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gazette



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Broward Virtual School serves 7,000 students



By David Volz

Broward Virtual School may represent the future of education. Right now it is the largest virtual school in Florida with 7,000 students. Of that number, 350 are taking all their courses online.

“We serve students who want to take all of their classes online and earn a diploma,” said Christopher McGuire, principal of Broward Virtual School. “This gives them the flexibility of not having to attend school on a daily basis. This is attractive to students who are involved in extracurricular activities such as sports or acting. Some students want to get a start on college through dual enrollment. We have kids who have medical issues and can’t be in school.”

Broward Virtual School is affiliated with Florida Virtual School, a program that serves students in all 67 Florida counties. Currently all Broward County high school students must take at least

one online course to earn a diploma. And a growing number of students are taking more courses. Many will take an online course that is not available at their home school. Those who are taking online courses can be active in extracurricular activities at their home schools. The Broward

School district offers 120 online courses.

Even though online education is more popular and is likely to be more common in education, McGuire does not expect traditional schools to close. He believes the blended course; a course that includes both time in a classroom setting and an online component will become more common.

“In schools, kids are working on social skills, they are learning how to get along in society,” said McGuire. “We will never get to the point where virtual schools will close down traditional schools. Most kids want to be in school. Sometimes there are circumstances that arise where students can’t be in school and must take courses online.”

Also, it takes a tremendous amount of self-discipline to succeed in a purely online environment. Many young people need to be in an environment where a teacher is monitoring their work. In the traditional classroom, the teacher ensures

that students are doing their work. In an online situation, the student must do the work without as much supervision. Also, in online education, a student must correspond on a daily basis with a teacher.

But technology is here to stay and will affect how people learn. “For a lot of kids, online education is a positive experience,” said McGuire. “There is flexibility in access to course work. Kids need to learn how to access online education because it is more common in college. Also, a lot of industry training is done through e-learning webinars and kids need to be ready for that.” Now, McGuire is working to build more capacity so that all students can take online courses so they can graduate. More classrooms are being equipped with digital tools. Elementary schools are piloting a program with textbooks on tablets. More students are submitting their work on tablets.

“We are working to give teachers more flexibility and doing a more targeted approach to leveraging the use of technology in the next five years,” said McGuire. “We can do a lot more with an iPad or tablet. The problem with paper textbooks is that they only have a certain lifespan. And if there is an error in the textbook, it won’t be changed for a few years. With an online textbook, the error can be corrected immediately.”

Also, students who are doing well in a lower grade can take high school math courses. “I have middle school students taking high school math courses,” said McGuire.

In coming years, more people will be educated in an online environment.

Panel Discussion of Downtown Hollywood Mural Artists set for Thursday, Oct. 24

The Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, with the support of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), presents The Downtown Hollywood Mural Project (DHMP) Discussion - a forum that provides insight into the DHMP and its participating artists. Occurring on Thursday, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. at the Center, 1650 Harrison St., this event is free for members and \$10 for non-members. The talk begins at 6:30 p.m., and will be followed by a question-and-answer session and reception with the panelists.

This discussion will explore the impact of the murals on the community and Downtown Hollywood revitalization efforts as well as the artists’ concepts and their process. Since launching more than a year ago, the DHMP has successfully attracted 10 contemporary, South Florida-based artists who are creating works on an international scale. With a socio-cultural footprint unique to Miami-Dade and Broward County, vibrant colors, geometric abstraction, and reoccurring themes of flora and fauna unite the growing collection of outdoor works.

Moderated by DHMP Art Specialist & Project Manager Jill Weisberg, the panel is comprised of select artists from the mural program.

For more information, visit ArtAndCultureCenter.org or call 954.921.3274.

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BEST OF HOLLYWOOD 2013
Hollywood Gazette Reader's Choice

Nominate & Vote at

www.hollywoodgazette.com

Vote October 1-21. Winners will be announced in the November Issue.

MONTHLY FEATURE



pet of the month



Cali

Proud owners Corey and Chelsey rescued Cali (then named "Turkey") right before the Thanksgiving holiday last year. While the shelter was not sure of her breed, it wasn't until a walk in T.Y. Park, where she met a dog that looked almost identical; they were told she must be an American Dingo. How cool, right!? She continues to impress her owners everyday with her intelligence, sweetness, athleticism, and pure character. Her favorite activities include hunting lizards and gazing out the living room window with a smile on her gorgeous little face. Her unconditional love proves that she is aware of her being rescued from the shelter. What she doesn't know is that her owners feel even more lucky.

WANT YOUR PET TO BE "PET THE MONTH"?

E-mail a hi-res photo plus the name of the pet and your pet's special traits to creative@hollywoodgazette.com

How will health care reform affect your coverage?

By David Volz

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is going into effect. This may help more people, especially those individuals who have struggled to find affordable health insurance.

The ACA will be especially beneficial to people who have pre-existing conditions because insurance companies will now have to guarantee acceptance to those people with pre-existing conditions. Also, people with lower to middle class incomes will be eligible for premium subsidies through the government.

Health Insurance Marketplace open enrollment starts October 1, 2013 and ends March 31, 2014. Coverage can begin as soon as January 1, 2014.

WHAT HAPPENS OCTOBER 1?

As scheduled on October 1, there will be a market place exchange where people will be able to apply and choose a health plan that works best for them and their families. This will allow them to be screened to see if they are eligible for subsidies.

Employers with more than 51 employees are obligated to offer health insurance or face a \$2,000 per person fine. The reporting process has been postponed for 2015. Employers with fewer than 51 employees will not be obligated to provide insurance. Also, employers will not have to provide health insurance to part-time employees or people who work fewer than 30 hours a week. Those individuals who don't receive health insurance through employment must purchase a health insurance policy or pay a fine. Many people in this situation are expected to buy insurance through the exchanges. Most single people earning less than approximately \$45,000 modified adjusted gross income and families with less than approximately \$94,000 in modified adjusted gross income will receive a subsidy for health insurance.

Gabriel Brakha, owner of Insurance Consultants International, is optimistic about the new program. "I have a client who has cancer come into my office. She did not know what to do and was not sure that COBRA would apply to her. With health care reform, she will get insurance for a lower price and the chemotherapy she needs. People in lower to middle income brackets will benefit from this," said Brakha.

WHAT ABOUT PENALTIES OR INCREASED RATES?

The goal of health care reform is to ensure that everyone receives insurance. Individuals who don't receive insurance at work and don't buy it on their own will have to pay a penalty. This penalty will be up to one percent the first year and increase to up to three percent in three years. It is unknown what will happen after three years.

Brakha has found that the new plan offers 10 essential benefits, including emergency room, dental care, mental illness and more. He expects more people to be happy about this new reality. The negative is that it is likely insurance premiums will go up in price by about 30 to 40%. Also, health insurance rates will increase for smokers. Those prices should take effect on January 1st, 2014 and open enrollment starts October 1, 2013.



"The health plan will cover you and up to three dwarves."



Gabriel Brakha has over 16 years of experience in International Marketing and Business Development in the United States, Latin America and Europe. Gabriel has negotiated key accounts and established multi-channel distribution networks resulting in significant revenue growth.

WHO IS INSURANCE CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL?

Insurance Consultants International is a master agency for Blue Cross Blue Shield. Brakha's firm has a contract with Florida Blue and consists of 12 brokers who speak different languages to guide people through the exchanges.

The company offers life insurance, long term care, medicare, annuities, disability and international insurance. "We represent many carriers but our goal is to educate you on our products and solutions. Our agency is always available for simple and complex questions related to insurance."

To schedule a consultation with Gabriel Brakha or for more information, call 954-271-1131.

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WHAT'S HOT & HAPPENING IN HOLLYWOOD **OCTOBER**

5

CARDBOARD BOAT RACE

8 a.m.-4 p.m., North Lake

Teams of three or more can build boats out of cardboard and race them in North Lake. Cardboard for boat building will be available at the event. Entrants are limited to 40 boats.

