

Martin County
CURRENTS

Volume 4 Issue 4 • October 2014

FREE

**Pressure mounts
to stop this train!** Pg 4



Marie Scholl opens a new jewelry and gift shop in Hobe Sound. Pg 15



Commissioner ordered to explain missing emails. Pg 3



The world of Gateway to Tibet – weaving, painting, cooking. Pg 20

Say YES to Tennessee!

Building Lots Starting at \$29,000 ~ 3.25 Acres

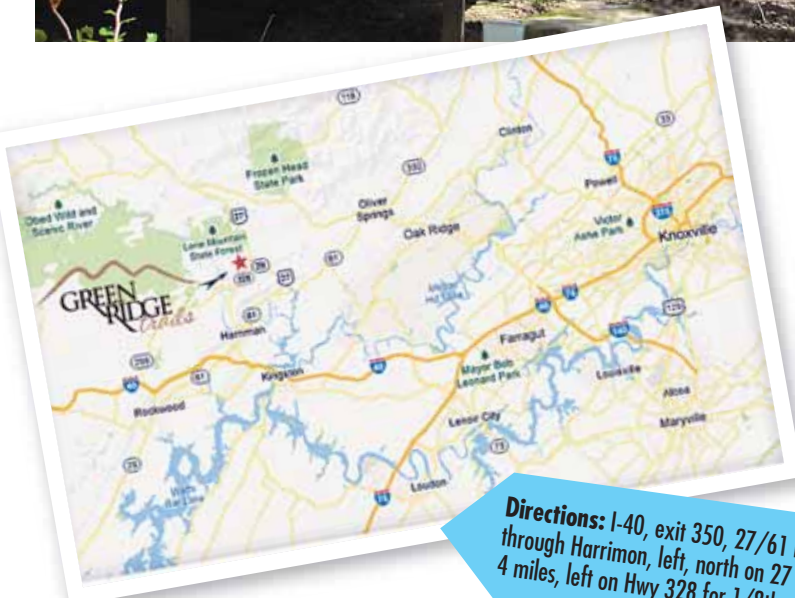


- Lovely Cedar 1 1/2 Story A Frame
- 3 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Bath
- Sq. Ft. = 1,804
- Open Floor Plan - Wrap Around Deck
- Beautiful Full Mountain View
- Includes 1.75 acres

\$249,000

Platinum Properties Real Estate Inc.

Call **Alyse Porter**, 561-309-6874 (c) 561-222-2178 (o) 800-760-6212
aepassoc@aol.com



Directions: I-40, exit 350, 27/61 north through Harrimon, left, north on 27 for 4 miles, left on Hwy 328 for 1/8th mile.

Martin County CURRENTS

Features

4

**Can this
train be
stopped?**

11

**Meet your school
board candidates.**

12

**Proposed
amendments
debated.**

Columnists

Voices....9

Maya Ellenson

Art Kaleidoscope....20

Rich Vidulich

Pompano Reporter ... 23

EDITOR

BARBARA CLOWDUS

772.245.6564

editor@MartinCountyCurrents.com

ADVERTISING

advertising@MartinCountyCurrents.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

calendar@MartinCountyCurrents.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

www.MartinCountyCurrents.com

click on SUBSCRIBE

All the articles and opinion pieces are authored and/or edited by Publisher Barbara Clowdus, except as otherwise noted. All the typos, mistakes, grammatical errors, omissions, and misspelled words are hers alone, too. The good photos are taken by someone else. All contents are copyrighted 2014 Martin County Currents LLC.

Martin County CURRENTS

PUBLISHER -- Barbara Clowdus

PRINTER -- Southeast Offset, Inc.

WEBSITE -- Sonic Fish, LLC

A monthly newspaper, Martin County Currents LLC is distributed free throughout the county, including Hobe Sound, Indiantown, Rio, Jensen Beach, Palm City, Stuart, and Port Salerno. All opinions are those of its authors, and letters to the editor are encouraged. Contact information:

Martin County Currents LLC, 5837 SE Avalon Drive, Stuart, FL 34997. www.MartinCountyCurrents.com. 772.245.6564.

COURT ORDERS DEPOSITION OF COMMISSIONER

Commission Chair Sarah Heard can no longer avoid being grilled by



Lake Point attorneys as to what may still be hidden in the hard drive of her personal computer.

Martin County Circuit Court Judge James McCann called the secret

email correspondence between Heard and Maggy Hurchalla "abundantly relevant" to Lake Point's case against Hurchalla for tortious interference in a hearing Sept. 19. He ordered that Heard sit for a deposition to explain how her emails got deleted from her personal computer, as well as to describe her attempts to retrieve them.

Her attorney's position that Heard had "legislative privilege" as a county commissioner was rejected by the court.

A key to proving Lake Point's case against Hurchalla for interfering with Lake Point's agreements with Martin County and the South Florida Water Management District—which Lake Point claims breached its contract due to misinformation and distortions by Hurchalla—potentially lie hidden within Commission Chair Sarah Heard's and Commissioner Ed Fielding's personal computers in the form of emails from Hurchalla, copies of which were not turned over to Lake Point after the mining operation's public records request in January 2013.

"This project earned unanimous approval (in 2009) from all Martin County commissioners...Sarah Heard even praised it," said Lake Point attorney Ethan Loeb during the hearing. "What caused her to change her mind?"

In May, Judge McCann ordered a forensics examination by an IT professional of Fielding's personal computer for deleted emails pertaining to Lake Point after secret emails from Hurchalla turned up nine months after their public records request in January 2013. The results of the forensics examination have yet to be turned over to Lake Point attorneys.

That delay, as well as Hurchalla's recent refusal to sit for a third, court-ordered deposition, resulted in Lake Point's motions for sanctions against Martin County and against Hurchalla, which Judge McCann refused to dismiss at the urging of outside counsel John Fumaro. He gave Fumaro 30 days to turn over the findings of the forensics search of Fielding's computer to Lake Point attorneys.

Judge McCann also warned attorneys representing Martin County that if Commissioner Heard had altered or manipulated any of the emails that she turned over initially to Lake Point as a result of the 2013 public records request that she would face criminal charges under Florida's Sunshine Laws.

The next hearing is set for mid-November. ■

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES INTO ETHICS COMPLAINTS

The ethics complaint filed against Commission Chair Sarah Heard in June

has "moved to the next stage," according to John McAuliffe, who has filed two complaints: the first for not including properties she owns in other states and undervaluing her home on her financial disclosure forms, and the second allegedly for falsifying expense reports, not reporting ownership of an airplane, and for accepting gifts from the 1,000 Friends of Florida prior to voting on a case in their favor.

"In the process of investigating these complaints," says McAuliffe, "the Ethics Commission has begun looking at the 1,000 Friends of Florida and Martin County Conservation Alliance requests to forgive court-ordered sanctions for their frivolous lawsuit against the county as a possible Sunshine violation."

Three commissioners were members of the Martin County Conservation Alliance, Heard, Fielding and Commissioner Anne Scott, but did not recuse themselves from the vote forgiving about \$30,000 in attorney fees.

In addition, the commissioner discussions were held in executive session, which McAuliffe says also violated Sunshine laws. County Attorney Michael Durham advised the county commission at the time that an executive session was appropriate, however, because the case was still listed as an open case on the court docket, although the litigation itself had ended. Commissioner Doug Smith refused to participate in the two closed-door sessions.

Donna Melzer, president of the Martin County Conservation Alliance, filed her own ethics complaint Oct. 7 against McAuliffe for filing his Martin County Residents for Tax Fairness Political Action Committee's reports three days late, thus purportedly denying voters an opportunity to examine the names of contributors prior to the election, according to Melzer. The PAC's fines were paid to the Martin County Elections Office for filing a late report. ■

Can this train be stopped?

The more we learn about All Aboard Florida, it seems, the less we know.

The high-speed passenger rail service from Miami to Orlando seems to be on track to barrel through Martin County by mid-2017 with 32 trains daily on a second track yet to be laid. The Florida East Coast freight trains also will increase from 14 daily to 20, which will continue to increase in number by 3 percent annually, according to a federal Draft Environmental Impact Statement ordered as part of All Aboard Florida's loan application for a federal Railroad Improvement Financing (RRIF) loan.

AAF, owned by Florida East Coast Industries (part of the Fortress Investment Group LLC) also has applied to the U.S. Department of Transportation for approval to sell tax-free private activity bonds in a move to seek private debt financing that will replace or substantially reduce its current federal loan request. They have not withdrawn their application for a RRIF loan.

"It's important that people still attend the public hearings and to send their comments to the Federal Railroad Administration," according to K.C. Traylor, one of the founders of Florida NOT All Aboard, an opposition group that has gathered more than 30,000 signatures on a petition to stop the train or push the train's route west of coastal communities. "We're more determined than ever to stop Big Choo-Choo."

The draft EIS had been long touted as holding the answers to a multitude of questions being posed by local governments and by citizens including:

- AAF's effect on navigation (the railroad bridge across the St. Lucie River is single-track only).
- The effect on air quality and health of residents with the increase from 840 trains monthly to the projected 2,160 trains monthly.
- The amount of noise and vibration that will affect buildings.
- The effect on property values.
- The effect on first responders attempting to reach hospitals or residents in critical need
- The safety of residents in downtowns in the event of a derailment.
- The effect on traffic flow and commerce.
- The safety of pedestrians and vehicles at railroad crossings.
- The cost of maintaining crossings. (AAF will pay for the initial safety upgrades at crossings.)
- The effect on wildlife of adding a third track through Jonathan Dickinson Park.



A second track to accommodate high-speed passenger rail will be installed within the 100' right of way owned by FEC, construction of which is currently underway from Miami to West Palm Beach. All Aboard Florida's rail improvements from West Palm Beach to Orlando will begin in 2015. The upgrade will allow FEC freight to attain faster speeds through the Treasure Coast. The number of freight trains is anticipated to increase to 20 daily in addition to AAF's projected 32 passenger trains daily.

Also missing from the EIS was an expected from the U.S. Coast Guard, which is charged with issuing bridge permits for navigable waterways. Coast Guard officials say that it will hold three public hearings in November, but have yet to announce dates or locations.

Few answers gave specific details.

"The EIS is a joke," Traylor said, a sentiment shared by most who read the 522-page report, with the exception of AAF officials, who selected and hired the consultants charged with preparing the report for the Federal Railroad Administration.

AAF officials point to the 19 "mitigation strategies" offered to decrease the impact on Treasure Coast residents (including rail maintenance

to reduce vibration), while boasting of the positive, statewide economic impacts, including 6,000 temporary construction jobs for the 240-mile rail line, and 1,000 permanent jobs created after

construction is completed in 2017.

AAF officials report that the train will keep three million cars a year off the roadways, which means 846,000,000 pounds of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere each year, and they will spend only 50 seconds at a time in crossings.

They also report that they will provide gourmet meals, free WIFI and high-end accommodations for "competitive" ticket prices, although they have declined thus far to state what the tickets will cost.

The AAF passenger rail improvements would allow FEC freight trains to move faster through the Treasure Coast, purportedly shortening closings of the St. Lucie River bridge from an average of 21 minutes to 15 minutes, but that will also require "straightening" the curves north of the bridge.

The length of time of bridge closings is hotly contested, and the EIS did not

state how the length of time of closings was determined for its report.

Martin County, with the aid of a Federal Inland Navigation Department grant, purchased cameras trained on the railroad bridge to determine the amount of time required for the bridge to be closed to boat traffic to allow a train crossing. Taryn Kryzda, Martin County administrator, reported to the count commission at its Oct. 7 meeting that the Engineering Department is "days away" from compiling its first report.

She also reported that Terry Rauth, assistant county engineer, is tasked with preparing the county's response to the draft EIS report. Rauth will address the Oct. 30 public hearing at the Kane Center, and will prepare a final report for the county commission for its November meeting.

Also analyzing the draft EIS and preparing its own response is CARE-FL, an acronym for Citizens Against Rail Expansion in Florida, comprising the upscale gated communities of Mariner Sands Country Club and Loblolly in Martin County; Jonathan's Landing, The Club at Admiral's Cove and Frenchman's Creek Beach and Country Club in Palm Beach County; and the Maritime Industries Association of Palm Beach County.

Three of the group's leaders, Bill Ward, Brent Hanlon and Tom Hewitt, have met with state Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad, and Rachel Cone, the deputy chief of staff in charge of transportation issues in Scott's office. CARE-FL also hosted a public forum in Tequesta in September to address the issues of public safety, particularly how AAF will impact ambulance and firefighter response times, their primary focus of concern. The group has retained the services of Stephen Ryan, a Washington-based attorney, who also has been scrutinizing the federal loan request.

Neither Gov. Rick Scott nor his challenger Charlie Crist have outright opposed the All Aboard Florida project, opting instead to urge AAF officials to address Treasure Coast residents' concerns before proceeding.

