company that develops environmental solutions for global markets, recently announced their pending patent for lowering the scaling tendencies in flowback water used in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas wells. The notice of allowance marks the seventh patent issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office since 2010 for Ecosphere's patented water treatment technology used by major energy exploration and production companies in the U.S. to reduce the amount of chemicals used during hydraulic fracturing operations.

In 2013, the chemicals and equipment sub-markets of the global water and wastewater treatment market were estimated at over \$25 billion and \$50 billion, respectively.

Ecosphere pioneered the concept of recycling produced and flowback water without using liquid chemicals or filtration technologies that leave behind a toxic waste stream, which requires proper disposal. ■



Marty Carmody (left) and Dan Carmody of Olde Florida Realty in Stuart.

The Carmody family of Stuart recently announced the launch of Olde Florida Realty, a "boutique" residential real estate

company serving Martin County. Brothers Dan and Marty Carmody have worked professionally as a team for nearly a decade, according to a press release, and closed more than \$100 million in real estate transactions, spurring their decision to launch their own residential real estate company, Olde Florida Realty.

The Carmody family, with nearly 40 years of history in Martin County, informed the brothers' vision to combine their deep roots and knowledge of the area with current technology to help clients find their perfect home.

"By combining these key elements," said Dan Carmody, referring to traditional values coupled with technology, "Olde Florida Realty will provide our clients and customers with the personalized and professional real estate services

they need to help guide them through one of the biggest purchasing decisions they'll ever make."

Dan Carmody, a licensed real estate professional since 2003, began in commercial real estate then switched to residential after partnering with his brother in 2005. He currently serves as president-elect of the Business Development Board and is secretary of the Economic Council.

Marty Carmody, a residential Realtor in Martin County since 2003 and an active member and former president of the Realtor Association of Martin County, was named the 2010 Realtor of the Year and earned the 2013 RAMC Leadership Award. For a free consultation for those looking for a new home, or for real estate professionals looking for a new home base, call 772-245-4500. ■

Dine Around Hobe Sound on Oct. 11

Tickets go on sale the first week of September for one of the most popular events in Hobe Sound—the Chamber of Commerce's progressive dinner fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 11.

"We're so excited to announce that we only need two more celebrity chefs to sign on to participate in our Dine Around Hobe Sound Progressive Dinner Party," said Angela Hoffman, executive director of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce.

"We have eight dynamic chefs with fun themes and menus," she said. "If you, or someone you know, would make a great chef, please contact me!"

This year's event will be modeled on last year's success, with all guests gathering at one local eatery at 5 p.m. for appetizers and a glass of wine, before splitting into 10 groups to go to 10 different homes for a specially prepared, gourmet meal, serving eight guests. Sometimes 10 guests, but Hoffman tries to keep the guest list "manageable" for the volunteer chefs.

"We want to keep this fun for everyone," she said.

Then all the guests will reconvene



The spreads offered by the volunteer chefs of the Dine Around Hobe Sound progressive dinner are genuine culinary treats served among friends and neighbors.

again at another local restaurant for dessert. Some guests linger for an after-dinner party.

For more information, or to volunteer as a chef, call Hoffman at 772-546-4724. Sponsorships also are available. ■



HOBE SOUND CHAMBER SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

MONTHLY BREAKFAST

Thursday, Sept. 11, 8 - 9:15am

Hobe Sound Bible College
11295 SE Gomez Avenue, Hobe Sound
Guest Speaker: Lisa Rhodes,
Education Foundation
\$12 Members and \$15 Non-members
RSVP online at www.hobesound.org
Wear ORANGE to support Treasure Coast
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BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 5:30 to 7pm

Ameriprise Financial and the
UPS Store, Stuart
6526 Kanner Highway, Stuart
\$5/Social - \$7/Members -
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RSVP online at www.hobesound.org

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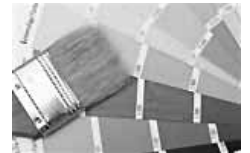
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EVENT DETAILS: NOV. 8th from 2pm-6pm

Come out and taste the special chili recipes cooked by 21 Firefighter/EMS teams competing from as far as Port St. Lucie to Ft. Lauderdale. Plus, enjoy all the tasty craft beers that TBC has to offer. A celebrity panel of judges will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize trophies as well as \$500 to the winning team. Be sure to vote for your favorite team and see who wins the People's Choice Award.

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While you're enjoying the day listen to live music by The Lahinch Mob, Dani Augustt, Palm Beach County Firefighters Pipes and Drums, Black Pearl Pipes and Drums, and The Chili Chicks. There will also be a special appearance by the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Honor Guard and SGT Graig from the United States Army singing the national anthem. Don't miss any of the action!



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Indiantown rodeo rides back into town Oct. 17-18

With the financial support of "Bucking Bull Sponsor" Seacoast National Bank and dozens of other sponsors and community volunteers, the Indiantown Rodeo returns for its 67th year to Indiantown on Oct. 17 and 18. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday nights.