Information: 954-921-3035

HOLLYWOOD ARTSPARK EXPERIENCE: ITALY

6-11 p.m., ArtsPark at Young Circle

Headliners include new-generation masters of taranta Canzoniere Greca-nico Salentino and Italian DJ, guitarist and bandleader Nicola Conte.

Information: 954-921-3500

8

PROFILES IN JAZZ SERIES

6-7:30 p.m., Stirling Road Library, 3151 Stirling Road

The Music Club of Hollywood (MCOH) presents its free weekly jazz series with lecturer Robert Grabowski. Featuring organist Dr. Loni Smith.

Information: www.musicclubofhollywoodflorida.org

12

HONOR, COURAGE & COMMITMENT 5K RUN/WALK

7 a.m.-noon, Charnow Park, Hollywood Beach

This 5K race helps to raise scholarship funds for US Naval Sea Cadets. Cost is \$25 per person if you register by 3 p.m. Oct. 11. Active military cost is

\$5. Active Sea Cadet, JROTC Cadet or students younger than 18 can participate for \$15. Race-day registration is \$35. The first 300 people to register get a T-shirt.

Information: 954-552-8995

HOLLYWOOD WEST CONCERT SERIES

7:30-9 p.m., Boulevard Heights Amphitheater, 6770 Garfield St.

Enjoy this free live music show, featuring Classic Rock Therapy.

Information: 954-921-3404

15

PROFILES IN JAZZ SERIES

6-7:30 p.m., Stirling Road Library, 3151 Stirling Road

The Music Club of Hollywood (MCOH) presents its free weekly jazz series with lecturer Robert Grabowski. Featuring guitarist Pat Martino.

Information: www.musicclubofhollywoodflorida.org

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FULL MOON DRUM CIRCLE

7-9 p.m., ArtsPark at Young Circle

All skill levels welcome. Meet at the Palm Court on the west side.

Information: 954-926-0204

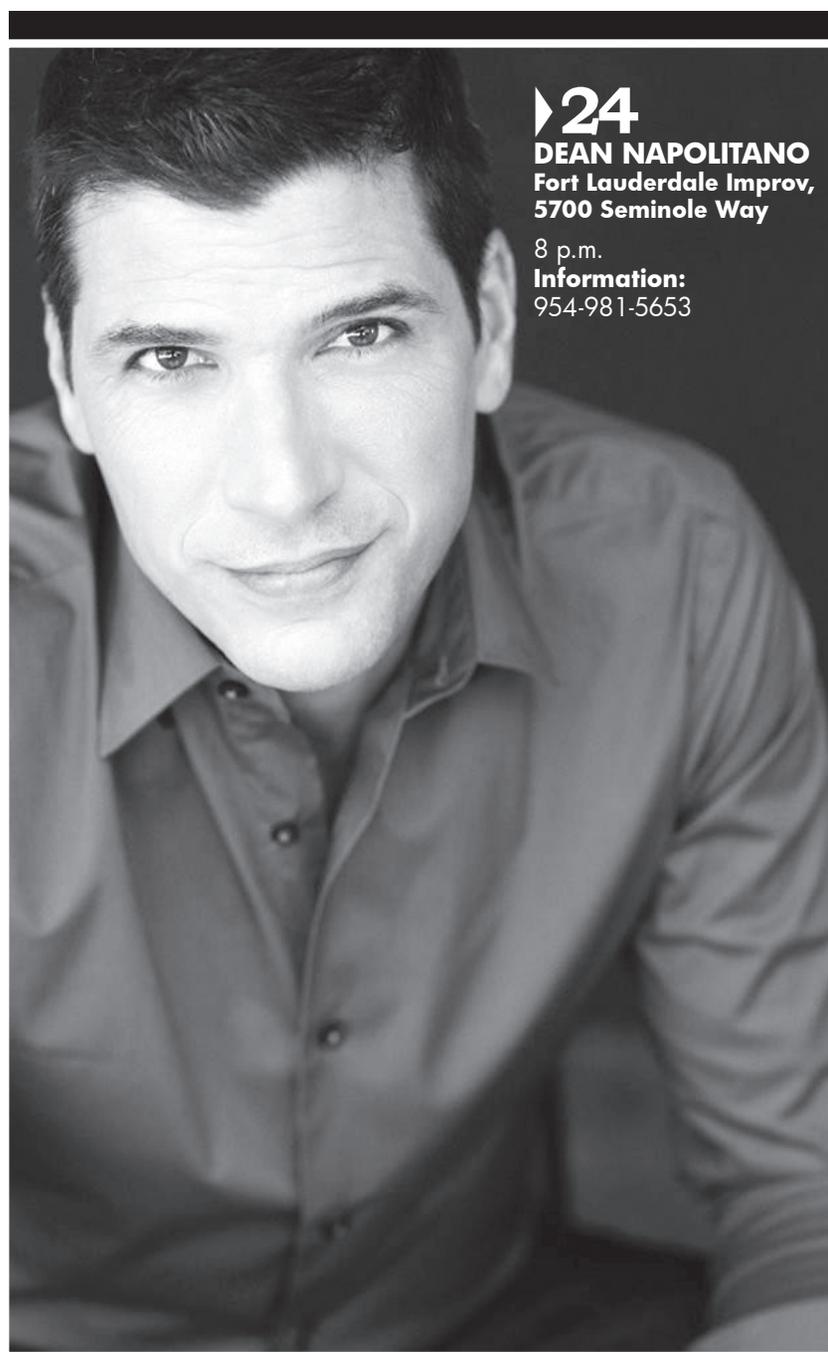
19

DOWNTOWN ARTWALK

7-10 p.m., Harrison Street area

The tour starts at 20th Avenue and Hollywood Blvd. at Anniversary Park.

Information: 954-921-3500



▶▶ **24**

DEAN NAPOLITANO
Fort Lauderdale Improv,
5700 Seminole Way

8 p.m.

Information:
954-981-5653



HARD ROCK LIVE!

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 1 Seminole Way

Oct. 6: Gary Allan, 7 p.m.

▶▶ **Oct. 11-13: PBR: Professional Bull Riders Built Ford Tough Series Cooper Tires Invitational, 8 p.m.**

Oct. 27: Alice Cooper, 7 p.m.

Oct. 29: John Fogerty, 8 p.m.

Oct. 30: WRMF Presents Barenaked Ladies with Whitehorse, 8 p.m.

Information: 954-797-5531



6 DREAM CAR CLASSIC CAR SHOW 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Hollywood Boulevard between 19th & 20th Avenue This free event features dozens of classic cars, trucks and other vehicles the first Sunday of the month. Vehicle registration is \$20. **Information:** 954-924-2980

DEJA VU FUNDRAISER

6 p.m.-midnight, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 1 Seminole Way

Go back in time to the Motown era as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward County hosts its annual fundraiser. The free festivities include live entertainment, cocktails, a silent auction, dinner and dancing.

Information: 954-584-9990

BACK TO THE '80S ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

7-11 p.m., Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory, 500 E. Chaminade Drive

Come dressed as your favorite '80s icon or in your favorite '80s fashion to celebrate the school's 25th anniversary. Tickets are \$100 and include a plated dinner, open bar and live and silent auctions.

Information: 954-989-5150

22

PROFILES IN JAZZ SERIES

6-7:30 p.m., Stirling Road Library, 3151 Stirling Road

The Music Club of Hollywood (MCOH) presents its free weekly jazz series with lecturer Robert Grabowski. Featuring double bassist Ray Brown.

Information: www.musicclubofhollywoodflorida.org

25

ARTSPARK BOO BASH

7-10 p.m., ArtsPark at Young Circle, Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1

Kids of all ages can enjoy safe Halloween trick-or-treating and a concert featuring the Monsters at

this free event. Come dressed in costume for the annual Hollywood Lakes Section Civic Association's costume contest.

Information: 954-921-3500

29

PROFILES IN JAZZ SERIES

6-7:30 p.m., Stirling Road Library, 3151 Stirling Road

The Music Club of Hollywood (MCOH) presents its free weekly jazz series with lecturer Robert Grabowski. Featuring trumpeter Clark Terry.

