

Hobe Sound

CURRENTS

COMPLIMENTARY



Ailola McGraw was named queen of the Apollo “Second Chance” Prom at the Lost Lake Country Club to benefit the Apollo School.

Pg 12

We will miss Hobe Sound’s most colorful character, Phil Algozzini, also considered Hobe Sound’s unofficial “mayor.”

Pg 10



Images in Paradise

NOTICE OF FUTURE LAND USE AND ZONING CHANGE
APPLICATION NUMBER # CPA 12-6
EXTREME SPORTS, FLUM
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And to change the zoning designation:
FROM: AG-20 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT TO: PUD PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT
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Controversy swirls over proposed cable ski-park lake

Opponents charge that the water in the lake behind this gate on Bridge Road, between I-95 and Florida’s Turnpike, could be contaminated with brain-eating amoeba.

Pg 11

News



Tequesta developer requests changes and time extension for Route US 1 project in Hobe Sound, to be called The Palms of Hobe Sound.

Pg 11

Hobe Sound’s new CRA member Mike Dooley



Pg 3

News



Director of the Martin County Growth Management Department answers questions regarding proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

Pg 4

Voices	6
Guest Editorial.....	6
Calendar	12
Tributes.....	10

COLUMNISTS

Hobe Sound's own "cast of characters".....	14
<i>Suzanne Briley - Hopscotch</i>	

"Lovable" losers in MLB.....	15
<i>Paul Reynolds - Hot Corner</i>	

What are turtles telling us?	15
<i>Rich Vidulich - Pompano Reporter</i>	

Dogs teach us about life and love	7
<i>Barbara Clowdus - Unfiltered</i>	

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Hobe Sound's Mike Dooley joins CRA

The future of the Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency lies in the outcome of this year's county commission race. With Commissioners Sarah Heard and Ed Fielding often expressing their desire to strip the agency of its funding, the CRA's role in the seven communities it serves, including Hobe Sound, has become a "hot topic" during this year's political forums.

The CRA controversy did not daunt Hobe Sound resident and businessman Mike Dooley, owner of Hobe Sound's Illustrated Properties real estate brokerage on Bridge Road, from applying to the county commission to fill the term of the former Hobe Sound CRA representative, Wayne Klick, who resigned in March.

At its May 28 meeting, the county commission elected Dooley, who had once served a term as District 3 representative on the Land Planning Agency when the community redevelopment agencies were first being formed, as well as serving on the county's Board of Adjustment.

"That gave me some technical knowledge," says Dooley of his background, "which I think now will serve the community well, along with the fact that I've been a resident since 1975 and own a business here, too." His two children were raised in Hobe Sound, attending Hobe Sound Elementary, then Murray Middle and South Fork High School. "You can't get more 'Hobe Sound' than that," he laughs.

Dooley confronts the CRA controversy by observing that an independent CRA with local members who have "skin in the game, the stakeholders in the communities" with its own funding raised from a percentage of the increase in property values to be spent only on projects within each dedicated boundary allows the CRA to be "fast, fluid and flexible" in getting projects completed efficiently, while identifying and meeting the "unique needs" of each redevelopment area, he says, all

attributes that could easily get lost if the county commission must also serve as the county's redevelopment agency, as was done in the past.

"You can see the progress over the past two years in almost all the CRAs since the change to an independent agency was made," he adds, "but if the commission changes (post election) and decides that the CRA should not have independent funding, does that mean that I'm going to leave? Not at all. I'm not," he says. "I think these projects right now are just too important to the future of Hobe Sound, but they should not stop at the corner of Bridge and Dixie, either. They need to turn that corner and go right down Dixie Highway, and I want to do everything I can to make that happen."

He acknowledges that Hobe Sound businesses reflect the downturn overall in the national economy, and that an economic rebirth here depends in large part on a re-energized economy nationally.

"We should not wait around for that to trickle down to us though," he says, "which it will do eventually, but in the meantime, we need to be making Hobe Sound 'pedestrian friendly'...a 'consumer friendly environment' so residents will want to spend time here—just for the experience—that in turn will draw businesses to locate downtown."

He likens a future Bridge Road "experience" similar to that of shoppers going to Worth Avenue in Palm Beach County, peppered with upscale restaurants, boutiques and shops that invite browsing, whether or not visitors have gone to make specific purchases.

He also is adamant about making all the Community Redevelopment Areas, more hospitable—meaning less expensive and less regulatory—for businesses to open shop.

"What the county makes a small business go through is cost prohibitive to most small businesses," he says. "It's almost draconian, and that has to change. We need to have a 'business friendly' environment with rules and regs that address public safety, of course, but we need to bring those rules back to some common sense...when they step over that line, I'm going to speak out about them."

It's all part of Dooley's vision of Hobe Sound, based on quality design, quality construction, and a quality environment for businesses and residents both.

"Just like when I fought for gravity-fed sewers for Hobe Sound (instead of individual lift-stations, per property)," he says. "Whatever we do here should be the best, if I have anything to do with it. Our address dictates that...and it is Hobe Sound, after all, and Hobe Sound deserves the best."

The next CRA meeting is 5pm, June 20, at the county Administrative Building on Monterey Road and is open to the public. ■

--Barbara Clowdus



Mike Dooley

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Growth dept tackles

Claims and counter-claims are jamming blog posts, emails, and letters to the editor regarding the proposed Extreme Sports Water-Ski Park and Hotel on Bridge Road. The one person above the fray, an expert regarding the Martin County Growth Management Plan and the county's Land Development Regulations, is Nikki Van Vonno, director of the Martin County Growth Management Department, employed by the county since 1988.

Van Vonno agreed to an interview with Hobe Sound Currents to help set the record straight, particularly regarding the widespread concern that approval of the cable water-ski park opens the door to approval of the 4,000-unit Hobe Grove development, the review of which has been postponed until December.

"One has nothing to do with the other," said Van Vonno, in a telephone conversation June 6, the day prior to the taped interview. "Approval of the ski park has no effect on whether or not either the Hobe Grove or Harmony applications would be approved."

The county commission voted 3-2 on May 8 to transmit the Extreme Sports Water Ski Park & Hotel application for amendments to the Martin County Growth Management Plan and to the Future Land Use Map to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for further review. Its report will be part of the final public hearing before the county commission on July 10, the last step in the approval process.

Currently being reviewed now by the county's Growth Management Department, but contingent on the plan amendments approval on July 10, is the Planned Unit Development (PUD) site plan.

HSC: Much discussion now centers on the fact that Bridge Road is not an arterial road, therefore, does not qualify for access to the water-ski park property. The development's designer, Donald Cuzzo, contends that an error exists in the county's map, since the I-95/Bridge Road intersection clearly has four lanes with on- and off-ramps to Interstate-95 and four-lane access to the parcel of property being proposed for development. The county map shows Bridge Road only as a two-lane highway.

Van Vonno: In terms of the classification of that road, I would defer to the engineering department. I understand that there's this issue regarding the classification (of Bridge Road), which I haven't really weighed into, but that's determined by the engineering department.

HSC: So that's exclusively an engineering issue even though it affects



Nikki Van Vonno, director of the Martin County Growth Management Department, reviews all requests for changes to the Martin County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

your planning, such as in cases like this, when the Comp Plan states that the expressway-oriented zoning requires the presence of an arterial road?