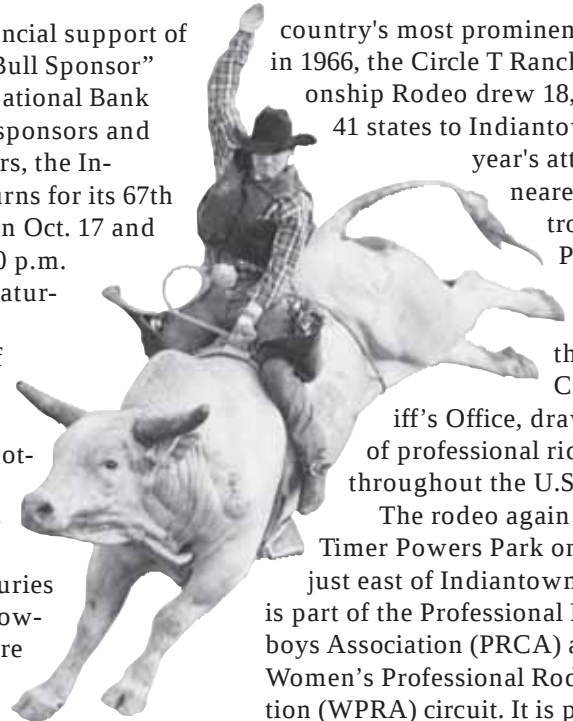
As much a part of Florida's landscape as beaches and palm trees, huge ranches dotted with cattle and horses became established in Florida more than three centuries ago. Florida's first "cow-boys" most likely were Indians, quickly earning renown as fine horsemen and skilled riders even before cattle and horses appeared on the western plains of Texas. Enormous herds of cattle roamed in their wild state around Indiantown, a natural home to one of the finest rodeos in the country.

Records show that at least as far back as 1947, Indiantown hosted one of the

country's most prominent rodeos, and in 1966, the Circle T Ranch Championship Rodeo drew 18,000 fans from 41 states to Indiantown. Last year's attendance neared 10,000 patrons at Timer Powers Park, and was sponsored by the Martin County Sheriff's Office, drawing dozens of professional riders from throughout the U.S.

The rodeo again will be at Timer Powers Park on Citrus Blvd. just east of Indiantown this year, and is part of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) circuit. It is professionally produced by the 4L Rodeo Company.

Gate admission is \$15 per adult, and \$8 for children 8 and under. Discounted advance tickets are on sale at Seacoast National Bank. Sponsorships are still being sought. For more information, contact Phone (772) 597-2184, or go to indiantownrodeo.com. ■



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Kodi's: Go for the great food, not for the 'mood'

Each issue, the Tipster visits—often more than once—one or two restaurants, anonymously and unannounced. Tipster's review is just one person's opinion, and the objective is to introduce readers to a variety of culinary experiences in Martin County. For an explanation of the Tipster's rating system, just revisit the April 2014 issue of Martin County Currents.

Nestled in a small strip of storefronts on U.S. 1 in Hobe Sound, Kodi's is a nondescript Mecca for steak lovers. A small sign, a cluster of palms, a few ordinary tables and benches out front belie the culinary gem within. A parking lot full of cars and a line of people waiting for a table signals that Kodi's is special. What better "review" could there be than that?

The Tipster, however, wants to be clear on one point: Kodi's is not elegant or fussy. It is neither formal nor overdressed. It is good (almost great) steak and beef, darned good sides and interesting specials. A perfunctory nod to lighter eaters delivers a menu choice or two of chicken (but why order chicken in a steak house?), as well as the expected surf and turf, shrimp or fish offerings. The heart of the steak house should be steak, and the heart of this steak house beats strong and true.



TIPS ON TABLES

Dining Reviews by "The Tipster"

Kodi's chefs and cooks show off their top-notch skills, from perfectly roasted prime rib to exquisitely grilled steaks. We did not know what to expect, or what was in store for us, as we arrived just ahead of the dinner rush. Since we could not be seated until our entire party was present, we waited on the patio, where we were served wine and beer and relaxed to the '50s tunes piped out to us. The wait was not long.

The dining area is small and the space is tight. The décor is minimalist at best. The focus at Kodi's is clearly on the food.

The Tipster selected the wedge salad (\$5) with bleu cheese (\$1) and bacon crumbles (\$1). The salad arrived in two wedges. The bleu cheese and bacon had to be requested again but were promptly delivered after the runner "checked the ticket." The wedge was adequate,



Kodi's restaurant on south Federal Highway in Hobe Sound, which once was a Mexican restaurant with the same owners, now offers exceptional steaks.

though not as cold and crisp as would be expected for a steak house standard. The 12-ounce New York strip, medium rare, blackened with a bleu cheese crust, approached perfection—done exactly right with a flavorful blackening and a creamy bleu cheese topping—making me forget about the wedge salad.

Just thick enough, the steak was tender, juicy and tasty. Served with a choice of two sides, the Tipster's choice of fresh garlic spinach was not a mistake. The sautéed fresh spinach lightly coated in olive oil and infused with garlic was fragrant and tasty. The scalloped potatoes, though, were a bit of a disappointment, as they were a slightly too dry and lackluster. They really did not complement the quality of the steak or the skill of the chef.

The Tipster's dinner companions each ordered a different selection from the menu. Without exception, the steaks—a large filet mignon (\$29), the small rib eye (\$21), and the small filet mignon (\$22)—were seared and grilled

exactly as ordered. They were tender, juicy and rich.

A stand-out dish, in addition to the steaks, was the house salad with a pistachio dressing that had to be tasted to be understood and appreciated. It was excellent!

The mac-and-cheese side, however, ranked equally to the scalloped potatoes, falling short of expectations considering the quality of the restaurant's main events. It was pasty and lacked the cheddar "zing" you'd expect.

A shared dessert, the lemon mascarpone layer cake (\$5+) was quite good served with vanilla ice cream and a little too much whipped cream and berries. (Okay, some will say you can never have TOO much whipped cream!)