Information: www.musicclubofhollywoodflorida.org

31

YOUTH LIGHT THE NIGHT

6:30-11 p.m., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 2400 Charleston St.

This free alternative Halloween event offers an evening of fun, games, bounce houses, face painting, music and more.

Information: 954-921-3412

HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE

3- 5 p.m., Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, 1005 Joe DiMaggio Drive

This free gathering offers activities, games, inflatables and information to increase awareness about the Children's Hospital, its services and physicians.

Information: 954-265-2000



▶ ART & MOVIES & MUSIC

ARTSPARK LIVE!

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, ArtsPark amphitheater, Hollywood Blvd. & U.S. 1

FREE FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHTS

- Oct. 4: Casper – PG
- Oct. 11: Gremlins – PG
- Oct. 18: Beetlejuice – PG
- Oct. 25: BOO Bash – no movie

SATURDAYS

- Oct. 5: ArtsPark Experience: Italy, 7 p.m. start time
- Oct. 19: TBA
- Oct. 26: TBA

Information: 954-921-3500

HOLLYWOOD BEACH THEATRE MUSIC AND DANCING

7:30-9 p.m. Mondays-Wednesdays, Hollywood Beach Theatre, Johnson Street and the Broadwalk

MONDAYS

- Oct. 7: Tony Alexander, 1950s-'60s, doo-wop
- Oct. 14: Magic Bus, British rock
- Oct. 21: Eddie & Dina, popular standards
- Oct. 28: Nat Kaye

TUESDAYS

- Oct. 1: JayCee Driesen, the "divas"
- Oct. 8: Ruby & Sue, rockabilly & blues
- Oct. 15: El Loco – A tribute to ZZ Top, classic rock
- Oct. 22: John Ricci, popular standards
- Oct. 29: Christopher Dean, Delta-style soul & blues

WEDNESDAYS

- Oct. 2: Making Faces, rock, reggae & funky punk

Oct. 9: Mike Mettalia & Midnight Shift, blues rock

Oct. 16: King Muddfish, blues
Oct. 23: JD Danner, rockin' country
Oct. 30: Green River Monsters, Halloween concert

FRIDAYS

Oct. 4: Xpresso, Latin & Top 40
Oct. 11: Rockin' Jake, blues
Oct. 18: White Noise, classic rock
Oct. 25: Replay, dance oriented

SATURDAYS

Oct. 5: Wild Card, classic rock
Oct. 12: DJ & the Rockers, rock
Oct. 19: Spellbinder, rock'n'roll
Oct. 26: Aces & Kings, classic rock

Information: 954-921-3404

ART AND CULTURE CENTER OF HOLLYWOOD EXHIBITS

10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and Noon-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 1650 Harrison St.

These exhibits run through Oct. 27.

▶ Francesco LoCastro: Advent. LoCastro offers a new body of mixed-media work and video animation.

▶ South Florida-based artist Jessy Nite speaks through a variety of "controlled substances."

▶ The exhibition Black Eyes features never-seen-before images by acclaimed documentary-style photographer Dana Lauren Goldstein.

▶ Gustavo Matamoros' Poem (20130700) is inspired by the idea of seeing with our mind's ear. Matamoros is a sound artist and composer who lives in South Florida.

Information: 954-921-3274

8th Annual!

BEST OF HOLLYWOOD 2013

Hollywood Gazette Reader's Choice

Nominees

Restuarants & Food

BEST BURGER

Shenanigans Sports Pub

BEST CASUAL DINING

Rudy's Pub & Restaurant

Shenanigans Sports Pub

BEST LATIN AMERICAN RESTAURANT

Mamacita's Mexican Bar & Grill

BEST IRISH PUB

Mickey Byrne's

Nightlife

BEST HOLLYWOOD BAR

Shenanigans Sports Pub

BEST HAPPY HOUR

Shenanigans Sports Pub

BEST HOLLYWOOD HOT SPOT

Cuenca Cigars

NOMINATIONS AND ADDITIONAL CATEGORIES OPEN TIL OCT. 10

POLLS CLOSE OCT. 21

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Villa-Sinclair Beach Suites & SPA

Business

BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE

Emerald Hills Pharmacy

Hollywood Digital Blueprint

Impact Computers & Electronics

OXXO Care Cleaners

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Hollywood Jaycees

BEST CREATIVE INSTRUCTION

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Harris Art Studio

Muzart - Creative Arts Studios

BEST SCHOOL

Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory

Nominees listed on this page will be competing in this year's Best of Hollywood contest with additional nominees and categories which will be added through Oct. 10.

Polls open Oct. 1 and close on midnight Oct. 21 and winners will be featured in the Nov. 2013 issue of Hollywood Gazette.

Visit HollywoodGazette.com to vote or nominate.

Concern about Ben Gamla curriculum sparks inquiry by Broward Schools

By William Gjebre
BrowardBulldog.org

Broward County School officials have expressed concern that taxpayer-funded Ben Gamla Charter Schools may be violating a state law that requires charter schools to be nonsectarian in their programs and operations.

The issue arose after a local civic activist complained last month about recent comments made by Ben Gamla's founder, former Democratic Congressman Peter Deutsch, to an Israeli news service regarding the Hebrew curriculum at the Ben Gamla schools. Charlotte Greenberg urged the School Board to re-examine whether the schools breached the Constitutional separation between government and religion.

Last week, in an email to Greenberg, the director of the School Board's Charter Schools Management/Support Department said an inquiry had begun.

"The district shares your concern," said Jody Perry. "To that end, we have requested a full explanation of the comments attributed to Mr. Deutsch."

"Of the facts stated within the body of the article," Perry wrote, "the reporter notes that the program at Ben Gamla schools focus on Hebrew curriculum, which includes the history of Israel, Jewish history and Hebrew as a language.

School officials later broadened their inquiry by asking Ben Gamla's governing board to provide "a breakdown of public funds...the property and inventory, capital outlay" and other public grants received "to access the appropriate use of public funds" by the group's two charter schools in Broward.

NONSECTARIAN STATUTE

"The state statute that governs charter schools in Florida specifically addresses the nonsectarian nature of public education in the country. Pursuant to Section 1002.33(9)(a), Florida Statutes, 'A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and operations.'"

Perry could not be reached for additional comment. The district's public information office, in response to a request for additional information, stated past reviews of Ben Gamla

schools "found the curriculum to be nonsectarian."

"I'm very happy to see that the district is following up," Greenberg said. "I eagerly anticipate Mr. Deutsch's reply."

The article was written by JTA, a Jewish wire service, and appeared in The Times of Israel newspaper in mid-July.

Deutsch could not be reached for comment on the school district's concern and request for explanation.

But when the controversy arose last month, Deutsch stated the Ben Gamla schools do not violate the separation of church and state mandate. "We are careful not to teach religion. It's illegal to teach religion."

Asked then about the JTA story in the Israeli newspaper, Deutsch told Browardbulldog.org his quotes were accurate but that he could not attest to the complete accuracy of the story without reviewing it. He added, however, that he had not made a complaint about any part of the story.

In her request for a review of the Ben Gamla schools, Greenberg referred to the JTA story stating: "Deutsch is unabashed about using public money to support what he describes as Jewish identity building. Out of Ben Gamla's collective budget of \$10 million a year, Deutsch says 80 percent serves Jewish communal purposes."

The article said of Deutsch, "He wants to give Jewish kids who otherwise would attend public school an opportunity to be in a Jewish environment and develop a Jewish identity."

The review by the Broward school district would involve two Ben Gamla schools, one on Hollywood Boulevard across from Hollywood city hall and the other in Sunrise. There are two other Ben Gamla schools, in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties.

The controversy flared as Ben Gamla teamed with Miami-Dade's highly-regarded Doral Preparatory Academy to seek Hollywood's approval of a special exemption to build a four-story 1,050-student middle-senior high school on Van Buren Street, behind the existing K-8 school. It will also seek school board approval for a charter for the facility.

BIG TURNOUT AT CITY HALL

Four neighborhood associations representing area homeowners are fighting the proposal for another school, citing the likelihood of increased traffic congestion.