Opposition groups that have established websites include Florida NOT Aboard, www.FloridaNotAllAboard.net; CARE, www.saveourfl.com, and an Indian River County group is www.citizen-sagainsthetrain.com.

The All Aboard Florida website is: www.AllAboardFlorida.com. ■

--Barbara Clowdus

Public Input Sought

Make comments regarding All Aboard Florida by writing a letter to John Winkle, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E., Room W38-31, Washington, DC 20590, or email AAF_comments@vhub.com.

Public meetings on the Treasure Coast will be Oct. 30, 3:30-7 p.m. at the Kane Center on Salerno Road in Stuart; Nov. 5 at Indian River State College, Richardson Hall, 6155 College Lane, Vero Beach; and Nov. 6, 3:30-7p.m. At the Port St. Lucie Civic Center, 9221 S.E. Civic Center Place.



PROFESSIONAL RODEO COWBOYS ASSOCIATION AND
WOMEN'S PRO RODEO ASSOCIATION SANCTIONED EVENTS

WEAR PINK,
GET A
FREE DRINK!

PRESENTED BY



Seacoast
NATIONAL BANK

ADVANCE TICKETS
AVAILABLE AT
SEACOAST
BRANCHES

OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2014

GATES OPEN 6:00 PM • SHOW STARTS 7:30 PM

INDIANTOWN RODEO

TIMER POWERS PARK CITRUS BLVD., INDIANTOWN

TICKETS ADVANCE: ADULT \$10 • CHILD \$5 (12 & UNDER)
AT GATE: ADULT \$15 • CHILD \$8 (12 & UNDER)

6:30 PM MEET
RONALD MCDONALD!

EVENTS

- BAREBACK RIDING • BULL RIDING
- SADDLE BRONC RIDING
- TIE-DOWN ROPING • STEER WRESTLING
- TEAM ROPING BARREL RACING • VIP TENT & MORE!

WWW.INDIANTOWNRODEO.COM • 772.597.2184



Health Insurance is confusing... but it doesn't have to be. We get it.

Our licensed agents are CMS
certified to provide you with
professional guidance.

Our services are provided at no
charge to you.

To get the right plan at the right price
we can help you:

- ✓ Check subsidy eligibility
- ✓ Find your doctor/hospital network
- ✓ Enroll you and your family
- ✓ Look at dental options

Open Enrollment:
November 15, 2014 – February 15, 2015

VISIT US AT A LOCATION NEAR YOU.



COMPASS HEALTH
YOUR PLAN. YOUR CHOICE.

3345 US Hwy (in the Wedgewood Commons)
Stuart, FL 34997

877.870.8391

www.compasshealthinsurance.com



REGIONS
Health & Life Insurance

8805 SE Bridge Road
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

772.546.2299

www.regionshealthgroup.com

COMP PLAN CHANGES

An administrative law judge, Christine Van Wyck, wearing a long black robe,

was the first hint on Sept. 30 that anything judicial was taking place inside the Martin County Building Department's conference room.

After a year of negotiations and eventual settlements with three landowners who had challenged the legality of the changes to Martin County's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, the hearing will determine if the remaining issues challenged by Midbrook 1st Realty, owners of the Hobe Grove planned community west of the Turnpike and south of Bridge Road, is in compliance with state statutes.

Van Wyck asked for a copy of the "amended amendments," the rewritten version of the amendments that included the changes that were sought and accepted by Lake Point, a mining and water restoration project near Indiantown, Consolidated Citrus, which owns AgTEC, an undeveloped industrial site west of I-95 at the border with St. Lucie County, and Becker Holdings, which owns the Hobe Sound Polo Club development on Bridge Road in Hobe Sound.

The settlements included the recognition by Martin County that Lake Point's mining contracts are valid, and



Maggy Hurchalla

the county agreed to revoke the Growth Management Department's development order classifying the Lake Point project as a housing development, rather than a mining and water restoration project.

The amended amendments also lifted the county's requirement that agricultural lands with plans to develop must change their property classifications and pay the higher commercial property tax, even though construction has not begun, and they are a bona fide agricultural enterprise.

Midbrook 1st Realty objected to the lack of data and analysis behind all the amendment changes, even in regards to the new 4-1 super-majority vote requirement.

"This is not merely process," said attorney Brian Seymour of Gunster. "It is a statement of position of the county on what is most critical and what they think is most important – a substantive policy – and, it will actually affect what can be approved."

Expert witnesses for Midbrook included Dr. David Depew, Ken Metcalf, and economist Dr. Hank Fishkind, who testified that "no economic principles" were used when writing the amendments. He also said that the balance called for in the state Community Planning Act in order for counties to control growth using sound economic principles that do not

compromise their financial health had been ignored. He called the amendments "a cynical attempt" to stop growth.

Midbrook also challenged the new amendments' requirement that the Indiantown Urban Services District be combined with the eastern urban services district when determining population capacity and housing needs for the entire county.

The first witness called by Midbrook was Maggy Hurchalla, author of the amendments, to establish what experts she had consulted, what input others had, and if she, indeed, was the only author, which she denied three times with emphatic, "Nos." Her deposition taken some months ago, however, revealed that she was the only author. "Sometimes I would use 'we', but I was only being polite," she said. "It was me. All me." She also said she deleted any emails with suggestions that she felt "did not improve the comprehensive plan."

Whether or not Hurchalla was qualified to write broad-ranging comp plan amendments was a moot point, according to Martin County's outside counsel, Linda Loomis Shelley, a former director of the Department of Community Affairs, because state statutes do not require particular qualifications of the authors; only that the changes be approved by the county commission in advertised public hearings.

The expert witnesses for Martin County were Thomas Pelham, a former secretary of the Department of Community Affairs, who testified that in his opinion, the amendments were in com-

pliance with state law. Also testifying was Charles Pattison, policy director for the 1,000 Friends of Florida.

The judge's ruling is expected in October, after which Midbrook's attorneys have an opportunity to answer in response within 20 days. ■

ARRESTS IN HOBE SOUND

A woman allegedly attacked by a homeless drifter as she jogged along

US 1 in Hobe Sound near the Osprey Street intersection thrust this quiet part of southern Martin County into the news this month. According to the Martin County Sheriff's Department, an off-duty Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy was driving north on U.S. 1 with his wife when he spotted the woman's flailing arms. After the deputy got a description, he went after the suspect, Steven Jordis, 21, detaining him near Cambridge Drive until Martin County Sheriff's deputies arrived. Jordis told police he was riding from Miami to Jacksonville and denied knowledge of the attack. He has been charged with attempted sexual battery, kidnapping and false imprisonment. According to the sheriff's report, the petite, blonde woman recalled that the attacker had said, "Give it to me," as he dragged her from U.S. 1 and threw her onto a nearby grassy area. ■

Always
BEST CARE
SENIOR SERVICES

In-Home Private Care &
Senior Living Coordination

Palm Beaches - Treasure Coast

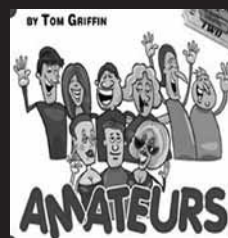
Call (772) 205-3888

HHA License #299993776

THE BARN THEATRE

THE BEST IN COMMUNITY THEATRE

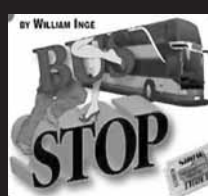
2014-2015 SEASON



**TICKETS
ON SALE NOW**
Amateurs • Nov. 7-23

Following the opening night of the Timberly Troupers' musical about undertakers, Dorothy and her slightly daft husband, Charlie, host a gathering of actors and friends. Paul (a well-known drama critic and friend of Dorothy's) has a heart attack and drops his not-yet published review before being taken to the hospital. As the actors read it and confront a harsh reality, the party becomes the setting where the dreams, loves, failures and successes of this group are explored with bittersweet humor and the relationship between risk and need is touchingly depicted.

JAN. 23 -
FEB. 8



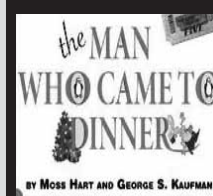
Bus Stop

MARCH 6-22



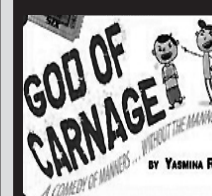
Nunsense

APRIL 17 -
MAY 3



The Man Who
Came to Dinner

MAY 29 -
JUNE 14



God of Carnage

TICKETS ARE \$20

Times are Thursday-Saturday 8pm, Sunday at 2pm.
(Bus Stop and Nunsense will offer special Wednesday performances at 8pm.)

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

Voters must make choices on two local issues, children and taxes

Martin County voters will decide two important issues on the Nov. 4 ballot—one is to reauthorize the Children's Services Council of Martin County, and the other is a proposal to add one cent to the current sales tax for the next four years to fund the reconstruction of existing roads, drainage and bridges. This sales tax would be used to address infrastructure problems that are the result of long-term underfunding and the reduction of preservation and replacement budgets, according to the county.

In the associated ordinance, it is required that all expenditures of sales tax proceeds must be approved by a majority of the Board of County Commissioners at an advertised public hearing where the public will have an opportunity to comment. If voters approve the referendum, the local sales tax would become effective on January 1, 2015, bringing the sales tax in Martin County on all goods except food, medicine and some services to 7 percent.

To see a list of the projects that will receive priority, go to www.martin.fl.us and click on "Hot Topics" to find the Sales Tax Referendum tab, which will provide a link to the Road Prioritization List.

THE BALLOT LANGUAGE IS AS FOLLOWS: Shall Martin County levy an additional one-cent sales tax for four years to fund reconstruction of existing roads, drainage and bridges to meet required codes and standards? Each County expenditure shall be approved at an advertised public hearing. Martin County's city and towns shall receive funds, as provided by law, from the one-cent sales tax for infrastructure projects.

____ For the one-cent sales tax
____ Against the one-cent sales tax

The City of Stuart and the towns of Sewall's Point, Ocean Breeze and Jupiter Island will share a percentage of the sales tax revenue, which is to be spent only on infrastructure projects; however, these municipalities are not limited to spending the funds only on roads, drainage and bridges.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL REAUTHORIZATION

By Preserve Children's Services Council



Voters must decide the Children's Services Council's ad valorem reauthorization. The Children's Services Council of Martin County is an independent special taxing district approved by Martin County's voters in 1988 to enhance the health and well being of Martin County's children. Shall the Children's

Services Council of Martin County be reauthorized to fund services for Martin County's children unless dissolved by the County Commission or special act of the Legislature as provided by law?

VOTE YES TO REAUTHORIZE THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL

By Richard Geisinger

The Martin County Taxpayers Association supports the reauthorization of the Children's Services Council for a variety of reasons. Most important, early intervention is critical to the development of young people, and we believe that investing in young people now saves taxpayer money later. This investment may keep young people out of prison, away from drugs and gangs, and help them become productive citizens. Similar to health care, preventative measures are always cost effective.

In Martin County, juvenile court cases have declined over the past 30 years. High school graduation rates are better than average, and mothers learn how to care for their babies while they are still in the womb.

Can you give 100% credit for these positive returns to just the Children's Service Council? Probably not, however, countless examples exist of children who would have fallen through the cracks had they not been helped by the agencies and programs the Children's Service Council funds—37 different programs and 20 different agencies.

We believe the Council, and their passion for children, has proven accountability, transparency, and it reacts to community needs. Additionally, we are pleased that "Florida Tax Watch" also recently endorsed the reauthorization of the Council. Vote Yes for the Children's Services Council.

Richard Geisinger is president of the MCTA, a non-profit, non-partisan organization.

VOTE NO TO REAUTHORIZE THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL

By Chuck Winn



The key detail about the Children's Services Council referendum is that when Joe Negron's bill (SB1216) passed in 2010, Planned Parenthood and their allies had succeeded in gutting it so that the final version became the current referendum, which is worded to continue or discontinue the Children Services Councils. The Children Services Council propaganda campaign for voting YES (funded with taxpayer dollars) uses scare tactics to create the

impression that all Children's Services Council programs will be scrapped by a No vote. The likely outcome of a No vote is that management of the Children's Services Council budgets and programs would be determined by the local elected authorities.

When Joe Negron introduced SB1216, shortly after his election in 2009, the original language focused on making expenditures of the state's 15 Children's Services Councils, which are unelected independent taxing authorities, subject to review and final approval by elected County Commissions. SB1216 did not threaten any children's programs, but ensured fiscal restraint and more competent Children's Services Council financial decisions.

This bill was prompted by millions of dollars that had been spent on programs that were outside of the statutory charters of the Children's Services Councils. For example, the Martin County Children's Services Council had spent over \$250,000 and the St Lucie Children's Services Council had spent over \$2.5 million on subsidizing programs developed and managed by Planned Parenthood, a national abortion rights lobby and abortion provider.

Under the current arbitrary and unaccountable Children's Services Council financial management system, the Martin County CSC was able to spend their \$2.5M cash reserve on their over-priced and unnecessary new building, which Joe Negron aptly dubbed their "Taj Majal." The most current example of their arbitrary spending is the current, hugely expensive media advertising campaign urging approval of the November referendum.