Once our dinners were served, the waitress and the runner disappeared, requiring us to flag another server to get a second round of beverages, for which we waited patiently. Glasses of water were neither served nor offered, as you would expect in a high-end steak house. (Actually, the Tipster expects icy cold water to be a standard in any restaurant, but, increasingly, patrons must ask.) The table setting, rolled silver and a placemat, seemed out of place considering Kodi's pricing and the standard set by the quality of their own steaks.

Without question, Kodi's is a good place for steak. In spite of the lackluster service and the few other relatively minor disappointments, the Tipster recommends a visit—especially now that the "season" is over. You'll likely get the attention you deserve, as well as the steaks you'll remember.

Kodi's Steak House

Owner / Chef Jack Gardiner
11220 SE Federal Highway, Hobe Sound
772-545-3358;
reservations NOT Accepted
Overall Rating: ★★★.
Steaks alone rate ★★★★★ 1/2. Cost \$\$\$.
(Handicapped accessibility is difficult.)

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Day in, day out, I balance and plan my meals. I eat carefully and cautiously. I have been doing so for about 18 months. Because I always got in trouble for fobbing, I won't say it is, was, or has been easy.

I have managed to lose to within a few pounds of my goal and maintain that weight---yeah, me! I have been very careful to eliminate or limit those temptation-filled foods that sabotage so many earnest healthy eaters. I buy cookies in single-serve snack packs.

If, for some reason, I have the remains of a larger package of treats, it is consigned to the freezer (in the garage, no less) or the trash. It is sort of a "get thee behind me tempter" sort of thing. It works! Most of the time.

When my freeze-or-toss system fails, and I succumb to temptation, I know I need to refocus and rethink. If I allow myself to feel guilty, I am sure to start down that slippery slope of guilt-driven snacking and munching that ends in a "few" extra pounds...just a few and a few more. YIKES!

What I need at that point is some support. I am fortunate enough to have access to a Veterans Administration dietician, a great circle of friends and a trusty full-length mirror. Double YIKES! I also need a realistic snack plan, and I have a few favorite, easy AND delicious treats. The secret is fruit, Greek yogurt and some special add-ins.

SWEET TREET YOGURT PARFAIT

1 100-Calorie Container Greek Style Yogurt
(I like the vanilla, but you choose)
1 Cup Cut Fresh Fruit
2 Tablespoons Honey Nut Breakfast Cereal
1 Tablespoon Whipped Fat Free Topping

Start with the yogurt and layer everything into a fancy glass, top with the whipped topping. Chill and enjoy.

BERRIES AND CREAM CRUNCH

2 Cups Mixed Berries
(cut the larger berries)
1-2 Tablespoons Sucralose Sweetener (like Splenda)
1 Cup FAT FREE Sour Cream
(not "low fat" or "light")
½ teaspoon Almond Extract
(or flavor of your choice)
½ -1 Cup Cereal, such as Honey Bunches of Oats

Sprinkle berries with the sweetener and let stand to macerate. Mix the fat-free sour cream with the extract; fold in



George Kleine
The Right Bite

the sweetened berries. Divide the berry mixture into 1- to 2-cup portions and serve over the cereal.

These are personal "Kitchen Koncoctions," so I do not have the nutritional info for them. I do know they taste good, satisfy the sweet tooth and haven't done any harm---so far.

Other sweet-tooth, craving killer treats:
SMOOTHIES

Fruit (overripe bananas work great)
A few drops of any flavor extract (not a sweetened syrup)
Almond milk (unsweetened vanilla)
Crushed Ice or Broken Ice Cubes
Blend in blender until thick and creamy. Serve 2-cup portions, frosty cold.

Whatever you choose to snack on, be very sure to read the label. "Sugar



Parfaits of Greek yogurt, honey-nut cereal and fresh fruit curb cravings.

Free" does not always mean low calorie. Often extra ingredients to compensate for the lack of sugar bring the calorie count to new, unexplored and unexplained heights. Check the fat calories as well as SODIUM content, and be certain to double check the portion size.

Sometimes what looks like one serving is two or more. It may look like a little bit of something in the package, but a lot of you know what where. One thing I know for certain: Anything you forbid

yourself will become a craving. Allow yourself to indulge once in awhile. Just a little in a long while. ■

George Kleine, a professional chef, writer and entrepreneur in Hobe Sound, recently lost a few tons of extra weight. He won't say how many pounds, but enough to make him an expert on healthy cooking and eating. Send your questions, comments and recipes to TheRightBite@MartinCountyCurrents.com.

This is Martin County's
Face of the Future

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MARTIN COUNTY
"INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE"

2013-2014 Annual Report now available!

What did you want to be when you grew up? As our community's dedicated funding source for children and family programs, the Children's Services Council works to build a foundation of support for the face of Martin County's future. Learn more at www.cscmc.org, www.facebook.com/cscmc or call (772) 288-5758 ext. 102.

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TRUNK OR TREAT

SNOW CONES HOTDOGS BOUNCE HOUSE POPCORN

Martin County SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Friday, October 31st - 5:30pm - 8:00pm
Martin County Sheriff's Office - 800 SE Monterey Road

Everyone is invited to come by and fill your bags with treats from the Martin County Sheriff's Office and local businesses that have pre-registered to participate.

This is a FREE family event.

Each of our MCSO divisions will have their own treat stations for your children to visit.