Van Vonno: This is why I said to you on the phone the other day, you can look at both sides of this issue and say that both sides are right, with this issue.

HSC: That makes it even more clear.

Van Vonno: The county's engineering department maintains the road classification system, and I typically rely on one of the guys or girls over there to check on the road system map to tell me the road classification.... Bridge Road is shown as a minor collector on the county's Roadways Functional Class Map.

HSC: It's not even a major collector, much less an arterial, which brings me to what Commissioner Sarah Heard said at the May 8 public hearing, that the Bridge Road/Interstate 95 interchange does not qualify for the expressway-oriented zoning designation.

Van Vonno: These are the Mylars of the county's Future Land Use Map series that are dated Feb. 20, 1990,



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water-ski park issues



Photos: Barbara Clowdus

and this diamond symbol is what was used back then to indicate the areas considered for this designation. So, according to the maps approved by the county commission, this area was indicated, along with the other two areas (Route 714 and State Road 76 intersections with I-95) as eligible for the expressway-oriented zoning, which is the land that falls within 1320' of the intersection on all four corners. However, when you look at the criteria under that policy, there are various criteria that must be met: One is that it must be a Planned Unit Development; one is that sewer and water be provided for all four corners; and one is that it is to be located on an arterial road, and there's probably three or four other criteria, but those are the major ones....The Board made changes to the proposed text that excluded that one criteria (of requiring an arterial road) from this particular site.

HSC: There is a growing perception that the Comp Plan rules that may be "bent" (some would say broken) to allow construction of the water-ski park at the Bridge Road/I-95 intersection

would, therefore, allow construction of the Hobe Grove development. Does this, in fact, represent a precedent that would allow construction of either Hobe Grove, or for any other land-use amendment request that comes into your office?

Van Vonno: They do not have anything to do with each other. It's a separate application that goes through a completely separate review process, which includes a regional review.

HSC: Could this set a precedent for other development applications in the future?

Van Vonno: It does not set a precedent in the sense that the Board would have to take any approval action for a different development in the future. It does set a precedent in the sense that the Board might look at this one corner of the expressway-oriented designated intersection, if they had another application for another one of the corners.

HSC: You were speaking for the county commissioners. What about the Growth Management Department?

Van Vonno: In the (Comprehensive Plan) section of the four criteria which is what directs staff in terms of its recommendation—when we do the one analysis about changes in the immediate area—obviously if this (water ski-park) got approved, then it would be listed as a change in the immediate area. It would be one of the few that have occurred in this area.

HSC: Speaking of changes to the area, Cuozzo contends that construction of I-95 represents significant change to that parcel of land, cutting it off and isolating that parcel from any contiguous parcels of agricultural lands, which should have been listed as a change in the staff's review of the four criteria. It was not.

Van Vonno: Well, we don't agree with his position on that. I would contend that the Board recognized the change that was created by the construction of the interstate by creating the Expressway Oriented Transient Service Center designation for those areas affected by the I-95 interchanges. That is how the Board recognized that those areas had changed because of the interstate. That interstate was built in 1987, and the Board took what they deemed to be the appropriate action by creating that expressway-oriented designation for those areas. There has been no other change in those areas since that time.

The next public hearing before the Martin County Board of County Commissioners will be July 10 at the county's Administrative Building on Monterey Road in Stuart. ■

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EDITORIAL

One word describes county commission meeting

The word “sad” bubbles to the top of all other contenders for the appropriate descriptive of the May 8th Martin County Commission meeting, where commissioners and citizens wrestled over the proposed amendments to the county’s Comprehensive Growth Management Plan sought by developers to allow the extension of highway-specific zoning to include a cable ski and RV park on Bridge Road between Interstate 95 and the Turnpike.

One third of that particular 111-acre parcel already includes highway zoning for a restaurant, hotel, shops, and a water and septic system to serve not only that parcel, but the other three parcels at that intersection as well. The remaining two thirds of the property includes a 24-acre lake, 32 acres of protected wetlands, and 20 acres of uplands zoned for agriculture.

The county commission voted 3-2 to transmit the application to the state’s Department of Economic Opportunity for further review prior to sending it back to the county for a final public hearing July 10.

Watching so many Martin County residents speak both for and against the proposal at the hearing was heartwarming, at first, to see active participation

in the political process at the local level. What was sad was some residents’ lack of knowledge about or appreciation for the 30-year-old Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, the document most responsible for keeping high-rises out of the county and over-development at bay.

Yes, some changes have been made previously to the Comp Plan and to the Future Land Use Map—just as changes have been made to the U.S. Constitution—as its authors recognized the necessity to build that option for flexibility into the county’s long-range blueprint. These latest proposed changes will not dismantle the power of the Comprehensive Plan, but that almost seems irrelevant, because if a citizen is going to fight for those changes—any changes—it is unconscionable that he or she do so without understanding the importance of this document. Many residents do not. That is sad.

Just as sad, however, were the residents speaking from fear that the changes would mean an automatic approval to the Hobe Grove development, in turn spurring a probable re-application by Harmony, which together would bring 8,000 unwanted homes here. Fear has been commonly identified with the acrostic “False Evidence Appearing Real.”

The truth is that if we think something is to be feared, that perception becomes the reality regardless of any evidence or facts to the contrary.

Commission Chair Ed Ciampi spoke to the numbers of objectors whose remarks were based exclusively on misinformation and fear, which has been intentionally spread. He, therefore, discounted their voices as a result. How sad that decisions cannot be based on fact, rather than fear-based propaganda, which would give genuine credibility to their arguments—not so easily dismissed.

Sad, too, was Commissioner Patrick Hayes’ prepared speech regarding his change of stance toward the water-ski park. He has long taken pride in the fact that he is readily available, accessible, and active throughout the county and state, and that he is considered an expert in the county’s water issues—an activism established long before he became a commissioner. He was indisputably the commissioner with his “ear closest to the ground” regarding constituent voices, but suddenly he was listening to “the silent middle ground,” not what anyone expected to hear.

He should have spoken from his heart, as he usually does, instead of

over-thinking and over-preparing a speech. He spoke of being “badgered” into a “no” for the ski park at the Town Hall meeting in March, an opinion he later reversed. A more apt description is that he was bullied. After he told the Town Hall gathering that he’d been surprised at the lack of support for the ski-park to that point, but was still gathering information, the shock that registered on the commissioner’s face from the crowd’s loud opposition was obvious and revealing.

We saw someone who had felt that he’d always made decisions in his constituents’ best interests—and that they knew that assuredly about him, above all else. He had been wrong, and that was sad.

After the ski-park designers changed their application to be more “palatable” to critics, more voices emerged in support of the permit applications—to an almost even 50-50 split between those opposed and those in support, putting commissioners squarely on the spot to decide the outcome. Commissioner Ciampi described it as a “cannot win” conundrum. Neighbors have turned against neighbors, school kids against their peers, and friends against friends, and that is, perhaps, saddest of all. ■

GUEST EDITORIAL

Preserve Martin County remains active

Preserve Martin County continues to direct its energy to informing Martin County citizens on issues that effect growth and quality of life.

As has been typical of politics over the last twenty years on all levels, it is difficult to have an intelligent discussion on substantive issues. Special interests, lobbyists and those with economic self interest seek to drown out opposition and thoughtful discussion. Those who would otherwise engage in thoughtful discussion respond in the same manner. The result is often the worst of all worlds - distortion, misinformation, name calling and political grandstanding.