Two editorials were written by the Martin County Taxpayers Association and appeared in the October 31, 2009, and November 28, 2009, editions of the Stuart News that sharply criticized the Children's Services Council spending practices. They are excellent illustrations of the current status quo that a YES vote would maintain. A NO vote will merely establish accountability to the taxpayers by prompting a much-needed reconstitution of a Children's Service Council successor organization that will stay focused on the critically needed programs that actually fall under their charter. ■

Chuck Winn is a retired U.S. Army colonel who has been involved in numerous political campaigns for Republicans.



from EXPERT COLORIST
SAAVY STYLIST
COOL COSMETOLOGIST

DEANNA
at THE HAIR COMPANY

**BRAZILIAN BLOWOUTS and
SPLIT END TREATMENTS**

Call or Text
for appointment
772.634.2571

9025 SE Bridge Road,
Hobe Sound

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



Insist your landscape
contractor buys plants
& trees from a reputable
Martin County resource!



BECKER
TREE FARM & NURSERY

772-546-3541
www.beckertreefarm.com

Local, state and federal races see few new names

In addition to the two voter referendums to increase sales tax and reauthorize the Children's Services Council, three state constitutional amendments will be on the November ballot. Voters also will choose a county commissioner and a new school board member, as well as help decide the governor's race and a host of other local, state and federal legislative offices, including the nationally watched U.S. Representative District 18 race between Democratic incumbent Patrick Murphy and Republican candidate Carl Domino.

District 18 all of Martin and St. Lucie counties, and part of Palm Beach County, and the two men are vying for the next two-year term that offers a \$174,000 annual salary.

The **Martin County Commission** seat for District 2 will be decided between incumbent Republican Ed Fielding and challenger Ron Rose, running without a party affiliation. The four-year term pays a salary of \$59,963 annually.

The **Martin County School Board** non-partisan race for District 2 will be decided between former school board member Lorie Shekailo and Christia Li Roberts, who are seeking four-year



Carl Domino,
Republican

terms at a salary of \$33,510 annually.

In the race for **Florida House of Representatives** for District 82, which includes most of Martin County and parts of Palm Beach County, incumbent Mary-Lynn Magar, Republican, is being challenged by Mary Wescott Higgins, a Democrat for a two-year term with a salary of \$31,932 annually.

The **Florida Senate** race for District 32, which includes the eastern portions of Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties, will be decided among Republican



Patrick Murphy,
Democrat

Joe Negron, Matthew Joshua Loew, a write-in candidate, and Democrat Bruno Moore, all vying for a four-year term with an annual salary of \$29,697.

Negron also purportedly is likely to become Senate President should he be re-elected to the seat he currently holds.

The **Commissioner of Agriculture** also will be decided in the general election among non-partisan candidate

Thaddeus "Thad" Hamilton, write-in candidate Jeffrey M. Obos, and Republican Adam Putnam. The commissioner heads the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for a four-year term with an annual salary of \$128,972.

Martin voters also will be asked to choose between Republican Pam Bondi, Democrat George Sheldon, or Libertarian Bill Wohlsifer as **Florida's Attorney General** for a four-term with a salary of \$128,972 annually.

Incumbent Republican **Governor**

Rick Scott (on the ballot as Richard L. Scott) is running for re-election to a second term in office against Democratic nominee former Governor Charlie Crist.

Crist, elected governor as a Republican in 2006, did not run for re-election in 2010, instead ran for the U.S. Senate. In April 2010 and while still in office, he left the Republican Party to run as an Independent, and was defeated in the general election by Republican nominee Marco Rubio. In December 2012, Crist joined the Democratic Party.

Rick Scott's running mate is Carlos Lopez-Cantera, and Crist's running mate is Annette Taddeo-Goldstein, former chair of the Miami-Dade County Democratic Party. Adrian Wyllie's running mate is insurance executive Greg Roe.

Other gubernatorial candidates on the ballot include Independents Glenn Burkett and Farid Khavari. The four year term pays a salary of \$132,932 annually.

Constitutional amendments include The Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, Amendment 1; the Florida Right to Medical Marijuana Initiative, Amendment 2; and the Florida Prospective Judicial Vacancies, Amendment 3, all discussed on Page 12. ■



Fine Watch & Antique Clock Repair

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

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



About Time
CLOCK & WATCH REPAIR SERVICE

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



You are invited
to a
Meet & Greet Fundraiser

for
Ron
ROSE

MARTIN COUNTY COMMISSION
District 2

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014

FLASH BEACH GRILLE
on Bridge Road in Hobe Sound
5:30 p.m.

Invite your friends!

Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Ron Rose,
NPA, for Martin County Commission, District 2

Editorial: Step into reality long enough to fight All Aboard

We seem to be caught in some kind of Twilight Zone in Martin County, where county commissioners pay the least attention to the most pressing issues. Instead of focusing all the county's staff and energies on diverting All Aboard Florida's second set of tracks away from us, they are consumed instead with stopping all growth in Martin County at a near-frenzied pace.

Don't they understand that All Aboard Florida, once it's allowed to go through Martin County, can never be reversed! Don't they understand that All Aboard Florida poses the greatest threat to the quality of life, health and safety of residents that Martin County has ever faced? Don't they understand that we must marshal all our resources and energy, and work together to create our own data and analysis?

Not only because few facts, and lots of errors—including the grossly underestimated number of boats crossing under the railroad bridge on the St. Lucie River—were presented last month in the federal draft Environmental Impact Statement, but because we have few allies in this fight.

Instead of concentrating on AAF, our commissioners are busily shredding Chapter 10 of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan—with the misconstrued intention of finally doing

something to eliminate septic tanks—but are they eliminating the septic tanks along the St. Lucie River or the Indian River Lagoon? No.

Instead, our commission majority wants to eliminate the kind of septic tanks that have NEVER been installed in Martin County, but will effectively end the chance of creating agri-tourism opportunities for our farmers, which require a larger septic system than the proposed 2,000-gallon tank limit. Don't they understand that small farmers particularly are an endangered resource, and we should be doing everything we can to help them identify and create additional revenue streams to survive?

Or is their hidden agenda to ensure they do not survive?

And our commission majority wants to STOP the extension of sewer lines into the secondary urban services districts, which have already been identified as the places we want future growth. They want to eliminate sewer lines from Palm Beach County serving Martin County properties at the headwaters of the Loxahatchee River—just to kill any possibility of growth—and they're going to try to convince you that those septic tanks are good for the river, far preferable than sewer lines in that wet soil.

It's the same tactic that Commissioners Heard and Fielding used unsuccessfully to keep septic tanks at the

headwaters of the Loxahatchee more than three years, arguing the merits of septic tanks. Now we have Anne Scott, who likely also will deem septic tanks are good for our waterways, instead of being committed to figuring out a way to bring Martin County into the 21st Century with a central sewer system.

Don't try to convince us that septic tanks are bad on one side of the county, but good on another. We know better.

They also want to eliminate the possibility of having a research or bio-medical facility locate at the intersections of I-95, which would bring the kinds of jobs here that will keep our children and grandchildren here, that can provide a livable wage to residents. They'll wipe out that possibility by wiping out the zoning that's been there since 1985, and by banning package plants, large septic systems, anywhere in the county.

We're going to have single, 2,000-gallon septic tanks on one-acre lots at the least, and on 20-acre parcels at the most. A bedroom community, folks, that's all we'll ever be, which will be expected to foot the entire bill for the county's budget and infrastructure. Either the taxes will go sky high, or the county will bankrupt itself. And right smack along our coast will be All Aboard Florida trains, more than 50 passenger and FEC freight trains daily. Perhaps that's why there's no real momentum or

initiative from our commission majority to stop them. No one will want to live here anymore.

We should be organizing outreach seminars among our multitude of homeowners associations, country clubs, yacht clubs, and Sunday schools, if we must, in order to create a cohesive voice, joined with other Treasure Coast counties, to tell our federal and state officials, "No. We will not permit All Aboard Florida to destroy our way of life."

Our debt to Henry Flagler was paid decades ago when the state of Florida gave him thousands and thousands of acres of Florida land to develop in return for building a railroad to open up our state for expansion. Just because the 100-foot right of way remains intact does not mean that FEC, FECL, All Aboard Florida and the Fortress Investment Group have carte blanche to do anything they wish, regardless of the impact on others.

This fight will require an immense amount of energy and leadership, neither of which are often attributed to Ed Fielding. We need Ron Rose on the County Commission, and we need him now. Vote for Rose on Nov. 4, and get your comments about All Aboard Florida to the Federal Railroad Administration by Dec. 3. Do this as if your life depended on it, because the quality of your life does. ■

Proposed changes to Chapter 10 could kill agri-tourism



Carl Frost
Guest Columnist

Here are my thoughts from the perspective of a small vegetable farm in a county whose rural region is characterized mostly by grazing lands, environmental reserves, some big agriculture, and a handful of producing small farms.

Martin County government has traditionally focused its attention on agriculturally zoned sites at the margins of the urban services boundaries. The forthcoming reduction to onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) discharge to 2,000 gallons per day per site will add significant development costs and impediments to rural land owners throughout Martin County. This represents a broad taking of rights under the guise of (river) water quality. The ones most affected will be small

sites and small farms. Larger sites who desire a site modification to OSTDS will have the capital and scale to absorb the additional engineering and legal fees associated with a modification campaign. This is analogous to another "traffic study." This is another barrier which is indiscriminate to land use be it farm or commercial. My intent is to urge the Martin Commissioners that a broad brush approach is detrimental to small farms and a more precise policy is necessary to accomplish water quality and development control.

Martin County is well situated geographically for agritourism success. The easy access to the beaches, uncrowded urban environment and large pristine acreages are attractive amenities. Building an agritourism enterprise that produces agricultural products, provides very limited accommodations, meals and event hosting is a daunting task in Martin County because the zoning code fails to address the changing face of small farms and their economic challenges.

The current ambiguities in the zoning combined with forthcoming restrictions on onsite sewage treatment and

disposal systems (OSTDS) will significantly increase the cost of agritourism development or limit its growth. Currently a farm property may host a maximum of 6 bedrooms in a bed and breakfast—a very expensive proposition and too small for success.

Success in housing farm visitors requires cost effective solutions and more than six bedrooms (unless each bedroom was a dormitory room). Marketing and insurance, to name two expense items, are fixed costs irregardless if there are six rooms or 16. We are in an era of economies of scale on all levels.

Note the newest form of hosting, i.e. "glamping," found at River Ranch, a resort west of Yeehaw Junction. Alternatively, there is Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF). Here is a ready supply of motivated individuals who are willing to trade farm labor for room and board. Other agritourism opportunities come to mind, such as a farm store or rustic weddings.

Tourists and locals alike will visit a working farm that produces a variety of products. The guests want to sample

fresh food and items made on the farm like soups, ice creams, fresh chicken, eggs, honey, sandwiches, breads and so forth. This requires kitchen facilities, bathrooms and parking. At present the farmers market zoning offers some opportunity here; however, the proposed OSTDS cap of 2,000 gallons per day will curtail accommodations and/or food service for large numbers of guests on rural properties.

Unfortunately, for a farm to enter this zone, they would be viewed through the lens of commercial development, which is indiscriminate between a corner convenience store/gas station and the farm that may have a similar level of activity.

Do the commissioners object to country-style development such as that found in winery regions for example? If so, the conversation about agritourism is over, but if you are willing to develop a zoning code and OSTDS policy reflective of the large rural acreage realities, then agritourism might stand a chance. ■

Carl Frost owns Kai-Kai Farm, 40 acres on Kanner Highway, nine miles west of I-95.

Rose vs Fielding in only commission race

The District 2 seat on the Martin County Commission remains to be filled and will be decided by the Nov. 4 general election. Republican incumbent Ed Fielding, who has served one term, faces challenger Ron Rose, who is running with no party affiliation. All voters county-wide are eligible to vote for either candidate, regardless of area of residence or party affiliation.

Currents asked the candidates to answer two questions important to readers, which they've answered here:

RON ROSE BIOGRAPHY

Currently employed as executive director of the Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce, Ron Rose, 63, attended West Virginia University and earned a bachelor of science degree in journalism and public relations. He has 35 years' experience in consensus building, nonprofit management, event production, tourism promotion and developing and supporting small business, and has served on the Martin County Republican Executive Committee.

He currently serves on the Martin County Tourist Development Council and is a volunteer instructor of the Junior Achievement "Success Skills Program" at Jensen Beach High School. Other activities include: board member of the History Museum of Jensen Beach, Inc.; board member of The Entrepreneurship Foundation, Inc.; founded the Jensen Beach Pineapple Festival in 1988; a Southeast Florida Honor Flight Guardian; a member of the Realtor Association of Martin County; and served on the Jensen Beach High School, School Advisory Council.