Businesses that wish to open their trunks to hand out treats, can pre-register with the Martin County Sheriff's Office Community Operations Unit, by calling 320-4737 by Monday, October 20.

Twitter Instagram Facebook

An artist's passion for Africa emerges at salon

Elite Salon & Gallery's uniqueness springs not only from the ability of its world-class professionals to transform, seemingly by magic, your physical looks, but by the hidden treasures it harbors on its walls and shelves. Artwork that embodies vivid imagery and uplifting energy intertwine art and spa to create a very special ambiance, as beauty seeps into the skin, hair and nails while you bask in a Zen-like state.

Featuring art is art in itself. Letting it shine from your walls is more than a gesture. It's an act of genuine philanthropy. Elite Salon & Gallery features paintings of Robin Lee Makowski, Suzanne Briley, Kathy Mayr Britton, and other local artists.

A fortunate meeting with artist Robin Lee Makowski, Florida graphic artist and book illustrator, informs the Elite Salon website, www.elitesalononline.com, resulted in the salon expanding to displaying pieces of original artwork. Robin Lee Makowski's exquisite painterly technique allows us to appreciate the slightest detail of her compositions, where even a petal of a

flower becomes a self-contained miniature universe, blooming on its own.

Suzanne Briley's luminous watercolors remind us of butterflies, dancing with the breeze. As Giverny, France, has Claude Monet—its very symbol and spirit—Hobe Sound and Jupiter have Suzanne Briley as their fairy, as she reveals the very soul of the place she paints, translating its local colors into a language of timeless art. A concert pianist by profession and educated as an artist in Utrecht, Holland, she sprinkles



A featured artist at the Elite Salon & Gallery in Hobe Sound is Kathy Mehr Britton, standing among some of her work, including her painted gourds, on display at the popular salon and at www.elitegalleryonline.com.



African wildlife and tribal life are favorite topics of Kathy Mehr Britton's artwork. This painting is entitled, "Respite," on display at the Elite Salon & Gallery.



Elite Salon clients learn to expect the unexpected around every corner.



**Maya
Ellenson**
*Art
Kaleidoscope*

her colors with music, letting them sing and flutter. Capturing the genuine atmosphere of the area with her keen eye and subtle floating brushwork, Suzanne Briley herself has become a live landmark to be observed and admired.

Kathy Mayr Britton, originally from Saugus in Massachusetts, reveals that she was raised in a beautiful countryside, in a small wooden house with no central heat or hot water. Attuned since her early childhood to nature and encouraged by her mother, Kathy found her own way for expressing her artistic talents. With no formal education beyond high school, no attendance at art schools in Paris, no formal training with art scholars; and with just coloring books and crayons, she practiced her art, according to her biography, which is showcased on the salon's wall next to one of her paintings.

Using mixed media, Kathy Mayr Britton creates spectacular images of tigers and jaguars, giraffes and beautiful African women, both realistic and poetic, inspired by her travels and photographs. Graceful animals, portrayed in their wild settings, trigger in a viewer a natural urge to embrace them lovingly.

Natural gourds became one-of-a-kind medium in Britton's creative hands for decorative birds and animals of all kinds. She discovered them while living in Tennessee.

"Nature hands me over her uniquely designed shapes with infinite possibilities," she says. "I just continue this creative flow, turning them into something beautiful and exotic. It feels good to be a co-creator, always doing something, evolving, creating."

Normally shy and avoiding publicity, Britton could not stay silent in the face of the ongoing slaughter of African elephants and rhinos, and vol-

unteered to help transform a meeting room at the Indian RiverSide Park's Tuckahoe Mansion into an African landscape for a March presentation by Azzedine Downes, president and chief executive officer of the International Fund for Animal Welfare. His appearance was sponsored by the Pegasus Foundation, who was honoring "those making a difference."

According to Downes, one elephant is killed every 15 minutes, and Britton's paintings send an eye-

opening statement against such insanity, but she does it without being judgmental. Her vibrant pictorial matrix does not need words to spawn empathy for nature and her precious life-forms. Just by viewing her art, we become both enchanted and perceptive to its powerful frequencies.

In the 21st century, the age of a global paradigm shift towards holistic and environmental consciousness, resorting to a verbal discourse somewhat drags behind, trapped in the old wine-skins, while the visual arts have a way to share their fresh content spontaneously, dwelling in the now.

For Elite Salon & Gallery, which received its own certificate of appreciation from Pegasus Foundation for supporting the animal welfare event at Tuckahoe, it's not just the philanthropy that makes the salon and gallery so special. It is the synergy, where things that used to be divided artificially — art and spa — morph into other.

And what more can help us tap into a mode of compassion for all the inhabitants of Mother Earth if not the integral language of art, showcased at the gallery. As John Keats uttered in his immortal Ode some 200 year ago: "Beauty is truth, truth beauty, --that is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." keys alive, we are all artists. ■

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

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Musings on my childhood summers in Georgia

As summer approaches and our days lengthen, I find myself relaxing and enjoying long evenings on my porch bringing to mind childhood memories of spending summertime at my grandmother's house on her porch in south Georgia.

My grandparents' large wrap-around porch had a swing, plenty of rocking chairs, a gray wood floor and light blue ceilings. During the evening, it was often filled with relatives chatting about the day's events.

My grandfather usually sat in the swing, rolling his own cigarettes, adding a soft, amber light to the dark end of the porch. There was plenty of time for us to talk.