The Extreme Water Park issue which took center stage during May is an example of polarized politics. No one disagreed with the concept of a water park ski area or the owner. The disagreement was over the location and the impact the approval of the project (which involved much more than the friendly ski area) would have on future aggressive development.

Each of the commissioners expressed his/her opinions - some at greater length than others. With sentiment of residents overwhelmingly opposed to approval and Martin County Staff recommending a no vote, Martin County residents were

shocked (really more with feelings of disappointment and anger) at the ultimate outcome.

While much more is required before the waterpark, hotel and gas station (the latter two being as needed as fleas and ticks on a dog), the majority of commissioners voted to allow unnecessary growth with Comp Plan changes that should not have been granted. The benefit which the owners received by this action was to bypass studies which would have required a showing of specific need for the Comp Plan changes. The benefit to the land is a significant increase in economic value. The current owners may never build the water park or develop the property. Owner “2” or “3” down the road may have a much more aggressive vision for this property.

The majority claim its decision was reasonable and limited; without any potential for other developers to assert this approval as precedent for future projects. They deny the camel ever got its nose under the protective Comp Plan tent. Others believe the three commissioners were disingenuous i.e. their goal was to open up western Martin County all along and their pontification to the contrary was b.s.

I would like to believe the former, but

I fear the latter. This entire project was an easy no vote for all commissioners. To suggest or believe it is going to have any significant positive economic impact for Martin County is delusional. So why was its approval so important? Me thinks the camel’s nose did get under the tent, and the majority knew it and wanted that opening.

Speaking, personally, and not on behalf of Preserve Martin County, I believe in representative government. If the electorate concludes that their representatives have deceived them or simply disagree with their representative, the solution is at the ballot box. John Adams, our second President, said in 1774,

Representative government and trial by jury are the heart and lungs of liberty. Without them we have no other fortification against being ridden like horses, fleeced like sheep, worked like cattle and fed and clothed like swine and hounds.

So if you feel ridden like a horse, fleeced like a sheep or worked like cattle, stand up and be heard at the voting booth. It is a right and privilege which we all enjoy and should cherish. ■

Robert D. Gritton, Jr.
President, PMC
Hobe Sound, FL

Hobe Sound CURRENTS

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Dogs teach us to live through love

Losing a dog can devastate us, as does losing just about anyone else we love, only we're not supposed to show it as much or for as long. My 18-year-old grandson lost his beloved Weimaraner, Cane, just as he graduates high school, weeks before he begins a new assignment as a football recruit and student at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in July. My grandson will want to be stoic—the trappings of an emerging man—but I know his heart is crushed.

Cane died unexpectedly. A broken back from jumping through a window to escape the sound of thunder became his fatal injury. The entire family and extended family and neighborhood share my grandson's heartbreak.

The size of a Great Dane, Cane was truly a gentle giant not easily ignored. Awkward and bumbling as he maneuvered between you and any other dog who might seek your affection, he exhibited a gazelle's grace in breath-taking bounds as he ran across his fenced, acre-sized yard, which often could not contain him to the delight of neighbors who reveled in his off-beat personality. His sheer size and bel-lowing bark laughably intimidated strangers, which ultimately sentenced him to yard patrol after burglars brazenly stripped valuables from my daughter's car.

Cane's true mission, though, simply was to love my grandsons unreserv-



**Barbara
Clowdus**
Unfiltered

edly. He did, and never more than when they threw a tennis ball for him. If they threw two, he'd chase one, then the other, carrying them both back in his mouth, but he would release neither. He wanted to wrestle, but seldom could anyone pull the ball free, getting shaken instead like a rag doll until they gave up. If Cane dropped one ball, he'd snap it back up in a test of speed and reflexes should anyone move even slightly toward it, even when pretending disinterest altogether.

Most often, however, the ruse was insufficient, and he'd hold the ball in his mouth until they disappeared into the house, that is, until the football training built my grandson's weight, muscle and stamina to the point that each wrestled the other to the ground, my grandson's laughter enveloping them both as they rolled, until the victor leaped into the air, tennis ball held high as any well-earned trophy. Cane, just as joyously, would dash in the direction of the next much-anticipated throw, which almost always went deliberately to the opposite corner.

Cane filled the yard by himself, and his presence—his huge head towering above the gate latch, his eyes locked with yours in a happy greeting, his warm breath on your face and muzzle under your fingers—somehow resonated peace and love and reassurance that the sun will shine today, tomorrow, forever. But that's not how he entered our lives.

A rescue puppy with paws the size of salad plates, his new name, Hurricane, was apropos as he tore through our house nine years or so ago, quickly outpacing and outgrowing and out-eating the other two resident dogs. My daughter and her family were living with me temporarily as they planned their move into a larger house, but were unable to wait to adopt this puppy. Cane and I staked out our territories, or so I thought, until he started leaving a puddle in my bedroom every time I came home late from work. Nowhere else. Ever. When I searched for him, I'd find him snuggled in my sleeping grandson's bed, lifting his head and a brow as if to say, "Yes?" The whole house and everyone in it now belonged to Cane.

We recover, eventually, from their absence, while we keep our grief private. Enclosed. As a teen, after losing my own dog, I functioned during the day as any teen attending classes, doing homework, not talking about how much I missed her. At night, though, I would awaken to the sound of her

toenails clicking on the floor before she leapt into my bed, curling next to my belly. I could convince myself that, somehow, she was still with me..

As adults, my brother and I talked about dogs we'd loved so utterly, and that we'd both lost with such finality. How could God be absent when such love is present, we concluded; therefore, since God is present and imbues humans with souls, which my brother doubted, so must he also give souls to dogs. Perhaps, my brother positing one step further, a dogs' love could even be proof enough that human souls exist. What a pleasant picture of heaven he created.

Now that my brother is gone, that conversation frequently replays itself in my mind, as I also watch his self-satisfied grin punctuate his sentences. He made it easy for me to imagine that his own much-loved dog, Fish, had been waiting for him. A woman who professes the ability to channel messages from the other side even described the dog to his daughter a few weeks ago. She had been ecstatic about sharing this woman's "vision" with me.

My reaction was somewhat more reserved, although I have since dug out the photos of my brother with that dog. I smile every time I see them. I also smile when I think about Cane—tail wagging, body trembling, his bark morphing into long, multi-pitched bel-lows—as he waits at the gate. ■

Turkish Delights

Two of the tyres were flat when we got back to the car after three months away. The Customs shed had no sides to it, and just enough roof to protect the contents from the winter snow. We pumped up the tyres, scraped the cable and connected it to the battery, and the engine caught at the second attempt. We thanked the Customs Officers lavishly in pidgin Turkish, and I gave them my last two Australian beers, carried all the way from London the year before. We hit the road out of Ankara, headed for Scandinavia and points east.

No wonder the tyres were soft. On a back road in a village not far from Istanbul, we had chosen the wrong fork in the road. Our choice really did look marginally the less rocky of the two, but eighty yards into it we reckoned we must be on a dry river-bed. And so it proved, eventually. We were lucky that only two of the tyres lost their pressure during the winter. I don't remember ever replacing them; the budget didn't run to new tyres, even with Linda paying half the expens-

es. Still, I guess we must have done it at some time and somewhere before we got back to London.