He also has organized and participated in numerous river, beach and community clean-up events, and adopted Pineapple Avenue through the Keep Martin Beautiful's Adopt-A-Road Program.

ED FIELDING BIOGRAPHY

(Mr. Fielding did not submit a biography.)

QUESTION 1:

With the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement on Friday, Sept. 19, how should Martin County proceed in regard to addressing All Aboard Florida's impacts on our quality of life?

RON ROSE'S ANSWER:

I urge all Martin County residents to review the Environmental Impact Study and participate in the democratic process by providing input during the public comment period and attending the public forum. The local forum will be held October 29 (3:30 - 7pm) Kane Center, 900 SE Salerno Road, in Stuart. I

have posted a link of the draft report at www.VoteRon-Rose.com under "News."

All Aboard Florida means 32 more trains a day, including up to 20 additional freight trains that could be up to two miles long.

This increase will impede public safety response time, diminish property values, badly hamper boat crossings on the St Lucie River, slow the flow of traffic and create in general all around nuisance. The federal grant they're seeking has little chance of being repaid.

My opponent practices big government interventionism and backs the federal government telling us where and how to live and travel as outlined by Seven50, a regional planning initiative that demands that we trade our cars for passenger trains. Think, All Aboard Florida. The train is a vital centerpiece to Seven50's ambitions. My opponent serves as a member of the group's Executive Committee. Find out more at www.Seven50.org.

I remain opposed to the plan unless All Aboard Florida can demonstrate to the citizens of Martin County that increased rail traffic will not negatively affect our unique quality of life. The burden is on All Aboard Florida to prove there will be no negative impacts.

ED FIELDING'S ANSWER:

The community is talking about three main concerns:

A) All Aboard Florida, I am working to stop this coastal corridor 1) with support from Coast Guard because of significant negative impact on marine access. 2) Environmental Impact Statement response, raising issue of disproportionate harm to disadvantaged community. 3) Health, safety & welfare issue with numerous crossings separating large segments of population from hospital and medical care. 4) Assistance from Congressional representative.

B) Water quality of St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon- working with Federal and State representatives, Army Corps and South Florida Water Management to attenuate water flowing from the north and to provide release of water to the south; avoiding estuary releases. Was a founding member of the Rivers



Ed Fielding
County Commission,
District 2



Ron Rose
County Commission,
District 2

Coalition, an active board member for several years. Recently founded and chair Indian River Counties Collaborative which is in process of being transformed into the policy body for the Lagoon. We have solicited Federal & State funds and continuing to secure permanent Lagoon project funding.

C) Protect our Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, our local constitution. A few years ago many of the water quality and neighbor protections were removed; now in process of restoring those protections for all citizens.

QUESTION 2:

Since both candidates have stated commitments to protecting our waterways, preserving our quality of life and supporting small business, what are the distinct qualities you would bring to the job as commissioner?

RON ROSE'S ANSWER:

When it comes to conservative principles, particularly fiscal management, citizen involvement in government and respect for those who risk their lives on our behalf, the differences between myself and my opponent couldn't be more drastic.

I've been loyal to these principles all my professional life. I've worked for Martin County's economy by creating a strong platform for small businesses to grow and succeed. My opponent demands redundant, overzealous and even punitive regulations that threaten marine business, small restaurants and even simple home improvements.

I've worked to support tourism, the lifeblood of our local economy, which allows for the infusion of new dollars and fresh opportunities that grow our tax base and benefit everyone. My opponent first gutted tourism marketing and then moved to make this vital service yet another governmental department under his control.

I believe we owe a debt to our veterans that we can never repay, and our Veterans Services department is among the most efficient and effective in the county. My opponent actually insulted a local chapter of Vietnam Veterans, disparaging their courage and commitment to victory.

I believe that public safety is among

the most important services local government can provide. My opponent votes against training and manpower for public safety. Worse, he said that relying on an out-of-county resource for air ambulance services on trauma calls was just fine. We're finding out every day, at every accident, that the out-of-county option is often not available. This is totally unacceptable.

I believe in the conservative principles of sound fiscal management, keeping taxes low so small business can grow and residents can hang on to more of their hard-earned money. My opponent has supported multiple taxes increase. Last year, he voted to increase property tax by 3.06 percent. Also, over the last two-years my opponent has supported decisions that cost the county more than 2.5 million dollars in legal fees and legal settlement costs.

I believe in an all-of-the-above approach to fixing our rivers. Our waterways are absolutely vital to our livelihoods and our quality of life. We need to explore every method, from flow-way restoration, to storm-water retention expansion, to clearing ditches and road runoff, to improve agriculture practices, to getting waterfront properties off septic and onto sewer. My opponent, however, votes against sewer service and has even said because of sand, septic tanks are actually better for the river. His response to the lagoon has been expanding governmental bureaucracy, calling for more regional intrusion, holding more meetings and wasting more time and resources.

I believe government exists to serve the people. My opponent's words and actions show that he wants to make people a servant of government. I don't think this is the brand of conservatism any of us believe in or would embrace.

ED FIELDING'S ANSWER:

I actually have a long history of addressing water quality issues (B in previous answer) and quality of life (C in previous answer). Significant effort in redirecting our BDB funding from ineffective attempts to solicit relocating firms to actually taking action to assist local businesses to grow by requiring BDB to provide local training and support services. Also working through Community Redevelopment Department to provide infrastructure conducive to local business growth. Some are familiar with my efforts to expand fiber optic capabilities in the county and to develop a regional fiber network. Developing entrepreneurs rely upon and seek out areas with high capacity fiber optics. We are preparing to be competitive as a destination for developing entrepreneurs. ■

Meet your school board candidates^{for} District 1

Former Martin County school board member Lorie Shekailo and Christia Li Roberts, both non-partisan candidates, go head to head this fall to earn the District 1 seat on the Martin County School Board. Both candidates provided *Currents* with their biographies and with answers to two questions posed by *Martin County Currents*.

LORIE SHEKAILO BIOGRAPHY:



Lorie Shekailo, 57, a native of Huntington, New York, moved to Florida in February 1995 when her husband, Victor, was transferred by Northrop Grumman to its Stuart plant. After enrolling their three

children in Jensen Beach Elementary School, Lorie joined the PTA and was asked to serve on the Education Committee of the Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce and on the School Advisory Council. Lorie volunteered in various youth athletic leagues as treasurer and eventually served as president of the Jensen Beach Soccer Club and the Treasure Coast Soccer League. She became a substitute teacher in the district and was employed part time with Mark Brechbill, CPAs.

Her advocacy for children continued when she was asked to provide parental representation for children who were removed from parental care due to abuse or neglect. Lorie served as an officer of Hibiscus Children's Center Operation Board for many years holding the positions of president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. She also served on the Children's Services Council Budget Committee.

Lorie also on many school district committees, including the Long Range Planning Committee, the Calendar Committee, the Report Card Committee and others. She was an elected School Board Member from 2002-2010 and served as chair for three years. Lorie earned her Certified School Board Member designation in 2004. During her tenure on the Board, she served on many committees both within our school system and for the state association.

Lorie's financial background as a CPA has been an asset to the district. She assisted in training School Board Members statewide and served on our District's Audit and Insurance Committee. Lorie implemented the Business Improvement Team, a successful self-monitoring effort to improve efficiencies and provide cost savings in the business operations of our school district. Currently, she holds the position of Director of Finance and Operations at St. Martin de

Porres Catholic Church in Jensen Beach.

Lorie Shekailo, who holds a master of science degree from Villanova University, is uniquely qualified to serve as your School Board Member. Her experience spans both business and education. She remains a strong advocate for our children and our taxpayers.

CHRISTIA LI ROBERTS BIOGRAPHY:



Christia Li Roberts, 56, is a recognized Financial Services professional, self-employed as a Registered Investment Advisor. Her educational background and training include a Bachelor in Economics from Loyola University (Baltimore); NASD/NYSE Series 7, 63, 5, 3, 53, 65 licensing; Florida life and variable life insurance licensing; Certified Divorce Planners (Modules 1-3); UF Florida Master Naturalist; NGC Environmental Consultant; and Project WILD, Project WET, and Flying WILD.

Roberts has held numerous appointed positions and chairmanships on Martin County Boards (Zoning Adjustment, Industrial Development Authority, Preservation/CARL Taskforce, County Administrator Search Committee), City of Stuart Boards (Local Planning Agency, Code Enforcement), local and state Not-for-Profit Boards (Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Wekiva Youth Camp, Fla Master Naturalist – SLC, Garden Club of Stuart, Braille International, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Friends of the Lyric, Taxpayers Association, American Business Women's Association, Library Chautauqua South), and volunteered as a Consultant, Leader, Academic Coach and Tutor at local public schools (Stuart Middle, Felix Williams Elementary, Warfield Elementary).

She is a 33-year resident of Martin County and married 26 years to Paul – native Floridian, US Navy submarine veteran, father of three MCHS graduates and grandfather of two JBHS graduates.

Christia Li Roberts is the recipient of the Pillar of Pride Award (FFGC) and two-time recipient of the Woman of the Year Award (ABWA). Roberts' candidacy has been endorsed by The Stuart News, Palm Beach-Treasure Coast

A.F.L.-C.I.O., and Treasure Coast Builders P.A.C. She recently won the Primary Election for MCSB, District 1 carrying 21 of the 31 precincts.

Christia Li Roberts believes that her experience and professional skills would be a positive addition to the Martin County School Board in dealing with the budget, personnel issues and procedures. She can help us turn our good schools into great schools for the benefit of our children, our community and our future.

QUESTION 1:

What do you believe parents feel is their biggest challenge regarding the primary and secondary education of their children?

LORIE SHEKAILO'S ANSWER:

Parents all throughout the county are concerned with the amount and type of assessments being administered to our children. The general feeling is that there is too much testing taking place in our schools to the detriment of our student's learning opportunities.

CHRISTIA LI ROBERTS' ANSWER:

After listening to numerous parents in Martin County talk about the education of children, I believe that parents feel their biggest challenge is communication - communication with teachers, staff, other parents and even their children. These problems can be described in three categories:

- Finding out about problems or concerns before they become an issue: This includes missing homework, discipline incidents, and student interactions with classmates and their teachers. Problems typically start as small items that repeat or expand until they become a major concern. We need a better process. Schools should inform parents of small problems before they turn into big issues.

- Not getting prompt, quick responses to questions: Some parents are frustrated with having no help in learning to navigate the system. They hear that there are resources available for their child, but they can't find those resources. Information should be readily accessible by everybody and easy to understand. We need to do a better job and make this happen.

- Lack of respectful and fair treatment of their children: Adults are role models for the children around them. If we want our future adults to be polite

and sincere, we need to be very careful about how we treat our children. Parents are naturally protective of their offspring, as they should be. Rules and procedures need to make sense, be consistent, and be clearly communicated.

Our education system should reflect our society. Let's build a community of people with a variety of backgrounds and viewpoints that can effectively interact and participate with each other. We should foster diversity of thought in our children's minds and strive to communicate better. Education has just as much to do with training the next generation of citizens and leaders as it is about preparing students for future careers.

QUESTION 2:

What do you believe is the single biggest challenge currently facing the Martin County School Board, and how do you suggest resolving that issue?

LORIE SHEKAILO'S ANSWER:

Right now, the budget is the single biggest challenge facing the Martin County School Board. Spending decisions must be effective and targeted. The Business Improvement Team, a committee designed to randomly look at the business operations of our district for efficiencies, must be brought back with specific goals to be accomplished. Knowledge of all aspects of the budget and the relationships between budget categories is important when trying to resolve financial issues. The board must provide the resources necessary to provide the highest quality education to all our students.

CHRISTIA LI ROBERTS' ANSWER:

There is a temptation to answer this question with a quick reply and say 'the budget'; but there is a broader challenge. I believe that the biggest challenge facing the Martin County School Board today is for the District to recognize their proper place in our community. Schools should not be isolated islands of learning surrounded by fences and gates. When our schools don't interact with their community, we end up with undesirable situations. Athletic fields and playgrounds are locked up on weekends. Pick-up and drop-off traffic jams aggravate everybody. Programs get cut and the budget gets blamed. And, schools get built on busy roads and wetlands.

The issues and problems facing our school district now and in the years ahead should be addressed and solved together as a community. There is not one person or one answer that will solve all the problems. The best solutions come from collaborative efforts, where egos are left outside and we work together towards a common goal. ■

State constitutional amendments also to be decided this November

Martin County voters must consider three state constitutional amendments, listed below with commentary on some. For more information, go to MartinVotes.com, call the Martin County Elections Office at 772.288.5637, or visit the League of Women Voters website, the floridavoter.org.

AMENDMENT 1

Official Ballot Title: Water and Land Conservation Amendment

Amendment 1 requires 33% of the net revenue collected from the documentary stamp tax (applied primarily to real estate transactions) to go toward the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, established in 1963. Currently, the state legislature determines how much funding the Land Acquisition Trust Fund receives on a year-to-year basis, but funds were drastically cut following the recession of 2008. The estimates of state revenue that would go to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund under Amendment 1 is \$648 million in 2015-16 and could grow to \$1.3 billion for 2034-35, when the amendment would expire.