The matter was discussed informally at a community meeting last Wednesday night at city hall. Commissioner Peter Hernandez, who represents the district where the school is to be built, sponsored the gathering. The meeting was moved outside after more than 250 people unexpectedly showed up.

Most of those in attendance were the parents and children who attend Ben Gamla schools.

"We want to give our kids a better future," said Mike Gerson, who has a fourth grader and a seventh grader at Ben Gamla. Chantale Ragnauth, 31, whose son is in the third grade, said, "It feels like family; it's an amazing school."

"People drive through my yard," yelled a neighborhood resident.

Commissioner Hernandez cited the

concerns of his constituents.

"We are not against the school... but there is a traffic nightmare...there are traffic issues that need to be worked out," Hernandez said. He added that he has tried to get school officials to help solve traffic congestion created by the existing K-8, but got no response.

Deutsch, who attended the meeting, said solutions now proposed by the school will improve traffic "dramatically."

The meeting ended on a bitter note.

"I love the fact that you came out," Hernandez told the Ben Gamla supporters, drawing jeers when he said "most of you don't live here (in the immediate neighborhood)."

"The good thing is he (Hernandez) is only one of seven votes," said Deutsch, drawing cheers from his backers.

William Gjebre can be reached at wgjebre@browardbulldog.org

OPEN HOUSE



Join us **October 19th** from **10am until 1pm** at **Beauty of Wax** for informative sessions and workshops on Body Sculpting and Beauty Treatments.

Sample treatments will be offered. First 20 guests will receive a sampler bag. Raffles with give aways from local businesses. Mimosas will be served.

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Miami Dolphins visit Ben Gamla Charter School for junior training camp



including healthy food choices in the cafeteria and a P.E. program.

The Miami Dolphins Youth Programs' vision is to prepare the next generation of leaders in staying physically active through our Junior Training

Camps, Youth

Football Clinics and Youth Football Camps, while also emphasizing the significance of education and making positive choices.

You may visit DolphinsAcademy.com or call (305) 943-7272 to learn more about Junior Training Camps, Youth Football Clinics and summer camps.

football, going under hurdles and running in-between step overs and dummies.

"I think it was a great JTC to begin the new school year," Drayton said. "The students, staff and faculty were all very helpful today, and it was a pleasure doing the event at Ben Gamla. We'd be happy to return to the school."

Ben Gamla Charter, which serves approximately 675 students in grades K-8, has its own health initiatives,

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The Miami Dolphins made their first Gatorade Junior Training Camp (JTC) visit of the new school year, to nearby Ben Gamla Charter School in Hollywood, and nearly 300 children participated in the event. The camp consisted of six interactive football drills, the "Dol-Fit" message and cheerleader routines.

"It means a great deal to the kids. It actually brings something they see on TV to reality for them," Ben Gamla Charter Assistant Principal Orli Goldstein said. "I think the message is a wonderful thing and the kids realize that eating healthy and exercising is just good and healthy to do."

The JTC started with Dolphins Youth Programs Coordinator Troy Drayton expressing to the students the importance of eating healthy, staying physically active and making positive choices.

The kids were then treated to six drills, which included a myriad of football-related activities, such as throwing and running with the

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Free bully defense clinic for kids set for Oct. 12



On Saturday, October 12, newly-opened Florida Wushu Kung Fu Academy is offering a free "Bully Defense Clinic for Kids."

Florida Wushu Kung Fu Academy's owner and Grand Master Rafael Qian Rivero, doesn't want his students to get violent. He wants them to protect themselves against violence and bullying.

"There are certain physical barriers they can use - putting their hands up, using their voice," Rivero said. "In case there's a physical altercation, we want them to be physically agile and have the skills necessary to get away from the situation."

Even though martial arts classes might look aggressive, Rivero says the theory behind them is based on emotional

and intellectual strength centered in a calm demeanor. "It focuses around empowering kids and helping them with their

self-esteem and self-confidence," he said.

The Bully Defense Class is from 11 - 11:45 a.m. for 6-10 year olds and from noon - 1 p.m. for 11-15 year olds.

The academy offers Tai Chi, Qigong, Wushu Kung Fu, and Sanshou (Sparring) and Kickboxing for children, teenagers, adults and seniors.

Florida Wushu Kung Fu Academy is located at 617 N. 21st Ave, Hollywood.

For additional information or to register for the Bully Defense class, call (954) 292-6436.

2014 Hollywood budget passes without tax increase

By David Volz

The residents of Hollywood have received some good news. Their taxes have not gone up.

The Hollywood Commission passed an overall \$462.1 budget for fiscal year 2014. The General Fund budget is \$197.7 million, an increase of 12.1 percent from 2013. The City is not proposing a tax increase or an increase in the fire assessment fee.

The proposed millage rate is 7.4479. One mil represents one dollar per every thousand dollars on a property.

"Our millage rate is not going up. Property values have gone up. We can balance the budget with the current rate and no tax increase. We are not seeing an increase in the fire assessment which is \$189 per residential unit," said Raelin Storey, Public Affairs Director for Hollywood.

The budget situation has improved dramatically for Hollywood. The City is moving into a structurally balanced budget. "We have been able to build a reserve. We finally have a healthy reserve fund and will not have to raise taxes. If property values increase, we will look at a tax reduction in the future. We are coming out of difficult years and we want to make sure we are on track to build reserves," said Storey.

A municipal budget consists of several different types of funds. The General Fund is one of the largest. All services not specifically funded by other sources, as the Water and Sewer Fund or the Parking Fund are funded by the General Fund. The increase in this year's General Fund is attributable to an increase in the City's fund balance reserve, as well as partial salary restorations. This also covers increased pension costs, health benefits and self-insurance costs, according to Storey.

MONTHLY FEATURE



baby of the month



Julianna Angelique Utter

Julianna Angelique Utter was born Monday, August 19, 2013 at 10:13am in Memorial Regional Hospital weighing 6lbs, 8ozs, 20inches A "Little Mermaid" washed up on shore into Our Lives & In Our Hearts!

From Christine, Patrick & "Big Brother" Matthew Utter

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E-mail a hi-res photo plus the name of the parents and your baby's special traits to creative@hollywoodgazette.com

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR MORTGAGE WITH NEW STATE PROGRAM

The Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) recently announced that Florida homeowners who have remained current on their mortgages may apply for federal assistance from the Florida Hardest-Hit Fund Principal Reduction (HHF-PR) Program. The online application, www.PrincipalReductionFLHHF.org, opened at 9 a.m. on Sept. 20, and is available in all 67 counties. Applications started to be taken online Weds, Sept. 25 at 9:00 and will close as soon as they receive 25,000 applications- statewide, per the website information.

“Florida Housing’s Board of Directors approved \$350 million in federal Hardest-Hit funds allocated to our state to be used specifically for a principal reduction program,” said Steve Auger, executive director of Florida Housing. “While our state’s housing market continues to recover, many Florida homeowners have remained current on their mortgage payments in spite of their homes being substantially underwater. For those who qualify, this new program can help to reduce their principal balance, which can result in a lower monthly payment and put more money in their pockets.”

Initially, only 25,000 completed and submitted applications will be accepted for eligibility determination, via the website only. When that number has been reached, the ability to start a new application will be disabled so that staff can begin processing the completed applications. However, if additional funding is available for the program after this initial launch, Florida Housing will notify the public prior to re-opening the application process.

The Florida HHF-PR program is designed to provide up to \$50,000 to eligible homeowners who owe at least 125% more on their home than its current market value—commonly known as having a home that is “underwater.” Funds will be applied to reduce the principal balance of the first mortgage

to reduce the loan-to-value (LTV) of the first mortgage to no less than 100%. The mortgage can then be recast (re-amortized) or refinanced to produce a lower monthly mortgage payment.