Our favorite subject was Uncle Willis, a fossilized fruit loop who loved to hunt. In the autumn months, Uncle Willis would drive out into a remote part of the woods with his shotgun, proudly using it for some wild turkey shooting. One particular crisp autumn day, he shot a turkey, tossed it and the shotgun into the trunk of the car and headed home. He didn't realize that the turkey was still alive and kicking. As the turkey thrashed around, its leg hit the trigger of the gun and set it off. The gun fired straight through the back seat of the car and into Uncle's behind. Later, the local newspaper interviewed him from his hospital bed. The paper's bold headline read "**Man shot in rear by turkey.**" Adding to Uncle Willis's shame, the authorities fined him for shooting a turkey out of season.

I loved being at my grandmother's house. It was white clapboard with dark green shutters and fireplaces in every room. The old floors creaked and it remained dark and cool on a hot summer's day.

Icy well water to drink, cousins to play with, and cold watermelon to eat under the shady pecan trees made for a child's perfect summer. No one organized activities. We were left alone to find our own adventures; often having peach fights, building forts, making mud pies and playing hide-and-seek outside all day.

At dusk we came in to eat a country supper in the kitchen by a wood-burning stove. There were homemade biscuits, chicken and dumplings, blackberry pies (from berries picked in pails from the roadside hedges), fresh vegetables from the garden, eggs from the chickens and large glasses of butter-milk from the cows. There were fat, juicy, purple sweet plums from the orchard to eat. Children ate in the kitchen



**Suzanne
Briley**

Hopscotch

until proper manners were learned and afterwards we "graduated" to the dining room to eat with the grownups.

One of the grownups was my great grandmother, Margaret Elizabeth, known as "Munnie." What a character she was! She whistled most of the day. Her lips were papery and wrinkled, remaining in the whistle position all of the time. Munnie wore black dresses, white lace collars and a gold stone brooch that her grandfather brought back from the California gold rush. Her favorite pastimes were kicking the cat while wearing her black dress shoes (when she hoped no one was looking) and telling me tales of the Civil War, revealing a hearty dislike of Yankees. I was chosen to sleep with her at night in a large soft cloud of feathers, where I listened to more tales of her father's crossing many lines of danger and fire during the Civil War. Before bed, Munnie placed her teeth in a glass of water on the bedside table and I remember seeing them grinning at me during the night.

There was no entertainment in the little town so we were all very excited when a movie to town, not only for the movie but also for the wonderful opportunity for mischief. In the darkened theater, a trumpet would suddenly sound a piercing blast. Christmas ornaments with lit candles mysteriously appeared as a lobby display during the summer. Movie times and names were changed on the outside board.

One time a woman rose from her seat to leave the movie and, as she did so, the man sitting next to her stood to let her pass. While watching the film, he had unzipped his trousers to relax. As he was standing, he decided to zip them up -- but he caught her skirt in the process. Much to the embarrassment of both, they walked to the lobby to get unstuck, where her husband met them. A lot of explaining to do on their part, for sure!

My favorite movie story remains the one about the man who brought his pet duck with him to the theater. As ducks weren't allowed in, he placed the duck on his head, knowing that it wouldn't be seen from the ticket window. After buying his ticket, he hid the duck in his pants. Inside the theater, he slipped into

a seat right next to a woman munching on a large bag of popcorn. In order to give the duck breathing space, he unzipped his pants allowing the duck to poke his head out. Of course the duck went straight for the popcorn. The woman fled the theater, screaming.

On our walks from our grandparents' home to Mr. Mulligan's candy store, my cousin Charlie and I were subjected to a crazy person who lived along the sandy path. Fear struck our hearts as we tried to sneak by the dilapidated two-story wooden house, set back in the trees. We'd often see "Mrs. Crazy" hiding behind her open window. She had a chair propped against the sill with a shotgun leaning against it. Her house directly faced our path and we could see bare light bulbs swinging from the ceiling.

One day, Mrs. Crazy had a good view as we prepared to sneak past her house. Suddenly, she opened fire. Shotgun pellets were whizzing by as we ran for it. Cousin Charlie was faster than I was and my legs felt frozen with fear as I ran for my life. We were lucky her vision was poor and she missed us. She

also often fired at passing cars along the road, a favorite pastime. Finally, after she hit the sheriff, Mrs. Crazy was taken away to a mental institution.

With Mrs. Crazy gone, I could now safely ride Charlie's pony, Dan, to the candy store. Men wearing bib overalls sat in front of the store chewing tobacco, spitting and telling tales of going fishing in the lake. While I was in the store, Dan decided to escape and go for a swim in the lake himself. I found him in the lake but didn't know how to get him out. I cried and, finally, someone told my grandfather. He drove his old Plymouth station wagon down to the lake, put Dan inside and brought him home. The whole ride home Dan had his head hanging out the window enjoying the ride. Both he and my grandfather had a smile wrapped around their faces. It looked as if both of them were happy with the day's events. ■

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

The Barn Theatre's new season begins Sept. 26

Tickets for the Barn Theatre's 44th season are on sale now. "Things My Mother Taught Me" opens the season, running from Sept. 26 through Oct. 12. Olivia and Gabe are starting a new life together halfway across the country, but moving day doesn't go as planned when all four of their parents arrive for a surprise visit.

"Amateurs" runs from Nov. 7 through Nov. 23. This bittersweet comedy / drama about an amateur theater troupe's confrontation with harsh realities by way of a critic's as-yet-unpublished review.