**VOTE
YES ON 1**

VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 1

Amendment 1 is our best opportunity to address threats to our water quality and keep pollution out of our waters—without any increase in taxes. Floridians understand the value of clean and abundant water for people and wildlife, and they cherish the natural areas that make Florida special. That's why Amendment 1 would ensure that these values have a place in our state's constitution.

Almost 2 million acres of important water protection areas, beaches, springs, and other vital natural areas remain vulnerable to unwise development decisions and deep funding cuts. Amendment 1 creates stable and long-term funding for conservation programs like Florida Forever and Everglades restoration, ensuring that we safeguard our most treasured waters and lands for future generations.

Fees on real estate transactions, aka "doc stamps," have been allocated to water and land conservation since 1968. Yet since 2009, these fees have been di-

verted to the state's general revenues while funding for water and land conservation projects has been slashed by more than 95 percent. Amendment 1 would provide \$10 billion over the 20-year life of the measure, all without any tax increase.

In Florida, conserving the water quality of our lakes, rivers and springs and restoring lands necessary to protect drinking water sources historically has transcended party politics. Popular programs like Save Our Rivers, Save Our Coasts, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever—geared towards funding important conservation projects—have been a priority of every Governor for the last four decades, including Governors Graham, Martinez, Chiles, Bush and Crist.

—From *Vote Yes on Amendment 1* is based in Tallahassee. Its website is: <http://voteyeson1fl.org>.

VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 1

By Darlene Fugetta



The following facts come from Dan Peterson, executive director of the Coalition of Property Rights, in order to counter environmental

groups' claims that Amendment 1 is not a tax increase.

Everyone's local property taxes will increase as a consequence of this amendment; as the amount of state-owned, conservation property increases, the amount of taxable, privately owned land decreases, says Mr. Peterson, which means less tax revenue for schools, fire and safety services, sanitary services, administration costs, etc.

Local government will face the choice to cut spending or raise taxes to meet local needs. According to Mr. Peterson, Lake County is already trying to raise taxes by 20%. Orlando already has. Florida's counties with the most conservation land have the highest property taxes. 97% of Monroe County is conservation land, and they have the highest property tax in the state. Monroe is followed closely by Collier and Franklin counties, which also have some of the state's highest property taxes.

The idea that doc stamp-funded conservation purchases come at no cost to property owners is a false one. There is a cost. There is always a cost, and

Florida's residents will pay for it in increased property taxes. Amendment 1 just adds to the tax burden of the remaining private property owners. Mr. Peterson is voting NO on Amendment 1, and so am I.

From a local perspective, the county already owns more than 26% of Martin County, which does NOT include thousands of acres owned by South Florida Water Management District, or land owned by the state or federal governments. More than 25% of Florida itself is owned by the state—again, NOT including land owned by county or federal entities—much of which will simply no longer be accessible to the public.

I must ask, "Why a constitutional amendment?" And for 20 years? This is money that MUST be spent, even if there isn't a need. Who will be choosing the properties to be purchased? What is the criteria? If there is a particular piece of property that a bureaucrat decides is a "must have," will eminent domain apply?

My final issue with this amendment is that it took 600,000 signatures to get it on the ballot. It will take 600,000 signatures to get a reversal—if we find out later we have created a monster.

—Darlene Fugetta is the Martin County Republican State Committeewoman

AMENDMENT 2

Official Ballot Title: Use of Marijuana for Certain Medical Conditions

Amendment 2 allows individuals with debilitating diseases, as determined by a licensed Florida physician, to purchase and use medical marijuana. (During the 2014 session, the state of Florida passed legislation to allow for the medical use of "Charlotte's Web," a strain of non-psychoactive cannabis.) Amendment 2 would legalize all forms of marijuana for medical use, but states that no insurance company or government agency can be required to cover its cost. Additionally, the amendment prohibits the operation of a car or boat while under the influence of marijuana and allows workplaces, schools and public spaces to ban marijuana from their facilities. Currently, 23 states and the District of Columbia have laws allowing for the use of medical marijuana.

VOTE YES FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA

By Ray Strack

The Florida Sheriffs Association is putting its credibility at risk in a misguided



campaign to stop patients from getting safe, legal medicinal marijuana when their doctors recommend it. On behalf of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP),

an organization of law enforcement officials who once enforced these laws—and as a former Customs Special Agent—it is important to note that many of us in law enforcement support providing compassionate care for people suffering with disease.

The Sheriffs' most frequently repeated assertion, that medical marijuana will increase criminal activity directly contradicts years of research in states where medicinal marijuana is allowed, which proves that there has been no increase in either teen use or crime.

As career law enforcement officers, we believe medical marijuana actually has real potential to improve public safety, because it removes a portion of the underground illicit marijuana market from the control of criminals. As we have seen in 23 different states over nearly two decades, it gives sick people a much-needed form of palliative care and pain relief, at the same time allowing those of us in law enforcement to focus on violent crime. That's one reason, perhaps, that violent crime is down in those states that already allow medical marijuana.

Both as citizens and as law enforcement officers, we believe it is a waste of tax dollars and police resources to arrest a suffering patient for possessing medicinal marijuana that his or her doctor believes necessary.

No one who has a serious medical condition should be forced to become a criminal in order to relieve some of their suffering. If your doctor believes medical marijuana is appropriate for your treatment, you should be able to purchase it just like any other medicine, in a legal marketplace where you can be assured of its safety—and your own. Patients should not have to risk consuming an illegal product that may be tainted with mold or other toxins, nor should their dollars be used to enable and enrich criminal gangs and drug cartels.

For some law enforcement administrators, opposition to medical marijuana has more to do with protecting their current budgetary allotments

rather than with providing the highest level of public safety. Florida deserves to know that this group of public administrators has a parochial position in opposition to the will of the public and does not speak for all of us in law enforcement.

We respectfully disagree with the sheriffs on Amendment 2. Like them, we are cops—but we are not physicians, and we don't feel qualified to stand between you and your doctor. For us, it is as simple as that.

Ray Strack, a U.S. Customs Special Agent for 27 years, is a spokesperson for Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.

VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 2

By Jessica Spencer



We reference the saying, "the devil is in the details," when talking about Amendment 2, because of its broad, vague language.

Why? Because supporters of Amendment 2 would have you believe that it was created to help the "really sick," but in actuality, it was created to facilitate full legalization of pot in Florida.

To start, the pot-for-any-purpose loophole arises because of the "other conditions" catchall contained within Amendment 2. Those who want to gain access to pot will not need a prescription to do so, only a recommendation. This means pot isn't just reserved for those with "debilitating illnesses" but could also be recommended for "other conditions," such as backaches, headaches, trouble sleeping, stress and menstrual cramps.

Within the "caregiver" provision of Amendment 2 lies the drug-dealer loophole, which provides a legal basis and broad constitutional protections for those dealing pot. It is important to note that the caregiver role outlined in the Amendment only requires one qualification—the caregiver has to be at least 21. That's it. Caregivers are not required to have any medical training, they aren't required to take any tests or have a background check before they become a caregiver.

To further compound the caregiver loophole, the pill-mill loophole will allow "pot shops" to set up everywhere. Since there are no provisions in Amendment 2 limiting where they can locate, expect pot shops to crop up near your neighborhood; thereby, allowing them to aggressively market pot to anyone who wants to buy it, including teens.

With no age limit on who can get pot, a guarantee of confidentiality, and zero requirements for parental notification, Amendment 2 does nothing to pro-

tect children from pot. As Amendment 2 is currently written, teenagers could legally obtain pot on the basis of school-related stress, which we've seen in states that already have medical pot laws, like California.

Amendment 2 also grants sweeping immunity to those who distribute pot. This means that those patients injured by "medical marijuana," their families or third parties injured by someone using marijuana would have no legal recourse against caregivers, physicians, treatment centers or the employers of any individuals involved in this process, even if such individuals acted with negligence or committed intentional wrongful acts that caused harm.

Because this is a constitutional amendment, all other lesser, but more sensible laws would fall away. Unlike a bill making its way through the legislative process, it cannot be amended or changed—it would be written into Florida's constitution. Voters cannot vote on supporters' after-the-fact claims of their intentions; voters can only rely on the words written in the amendment. The only way to fix Amendment 2 is to Vote No.

— Dr. Jessica Spencer is the Statewide Coalition Director for the Vote No on 2 Campaign, leaving her position as the project director of the Manatee County Substance Abuse Coalition to do so.

AMENDMENT 3

Official Ballot Title: Prospective Appointment of Certain Judicial Vacancies

Amendment 3 would require a governor to prospectively fill vacancies on the Florida Supreme Court or a district court of appeal when a justice or judge reaches the mandatory retirement age of 70, fails to qualify for or loses a retention election.

Since 2001, the 26 Judicial Nominating Commissions for the Florida Supreme Court, district courts of appeal and trial courts comprise nine gubernatorial appointees each, who serve 4-year terms from July to July. In 2006, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that these commissioners could begin their interviewing and nominating process prior to a judicial vacancy, but an appointment could not be made until after the justice's or judge's term actually expired. Since a justice's or judge's term could end on the same day a new governor takes office, the Florida Supreme Court's 2006 opinion can be read as authorizing the newly sworn-in governor to fill those vacancies.

In a situation in which a judicial vacancy is created on the first day of a new Governor's term, Amendment 3 would authorize the outgoing Governor—rather than the newly elected Governor—to appoint the successor judge or justice. ■

They helped send 14U Cruisers to Fastpitch Softball World Series!

GOLD SPONSOR

DO YOU KNOW?

FLORIDA CRYSTALS PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE 14U CRUISERS' TEAM TRIP TO THE WORLD SERIES OF GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL!

We produce home-grown renewable energy in South Florida. We own and operate North America's largest energy facility that's powered by sugar cane fiber and recycled urban wood waste. Our facility generates clean, reliable energy for our sugar operations and tens of thousands of Florida homes.

Because of our renewable energy supply and earth-friendly farming, we make America's only CarbonFree® certified sugar products, which guarantees the sugar you buy on the shelves has a carbon neutral footprint.

And, we supply the only organic sugar 100% made in the USA. Our organic sugar is grown on Florida's largest organic farm and is harvested and milled right here in South Florida.

FLORIDA CRYSTALS



GOLD SPONSOR

INFINITI.

Infiniti Stuart Proudly Sponsors The Martin County Cruisers



Infiniti Stuart

3970 Southeast Federal Highway
Stuart, FL 34997
Located just minutes off I-95 and the Turnpike

855-593-5250

www.InfinitiStuart.com



APPROVED SHIPPER

**For Whatever You Need Shipped...
From Here To There...
Any Size, Anywhere!**



Two Convenient Locations!

**HobeSound
ShipCenter**

546-7447

(US 1 & Bridge Road)
8771 SE Bridge Road
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
Fax: 772.546.7448
HobeSoundShipCenter.com

**Seabbranch
ShipCenter**

287-9810

(US 1 & Seabbranch Blvd.)
5667 SE Crooked Oak Ave
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
Fax: 772.287.9811
SeabbranchShipCenter.com



There is just no substitute for experience!

A new gift shop opens in historic Hobe Sound

Its name, The Sea Urchin, belies what's inside this new Hobe Sound gift shop. Certainly, a coastal, casual ambiance fills the nooks and crannies of this store found in the historic district of Hobe Sound—just off A1A on Mars Street—but there's more to its offerings than just coastal chic.

Sophistication and just plain good conversation, along with a terrific cup of free coffee, also reside here due to the broad interests and natural exuberance of its proprietor, Marie Scholl, who lives nearby in Hobe Sound's Zeus Park.

A critical care nurse who continues to work as an international flight escort for major airlines part time, Scholl stumbled into entrepreneurship quite accidentally. It began when a cousin of hers taught her how to make jewelry, but instead of beads and bangles, she created statements to inspire and to motivate, herself and others.

"The triathlete in me said put race names and distances on the jewelry instead, so I did," she says of her first business, Inspired Endurance jewelry, "and the bracelets and necklaces literally flew off the shelf in a girlfriend's boutique—ditto for a local marathon expo. I was hooked."

That was seven years ago, and her internet-based business grew to the point that she was able to quit her full-time job and devote herself exclusively



Mary Scholl opens The Sea Urchin, a jewelry and gift shop in historic Hobe Sound.

to Inspired Endurance, working with her school-aged daughter in a small Hobe Sound studio.

Her artistic flair and high energy, coupled with all the tools for jewelry design at her fingertips began to tug at her spirit



Among the gift selections are wine glasses by Lolita.

to expand her horizons. She had created "The Original Race Bead," and was the first company to design and market race distance beads specifically for the "Pandora" bracelet. After

other companies began copying her designs, she trademarked her top-selling Race Tag and Sporty Gal designs and now hold copyrights on all of her racing jewelry designs.