The minimum qualifications a homeowner must meet to be considered for participation in the Florida HHF-PR program are as follows:

- Must be a Florida resident and a legal US resident/legal alien, and occupy the property as the primary residence;
- Must be current on the monthly mortgage payment—first mortgage payment cannot have been 60 or more days late within the past 24 months;
- The first mortgage must have originated prior to January 1, 2010;
- The unpaid principal balance for the first mortgage cannot exceed \$350,000;
- The loan-to-value for the first mortgage must be greater than 125%—in other words, home must be more than 125% “underwater”; and
- The total household income, including all persons age 18 years and older who live in the home, must be less than 140% of the area median income.

Principal reduction program funds will be in the form of a 0% percent, deferred-payment loan that will be subordinate to current mortgages on the home. The loan can be forgiven over a five-year period, at a rate of 20% each year. For conventional mortgages, once HHF-PR funds are applied to the principal, the mortgage will be recast (the terms of the loans will remain the same, but the loan will be re-amortized).

If the borrower has a FHA, VA or USDA-RD mortgage, the mortgage will need to be refinanced within 120 days after closing on HHF principal reduction funds in order to receive the pro rata forgiveness.

If a refinance is not completed within the specified time, the principal reduction loan will be 100% forgiven after a full five years of the borrower remaining in the home.



The official Florida HHF-PR website is the only way a homeowner can apply for assistance. Therefore, homeowners should verify that they are using www.PrincipalReductionFLHHF.org before providing personal information via the web. If applicants are suspicious about a website, they can submit a report on the official HHF-PR website by clicking the “Report Fraud” link on the homepage. Also, they may call the Florida HHF Toll-free Information Line to ensure they are using the correct website address.

Application for the Florida HHF-PR program is FREE-OF-CHARGE, and applicants will not be asked to pay for any eligibility determination services in conjunction with applying for the program.

First announced on February 19, 2010, by the US Department of the Treasury (Treasury), the “Housing Finance Agency (HFA) Innovation Fund for the Hardest-Hit Housing Markets” (HFA Hardest-Hit Fund) provides federal funding to states hardest hit by

the aftermath of the burst of the housing bubble. To date, \$7.6 billion has been infused into the HFA Hardest-Hit Fund for 18 states and the District of Columbia; Florida’s allocation stands at more than \$1 billion. The goal is to help create sustainable homeownership in our state.

For more information, visit Broward Housing Council: <http://www.broward.org/BrowardHousingCouncil/HousingResourcesServices/Pages/IncomeLimits.aspx>

Homeowners in every Florida county may apply for the Florida HHF-PR program by using the official website: www.PrincipalReductionFLHHF.org. The site contains all the information users will need to begin the application process, including a program fact sheet and answers to frequently asked questions. The Florida HHF Toll-free Information Line [1-(877)-863-5244] is open Monday through Friday until 5 p.m. ☎

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October Party with a Purpose to feature Halloween costume contest set for Oct. 24 at the Swamp Bar

PHOTOS BY MELISSA DONALDSON



Party with a Purpose (PWP) is a monthly networker/fundraiser sponsored by the Hollywood Gazette and hosted at the Hard Rock's Seminole Paradise. Each month, people network and support a different non-profit in the community. September's Party at with a Purpose The Swamp Bar, benefitted the Hollywood Women's Club.

The next PWP is on Thursday, Oct. 24th at

the Swamp Bar to with all net proceeds to benefit the Friends of Broward Homeless.

Show up in costume for a chance to win a \$100 cash prize!

Tickets are \$10 at the door. The public is invited to attend. For more information, photos from past events or to RSVP, visit www.facebook.com/pwhollywood.



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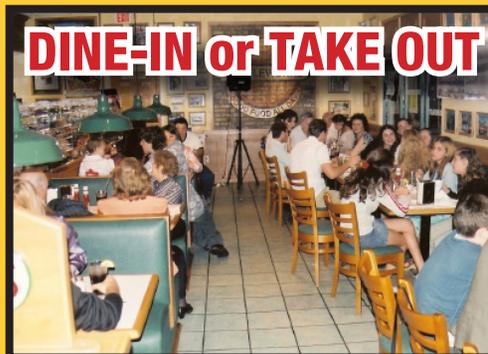


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This special is valid at the Humane Society of Broward County's main location at 2070 Griffin Road and adoption hours are Mon. - Sat. 10am - 6:30pm and Sun. from 10am - 5:30pm.

For more information call the shelter at 954-989-3977 or to see pets available for adoption visit www.humanebroward.com.

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Hot Topics Artist Series 2013/14

Wayne White

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013

Reception – 5 pm; Lecture & Q&A – 6 pm

Award-winning artist Wayne White's one-of-a-kind autobiographical PowerPoint presentation, "You're Supposed to Act All Impressed," features live banjo and harmonica performances, snarky puppets, 1960s family film clips, MTV video snippets, and images of his witty and provocative "Word" paintings, sculptures and installations. White has created paintings and public works that have been shown all over the world.

Hot Topics features four lectures by renowned practitioners in the contemporary visual arts that will address their process and the vital role the arts play in our community. Each event includes a guest reception with the speaker, lecture, and a Q&A period.

- **Lyle Ashton Harris**
Friday, Dec. 13, 2013
- **Andrea Zittel**
Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014
- **Whole Day Down with Dan Fauci**
Saturday, April 5, 2014

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The Hot Topics Artist Series is supported in part by a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as part of the Knight Arts Challenge. Thanks to Event Chairs Lou Anne and Mike Colodny. Additional support is provided by Marianne Ferro, Bonnie Eletz, and donations made in memory of Natalia Hnatiuk.

The Art and Culture Center of Hollywood is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported in part by its members, admissions, private entities, the City of Hollywood, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and the Kresge Foundation. We welcome donations from all members of the community who wish to support our work.

Image: Wayne White, photo by Neil Berkeley



Downtown Hollywood Mural Project Panel Discussion

Thursday, October 24, 2013, 6 pm

This panel discussion about the Downtown Hollywood murals will be moderated by the project's curator, Jill C. Weisberg of the Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency. On the panel will be four of the artists who have created murals: Evoca1, Jessy Nite, Tati Suarez, and Michelle Weinberg.

Tickets are free for members, \$10 for non-members.
For more information visit
ArtandCultureCenter.org/downtown-hollywood-mural.

Tour de Fashion

Friday, October 25, 2013, 10 am – 4 pm

Role Model luncheon honoring John Stengel: 12 pm

The Colonnade Outlets at Sawgrass Mills presents its premier "Tour de Fashion" to benefit the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood and other organizations and recognize 2013 Role Model **John Stengel**.

100% of the ticket proceeds benefit the organizations. Make sure you select the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood as your organization of choice! Takes place at The Colonnade Outlets at Sawgrass Mills 12801 W. Sunrise Blvd, Sunrise.



Tickets are \$30 at Designer level and \$75 at Couture VIP level; visit ArtAndCultureCenter.org/tour-de-fashion.

Glam Air – Flight 1975

Saturday, November 23, 2013, 7 – 10 pm

The Art and Culture Center of Hollywood invites you to experience Glam Air Flight 1975 – Destination Hot Hollywood Glam!

Our contemporary art galleries at 1650 Harrison Street, Hollywood, will be transformed into an "airport lounge" in the year 1975 – the same year the Art and Culture Center began!

Tickets are \$115 per person. If you purchase your ticket before November 8, 2013, you will be entered in a random drawing to win a 2-night, 3-day Grand Deluxe hotel stay at the Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa. For more information, to purchase tickets and for sponsorship opportunities, visit ArtAndCultureCenter.org/hot-hollywood-glam.



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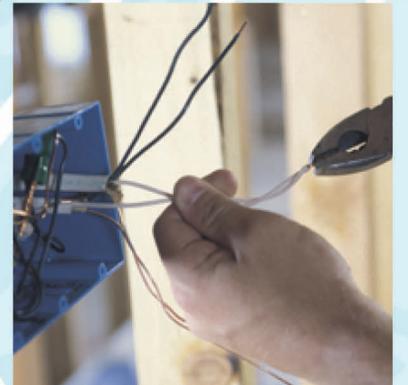
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Scenes from Recent Chamber Events

The September Good Morning Hollywood Breakfast Meeting took place at the Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa and featured a popular tabletop expo that highlighted a variety of area business and services. Our keynote speaker was Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, the City Manager of Hollywood; Waste Pro generously sponsored the event. We hope you enjoy these photos from the breakfast.