Turkey was immensely kind to us. Someone reckoned that being Australian must have helped, with the Turks feeling superior because their army had beaten back the ANZAC invaders in 1915 at Gallipoli. But most of the people we mixed with would never have heard of the invasion. In a town halfway to Mount Ararat we were intercepted in the street while looking for a cheap hotel, and pressed to stay in a private home. The small children were woken up and brought to meet us, and we slept in a bed still warm from their bodies. (Some things you just can't argue about.)

We were snowed in the whole of the next day, and did what the natives did—sat around in a cafe sipping glasses of sweet black tea. I hate sweet black tea, but what can you do? I stood up to buy my round, only to be confronted by a fierce-looking fellow with red hair who dismissed my money. A futile



**Gordon
Barlow**
*Outside,
Looking In*

argument (sign language and shouting) ended by his thumping his chest while roaring "ME TURK!" I glanced at the others, who gave me the slight shifting of eyes and head that says, "Let it go." His command of English impressed his friends enormously, so he got his money's worth, I guess.

In the villages, the sexes were segregated, pretty much. We knew enough not to hold hands, or show affection in any way, or to offend the dress code. We heard of a Danish couple who had been knifed in their tent one night for cuddling in public during the day. In most places our very presence was exotic enough to put us beyond the reach of local etiquette rules. Linda was

an honorary male, in effect. Only once was she invited (with a hint of desperation, as courtesy warred with custom) to go with the women upstairs in their harem. They had never had a foreign woman up there before, and she had a great time dancing the Twist with them. I was guest of honour on a chair down in the street watching the men doing their line-dancing. Ho-hum. The village schoolteacher spoke a smattering of German, as did I, and he translated every word he thought I'd said to him.

Some time later, an English-speaker must have visited the village. In our mail at the Bank back in London there was a postcard with a message in English, printed in block capitals. "WE HOPE YOU COME BACK. OUR VILLAGE PEOPLES LOVES YOU." Verbatim.

It doesn't get any better than that. ■

A native Australian, Gordon Barlow is an economist, an international traveler and political commentator who lives in the Cayman Islands.



Weekend, June 15-16 Small Boat Fishing Tournament

The perfect Father's Day gift for the fishing dad! The Stuart Sailfish Club hosts its 41st Small Boat Fishing Tournament at the Sailfish Marina in Stuart beginning with a captain's meeting and kick-off party on Friday, June 15, at 6 pm at the Manatee Island Bar & Grill on SE Dixie Highway in Port Salerno. The fishing begins the next day, 7:30am - 2:30pm with weigh-in from 2:30 to 4:30pm at the

Stuart Sandbar. Awards and trophies also will be awarded to junior anglers, too! Boats up to 35' may participate, any style, and either out-board or center consoles. For more information, to register, or to sponsor, visit stUARTSAILFISHCLUB.COM or call 772.286.9373.

Friday, June 15 If You'd Rather Be Dancing

If you'd rather be wearing dancing shoes instead of tennis shoes, or holding a partner instead of a rod and reel, then this promotional event from 7-9:30 pm, hosted by the new Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Stuart, is for you. A grand-opening party and fundraiser to benefit Redeem The Shadows, a local non-profit organization dedicated to ending human trafficking in the United States, will include a beginners dance class followed by a professional show, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres by Pei Wei and Kazu Japanese Restaurant, and wine—all for \$15 admission at the door. The dance studio is at 2147 SE Federal Highway in Stuart. For more info, call 772.678.7368 or 772.285.9923.

Friday, June 15

Summer Race Series Begins

The first of three evening summer races will be Friday, June 15, beginning at the South Fork High School at 7 pm. All races are 5k in length and will take place on the third Friday of the months of June, July, and August at 7 pm. The cost is \$40 for all three races, or pre-registration is \$15 per race, with day-of-race registration set at \$25 per race.

The age divisions include: 10 and under through 70+, and there will be awards given for 1st-3rd in each age group, male and female masters, and overall. For more information, call 772-221-1419 or email jmoore@martin.fl.us. Sign up online at econnect.martin.fl.us.

The other two races planned include the Downtown Dash 5k on Friday, July 20, at 7 pm, beginning at the County Administrative Building, and the Beach to Beach 5k on Friday, August 17, at 7 pm, beginning at Jensen Public Beach. Be sure to register in advance.



Saturday, June 16

Explore Florida Trails

The Northeast Everglades Trails Association (NETA) will host a FREE event Saturday, June 16, "Saturday in the Park," to acquaint the public with the non-profit organization's mission on behalf of hikers, bicycle riders, trail runners, horseback riders and water (paddle) trail users in the Treasure Coast area. Hikers, bikers, riders and paddlers will meet at 8:30am at the Jupiter Farms pavilion in designated areas, returning to the pavilion by 11:30am for grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. After lunch, a general meeting open to the public will update attendees on natural areas and trails soon to be opening, as well as a discussion about the group's marquee event, the annual Ocean to Lake Greenway Celebration in February.

There is no charge, but participants are asked to register in advance so that organizers may adequately prepare. The Jupiter Farms Community Pavilion is at the NW corner of Jupiter Farms Park, one mile south of Indiantown Road on the corner of Jupiter Farms Road and Randolph Siding Road (16655 Jupiter Farms Road, Jupiter, Florida 33478). For more information, contact sjinkle@earthlink.net, call 561.762.9576, or go to evergladestrails.org.

Saturday, June 16 White Shirt Night

After you spend the day outdoors, either fishing or hiking, you'll be invigorated to attend a special event at Taste Casual Dining in Hobe Sound, near the corner of A1A and Bridge Road. The annual "White Shirt Night" benefit the Helping People Succeed Foundation will feature eight local artists as they paint and aprons from 6 to 9 pm., June 16. Art-include Dan Mackin, Ginny Jones, Kevin Hutchinson, Carol Kepp, Susan Roberts, Juli Kelly, Jane Blatt and Cynthia L. Cooper. Each artist will create three or four tropical sketches from which participants may choose designs for their shirts.

General admission is \$50, which includes hors d'oeuvres, a drink ticket and the work of an artist on a T-shirt, white shirt or apron. (Shirts will be available for purchase, if you don't already have a clean one of your own.) VIP tickets are \$100 and include hors d'oeuvres, two drink tickets, a meet-the-artists reception from 5 to 6 p.m. and an artist's design. "Art Lovers" tickets are \$150, and also include reserved seating, name recognition and a special gift. For info, go to hpsfl.org or call 772-320-0770.



Weekend, June 16-17 It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World

Free admission to the Lyric Theatre's "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" is one of several films scheduled this summer for families. Tickets are limited to four per person and are subject to availability for showings at 7pm on June 16 and 5pm on June 17. (Afternoon matinees this weekend will feature a different movie, "The Quiet Man.") The Mad, Mad film is a 1963 American comedy produced and directed by Stanley Kramer about the madcap pursuit of \$350,000 in stolen cash by a diverse and colorful group of strangers.

Tickets for the Summer of Free Movies, which include The Shining, It Happened One Night, and Cool Hand Luke, as well, are only available at the Lyric Box Office. For more info, go to lyrictheatre.com, or to check ticket availability, call 772-286-7827.