Then she was introduced to Chamilia, competitors of Pandora, that are unique, interchangeable and "sparkly" pieces that could become an extension for Scholl's own skills, she surmised. Owned by the Swarovski Group, Chamilia jewelry features Swarovski Crystal elements, and Scholl can engrave the Chamilia's Murano glass beads to create uniquely personal milestones for an individual, family or friends, but she really needed more

space—a gift shop, in addition to a studio workshop—where customers could touch what they were purchasing, and where she could give more personalized service.

She began looking in Hobe Sound, because that's her home base, and the little shop in the historic St. Onge building was just about the perfect size. She added a line of hand-painted wine-glasses by Lolita, which fit Scholl's own zany, carefree attitude about life, other jewelry lines, art pieces, home décor, candles, and apparel, much of which is created by local artists.

She also installed a Tassimo coffeemaker and counter stools for those all-important conversations with customers, who find themselves greeted like a dear friend when they step inside.

"I love what I do," Scholl says. "Borrowed from my nursing career, each customer is treated as an individual and not just an 'order' coming through the door. This business is not about me. It's about you, the amazing customer."

The Sea Urchin can be found at 11764 SE Dixie Hwy, Unit 7, which faces Mars Street, across from Taste Restaurant. Stop by anytime between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Saturday, from noon to 5 p.m. Or give her a call at the easiest number in the world to remember: 772-546-0000. ■

--Barbara Cloudus

EMPLOYERS - JOBSEEKERS - STUDENTS



JOB FAIR

Meet Employers - Gather Information - Apply for Jobs

Bring plenty of resumes and dress to impress!

Full-time, Part-time, Entry-level and Professional Positions Available

Veterans Preference Opportunities



FRIDAY | OCTOBER 24, 2014 | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Indian River State College, Wolf High-Technology Center - 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart

For up-to-date event information, please visit WWW.BDBMC.ORG/EVENTS



Seacoast NATIONAL BANK



The Stuart News | TCPALM.COM



Inaugural Zeus Bark Dog Show

In memory of Ed Briley

Sunday, November 16, 2014

J.V. Reed Park, US 1, Hobe Sound, FL 33455
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Entertainment: The Narrows

Food 🐾 Prizes 🐾 Kid's Activities 🐾 Vendors

Proceeds to be donated to the Treasure Coast Hospice Pet Peace of Mind Program

Registration

It is \$10 to register your dog for the dog show.

Name _____ Phone _____

Dog's name _____ Breed _____

You can register at the Mayes Center for Hope, Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce, or Dr. Richard Smith Veterinarian.

Lots of stuffed bellies, happy guests followed Dine Around Hobe Sound

The "celebrity chefs" of the Hobe Sound Chamber's progressive dinner, "Dine Around Hobe Sound," held Saturday, Oct. 11, got off their feet and relaxed the next day, a well-deserved rest considering the menus they served to guests.

The event started at 5:30 p.m. Saturday with appetizers at Taste Restaurant. Diners then traveled to a choice of nine private homes in Hobe Sound to be treated to specialty-themed dinners. Following dinner, the evening was capped with dessert and a nightcap at Scooter's.

Gourmet beef dinners were served at Mary and Larry Lopopolo's "Mad Men early 1960s" party featuring beef tenderloin. Doug and Erin Smith served Tuscan-style steak dinners.

Tom and Rhonda Balling invited guests to join them for a "Hunter's Grille" featuring wine pairings with exotic selections for eight guests.

Rich and Jan Otten, with Chefs Jef Otten and George Kleine in the kitchen, hosted 10 guests for a "Fabulous Fall Fare" featuring all-American comfort foods.

Dorothy Fleming hosted a relaxing party at her outdoor, island oasis, decorated for Halloween, where she offered



Pumpkins, vessels for Apple-Squash Soup, were one of the courses served at the Otten home.

a White Shirt Lasagna feast, and Nadia and Josef Utto with Cindy Cooper invited eight guests to join them for a "Spanish Mediterranean Adventure" featuring paella, gazpacho, tapas and Spanish wine and entertainment.

Charlene Oakowsky and Theresa Smith promised their 10 guests an "Is-



"Celebrity Chef" Jef Otten takes a break. Photos by George Kleine.

land Luau" featuring tropical chicken and seafood selections.

Charles and Chrisie Storey planned a "Casually Crabby" crab boil and party for their 20 guests, and Eric and Linda Wolf invited guests to their gourmet German-themed dinner featuring authentic German cuisine. Presented by Gary and Carmen Uber along with Joe and Rebecca Negron, the Dine Around Hobe Sound event continues to grow each fall. "It gets better every year, if that's possible," said Angela Hoffman, executive director of the Hobe Sound Chamber. "Our members are already talking about doing it again next year!" ■

New to the President's Council!



Steve Landwersiek
Ameriprise Financial Services
6530 S. Kanner Highway
Stuart
772-233-4315
www.ameripriseadvisors.com/steven.w.landwersiek



HOBE SOUND CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wildly Successful Women's Wednesday Luncheon
Wednesday, October 15, 12 PM - 1:30PM
Carrabba's 2700 SE Federal Highway, Stuart
Sponsor: Smart Source
Speaker: Barbara McLaughlin, VP Healthcare Solutions
Topic: Wildly Successful Sales for Wildly Successful Women
Theme: Wear something Wonderful with a Wild Animal Print
RSVP Required - No Shows will be billed \$25
Register online at www.hobesound.org

Cocktails & Connections
Thursday, October 23, 6 PM to 7 PM
Maltz Jupiter Theatre
1001 East Indiantown Road, Jupiter
All are welcome!
\$5 Members and Non-Members
RSVP Required
www.hobesound.org

Business After Hours
Wednesday, October 29, 5:30PM to 7 PM
Law Offices of W. Trent Steele
10995 SE Federal Highway, Hobe Sound
\$7 Members/\$10 Non-Members
RSVP required
www.hobesound.org

HOBE SOUND CHAMBER'S NEWEST MEMBERS

Creative Treasures



Lynn Inlow

8831 SE Bridge Road
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
484-529-2120
www.creativetreasures.org

Water Pointe Realty Group

Jason Flannery P.A.

393 Tequesta Drive
Tequesta
561-747-3377
flanneryteamsells@gmail.com



The Blue Lobster

18701 SE Federal Highway
Tequesta
561-744-7400



John Morgenthaler

8965 SE Bridge Road
Hobe Sound
www.triplenickeltravel.com
772-777-1448



Veronica Bellow

12547 SE Old Cypress Drive
Hobe Sound
561-308-5982
www.projectpegasusinternational.com



Riverside Memorial Park

Richard Bledsoe
Sheri Messer
19351 SE County Line Road
Jupiter
772-223-9300

The Keyes Company



Nancy Taylor

11960 S Federal Highway
Hobe Sound
www.nancytaylor.keyes.com



Ron Rose

Candidate for Martin County Commission, District 2
Endorsed by the Stuart-Martin County Chamber
of Commerce Political Action Committee (C-PAC)

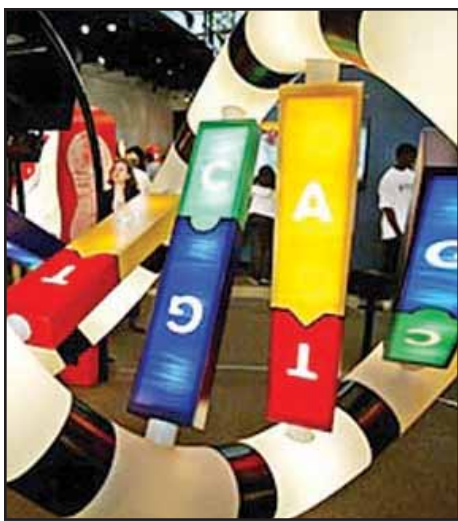
- ★ Executive Director of the Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce
- ★ Organized numerous River & Beach Clean-ups
- ★ Serves on the Martin County Tourist Development Council
- ★ Served on the Martin County Republican Executive Committee
- ★ Founder of the Jensen Beach Pineapple Festival in 1988

*Ron Rose supports small businesses,
low taxes & quality of life.*



We urge you to support Ron Rose in the November 4, 2014 General Election.

Paid political advertisement paid for by CPAC, independently of any candidate. This advertisement was not approved by any candidate.



Now until Jan. 25 **GENOME: The Secret of How Life Works**

This 5,000-square-foot exhibit at the Elliott Museum on Hutchinson Island explores the human genome and how a person's entire set of genes explains what makes us who we are. "GENOME" uses interactive displays, visually rich environments and family friendly activities to reveal the mysteries of our genes, delineate the last two centuries of discovery and unravel the implications of gene therapy for the future of medical science and healthcare. The museum is at 825 NE Ocean Blvd., Stuart. 772.25.1961 or visit: www.elliottmuseum.fl.org; email visitorservices@elliottmuseum.org.



October Weekends **D&D Farms Fall Festival**

A popular event among families, the D&D Farms Festival will be on weekends, Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout October (Oct 11-12, 18-19 and 25-26) at 5059 SW Citrus Blvd. in Palm City. There's a \$3 admission fee to the farm, but an \$8 wristband includes admission to the pumpkin patch, unlimited rides and kid-friendly activities. Children under 3 are admitted without charge. For more information, call 772.463.1330.

Weekend, 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.



Weekend, Oct. 17 and 18 **Indiantown Rodeo**

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. It's being sponsored by Seacoast National Bank and the Indiantown Chamber of Commerce. 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.

Friday, Oct. 17 **Loxahatchee River Center's Spooky Swamp**

The River Center at 805 U.S. 1, in Jupiter will host its annual Spooky Swamp Halloween Party on Friday, Oct. 17, from 2pm-7pm. Come join the River Center staff and volunteers for a not-so-scary deep sea-themed family fun event. This bioluminescent celebration will include games, snacks, hay rides, costume contests, crafts, prizes, and much more! The event is free, with a suggested donation of \$5 per child. RSVP by calling the River Center at 561.743.7123.

Saturday, Oct. 18 **Fire Fest 2014 at Jonathan Dickinson State Park**

Admission to Fire Fest 2014 is free with paid admission to Jonathan Dickinson State Park, 16450 SE Federal Hwy, in Hobe Sound (\$6 per vehicle for up to 8 people.) on Saturday, Oct.



18, from 1 to 9 p.m. Visitors will be treated to a close-up view of a working fire truck, perhaps a visit from Smokey Bear, and various displays at the Kimball Nature Center, as well as vendor booths. A fundraiser for local Boy Scout Troops and Cub Scout Packs, other activity fees, including a hay

ride and swamp buggy tour, sell out quickly, so be sure to get there early! For more information, call 561.745.5551 or go to: www.floridastateparks.org/jonathandickinson.

Saturday, Oct. 18 **St. Joseph Fall Fest**

The Second Annual St. Joseph School Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. will include live entertainment throughout the day, food booths serving American and Hispanic fare, a Budweiser tent serving cold beer and wine, carnival games, silent auction, and raffles. There will be rides for all ages including Bounce Houses, Robo Surfer, Rock Wall, Velcro Wall, Bungee, Human Bowling, and more! New this year will be an indoor Craft Fair from 11am - 7pm. For more details about advanced tickets for food, game, and rides, call Michele Mackey at 646-320-4233. The St. Joseph Catholic School is at 1200 SE Tenth Street in Stuart.

6TH ANNUAL
Palm City Fall Fest
October 25, 2014
Presented by: PALM CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Saturday, October 25
10am - 5pm**

FREE ADMISSION

Food * Beer * Art & Craft Vendors * Community Booths
Live Music by local students & singer Cassidy Diana
Childrens Area with Pumpkin Decorating
Games * Arts & Crafts Activities
and much much more...

CAR SHOW 10am - 4pm

For More Info Call 772.286.8121

Lance Corporal
Justin Wilson
Memorial Park
(Palm City Park)
2050 SW Mapp Rd

Presented By:



www.PalmCityChamber.com



Saturday, Oct. 18 Family Fun Day at Environmental Studies Center

Hosted by the Environmental Studies Council, the free Family Fun Day at the Environmental Studies Center will celebrate the grand opening of its new Sea Turtle Exhibit. The event will be Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. also will offer arts and crafts, live music and food. The center is at 2900 NE Indian River Drive, Jensen Beach. No registration is required and although admission is free, donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, call 772.334.4643.

Friday, October 24 Luau for the Lagoon

A fundraiser for Florida Oceanographic Society, a Luau for the Lagoon on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 7-10 p.m. will feature a pig roast, music by Cheezy and the Crackers, and games at the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center. This is a 21+ event as beer, wine and a signature cocktail also will be included, but good news for parents: The Children's Museum is hosting a movie night for kids 4-12 the same evening. (Call 772.225.7575 to make required reservations.) Luau tickets will be \$55 each after Oct. 10, and may be purchased online at www.floridaocean.org.