Wheeling and Dealing... on the Golf Course

Ever wonder just how many business deals are actually made on the golf course versus the office? According to one vice president of marketing at a Fortune 500 company, it's about 80%! It's common knowledge that a good game of golf provides just the entrée business people need to close deals and make good business contact. Sure, the paperwork may eventually be signed back at the office, but the real deals are made on the course.

Here's more to think about: According to a New York-based study published in the New York Times, 93% of executives said that playing golf with a business associate was "a good way to establish a closer relationship" and more than a third said "some of their biggest deals were made on a golf course."

There's never been a better excuse



You never know who's going to show up at the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce's annual golf tournament! Friday December 6th at 11:30 am, businesses will be teeing off for good times and good networking!

to play golf before! The Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce's 30th Annual Golf Classic is being held on Friday, December 6th at The Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa. Greg Norman Jr. will serve as the honorary chair of this tournament. "We are very excited to work with Greg on this event and are looking forward to a great outing

at one of the world's most sought-after courses," says chamber executive director Anne Hotte. "The Westin Diplomat has been listed in Conde Nast Traveler as one of the 100 best golf resorts in the world and the Director of Golf Sean Gradomski, is making sure that our players share that experience! "

This tournament is an excellent opportunity for you to get to know a client or co-worker better while meeting other movers and shakers in the South Florida community. Serving as a sponsor further serves to

promote your business to all who attend and attractive sponsorship opportunities are still available.

For details, please call Marie Suarez at 954.923.4000 or visit the chamber's website at www.hollywoodchamber.org.

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Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Good Morning Hollywood Breakfast

7:30 a.m.
Crowne Plaza Hollywood Beach
4000 South Ocean Drive, Hollywood
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35 class members beginning the experience of a lifetime under the leadership of Chair Andrew Zullo and Vice-Chairs Shannon Stough and Chad Simon. Call the Chamber if you want to join the class!
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Affordable Healthcare Act Educational Seminar

11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
330 N. Federal Highway, Hollywood
Members free/\$25 future members

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Mediation & Conflict Resolution Education Seminar

11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
330 N. Federal Highway, Hollywood
Facilitated by Stuart Reed of Law & Mediation, LLC
Members free/\$25 future members

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Business After Hours

5 to 7 p.m.
Taverna Opa Hollywood
410 N. Ocean Drive, Hollywood
\$7 members in advance online/\$10 members at the door/\$12 future members

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

W.O.M.E.N. Luncheon

11:30 a.m.
Kathleen Cannon, CEO of United Way of Broward County and Elizabeth Cambareri, VP of Leadership Council for United Way of Broward County
Memorial Regional Hospital South
3600 Washington Street, Hollywood
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Registration required for all events. Call 954.923.4000 or register online for any of these events at www.hollywoodchamber.org.

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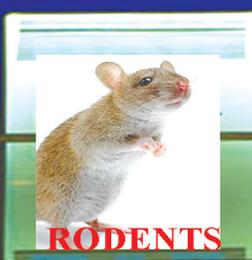
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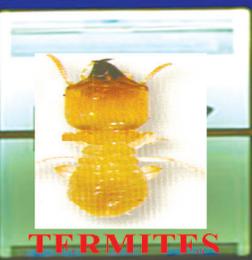


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New residential tower breaks ground Downtown Hollywood



First residential tower to be built since the recession

H3, a residential tower with 247 luxury residences that will be located in the heart of downtown Hollywood broke ground on September 12.

“It is with great excitement that we announce the construction of H3, the first residential tower to be built in downtown Hollywood since the recession,” Diego Besga, Partner said. “H3 is designed for young professionals, families, and anyone who wishes to live in a modern and artful

residential tower in walking distance to downtown Hollywood.”

“The development of H3 in downtown Hollywood will be a significant addition to the district, attracting new residents to the city’s urban core,” said Jorge Camejo, Executive Director of the Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

Completion is scheduled for winter 2015. H3 will be located at 2165 Van Buren St, Hollywood.

The H3 sales center is slated to open in fall, 2013 and will be located at 2100 Hollywood Blvd, Suite CU 115 or visit www.h3condo.com.



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D' Art Vine Gallery branches out with fine art and fine wines

Local octogenarian is among the artists exhibiting at Downtown Hollywood gallery

By Caron Conway

D' Art Vine, an art gallery, studio and custom framing shop in Downtown Hollywood, is branching out with more artist exhibitions and a unique new concept that soon will pair art with wine.

Beginning in October, D' Art Vine will carry a variety of European and American fine wines available for purchase by the bottle. By the end of the year, art and wine aficionados can enjoy the best of both worlds, sipping wine by the glass while perusing the contemporary paintings and sculptures on display in the 1,000-square-foot gallery space.

"Art and wine are a good pairing. Wine is an art in and of itself," said artist Diana Rodriguez, who opened D' Art Vine with her brother Carlos in September 2011 at 2000 Harrison St., Suite 4. "Even the name of the gallery goes so well with wine."

D' Art Vine already has undergone a "big change" in the past six months, Rodriguez added. "The gallery used to be like a gift shop. Now it's more like a gallery, and I'm already hosting more artists within the gallery."

In addition to the Rodriguezes, who hail from Bogotá, Colombia, seven multicultural South Florida artists with roots that include Latin America and Cuba are currently exhibiting their work at D' Art Vine. Among them is local artist Francesco Cristino, 86, a native of Turin, Italy, who started seriously painting at age 80 and specializes in Hollywood Beach scenes.

Cristino dabbled in painting as a 16-year-old, some 70 years ago, but "after that, I was too busy," said the retired architect, who designed homes and apartment buildings in Chile.

Although he never had any formal art training, "When you study architecture, you acquire some skill for drawing," said Cristino, who started developing his artistic talent in 2007 while living in Argentina. After the spry octogenarian returned to South Florida two years ago, he found inspiration just a walk away from home along Hollywood Beach.



D' Art Vine Gallery currently showcases five of Cristino's oil paintings on wood. "I want to paint some other things too – trees and landscapes and portraits," he said.

Rodriguez said that with the addition of new artists and fine wines, D' Art Vine is living up to its name.

"We anticipated the growth of the gallery like a vine, but even more, it's

about branching," she said. "If we all grow together, we all become a very luscious vine."

D' Art Vine Gallery also specializes in fine art restoration and faux finishes, and offers art classes for adults and children ages 8 and older. For more information, call 954-455-5594 or visit www.dartvine.com.

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HOW TO WIN THE BATTLE OF THE FOOD CRAVINGS

You wake up each morning with every intention of eating "good" today.



Shondelle Solomon-Miles

You'll skip the drive thru line on your way to work. You'll refuse to get fast food with co-workers at lunch. You'll boycott the vending machine in the mid-afternoon. And you won't even think about having dessert after dinner.

But then your cravings win.

Your friend drops by with a big fresh blueberry muffin and a latte for breakfast. A group of co-workers invite you to that greasy spoon down the street for lunch. Cake is passed around at the mid-afternoon staff meeting. And after dinner your honey surprises you with a bowl of your favorite ice cream.

You tell yourself that tomorrow will be different.

Tomorrow you won't give in to food cravings.

But then tomorrow comes with its own special circumstances, and cravings get the best of you once again.

WHY DO FOOD CRAVINGS ALWAYS WIN?

Let's face it, we live in a world where food temptations are everywhere...which lead to cravings, which lead to you eating things that you shouldn't. Again. And again. And again. Until you're so fed up with your body that you don't even know where to begin to get yourself back on track.

Stores display the most tantalizing junk food items right where you could easily reach them. TV commercials for greasy, fattening foods portray them so scrumptiously that you literally salivate. Sugary snack items have full-page, glossy pictures in your favorite magazines. And as if all of these weren't enough, the people in your daily life are another, constant source of food temptation.