Thursday, June 21 Political Forum in Hobe Sound

Perhaps not as much fun as watching "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World," (well, come to think of it, maybe it is!), the all-important political forum of state and local candidates presented by the Martin County Council of Chambers & the Economic Council, and hosted by the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce, will begin at 6pm at the Hobe Sound Bible College on Gomez Avenue in Hobe Sound. Questions may be submitted in advance by emailing info@hobesound.org or by filling out an official question note card at the event prior to the first candidate's introduction at 6pm. For more info, call 772.546.4724 or visit hobesound.org. The next political forum in Hobe Sound will be in July.

Weekend, June 22-24 Celebration!

We all know that freedom does not come free. The cost is measured in the lives of those who purchased that freedom for us. The 7th Annual Celebration!, supported by local chambers of commerce, is a musical tribute to veterans and those currently serving in active duty. The cast, comprised of professional and community players who have donated their time and talent, will present four shows at the Charles & Rae Kane Center on Salerno Road, starting with Friday, June 22, at 8pm, Saturday, June 23, at 2pm and 8pm, and Sunday, June 24, at 2pm. You may call the box office at 772.834.0770 for tickets, which are \$12 in advance or \$15 each at the door.



Wednesday, July 4 Star-Spangled Stuart

Celebration

Stuart's one-of-a-kind, family-friendly Independence Day Celebration will be Wednesday, July 4, at Flagler Park from 4-10 p.m. and will feature:

- Festival with Food, Music, and Vendors
- Children's Area with Face Painting, Bounce Houses, Pony Rides
- Live Popular and Patriotic Music
- ...and Martin County's ONLY 4th of July fireworks display on the waterfront under the Roosevelt Bridge.

Many boaters will be on the St. Lucie River near the Martin Memorial Hospital to watch from the water. Those on land will be treated to patriotic music by the Stuart Community Band - a Fourth of July celebration to remember!



Wednesday, July 4 Firecracker Classic Golf

A day in the middle of the week to play golf. Can't get better than this! The "Fire Cracker Classic" Golf Tournament and Golf Outing to help raise funds for Recycle 4 Recovery, Inc., will be Wednesday morning, July 4, at The Florida Club in Stuart. The cost is \$75 per player \$300 per foursome, and includes golf cart and lunch after the round. There also will be a 50/50 and more. Golfers must be in their carts by 7:45am, so get there early. For more info, go to floridaclubgolf.com or call 772.287.3680.



Saturday, June 23 Retro Game Show Night

Tickets are going fast for this first-ever Retro Game Show Night at the Lyric's Flagler Center in downtown Stuart with "heavy" hors d'oeuvres and an open bar to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County on Saturday, June 23, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 each for adults 21 and over, and can be purchased by calling Juliet at 772 545-1255 or by sending her an email at jciaravino@bgcmartin.org.

Radio personality Josh Cohen will emcee the event and local auctioneer Reed Hartman will serve as the announcer. Two main events will include audience participation: Family Feud and The Newlywed Game. Throughout the evening, guests will have the opportunity to play Wheel of Fortune, Pac Man, air hockey, ping pong, Skee Ball, foosball, and more. There will be tons of prizes, raffles and a 50/50, too.

Guests will have the opportunity to play Let's Make a Deal all evening. All guests are encouraged to stuff their purses and pockets and be prepared to take the stage. Guests are also encouraged to come dressed up as their favorite Let's Make a Deal audience member for the costume contest!

Saturday, June 30 Aaron Vaughn Extreme Frogman Swim

The first annual Aaron Vaughn Frogman Swim to honor this Navy SEAL from Stuart killed in Afghanistan last summer will be Saturday, June 30, at Jensen Beach Park on NE Ocean Blvd in Jensen Beach at 8am. Swimmers may choose a 200 yard, 1K, or 5K open-water course in the ocean. This will be a competitive event, and awards will be presented during lunch (free to swimmers) at the Locals restaurant in Jensen Beach. Gift bags and specially designed "Forged" T-shirts will be given to all participants who register by the deadline of June 24

Aaron Vaughn Memorial



FROGMAN SWIM - Jensen Beach, FL

(Aaron's birthday). The registration fee is \$55, and a "cash only" cornhole tournament also will be offered that day. Proceeds of the event will benefit Vaughn's two young children.

Vaughn, a member of SEAL Team VI, was killed Aug. 6, 2011, when a Chinook helicopter was shot down in the Tangi River Valley of Afghanistan. All 30 American warriors on board lost their lives that day, representing the single largest loss of life in Naval Special Warfare history. Aaron spent his late teen and young adult years on the Treasure Coast, graduating from IRSC and working at Jupiter Island Club Golf Course. For more information, go to www.forourson.us/aaron-vaughn-memorial-frogman-swim.html, or email: forourson1@gmail.com



Now until August 11 Teen Summer Reading Program

Teens "Own the Night" at Martin County libraries this summer, which has put together a program for students entering 6th through 12th grades to encourage summertime reading. The free program includes prizes, incentives, movies, contests, and events throughout the summer. Book reviews may be submitted on the library system's website: library.martin.fl.us until

August 11 to earn volunteer hours or win raffle tickets for prizes. Program funding has been provided by the six MCLS Friends groups. The prizes and advertising are provided by the Library Foundation of Martin County. All summer reading and special events are free. More information can be found online, or in library newsletters available at each library.



Hobe Sound loses its 'mayor'

After the death of Phil Algozzini, 82, on May 26, some Hobe Sounders suggested that an exception to the rules for listing a building in the Federal Register of Historic Places should be made for Algozzini's Hawaiian Shop on Federal Highway. No question it's a landmark, opened 65 years ago by his parents, Nick and Vera Algozzini, as a shell shop, and serving as Phil's base of operations since 1954 after his time in the Navy. As owner and operator, Phil, along with his sister, Elaine Gedamke of Stuart, expanded the shop's offerings to include Hawaiian clothing, after his involvement with the Navy's stage produc-

tion of South Pacific and a vacation trip to Hawaii. The consummate salesman, Phil could convince you to purchase an Hawaiian wardrobe for a whole family, even if your original intent had been to purchase only a grandchild's T-shirt.

Born in New Jersey, he told friends that he had "no trouble keeping his accent" because there were more people from New Jersey living in Hobe Sound than from anywhere else. Fondly called the "Honorary Mayor of Hobe Sound," he and his family were founders of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce in 1981, and he remained involved as an active member until his death. He unof-

ficially presided at almost every Chamber event, taking delight in spinning long tales to enthralled newcomers, who were not quite sure of the veracity of his stories.

More than 100 people attended memorial services at the St. Christopher Catholic Church in Hobe Sound, where he was member. In addition to his sister, survivors include a niece, Roxanne Howard of Hobe Sound, who assisted her mother and uncle in the growth of Algozzini's Hawaiian Shop, and other nieces and nephews, Steven Orazi of Tennessee, William Orazi of Stuart and Dorothy "Dolly" Peyton of Stuart.



◆ **GUY CARROLL HECKMAN, 62**, of Hobe Sound, died June 3 at his home. Born Sept. 3, 1950, he is survived by his wife, Mimi, and their children: Drew and Allen Clare Heckman; James Heckman; and Henry and Brooke Heckman; a sister, Lisa Hughes, step-mother Margie Heckman; and a grandchild. He was predeceased by his parents, Audrey S. and William G. Heckman.