Saturday, Oct. 25 Palm City Fall Fest

Celebrate fall and the beautiful Palm City community as the Palm City Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Palm City Fall Fest featuring arts and craft vendors, community and business booths, specialties from local restaurants and premium wine and beer at the Lance Corporal Justin J. Wilson Memorial Park on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. There will be a classic car show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and live music by local students and singer Cassidy Diana. The popular Children's Area will feature pumpkin decorating, games, arts and crafts activities and more! Free admission. For more info, call 772.286.8121. The park is at 2050 SW Mapp Road in Palm City.

Saturday, Oct. 25 YMCA Sportsworld SPOOKTACULAR

Not your typical Halloween party, the YMCA Sportsworld Spooktacular includes rockwall climbing, trampolines, obstacle courses, a "spooky" room, plus costume contests and more at the YMCA Sportsworld facility at 2700 SE Willoughby Blvd, in Stuart. Day of admission price is \$10 per person, but advance tickets will be sold at a discount. For ages 5 and under, the hours will be from 4-5 p.m.; all other ages will be 6-7:30 p.m. For more info call 772-223-1606.

Saturday, Oct 25 Stuart Hobgoblin Parade & Party

Stuart Main Street and the Downtown Business Association present the 16th Annual Hobgoblin Parade, family fun day and merchant trick-or-treating on Osceola Street from 1 to 4 p.m. The event includes kids activities, live music, arts & crafts, sailing adventures on The Lily, food and drinks. There is no admission charge. For more info, call 772.286.2848.

Saturday, October 25 Wildlife, Inside and Out!

It's that time of year to creep out! This year's Creepy Creatures theme is "Wildlife, Inside and Out." Through actual and replica animal skulls, bones, fur, hides and x-rays, learn how an animal's skeleton and body coverings help them survive. Live wildlife displays, crafts, games and other surprises are waiting! Two presentations are scheduled, one at 6:30 p.m. and another at 7:30 p.m. at Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Hobe Sound Nature Center, on Federal Highway two miles south of Bridge Road. Reservations are required, by calling 772.546.2067 or email hobesoundnaturecenter@gmail.com. Cost is \$3 per person, suggested donation.

Weekend, 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 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.



Sunday, Oct. 26 Trunk or Treat at Indian RiverSide Park

A free trunk or treat Halloween event that includes arts and crafts, games, raffles, food, face painting, clowns and lots of fun will be at Indian RiverSide Park, 1707 NE Indian River Drive, in Jensen Beach from 4 - 6 p.m. for children up to age 12, sponsored by the Redeemer Lutheran Church of Stuart. For more info, call Kristen at 772.286.0911 or visit www.redeemerstuart.com.



Weekend, 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 are on sale through Thursday, Nov. 6.

Weekend, Nov. 8-9 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.

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

A tapestry of light fills the Gateway to Tibet

Visitors to Elizabeth Esther Kelly's weaving and design studio, Gateway to Tibet in the Fish House Art Center of Port Salerno, often find themselves spell-bound. The small studio resembles a magic mirror that reflects a land we may never reach in our lifetime, yet we can experience today its exotic and spiritual atmosphere fully and appreciate it deeply.

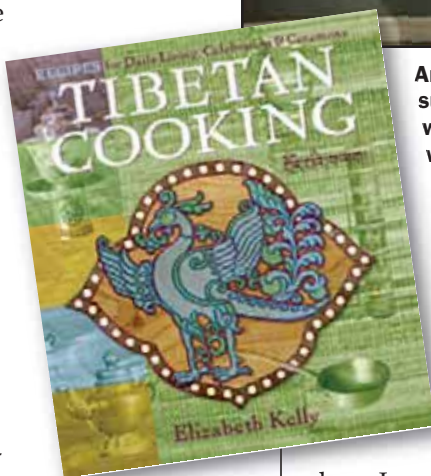
Enclosed by a marina on the scenic Manatee Pocket, the studio blends two geographically and culturally remote worlds into a wholeness that extends beyond space and time. That's why Elizabeth's Gateway to Tibet is full of mirrors, which amplify the presence and importance in our lives of arts and craft objects, gifts for the senses and meditation, books and exotic jewelry. It's also a space where the art of weaving, painting, and just living a daily life consciously are intertwined in the most organic way.

In Tibet, weaving is a metaphor for the interconnectedness of life and creative self-expression. When Elizabeth weaves her Salerno Shoulder Wraps and scarves on her four-harness wooden loom, it seems she plays an organ, composing a silky music where warp and weft threads become a graceful polyphony of color carrying the notes of a Bach fugue.

"As the sun sieves its beams through my window from the West," Elizabeth says, "I weave their vital energy into my fabric. All my wraps are infused with light and pacifying, loving vibes that veils everything I can embrace." No wonder their smooth texture and pastel colors lure us like a magnet and entice us to melt into their natural beauty. An elegantly balanced combina-



Artist Elizabeth Esther Kelly surrounded by her hand-crafted wares in the Gateway to Tibet weaving and design studio.



tion of coolness and softness creates a deeply healing, soothing touch as we stroke the fabric she creates.

Also a writer, Elizabeth calls her blog, "Tapestry of Light," due to her desire to manifest the power of light in everything she

does. In a way, the Gateway to Tibet studio allows us to open the portal to both outer and inward realities. When they are balanced, she tells us, we are capable of expressing the fullest potential of ourselves, as she writes in the haiku, "Threshold":

"Opportunities to choose a new way enter an open door appear before us daily."

Elizabeth, who holds bachelor and master of fine arts degrees, works with various media, painting not only what lies on the surface, but going beneath, transcending conventional patterns and ephemeral forms. For instance, her stunning images of "Peace Amoebas"



The vibrant colors of Gateway to Tibet scarves seem imbued with sunlight itself.



Maya
Ellenson
Art
Kaleidoscope

depict elemental beings, pure and fluid, taking us beyond our constant mental clutter and rigid stereotypes to pacify the mind and activate our basic chakras.

She also restores museum-quality thangkas, a Tibetan painting on cotton or a silk appliqué, usually depicting a Buddhist deity, scene, or mandala of some sort, which revealed to her the secrets of Buddhist iconography. Being inspired by that work, she explains, Elizabeth paints her own mandalas of amazing depth and harmony, but in Elizabeth's world, a mandala is not just a picture. It shapes her entire life and is a personification of what in Buddhism is called dharma art – the vehicle for enlightenment and transformation.

Among her many talents also is the art of cooking – something we all can relate to sensually, for food is the best conduit for delivering the cultural flavor of a country. At the same time, it has a highly spiritual meaning, for in Vajrayana Buddhism, practiced in Tibet, everything is sacred if done mindfully. Her splendidly illustrated book, "Tibetan Cooking," has been called a true culinary jewel. It not only shares the healthy recipes of Tibetan cuisine that uplifts both soul and body, but explains their religious and ceremonial context.

The cookbook also is offered at her studio, along with her wraps and scarves, which have been mostly for women, but that's going to change, Elizabeth says, as her studio is about to introduce a line of handmade clothes for men. Exotic jewelry specifically for men is also on its way. Ladies may also expect some other, new exciting wares, too, she tells us.

"Since our universe is all about balancing yin-yang, or female and male energies," she explains, "Gateway to Tibet

should fairly reflect this balance." When I impatiently give her my what-and-when questions, Elizabeth tosses me a charmingly intriguing smile. "Let's not spoil the surprise," she says. "We are open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 1 pm to 6 pm." ■

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.

A Tribute to Chrissie

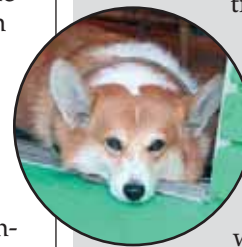
Until recently, Gateway to Tibet was filled also with the presence of a lovely Welsh Corgi named Chrissie. Visitors, at

times greeted by loud but non-threatening barks, will long remember Chrissie's intelligent, curious eyes that summoned us to enter and to explore. She seemed to be woven into the very fabric of Gateway to Tibet;

standing on her short legs as its sentient spirit totem.

Although Chrissie is no longer with us physically, we shall always remember her kind wisdom and hospitality. Chrissie lives on in our hearts and in Elizabeth's lovely poem, "Green is the Color."

"This summer is one of the greenest. Beautiful, calming and inspiring Here is a green view from my mountain studio and a view of Chrissie guarding the green doorway in Port Salerno om ah hung hri" www.gatewaytotibet.com




Cardinal Cleaning

with
ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS
Call 772.245.0437

HOME • OFFICE • NEW CONSTRUCTION

Insured and Background Verified

\$10,000 in grant monies reignites pet alliance



From left: Carole Peterson, manager of the Spay/Neuter Alliance; Pauline Glover, Caring Fields Felines in Palm City; Jay Apicella, president of Dogs and Cats Forever in Fort Pierce; Marilyn George of Elinore's Dream of Port St. Lucie; Barbara Birdsey, founder of the Pegasus Foundation; Maris Sine and Polly Campenni of Domino's Cat Rescue League in Palm City.

Pet overpopulation causes a host of heartbreaking consequences—including abandonment, starvation, sickness, and often early death, so animal advocates on the Treasure Coast recently reignited an alliance committed to finding solutions to this serious problem.

The Spay/Neuter Alliance United comprising various local nonprofits—all with a mission to “prevent pet overpopulation by promoting spay/neuter services and humane education throughout the Treasure Coast”—recently received a total of \$10,000 from the Pegasus Foundation and other benefactors. The goal is to help the alliance, formed in 2011, reduce the number of stray and unwanted animals in Martin and St. Lucie counties.

The 2012 U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the cat population alone is at more than 72,000.

“The alliance gives grants to members that are overburdened with need but suffer from limited fundraising ability,” said Carole Peterson, who manages the effort. “We do what we can to help

groups working hard to reduce the staggering number of free-roaming fertile cats and dogs.”

Having identified several significant feral cat colonies, alliance members plan to humanely trap and sterilize the animals. The alliance comprises All Pet Rescue, Animal Rescue Foundation of St. Lucie County, Dogs and Cats Forever, Humane Society of St. Lucie County and United for Animals, all in Fort Pierce; and Animal Birth Control, Caring Fields Felines, Domino's Cat Rescue League and the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, all of Palm City, and the mobile outreach effort, Elinore's Dream.

Members will also work with low-income pet owners, as well as shelter and rescue operations, to offer free or reduced spay-neuter services.

Pegasus Foundation, an organization based in Hobe Sound that fights for the welfare of domestic and wild animals around the world, manages the Spay-Neuter Alliance's fund—contributing more than \$40,000 to it since its inception. ■

Popular Kane Cabaret Series begins Nov. 16

The Kane Cabaret, a popular Sunday afternoon concert series, will return for its fourth season on Sunday, Nov. 16, at the Kane Center on Salerno Road in Stuart.

The series, held one Sunday afternoon each month from November 2014 through March 2015, features acclaimed stage performers from throughout south Florida. All proceeds benefit the non-profit Council on Aging of Martin County.

This year's Cabaret Series begins Nov. 16 at 2: p.m. with “Putting It Together,” a Broadway revue starring Carbonell award winner and Broadway World LA nominee Wayne LeGette. The show features songs from such hit shows as West Side Story, Phantom of the Opera, Rags, and Sunday in the Park with George.

Additional performances include: “The Great American Songbook,” Dec. 7, The Robert Prester Jazz Trio; On the Lighter Side – Stand-Up Comedian Dean Napolitano on Jan. 25; “My Funny Valentine to You” – Wayne Hosford on Feb. 15; “Isn't It Romantic?” – Katie Angell Thomas on March 22.

All shows begin at 2 p.m., in the Frances Langford Theatre at the Kane Center at 900 SE Salerno Road in Stuart. Doors open at 1 p.m. Light refreshments and drinks are available for purchase.

Tickets are now on sale by calling 772-223-7807 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday), or online at www.kanecenter.org. Individual ticket prices are \$15 for Kane members and \$20 for non-members; the series is available for \$60 for members and \$90 for non-members. More details are online at www.kanecenter.org. ■

NOVEMBER 8TH | 2PM - 6PM | PARADISE PARK, TEQUESTA

TEQUESTA FIREFIGHTERS & TEQUESTA BREWING CO.



HOSTED BY



FREE
ADMISSION
WWII
VETS

PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSOR



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.

ENTERTAINMENT:

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!

\$30 ALL PROCEEDS
BENEFIT HONOR
FLIGHT AND FOPS.



ALL INCLUSIVE CHILI & BEER TASTING EVENT
\$30 PRIOR TO EVENT. \$35 AT THE ENTRANCE. LIMITED AVAILABILITY

WIN A NEW 2014
SCION xB

Win a Car for \$10. Get your Raffle Tickets now at www.TequestaChiliCookoff.com or from any Tequesta Firefighter. All money raised will benefit Honor Flight.