To make matters worse, you've been conditioned since childhood to have a positive association with the act of indulging in your cravings. You use food as a reward. You use food as a source of emotional comfort. You use food as a way to relieve stress. And quickly these associations and uses of food become habit. A habit not easily broken.

NEW TECHNIQUE TO END FOOD CRAVINGS

Food cravings don't need to have the upper hand on you anymore. Here's how you can fight back using your most powerful asset: your brain.

Remember that your mind is an amazing thing. Once your mind is made up about something it's nearly impossible to change it.

Try This Powerful Mind

Exercise: Imagine that you are peacefully floating down a river on a raft. The sun is shining, birds are chirping, and you are having a fun, relaxing time.

You feel wonderful about the river because it's making you feel happy.

Now change perspectives for a moment. You're now in a plane flying over the river and the raft. Instantly our eye is drawn to an enormous rocky waterfall. Then you look back to the person floating on the raft, having a wonderful time, headed straight for the treacherous falls.

With this new perspective of the river, do you think that you'd agree to get on a raft and take your chances floating toward the falls? Laughable, right? You've seen the hidden danger of the river. You know it leads to pain and suffering.

Now your negative association (watery death) with the river has replaced your initial positive association (relaxing fun).

This is the key to overcoming food temptations and putting an end to food cravings: building negative associations in place of existing positive ones. I'll break this process down for you in two steps:

Step One: Create a STRONG Negative Association with Unhealthy Food

You may not have realized it, but up until this point you've placed unhealthy, fattening foods on a pedestal in your mind. As long as the wrong foods are on that pedestal you'll continue to give into your cravings and will continue to gain fat.

Take the wrong food off that pedestal by listing off everything negative about them...

These foods make you unhealthy.

These foods cause weight gain.
These foods drain your energy.
These foods kill your confidence.
These foods lessen your quality of life.

Every time that you feel tempted to eat an unhealthy food, focus on your list of negatives. Kick the junk

off the pedestal and put something healthy in its place.

Step Two: Create a STRONG Positive Association with wholesome foods

Now that your mental food pedestal has been cleared, put truly wholesome food items on it. Juicy fresh fruit, crispy vegetables and savory lean meats are the place to start.

List off the things that you love about healthy food...

These foods make you healthy.
These foods promote fat loss.

These foods boost your energy.
These foods improve your

quality of life.

I encourage you to immerse yourself into the world of healthy, wholesome foods. Browse the aisles of your local natural foods store. Stroll through a farmer's market. Pack healthy snacks to bring to work. Clear your kitchen of junk.

Use the technique above consistently and you will soon find that healthy, wholesome foods are your favorite.

And craving the wrong foods will be a thing of your past. 🌿

Shondelle Solomon-Miles is the Head Fitness coach and owner of Synergize Home of CrossFit 954. To schedule a FREE one-on-one consultation with Shondelle visit www.CrossFit954.com

Gavin Duffy named 'player of the year'

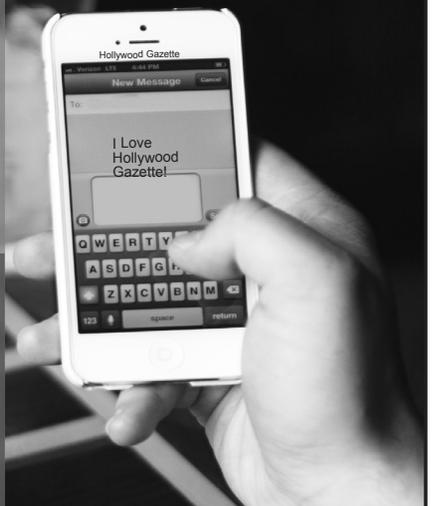


Hollywood-resident Gavin Duffy was recently recognized by the Gold Coast Junior Golf Foundation as player of the year in the 6 and under division for the 2012/2013 season.

Gavin played in 10 tournaments and won 1st place in two of them including the Okee Cup qualifier allowing Gavin to represent his age division in the Okee Cup.

Gavin is a first grader at Beachside Montessori School and has been participating in the Orangebrook Golf & Country Club Junior Golf clinics since he was 3 years old. Gavin will be playing in the boys 8 and under division this coming year.

Text your comments to the publisher



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Deliciously Scary Treats

FOR GOBLINS AND GHOULS OF ALL AGES

FAMILY FEATURES

This Halloween, throw a wickedly wonderful fete for family and friends. With help from the Wilton entertaining experts, you'll have all the tricks to treat your guests to a spooky celebration that will leave them howling with delight. Halloween's not just for the kids anymore, so before you put on your costume, grab your baking and decorating supplies and get ready to let the creepy crawlers loose.

"Halloween is the one time of the year that you can take your decorating skills to the dark side," said Nancy Siler, vice president of consumer affairs at Wilton. "From finishing pumpkin cookies with ghastly grins to creating creepy cakes decorated like graveyard skulls, it's the perfect holiday to have some fun in the kitchen."

Try these tips from the Wilton test kitchen for tasty and terrifying treats:

- **Creepy Cupcakes:** Transform traditional cupcakes into other worldly creations by decorating with eyeballs, spider webs or candy corn. Set up a decorating table during your Halloween party and let kids make their own creepy creations.
- **Trick the Treat:** Swap out the standard packaged treats for homemade sweets. Wrap cookies, pumpkin cake pops and lollipops in decorative party bags for a fearfully fun take-home treat.
- **Mummy Wrap:** Dress up your Halloween treats with themed baking cups. Pumpkins, mummies and ghosts are an instant way to give your party extra personality.
- **Stack the Skulls:** Turn the crouque-en-bouche, a popular French dessert, on its head by replacing cream puffs with mini-skeleton skulls. To increase the scare factor, mix in bone-shaped cookies and antique the treats with Candy Melts candy and Color Mist food color spray.

Try these recipes for Pumpkin Cake Pops and Graveyard Crouque-en-Bouche for a spook-tacular Halloween party. For more unique decorating ideas and recipes visit www.wilton.com.

Tower of Horror Treats

Skull Cakes:

Makes 8 skulls

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 2/3 cups granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- Pinch ground nutmeg
- 1-1/3 cups vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups applesauce
- Buttercream icing

Preheat oven to 325°F. Prepare Dimensions Mini Skull Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cloves and nutmeg. In small bowl, whisk together oil, eggs and applesauce. Add to dry ingredients, stirring until well combined. Fill each cavity about 2/3 full with 1/3 cup batter. Reserve remaining batter.

Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 15 minutes. Remove to cooling grid and cool completely. Bake remaining batter as above.

To assemble, cut the domes off of fronts and backs of skulls and sandwich with buttercream icing.

Jolly Jack-o-Lantern Cookies

Makes about 2 dozen cookies

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1-1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract (optional)
- 2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Light Green, Black, Red and Orange Sparkle Gel

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly spray Easy Decorate Pumpkin Cookie Pan with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer at medium speed until well blended. Beat in egg and extracts; mix well. Combine flour and salt; add to butter mixture. Beat until well blended. Press dough into cavities, filling 2/3 full.

Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until light brown around edges. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Turn pan over; lightly tap pan to remove cookies. Cool completely on cooling grid.

Decorate cooled cookies with Sparkle Gel, using light green for stem; black for eyes, mouths and mustaches; red for tongue; and orange for remaining pumpkin areas. Let set, about 1/2 hour.

Cookie Bones:

Makes about 3 dozen cookies

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1-1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract (optional)
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly spray Bones Cookie Pan cavities with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer at medium speed until well blended. Beat in egg and extracts; mix well. Combine flour and salt; add to butter mixture. Beat until well blended. Press dough into prepared pan cavities, filling 2/3 full.

Bake 9 to 10 minutes or until light brown around edges. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Turn pan over; lightly tap pan to remove cookies. Cool completely on cooling grid.

To decorate and assemble:

- Yellow candy color from Primary Candy Color Set, optional
- 3 (12-ounce) bags White Candy Melts Candy, melted
- 1 (12-ounce) bag Black Candy Melts Candy, melted
- Large Candy Eyeballs
- Brown Color Dust, optional

Place assembled cakes and cookies on cooling grid positioned over cookie sheet. If desired, add yellow candy color to melted white candy; pour over cakes and cookies until well coated. Chill 10 to 15 minutes or until set. Repeat if needed.