"Bus Stop" will be performed from Jan. 23, 2015, through Feb. 8. This comedy / drama by William Inge finds a nightclub singer named Cherie stranded in a small Kansas town overnight with an overbearing suitor.

The Barn's musical will be "Nunsense." Running from March 6 through March 22, this hilarious musical comedy features five Little Sisters of Hoboken who decided to stage a variety show to raise money to bury 33 nuns from their convent killed by tainted vichyssoise.

"The Man Who Came To Dinner" by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman runs from April 17 through May 3. Larger-than-life radio personality Sheridan Whiteside, recuperating from a fall in a small town businessman's home, takes over the entire household in this comic tour-de-force.

"God of Carnage" by Yasmina Reza closes the season with a May 29 through June 14 run. This comedy of manners focuses on the contentious meeting of the parents of two 11-year-olds who've had a nasty schoolyard fight.

Season ticket holders receive preferred seating for all six shows for \$100. Modified season tickets (four shows) are also available for \$72. Individual tickets go on sale on Sept. 2.

Season tickets can be purchased by calling the Barn Theatre at 772-287-4884 or at the box office at 2400 SE Ocean Boulevard in Stuart weekdays from noon to 4 p.m. ■

Ridgeway honors veterans and fallen soldiers

The personal stories told by veterans at Ridgeway took you to places you likely have never been, neither would you want to go.

As part of their Memorial Day event to recognize their own veterans and honor their fallen comrades, the Ridgeway community in Hobe Sound held a special luncheon May 28 at their club house, featuring the stories of several veterans.

One experience came not from being in combat, but as part of the U.S. preparation for dropping its first atomic weapon. Navy veteran Hap Harrington was exposed to the radiation from four, separate atomic tests conducted on the Marshall Islands, he said, riding on the bow of their naval ship and wearing protective glasses.

"I saw the bone in my forearm," Harrington recalled, and who now suffers from the ill effects of radiation exposure. "Now I'm 100 percent disabled."

Another Navy veteran and Ridgeway resident, Sam Rhodes, recounted the Japanese attack on the USS Franklin on March 19, 1945, following the Franklin's shelling of airfields on Okinawa. The first bomb struck the flight deck, penetrating to the hangar deck, igniting fires through the second and third decks, he said. The second tore through



Navy vet Sam Rhodes



Navy vet Hap Harrington

two decks and fanned fires that triggered ammunition, more bombs and rocket explosions. The USS Franklin, the most heavily damaged ship in WWII to make it back to the U.S. under its own power, became an inferno.

"The guy in front of me disappeared in the flash," Rhodes said of the first bomb, "and the one behind me, well there was just a hole left where he'd been."

Rhodes recounted the horrifying aftermath of the bombing in a calm, even voice, describing the lifesaving efforts of two Medal of Honor recipients: Lt. Commander Joseph O'Callahan, the warship's Catholic chaplain, who administered the last rites, organized and directed firefighting and rescue parties, and led men below to wet

down magazines that threatened to explode; and Lt. JG Donald A. Gary, who discovered 300 men trapped in a blackened compartment, which he led in small groups to safety, returning to them again and again. He also went below deck amid the flames to get an engine turbine running.

"When he got them out, we went to work battling the fires on the hangar deck," Rhodes said, "but I couldn't reach the center, the water didn't hit the fire directly, but it was hitting an object overhead, making it flow downward into the fire." Later, he saw that the object he'd been hitting was a body.

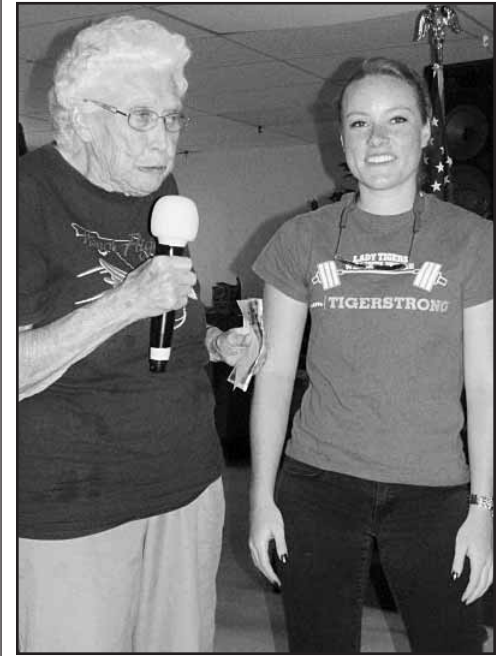
The USS Franklin's records show that 724 men were killed and 265 were wounded that day out of a crew of 3,400.

Ridgeway resident and veteran Jack Vale, who emceed the event, said, "God bless those veterans who saw things they were never intended to see, and then carried those memories inside themselves for the rest of their lives."

Other veterans told their stories, some were combat, some were not, but all revealed the complicated layers involved during wartime efforts. All Ridgeway veterans were recognized, as was guest and Martin County High School Graduate Amanda Marcell, who was appointed to the U.S. Air Force Academy for the fall semester. The VFW Post 10132 Honor Guard concluded the

ceremony with a 21-gun salute on the Ridgeway clubhouse grounds.

The haunting notes of a trumpet playing "Taps" followed Ridgeway residents and guests as they returned to their everyday, normal lives, perhaps having a slightly greater appreciation of the freedom they enjoy and of those who sacrificed so much to ensure it. ■



Retired Army Capt. Doris Fenner introduces soon-to-be Air Force Academy Cadet Candidate Amanda Marcell.



Memorial Day procession of wreaths at Memorial Park in Stuart.