◆ **JEANETTE BEYER, 94**, of Tequesta, died May 14 at home. Born in Washington, D.C., to Orie and John Gibson, she worked for the FBI in D.C. After moving to Tequesta from Miami Beach in 1983 with her husband, Carl, she was a volunteer at Jupiter Medical Center's Gift Shop for 17 years. Active in the community, she was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution for 75 years and a founding regent of Jupiter Lighthouse DAR. Survivors include her daughter, Diane Blackmon; son, Charley Short; stepdaughter, Sharrie Waldrip; seven grandchildren and her cat, Meesha. Her husband, Carl, predeceased her in 1993.



◆ **DELORES K. ANDERSON, 76**, died May 31 at her Hobe Sound residence. Born in Highlands, N.J., she had been a resident of Hobe Sound for 40 years. A retired LPN, she had worked for Visiting Nursing Association of Martin County, and was a former volunteer EMT for Hobe Sound Ambulance and past president of the Highlands Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. Survivors include her husband of 58 years, Henry C. Anderson of Hobe Sound; son, Michael Patrick Anderson of Sebastian; daughters, Catherine Lynn Egbers of Stuart and Delores Lynn Rivera of Stuart; brother, Andy McGown of New Jersey; 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

◆ **PATRICIA M. FERRARO, 81**, died May 16, at The Manors at Hobe Sound. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she is the sister of Robert Fullan of Hobe Sound. Other survivors include her husband, Eugene Ferraro of Stuart; and a daughter, Jeaneen Malone of Clinton, Conn. She had been a head teller and assistant branch bank manager. She was preceded in death by a son, Jeff Ferraro, and brother, Dan Fullan.

◆ **TWILA LEE GREENE, 90**, of Hobe Sound, died Friday, May 18, at Salerno Bay Manor in Stuart.

◆ **WILLIAM A. DAVIS, 89**, died May 16, at Treasure Coast Hospice in Stuart, moving to Ocala in 2001 and to Hobe Sound 2011. He was a retired Methodist Minister and an Army veteran of World War II. Survivors include his wife, Anna L. Davis of Hobe Sound; daughters, Carol Batson of Stuart, and Mildred Fisher of Jensen Beach; son, Harry Davis of Chula Vista, Calif.; two sisters; seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



◆ **WILLIAM E. EVANS, 86**, died May 14, at Martin Medical Center in Stuart. Born in Marion, Ind., he has resided in Florida for over 30 years, moving to Hobe Sound 13 years ago from Tequesta. A Navy veteran of World War II, he was former owner and operator of several convenience stores. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Bonnie V. Evans of Hobe Sound, son, Gary Evans of Port Saint Lucie, daughter, Sherry Evans of Ft. Pierce, brother, Marvin Evans of Naples, sisters, Jane Adamson of Marion, Ind; Barbara McComb of Marion, Ind; Colleen Carney of Kokomo, Ind.; Norma Balis of Calif.; two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

◆ **JOSEPH F. KANE, 87**, died May 14, at his home. Born in Brooklyn, NY, he moved to Hobe Sound 19 years ago, coming from Breezy Point, N.Y. A retired New York police officer and a Navy veteran of World War II, he was a member of Hall Bryan VFW Post 10132 in Hobe Sound and a member of St. Christopher Catholic Church. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Florence T. Kane of Hobe Sound; daughter, Barbara Meyer of Hobe Sound; a granddaughter and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, Dominic and Ellen (Mulligan) Kane, and brother, Vincent D. Kane.

◆ **JERRY MURL HEWITT 72**, of Hobe Sound, died Sunday, May 13, at Martin Nursing & Restorative Care Center, in Stuart. He was born July 25, 1939, in Albion, Mich., and served in the U.S. Army Air Force. He had been a resident of Hobe Sound for more than 30 years, coming from Albion. Prior to retirement he worked in the produce business, owning and operating Jerry's Produce in Hobe Sound. He is survived by his wife of nine years, Doris Madeline Hewitt, of Hobe Sound; two sons, Larry and Jay Hewitt of Mich.; daughter Rebecca Wilkins of Mich.; two sisters, Virginia Argo of Charlotte, Mich; Cindy Scovel of Smyrna, Tenn.; brothers, Jack Hewitt, of Coudersport, Pa. and Earl Huitt of Battle Creek, Mich.; and several grandchildren.

◆ **ARLO L. PITCHER, 93**, of Hobe Sound, died Wednesday, May 2, at Martin Memorial Hospital in Stuart after a gradual decline in health. Dr. Pitcher is survived by his wife, Elsie, of Hobe Sound; two daughters, Patricia Pitcher of Minneapolis and Barbara Sue Slarks of Boulder, Colo; a son Dr. Steve Pitcher of St. James, Minn.; three grandchildren, and six nieces and nephews. He was born in Melville, Saskatchewan, Canada, on March 24, 1919 to Vera and Herbert Pitcher. He attended Queens University for his undergraduate and medical degree. After finishing medical school, he served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Navy. He worked as a general surgeon in Belmond, Iowa, and St. James. After delivering his first grandchild in 1984, he moved with his wife to Hobe Sound, where he continued to work as a ship's physician with Holland America Line. One month each summer, he also worked as the community doctor at Fire Island Pines, NY. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Vere.



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Proposed cable-ski park poses health risk?

A Martin County Health Department memo sent to the Growth Management Department in January as part of the review process for the proposed Extreme Cable Ski Water Park's Planned Unit Development (PUD) site plan has added another layer to the on-going controversy. Developers plan to use the 24-acre, man-made lake between I-95 and Florida's turnpike for cable water skiing, wake boarding and wake skating.

Proponents of the park claim that the memo was intended only to spark fear regarding the possible presence of *Naegleria fowleri*—amoeba that cause a deadly brain infection—in the freshwater lake to fuel public opposition, since the rates of infection are so rare.

Opponents of the park claim that the memo was intentionally "buried" in the 300+ page growth management staff report to the county commission, giving evidence of a dire threat to the county's children that the commission ignored.

"Once forced up the nose, (amoeba) can travel to the brain, where it digests brain cells," says Jonathan Yoder, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. "It's a very tragic disease that, thankfully, is very rare."

Yoder says that the threat of drowning is far greater than the threat that comes from *Naegleria fowleri*, since there were over 36,000 drowning deaths in the U.S. in the 10 years from 1996 to 2005. By comparison, according to CDC data, 32 cases occurred from *Naegleria fowleri* infections between 2001 and 2010 in the U.S., averaging from one to four cases a year.

From 1937 to 2007, there were 121 reported cases, with four deaths occurring last summer from the amoeba, includ-

ing one in the St. John's River in Florida, one in Kansas, one in Virginia, and one in Louisiana from the use of a neti pot.

The county's DOH memo states: "Because of this risk, all visitors who enter the cable ski pond should be told to use nose plugs to reduce the chance of infection. If they do not use nose plugs, they should sign a statement that they are aware of the risk. In addition, a sign should be posted that states that the amoeba may be a risk."

The Florida Department of Health and the CDC concur that use of nose clips is advisable, especially during summer months, but they do not advise posting signs, because the water cannot be tested in a timely manner with available testing methods. The amoebae can change its body form and move to other locations.

According to the CDC, "Recreational water users should assume that there is always a low level of risk whenever they enter warm freshwater (for example, when swimming, diving, or water skiing) in southern-tier states. Posting signs is unlikely to be an effective way to prevent infections. This is because the location and number of *Naegleria fowleri* in the water can vary over time. In addition, posted signs might create a misconception that bodies of water without signs are *Naegleria fowleri*-free."