Sir Speedy

Publix

DO IT YOURSELF
WORKS

JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER

Re-Discover
ROCKY'S

Service Experts

Jupiter-Tequesta
AIR CONDITIONING

D-TECH

BROOKDALE

BetterPartyRent

SUS

ISLAND

CONTRACTORS & REMEDIATION

TEQUESTA FIRE

TEQUESTA FIRE

TEQUESTA FIRE

TEQUESTA FIRE

TEQUESTA FIRE

TEQUESTA FIRE

TEQUESTA FIRE

TEQUESTA FIRE

TEQUESTA FIRE

TO PURCHASE
TICKETS

CALL
888-612-4194

CLICK
TequestaChiliCookoff.com

VISIT
Tequesta Brewing Co.

MILITARY PERSONNEL ONLY \$20 Tickets only available at entrance on day of event. MUST SHOW I.D.

Mark your calendars for Zeus Bark Dog Show!

Mark your calendars! DOG SHOW IN HOBE SOUND! Sunday, November 16 at JV Reed ball park in Hobe Sound. 1-3 p.m.

Plenty of fun for our community with music, food, activities for children, and prizes. Raffles, and competitions to include dogs in fancy dress, toy breeds, best rescue dog, small, medium and large dogs, waggiest tail, most unusual, best senior dog, and more! Registration fee of \$10 is open at Dr. Richard Smith, veterinarian, 11858 SE Dixie Highway, Hobe Sound, Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce and Treasure Coast Hospice, 1201 Indian Street, Stuart.

All proceeds go to Treasure Coast Hospice Pet Care Program.

ELLIEBELLIE'S SUNSHINE SHOP

For many years I have been fortunate to have Elora and Bella Fucigna as lovely neighbors, remembering them as they grew up from babyhood to young girls today. They have, unselfishly, spent meaningful years of their lives developing their own project helping others. It is inspiring and wonderful, indeed! Bravo for "EllieBellie's Sunshine shop! Here's a story about their project by their father and my Hobe Sound neighbor, Tom Fucigna Jr.

"EllieBellie's Sunshine Shop" was created by Hobe Sound teens Elora and Isabella Fucigna when they were eight and six years old, as a way to merge their love of art, nature, and community. The girls create and sell hand-drawn and painted greeting cards, then donate the profits in a variety of ways that promote and support literacy and help children develop a lifelong love of reading. They have also been helping beloved children's books find new homes.

Their adventure began in 2006 at the



Suzanne Briley

Hopscotch

Hobe Sound Art Stroll, where they laid out their first batch of cards, and promptly sold out. Subsequent Art Strolls and other just-right venues yielded similar success.

Their experience has provided lessons in how to run a business and how not-for-profit ventures can make a difference. A few years ago, the girls decided to donate 100% of their proceeds to support a cause that grew from their love of reading, and the feedback they have received has been heartwarming.

They were invited to set up shop and sell their new riverine card series at The River Center in Jupiter as part of the center's Birthday Bash. Over 100 dollars donated from card sales helped develop a collection of children's books for the center's free Story Time, and the girls are thrilled to see their cards for sale at The River Center gift store.

"It is so wonderful to see young people creating a service to benefit others in their community," said Jocelyn O'Neill, Environmental Education Coordinator.

Using profits generated after they were invited to sell cards at an event at the West Palm Beach Science Museum, EllieBellie's donated \$100 to Helping People Succeed's Baby Steps Department, which provides parenting and child development services, aimed at enhancing parent-child interaction and promoting healthy growth and development of children in Martin, St. Lucie, In-



Isabella and Elora Fucigna, young philanthropic entrepreneurs in Hobe Sound.

dian River, Okeechobee and Duval counties.

The donation helped purchase books included in newborn infant packages that HPS provides to all families of newborns in Martin and St. Lucie Counties. HPS encourages parents to read to their children every day and making reading a lifelong habit. Kathy Derringer of HPS expressed her appreciation. "Because of Elora and Isabella's their efforts, many young children will now have books to help begin their journey to literacy and school readiness."

The girls have also gathered pre-loved children's books, and created EllieBellie's Sunshine Shop Lending Library, a custom-made rolling bookshelf which they donated to the Hobe Sound Boys & Girls Club, stocked with 250 gently used books that Club kids,

aged six to 18, can borrow or keep. Part of their motivation for this project was a story related by David Vaina at the B&G Club, who had asked a Club member if his family had books at home, and was told, "I think we have a telephone book." Isabella said, "We are excited that we are able to help the families and children who are part of this program."

Most recently, in response to a Stuart News article in which the Principal of JD Parker Elementary School stated that he hoped to create in-class libraries, the girls have arranged to donate 236 books for multiple reading levels. This effort has been supported by generous book donations by local families and from friends as far

away as Chicago.

The girls' efforts have been furthered by the encouragement of fellow artists and supportive customers, and they are appreciative of everyone's support.

Elora says "It's great being able to do something that we love and benefit our community at the same time."

You can find EllieBellie's cards at their wonderful local supporter, Juno Shoe Girl boutique on Dixie Highway, and EllieBellie's Sunshine Shop is on Facebook. Visit their page and help "Spread a Little Sunshine."

To donate children's story books, you may contact EllieBellie's Chief Hauler of Stuff, by email at TomFucignaJr@hotmail.com to arrange a pick up. ■

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

Both mental and physical exercise benefits brain



Nicolette Christie

Ask Florence

"I am pushing sixty. That is enough exercise for me." Mark Twain

It's a debate with all the makings of an old Bud Light commercial, but forget "Tastes great!" "Less filling!" Instead it's: "Physical exercise!" "Mental exercise!"

In the battle to build better brain strength and beat back future memory loss, some studies laud mental excursion to make mental muscle, and others show that cross training—rather than crossword puzzling—just may be your best option.

Researchers at the University of Illinois recently studied the brains of 120 sen-

iors. The ones who exercised their bodies—not necessarily their minds—showed signs of their brain volume increasing.

MRI scans conducted one year after the study began recorded brain growth. Follow-up testing showed better recall and memory function among the seniors with the increased brain volume. Further, the lead neuroscientist on the study, Art Kramer, told NPR that evidence on the value of mental exercise isn't so conclusive.

Meanwhile, a recent Canadian Medical Association Journal study on preventing cognitive decline found that physical exercise—particularly resistance and balance training—didn't show signs of significant cognitive improvement in its subjects. Mental exercise, however, did.

"Mental activity is really important to keep your brain functioning at a high level for as long as possible," Dr. Larry Chambers, scientific advisor of the Alzheimer Society of Canada, told Global News.

(The Canadian report gave zero credence to supplements and treatments that tout an ability to benefit brain function, including ginkgo, vitamin B6 and omega-3s.)

On the other hand, the Journal on Aging Research delved deeper in exploring how physical exercise benefits brain function. Like their Canadian counterparts, these researchers agreed that not just any form of physical exercise was sufficient. A study of women, aged 70-80 and suffering with memory problems and muddled thinking, involved three types of physical exercise—weight lifting, stretching and toning, and walking.

The Journal on Aging Research, reports the New York Times, measured two memory functions—verbal, an ability to memorize words; and spatial, an ability to remember where things are placed. Both the weightlifters and the walkers did well on verbal and spatial memory. The stretchers (sorry, yoga enthusiasts), actually showed poorer cognitive performance

than from when they began the study.

The aerobic pace proved key because such activity contributes to better blood pressure, lower cholesterol levels and a healthier weight. If this sounds like the advice of your heart doctor, that's no accident. "What's good for the heart is good for the brain," Rachel Whitmer, a researcher at Kaier Permanente in Northern California, told NPR.

Researchers agree that friends gathering together to socialize is among the best ways to benefit the brain. They suggest stimulating conversation—perhaps about a good book. Presumably they prefer you leave the physical-exercise vs. mental-exercise debate, however stimulating it may be, to the experts. ■

Most medical inquiries are best served by consulting your physician or a qualified specialist and this "Ask Florence" is no substitute for professional exams and insights. To reach Ask Florence, email AskFlorence@MartinCountyCurrents.com.

Hold your breath through October for perfect surf

Historically, south Florida beaches harbor sporadic pompano catches during September. As a matter of fact, a "no show" would be the most apt description over the past few years, but as many anglers also know, the annual mullet migration can offer a renewed, though brief, opportunity to catch these fish in September.

Last summer, however, with its massive Lake "O" flush depriving the coastline of appropriate water conditions for anything more than river catfish, even the mullet migration fell short. Our resident pompano stayed offshore and avoided the pathetic re-nourished beach sand (the result of inlet dredging), which bore an incredible amount of silty sediment suspended along the surf's edge.

Okay, flashbacks done!

This season, all the northern indicators are in place for an improved migratory start. Unlike the past two seasons when the cold water pumps didn't get past Virginia beaches, North Carolina held scattered schools in place from June 1 through Sept. 1, followed by Myrtle Beach, S.C., entertaining the migration through Sept. 15.

Recently Jekyll Island, Ga., watermen spotted vast schools of poms and mackerel. I was in Fernandina Beach on Sept. 27 for a tutorial seminar and was hoping to fish for the silvers. Extreme rip currents and wet weather, however, demolished the water quality down the coast past New Smyrna Beach.

Perhaps this is an indicator that the jet stream is going to move south faster and earlier than in the past. A change in the cycle would be dynamic! In 2013, major schools of poms had just arrived in Hatteras on Oct. 1. At that time, the sea temps were 79 degrees. On Oct. 1, the sea temps up there were 70 degrees – a significant change in our favor!

Over the past two weeks we experienced the best September pompano catches in years. Reports were scattered from Vero Beach to Stuart beaches. Hobe Sound beaches, too, provided remarkable catches in comparison to previous seasons. Vast schools of finger mullet are being assaulted by big tarpon, snook, jack crevasses, and ladyfish. Glass minnows are shoreline pummeled by small bluefish and an occasional Spanish mackerel. Loggerhead Park anglers enjoyed bag limits of legal pompano this past weekend during the first mild nor'easter, aided by the north-to-south currents.

The sweetest observation was the immense population of 9- to 10-inch pompano that were caught and released anywhere you found red minnows and good surf color. Pompano futures look very sound.

Now, for a little friends-at-the-beach story: There are many good friendships forged on beaches, and this is about just



These are the ocean colors designed for catching pompano, and with just the right dash of wind and waves so as to not over-agitate the ocean floor. Photo: Rich Vidulich



Rich Vidulich
Pompano Reporter

one of them: Dewey Mathis, a Florida native, and Richard "Hansi" Wolters, from New Jersey—a peaceful duo of 80-year-olds from the North and the South who have a common bond. They both display the very essence of what surf fishing for side-winding, edible jacks could very well be.

Both carry a senior commercial license, and are happiest when they make some extra money! But even more important is their 15-year comradeship in the Juno /Jupiter Beach area. Hardly anyone who fishes that surf does not know them.

I have fished with them for years. As

a result, my experiences are just plain, unadulterated fun! If Dewey, who sports a cool Fu Manchu mustache, is catching, and right next him, Hansi isn't...whoa! Actually, Hansi, genetically infected with relentless humor, will just smile in the most infectious way as Dewey seriously lands a nice pompano. Hansi has his days, too, and believe me, when he does, the rest of us darn well hear about it!

One more observation: This election cycle has utilized the politics of the river as leverage for votes, even as the St. Lucie spillway is open and deluging the estuary. The Lake level is bulging at more than 15 feet, and the Caloosahatchee outfall has been heavy, even under the outrage of west coast residents.

Last year the "190-Day Discharge" spurred rallies of thousands who ranted against the Army Corps of Engineers, the South Florida Water Management District and a host of Florida politicians, who seemed to listen. Maybe. Really? Is it just cheap talk?



Pompano Reporter Rich Vidulich with a rare double-header! One redfish and one pompano smacked the same rig at the same time.

Florida media recently relayed the news that a 16-ft. Lake O level was safe! Should we thank Mother Nature for not forming a major storm thus far this year? October has always been the scariest month of the year, but I'll take Halloween as the source of fear over dubious weather forecasts. Please! ■

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.

POMPANO FISHING MADE EASY!



SPECIAL:

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

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

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

Surf Fishing Charters targeting POMPANO Casting and Surf Fishing Seminars.

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

NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL!

STEVEN LOFSTEDT
Lawn Service

**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
LICENSED • INSURED**

772.781.1022 • Stuart

*Together we can bring our schools
back to the future!*

I want all of Martin County's schools to be A schools again. In the eight years that I served on the school board, Martin County was an A School District. I have the experience to work with parents, teachers, administrators, fellow board members and our new superintendent to make A grades a reality again.

I am a Certified Public Accountant. I am trained in school finance laws and budgets. I can hit the ground running to streamline our district budget process and maximize learning opportunities for all our students.

Let's go back to the future when Martin County Schools were the pride of our state. Saving our schools must be our top priority!

VOTE *Lorie*
SHEKAILO
FOR
SCHOOL BOARD • DISTRICT 1

- ★ Experience and qualifications you expect
- ★ Education and training you deserve
- ★ Community involvement you value
- ★ No learning curve needed

I look forward to serving you and I ask for your vote on November 4th.
www.shekailo4schools.com

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Lorie Shekailo for School Board, District 1