Stuart Commissioner James Christie Jr., left, noted that the size of the crowd for the Smith-Turner Park dedication indicated the depth of respect and appreciation that exists today for the slain soldiers who died in 1967. Stuart Mayor Troy McDonald concluded the dedication ceremony with, "Richard and Lawrence, welcome home!"

Stuart gives long-overdue recognition of 2 heroes

If any Memorial Day celebration can be more special than any other, the 2014 events throughout Martin County cast a distinctive aura of respect and honor probably not seen since the 9/11 attacks on the U.S., in part due to the long-overdue recognition of two Vietnam War heroes.

Stuart's annual Memorial Day parade and honoring of recently deceased veterans brought hundreds of visitors to Osceola Street and to Memorial Park. Attendees witnessed also the awarding of scholarships to the next generation of soldiers, including Amanda Marcel of

Martin County High School, who earned an appointment to attend the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs this fall.

The most touching ceremony came, however, with the dedication of the Smith-Turner plaque at the East Stuart Park, now named in honor of the two, young East Stuart residents and friends, who were killed in the Vietnam War.

Richard Smith Jr. was killed in 1967 after stepping on a land mine. He was 19 years old, and his friend, Lawrence Frank Turner, along with his entire unit, was killed a year later at 22 years of age.

Dozens of childhood friends, neigh-

bors, and family members filled the newly named Smith-Turner Park on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Stuart, and they all were fed hamburgers and hot dogs free of charge by Jimmy's Bar-B-Que.

Local dignitaries welcomed the soldiers "home" in touching tributes offered by Stuart Mayor Troy McDonald, City Manager Paul Nicoletti, city commissioners Eula Clarke and James Christie, Jr.—instrumental in obtaining verification of the soldiers' service and arranging their recognition—and County Commissioner John Haddox.

Veterans groups also attended, including the South Florida Chapter of Vietnam Veterans, and the VFW Post 10132 Honor Guard concluded the ceremony with a 21-gun salute, followed by Taps.

"This recognition has been too long coming," said Nicoletti, "and the reason for that is an uncomfortable one: Richard and Lawrence were not remembered because they were African-Americans, and because in many ways, all Vietnam Veterans were forgotten...Today is not a day of forgetfulness, but a day of remembrance." ■



Navigating ttle hurdles can be just as challenging as the big ones.



Buddies and players both get caught up in the excitement of team play.



Sometimes, you just need a break...



Learning to kick can be a challenge.



More than one use for a BIG soccer ball!

TOPSoccer season ends, wild growth continues

Friday-night lights in Hobe Sound shine on perhaps the happiest kids in Martin County for the first seven weeks of summer.

Another season of TOPSoccer, a program of U.S. Youth Soccer, brought more than 90 special-needs children to the Doc Myers Park on A1A in May, who were joined by an equal number of volunteer school-aged “buddies,” just to play soccer for a couple of hours on Friday nights.

Some have autism. Others have cerebral palsy or Down syndrome, but they all run drills, kick around a few soccer balls, and with the help of their buddies, they momentarily

forget their inhibitions and restrictions as they learn to play the game of soccer.

In many cases, it's the first time they've ever participated in a team sport, but most have been on this field before. They return again and again from throughout the county, which is why organizer Tony Sementelli predicts that by next year, they will have more than 100 kids enrolled.

“We started with 25 kids,” he says. “Hard to believe it now, but the word has spread, and more and more come each season. One of these days, we're going to outgrow this park.”

Sponsored by the Hobe Sound Soccer League, the biggest challenge is the recruitment of the “buddies” who assist players, since each year, the league loses many to graduation. Many are soccer members, but knowing how to play soccer is not a requirement.

“We couldn't do this without our buddies,” Sementelli adds, “or our adult volunteers, either. We depend on both. There's a lot that goes into this, but I think we get even more out of it than the players.”

Judging by the joy spread among all the faces, young, old, player, buddy or volunteer, Sementelli knows what he's talking about, as he stands on the field surrounded by joy—and intense con-

centration as players develop confidence and camaraderie. Soccer also provides an opportunity for many to work on gross motor skills without realizing that's what they're doing.

Martin County TOPSoccer has been recognized as the top program in the state, earning awards from the Florida Youth Soccer Association. Craig Woll traveled with Sementelli to Orlando to ac-

cept the award just a couple of years ago.

“Craig was so touched, he couldn't even talk,” Sementelli recalled later. “I can understand that. The program means a lot to him....it means a lot to all of us.”

The program for this season has ended. Team photos taken, trophies handed out. But now comes the planning for next year's season of Friday night lights, shining down on TOPSoccer. ■



Joyful faces abound!

Change your oil, change a life

To honor Floridians Fighting Falls, a program to educate seniors and their caregivers in fall prevention, a local business will offer a special deal to oil-change customers during the Labor Day weekend.

Paradise Tire and Service of Stuart, at 6574 SE Federal Highway, is sponsoring the fundraiser Sept. 3, donating all proceeds from every oil change to Floridians Fighting Falls, which recently earned its 501(c)3 rating, so all contributions are now tax deductible.

“Please reserve your oil change,” said Audrey Burzynski, executive director, “and help me thank Lisa Compagno and her family for stepping forward to help Floridians Fighting Falls. You also can assist with the fundraiser by having your oil changed, telling a friend about this 'Change Oil, Change Lives' fundraiser, and / or by volunteering to staff a Floridians Fighting Falls publicity table.