Aside from its rarity, the amoebae "is not looking to prey upon human victims," Yoder says. "They usually go after bacteria in water and soil."

Both the Florida DOH and the CDC advise swimmers to "hold your nose, or use nose plugs when jumping or diving into water," and to refrain from stirring up sediment from the bottom of lakes or rivers. ■

New development planned

Another yellow-and-black sign announcing proposed changes to the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan popped up last month on Federal Highway next to the Catfish House in Hobe Sound.

According to county records, the previously approved Sunset Ridge project for a 120-unit residential, multi-family development on 12.34 acres (that had been previously designated for a trailer park) is requesting approval of a revised Planned Unit Development master site plan for a 270-bed residential care facility west of U.S. Highway 1. Its new name will be The Palms of Hobe Sound.

The reason cited for the developer's request for an extension of time for the permit and for the change in the PUD are

the economic conditions in the county, which have resulted in the lack of demand for apartments or condominiums, county records show.

For more information on the project, owned by Arthur Palma, Spencer Investments Inc. of Tequesta, go to the Martin County Comprehensive Growth Management Department website at martin.fl.us, referencing project #S225-006, permit # DO58 201200119, or call their office at 772.288.5495 for more information and to be apprised of public hearing dates.

The proposed development is located within the Primary Urban Service District of Hobe Sound, and must be approved by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners. ■

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New reign begins for Apollo's 'Second Chance' Prom king and queen

"We just wanted to do something different," is how Kathy Spurgeon, of Hobe Sound, describes the Apollo School Foundation Board's decision a decade ago to hold an annual "proms" to benefit the long-hoped-for renovation of the former schoolhouse on Apollo Street in Hobe Sound.

After 15 years' devising and hosting fund-raising events, of which 10 years

included the "crowning" of prom kings and queens for raising the most money, the Apollo School Foundation had more to celebrate this spring than just the success of the "Second Chance" prom.

New windows had been donated and installed a few months ago in the 88-year-old building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and Sen. Joe Negron had been able to usher

\$150,000 in funding through the state budget process. Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed the budget order just days prior to the May 5 prom at Lost Lake Golf Club in Hobe Sound.

"We don't expect to get that state money soon, probably not for months," Spurgeon added, "but when we do, it means we can finally finish what we started 15 years ago."

They plan to stucco the outside of the building, "which will make a big, big difference," Spurgeon said, prior to moving to the inside to update the electrical wiring and finish the walls. The board members intend to create an historical center,

and one of its members, Paula Cooper, has been collecting old photos both for display and to compile a history of Hobe Sound.

Much remains to be done, but the group's excitement that their efforts will soon culminate with a building that can be functional, a treasured asset to the community, added to the excitement generated by the "ultimate crowning" of Ailola McGraw and Jack Curley, who had competed with all previous prom kings and queens for the most "votes."

"We had a really successful event," Spurgeon said. "We raised a little more than \$20,000, and we had truly fun time doing it."



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Jeff and Joanne McMillion



Patsy and Bob Steiner



Paula Cooper and Jack Erickson



Susan and Harold Jenkins

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Chung Wong, Guia Brown



John, Suellen Millroy



Dan, Jeanne Mackin



Tony, Michelle Hannan



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Hobe Sound butterfly gardens recognized

Butterfly gardens are places that connect our souls to heaven and help bring peace to the world.

Peggy Kane, past-president of the Martin County Master Gardeners and president of the Hobe Sound Women's Club, was presented with Butterfly Sanctuary Certificates for the butterfly gardens at Zeus Park and the Dunbar Center Preschool in Hobe Sound.

The certificates were awarded by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs at a recent Martin County Master Gardener meeting. Ann McCormick and Jean Foley presented the awards.

Both gardens have plantings that support all stages of a butterfly's life cycle and are maintained without pesticides that would harm the butterflies.

The Martin County Master Gardeners are volunteers trained by IFAS/University of Florida to extend the reach of the Cooperative Extension Service by providing research-based gardening information to the residents of Martin County.

The Master Gardener Help Desk is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm to address your gardening questions. For more information, visit the Extension Office at 2614 SE Dixie Highway in Stuart, call 772.288.5654 or visit their website at martin.ifas.ufl.edu. ■



From left, Ann McCormick, Peggy Kane and Jean Foley with Butterfly Sanctuary Certificates for Zeus Park and Dunbar Center butterfly gardens.

HoSo's cast of characters

As summer fast approaches and school soon will dismiss, my thoughts return to our past season and the SEENS of Hobe Sound!

Hobe Sound is a "place apart." Perhaps that is why I have taken notice of some of the most interesting and humorous "seens" I have observed while bicycling around our town.

Here are a few:

A metal dog sign (to deter dog dumping) stuck in a lawn on Hercules Avenue, reading NO DUMPING. Next to it was a large pile of dog poop left by a Hobe Sound dog. Hobe Sound dogs can't read!

Along US1 on a boiling hot day: A car stopped in the median (cars zooming by) while a woman in a SKIMPY bikini, no shoes, most of her body parts on display, looking like an advert for Playboy magazine, happily filling her gas tank from a large red can. (Men and boys in trucks and cars passing by, slowing down to get a good look, blocking traffic.)

Walking along Bridge Road: A woman dressed smartly walking her pony, trotting along behind.

Around Zeus Park: A man dressed in a Tyrolean outfit, leather shorts, embroidered suspenders, white shirt and an Austrian hat with feather flying, strolling with his lady. She was dressed in a see-through zebra patterned dress.

A man on the beach with a parrot on his shoulder.

Another man on the beach on a hot morning, wearing bib overalls, straw hat with a bite in the middle of the brim, plaid shirt and boots, heading toward the inlet on north beach.



Suzanne
Briley

Hopscotch

Woman SEEN riding a bicycle dressed in a bathrobe, hair in curlers, fuzzy slippers, singing "God Bless America" in the early morning.

What is "normal" anyway?

My parents spent their evenings in the car reading the papers and smoking when I practiced the violin. My father wore a burlap bag suit and played Dixieland music on the banjo in Grant Park, Atlanta.

My husband drove an old green camper around Hobe Sound for many years. The bumper sticker read IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO HAVE A HAPPY CHILDHOOD.

On St. Patrick's Day he was dressed in his leprechaun suit, green curled-toe shoes, making the rounds singing "Irish Eyes are Smiling" in many stores, offices and schools. When he ran out of gas, the police gave him some!

Perhaps that's it. The characters in Hobe Sound are doing just that. having a happy childhood!

I know I am! ■

Suzanne Briley, artist, author, entrepreneur and environmentalist, lives in Zeus Park in Hobe Sound. She may be contacted at hopscotch@hscurrents.com.



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Lovable Losers?

People love winners. Or to be more precise, people loves sports champions, famous people and high earners because they embody what – to some – life is all about: winning stuff, getting your face on TV and being rich.

The other side of life is that dark hole of unpopularity and irrelevance known as 'last place'. Not so much last place at the end of the season, because from there you can always say: "Next season we have every reason to hope that we will [insert delusional aspiration here]". No, the true suffocating blackness of anti-cultural non-achievement belongs to those baseball teams who live in last place. The players and fan-bases who know beyond all doubt that, even with more than 100 games left to play, they have as much hope of getting to the playoffs as I do of beating Barry Bonds' home run record.