Burzynski may be reached at 772.932.7264. ■



Safe predictions, sure-fire catches now long gone

Labor Day weekend brought back fond memories of the '90s! The migratory clock was aligned then with Nor'easters, lower water temps, and tolerable fresh water discharges into the St. Lucie and Indian River Lagoon. No matter what analysis we choose to adopt, population growth and global changes have derailed the historic rhythm of south Florida fishing!

August fishing publications then were poetic, portraying the always-on-time migratory explosion with the monumental bait movements battered by tarpon, huge jack crevasses and snook as the typical verse. September 1, the snook season would open and, like clockwork, they would leave and go north. As September matured, the oceans cooled, and seemingly out of obscurity, bluefish and mackerel blissfully appeared.

There were always references that the pompano would be surfside for easy pickings. The accepted data would be re-released well into the 2000s, year after year—pretty much a tradition that really was a "Ground Hog Day" staple.

Well, folks, at least in my world, we



Lillian Graziano and Edie Hill in front of the Reel Life Bait & Tackle shop on Federal Highway in Hobe Sound.

don't rely on the archives. Since 2000 the migratory poem doesn't rhyme anymore. We are in a free verse cycle of unstable conditions unfortunately derived by the human race. Enough said. So what do the best fisherman study? In lieu of a lack of early-winter climes, our fish reside somewhere else until certain variables are met.

The bluefish just arrived in Hatteras, N.C. Virginia beaches are entertaining good pompano catches. June and July were tremendous for catching "silvers" in the Carolinas, and then they moved north. Every migratory move in the past 10 years has been stimulated by hurricanes and tropical depressions, which create huge rip currents that mobilize major bodies of cold water to move south. In reality, bodies of the ocean move south, and the fish move in front of the patterns. No autumnal Atlantic depressions, no migration movement toward us.

The poetic Arctic fronts are the remaining players in hope of an October/November run. Our Florida friend, the jet stream, must leave Canada and venture past Georgia to provide at least the 68-degree water temp some of us dream about all summer long. Remember last year: No Atlantic storms and the jet stream didn't dip till December.

In 2012 Hurricane Sandy displaced blues, macks, poms and redfish right in Jupiter on Nov. 11, and they were at the Georgia/Florida border in colder water temps on Nov. 3. The day the reds



Pompano Reporter Rich Vidulich meets a real-life mermaid, Joan Love, 85, who is enjoying the sun, surf and watching her grandchildren learn to fish.



Rich Vidulich
Pompano Reporter

showed up, the water at Juno Beach was in the high 60s. A week earlier it had been in the low 80s.

Here's the early-bird kicker! The Farmer's Almanac is predicting a much colder winter. Guess what, though. They predicted that last year and...? Numerous contacts in the surf-tackle business and daily Facebook alliances provide daily updates to substantiate my data. From my view, it's too early to suggest a prediction, and for any other publication to do so would only be folly!

Now, for something happier and loaded with GRACE: First and foremost I am a fortunate angler who has developed a nice beach charter following. The accompanying photos are just one of the special families I have ever encountered. The respectable booking of Jupiter Island folks to fish with me is truly an honor. I am hired to teach fishing, catch fish and encourage youth to seek these very special outdoor activities.

As a tall mariner type, I project an unforgettable image of an angler from the Ernest Hemingway Era, not one I have fashioned myself, but one that my



Mermaid Joan with her grandchildren, from left, Jake, Jude, and Lily Love.

clients favor in describing me. Mrs. Pompano (Mimi) thinks I would be more charming goatee-less and much more handsome. I don't know about that, but I'm happy with the guy in the pictures with the children.

Joan is, as every grandma I've met, an extraordinarily charismatic lady sparkled by blue-seas eyes. Not having seen a mermaid previously on planet earth, I never thought something this crazy would occur during my lifetime. But sure enough, the family carried her to their beach and positioned themselves for the once-in-a-lifetime picture. I sat next to the beautiful 85-years-of-age young lady with arms around her shoulders with humorous pride.

Was this the apex of my mariner life? Perhaps. The picture speaks volumes without needing any of these fanciful words. Thanks to the "Love Family" for allowing me to snap their portrait!

On another note, Lillian and Steve Graziano own the Reel Life Bait & Tackle at 10520 SE Federal Hwy in Hobe Sound. I've been friends with them, and now a client of theirs, for some time. My last visit coincided with Edie Hill's delivery of fresh live shrimp to this happy villa, and I captured some very easy big smiles in front of Reel Life.

Steve is an accomplished shark fisherman, and Lillian is a surf fisherman and bass aficionado. They cater to both fresh water and salt water anglers with live bait, frozen bait and all the fishing lures to fish offshore, inshore and practically anywhere else, too! The lures include DOA, Unfair Lures (Paul's Rip-N-Slash 70mm), and all the pre-made rigs for surf and offshore. Penn reels and affordable rods are in stock.

Fisherman John Martin chalks the fishing reports daily on the chalk board. Stop by and enjoy the ambiance. Just wish they stocked some margaritas! Good luck to them in their venture, and tight lines to you! ■

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.

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Little grads begin new school year

The smile on Zion Pough's face during the Hobe Sound Early Learning Center's pre-kindergarten graduation ceremony June 4 spoke for hundreds of Martin County students sharing a similar experience. With the beginning of fall, a new chapter in their lives has begun. Zion is now a "grown-up," full-fledged member of the kindergarten class at Hobe Sound Elementary School across the street—not too far from home!