So in reverse order, here are my five most lovable losers of the 2012 season so far – teams in last or next-to-last place in their division staring up at the cumulonimbus clouds of a .500 record:

5. SEATTLE MARINERS (LAST PLACE, AL WEST)

I feel sorry for Ichiro Suzuki: the greatest leadoff hitter of his generation who has

not – or at least not through his interpreter – complained even once about playing for a team that has been the epitome of loserdom for nearly a decade. But this team is rich – not because everyone pays to watch them (like fellow last-placers the Cubs), but because the owners are swimming in cash.

4. COLORADO ROCKIES (NEXT-TO-LAST PLACE, NL WEST)

Jamie Moyer, famous for throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781, became the oldest pitcher in MLB history to win a game when he beat the Padres last month. That's great. His 5.70 ERA however – not so much, but what's worse is he has the second-lowest ERA on the Rockies staff. These guys hand out too many fat contracts to maximize their potential for sympathy, but spare a thought for them as they watch expectations plummet faster than the Dow Jones after a Chapter 11 announcement.

3. SAN DIEGO PADRES (LAST PLACE, NL WEST)

When your ballpark has the dimensions of Yellowstone National Park no free agent hitters want to play for your



Paul
Reynolds

*Hot
Corner*

team. But that's their fault. Also, too many people want to live in San Diego to really sympathize too much. However, adding to the sympathy is the fact that this team is truly awful. They're so bad that ESPN just ran a feature on how they feel sorry for up-and-coming hitter Yonder Alonso who, as an above average player, stands out like a superstar on his own team.

2. OAKLAND ATHLETICS (NEXT-TO-LAST PLACE, AL WEST)

No fans, no stadium, no payroll, no hope for the last 10 years and no cutting edge General Manager's differentiator that's likely to spawn 'Moneyball 2: the Athletics Strike Back'. Bearing in mind the apex of their achievement in the last generation involved NOT making it to the World Series in 2002, and their endless struggles to move to a part of California where people may actual watch baseball,

you have a team worthy of at least an avuncular pat on the back.

1. MINNESOTA TWINS

Giving Minneapolis a baseball franchise is not insulting in the way that giving Phoenix a hockey franchise is insulting, but let's just say it's not exactly tapping into the latent cultural attachments. And yet they're plucky. Smart drafting, sensible contracts and just good solid baseball won them 6 of the last 10 American League Central titles, whilst maintain a payroll at or near the bottom of the list of all major league teams.

But they've fallen hard times of late, and currently sit a distant 15 games under .500, trying to facilitate the return to the country of a key pitcher who lied about his name and age to get a baseball contract.

So let's all give a piece of chocolate and pat on the head to the Twins: they never win stuff, they don't get their faces on TV very much and (comparatively speaking) they have very little money. Plus it snows there almost all year. Bless. ■

Paul Reynolds, an avid Phillies fan and youth baseball coach, writes about baseball year round. He may be reached at hotcorner@hscurrents.com.

What are the turtles telling us about hurricanes?

It's a beautiful night on Jupiter Beach and I'm fishing for pompano! Most fishermen assure me that this doesn't work. Well if numerous conditions are in line, and they were, I definitely caught the interest of the turtle scouts this evening. Ten p.m. and I've got 9 in the bucket and one nice 1.5 pounder on the sand. I snap another documentative photo for a book I hope to finish one day. The bite ends and I'm under the impression my beach presence is under observation. Gazing at a flat ocean I see the outline of a neck attached to a beaked head poking thru the surface. Cool I'm under turtle watch!

Not long after a second sea turtle checks me out. At this point I pull in my lines knowing the number one problem I represented would be line entanglement with this great sea creature. Just then a Marine Life Center turtle scout went scooting by on her ATV. Their job was to protect them. They do so by monitoring tourists and the locals from shining lights while scouting for turtles. The lights disorient the serene giants from finding a birth place for their eggs. The scouts also check current nests for the nightly threats. Those include birds, raccoons, ghost crabs and a few humans that want the precious eggs.

Midnight and its really quiet. The life guarded beaches assume the unpopular role of being what Mother Nature started them to be. Natural. A leatherback is emerging 300 feet to the North.

She's inching her heavy armor to find a potential life bearing segment of beach. She's trekking while audibly breathing heavy toward to an internal destination that very few of us will ever understand and get to appreciate. This occurrence results in great admiration and some sadness. Knowing my pompano season is about to end. I know I'm in a lucky place in my life to be this simple man absorbing the night, the surf and this magical mystery of tours.

The next day my curiosity on turtles convinced me to dig deeper, especially when I heard so many variables of this years nesting habits. The turtles nests seemed different this year. Nest locations were lined up somewhat parallel to the ocean versus an up and down pattern between surfs edge and the sea oats. Some television news networks were presenting an opinion that the nests were earlier than usual and shallower in depth. The chatter grew the premise that these sea creatures were revealing secrets toward the imposing tropical storm season.

Ironically my pondering mode was silenced by a call from my friend Ed, a commercial surf fisherman in Sebastian. We shared the same commentary but he injected some opinions that stemmed from a marine expert from Melbourne. The Melbourne thru Sebastian Inlet nests were 50% closer to the waters edge than in previous years. The nests were dug shallower than past his-

tory. Plus the leatherbacks arrived 2 to 4 weeks earlier than usual. Whoa! I'm thinking there's some pattern or something. I said Ed, is there anything here that logically derives a tropical storm forecast thru the turtles? Well the independent marine experts are saying this data to say no major impact season, and early hatch and possibly a few late storms in October or early November. Well I'm ready, to somewhat foolishly expose "Wonderful News" to save South Florida. I'm now sharing with anyone to reinforce my findings, as if it was true news.

The next day I decided I needed really good back up. I'm off to the "The Loggerhead Marinelife Center" in Juno Beach, Florida. I can't say enough to convey how good and caring the staff is. From the receptionist to the rehab staff its nothing short of amazing! I would urge anyone reading this column to visit a world class organization founded by the "Turtle Lady" Eleanor Fletcher of Juno Beach. Two decades of growth, supported by Palm Beach County and your valuable donations and the passion of numerous volunteers.

With no appointment, I was introduced to Tom Longo, marketing and communications manager, a real gentleman who guided me thru uncharted waters I made wonderful friends and asked numerous questions on how I and all fisherman can contribute to these awesome creatures. It took a while but



Rich
Vidulich

*Pompano
Reporter*

I went back to the reason I went there. Tom and his staff obliged the "Turtle Forecasting Question" with the following answers.

First, the turtles early start is due to the unseasonably warm winter we've just had. Even though the loggerheads are here early there is yet nothing to say the green turtles and the leatherbacks won't be here on time. Plus the nests depth can vary with size of turtle and the compaction of the sand they bury them in. Personally I noted the local beaches that have been re-nourished are a finer granule and more compacted. This probably holds true for Jupiter Island. Therefore it is their opinion our precious turtles are not here to help the weather bureau. Regardless, take care of the worlds beaches and show love to the history that is so politely revealed by "The Sea Turtle" ■

Rich Vidulich, a commercial fisherman, lives in Jupiter and fishes the beaches of the Treasure Coast. Send your comments/questions to fishing@hscurrents.com.



The butterfly garden at Zeus Park, recently recognized for its outstanding qualities by the Master Gardeners of Martin County, is as much a respite for Hobe Sound residents as it is for the butterflies that flit through and around it.