Using disposable decorating bag, pipe melted black candy face details on skull cakes; chill 5 to 10 minutes or until set. Attach candy eyeballs to skulls with dots of melted candy. If desired, brush Color Dust highlights on candy-covered bones and skulls.

Using melted white candy, secure four decorated skull cakes to cake base or serving platter, hold until set; insert decorated bone cookies between cakes. Add second row of skulls, positioning between the skulls below and securing with melted candy; hold until set. Add bone cookies between skulls. Secure final skull to top of tower with melted candy; hold until set. Arrange remaining bone cookies around base of cake tower.

Happily Haunted Lollipops

Each lollipop serves 1

- White, Light and Dark Cocoa, Yellow, Black and Limited Edition Pumpkin Spice or Orange Candy Melts Candy
- 11.75 inch lollipop sticks

Melt Candy Melts candy as needed following package instructions. Pipe or brush details of Candy Corn/Pumpkin Lollipop Mold with melted candy; chill in refrigerator 5 to 10 minutes or until set.

Fill candy mold cavities with contrasting melted candy. Place lollipop stick into mold, rotating the stick so it is completely covered with melted candy. Chill in refrigerator 10 to 15 minutes or until set. Remove from candy mold.

NOTE: For simpler preparation, lollipops can be molded using a single candy variety.

Spirited Pumpkin Cake Pops

Each pop serves 1

- 1 package (15.5 to 18.25 ounces) yellow cake mix
- Water, eggs and oil to prepare mix
- Orange, Black and White Candy Melts Candy
- Black/White Colored Lollipop Sticks
- Candy Eyeballs

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare 12-cavity Silicone Petite Pumpkin Mold with vegetable pan spray.

Prepare cake mix following package instructions; fill silicone mold cavities 2/3 full with cake batter. Bake 8 to 12 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from mold and cool completely.

Melt orange Candy Melts candy following package instructions. Dip lollipop sticks in melted candy; insert into bottom of cakes. Using spatula or butter knife, spread melted candy onto backs of cakes; chill in refrigerator 5 to 10 minutes or until set. Place cooled cakes on cooling grid positioned over cookie sheet, candy side down; spoon or pipe melted candy over cakes until well coated. Chill in refrigerator 10 to 15 minutes or until set. Repeat if desired.

Melt black Candy Melts candy in disposable decorating bag; cut small hole in tip of bag and pipe mouth, nose and eyebrows on pumpkins. If desired, pipe melted white candy teeth. Attach candy eyeballs with dots of melted candy.

COOKING
WITH

Red Hot Tomatoes



FAMILY FEATURES

Ketchup may be the first thing you think of when tomatoes are mentioned. But tomatoes are also the main ingredients in many other delicious meals.

"Tomatoes are incredibly versatile, buy them when in season for the best taste and texture," said Chef Justin Timineri, executive chef and culinary ambassador, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. "When in season, tomatoes are always on the top of my shopping list."

Find more "Cool Cooking with Red Hot Tomatoes" recipes at <http://bit.ly/fltomatoes>.



Chef Justin Timineri

Tomato Cornbread

Servings: 6 to 10

- 1 box cornbread mix
- 1 Florida onion, diced small
- Olive oil
- Sea salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste
- 1 cup Jack cheese, grated
- 2 large Florida tomatoes, chopped

Follow directions on cornbread box to mix batter. Preheat oven as listed on cornbread box instructions.

Preheat a large cast iron skillet over medium heat. Add diced onion and drizzle of olive oil to cast iron skillet. Season onion with salt and pepper to taste, and cook onion until tender.

Fold half of cheese into cornbread batter. Pour cornbread batter into pan with onions. Add remaining cheese to top of cornbread mixture. Add diced tomatoes to top of cornbread mixture. Bake as directed on box. Remove from oven when golden brown and cooked throughout. Let cool slightly and serve warm.

Kids Can: Pour cornbread batter into pan with adult supervision.

Grown Up Alert: Have an adult help with oven.

Tomatoes on Toast

Servings: 2

- 2 Florida tomatoes
- 4 slices whole-wheat bread
- 2 tablespoons low-fat mayonnaise
- Sea salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon Parmesan cheese

Remove the core from tomatoes and cut into thin slices. Toast bread slices and assemble open-faced sandwiches by placing 1/2 tablespoon of mayonnaise on each slice of bread. Place tomato slices on top. Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with Parmesan cheese.

Kids Can: Help place tomatoes on toast and garnish with Parmesan cheese.

Pita Perfect

Servings: 2

- 1 whole-wheat pita pocket
- 2 teaspoons light mayonnaise
- 1/2 Florida tomato, sliced
- 1/2 Florida avocado, sliced
- 2 leaves Florida lettuce
- 4 pieces low-sodium bacon, cooked

Slice pita pocket in half and spread with 1 teaspoon of mayonnaise on the inside of each half. Stuff each pita half with 2 slices tomato, 2 slices avocado, 1 lettuce leaf and 2 slices of bacon.

Kids Can: Help stuff the ingredients into pita pockets.

Grown Up Alert: Adults may need to help slice tomatoes and avocados.

Tomato Basil Soup

Servings: 4 to 6

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 tablespoons garlic, chopped fine
- 5 large fresh Florida tomatoes, chopped
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves, chopped (save 4 to 6 for garnish)
- 3 cups low sodium vegetable stock
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- Sea salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste
- Sour cream for garnish, if desired

Preheat a medium-sized stock pot over medium heat. Add olive oil to preheated pot. Carefully, add onion and garlic. Cook onions and garlic until almost translucent. Add tomatoes, sugar, tomato paste, fresh basil and vegetable stock. Simmer ingredients for at least 20 minutes. Puree soup in blender or with an emersion blender. Be very careful when pureeing hot ingredients. Add cream to soup, and stir to combine. Season soup with salt and pepper to taste. Serve with crusty bread. Garnish with basil leaves and sour cream.

Kids Can: Help add the ingredients to the pot with adult supervision.

Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce

Servings: 8

- 1 large fresh Florida tomato, crushed
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon fresh basil leaves, chopped (save 4 to 6 for garnish)
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- 1 pound spaghetti
- 1 tablespoon Parmesan cheese

In a large saucepan, combine crushed tomato, tomato sauce, minced garlic, parsley, salt, basil and pepper. Cover. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, with cover, for 30 to 45 minutes.

As end of simmering time nears, cook spaghetti in large pot of boiling salted water until al dente.

Cover spaghetti with marinara sauce. Garnish with basil leaves and Parmesan cheese. Serve warm.

Kids Can: Garnish meal.

Health Benefits — Did You Know?

Florida tomatoes are a good source of lycopene (helps prevent skin damage from UV rays), vitamin C (needed for growth and repair of body tissues) and vitamin A (helps vision and bone growth).

Did You Know?

Botanically, the tomato is a fruit. However, they are legally considered a vegetable after a ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court.

How to Buy

The best test for a great tomato is aroma. Smell the stem end for a strong sweet-acidic fragrance. Choose tomatoes that are plump, shiny and give slight pressure when applied.

How to Store

Tomatoes should be stored at a cool room temperature, out of their packaging and never in the refrigerator. Storing tomatoes in the refrigerator diminishes their flavor.

South Broward Hospital district adopts the lowest millage rate in its history

The Board of Commissioners of the South Broward Hospital District recently voted to adopt the millage rate of 0.4000 – making this millage rate the smallest one ever adopted by the District.

Since 2010/2011 fiscal year, the District has not used tax dollars to fund uncompensated care delivered in any of its hospitals. Uncompensated care provided by the District in fiscal year 2014 is projected to exceed \$1 billion.

"Memorial's successful strategic vision over the past few years and its strong financial position have paved the way for this historic trend to continue," said Frank V. Sacco, president and CEO, Memorial Healthcare System.

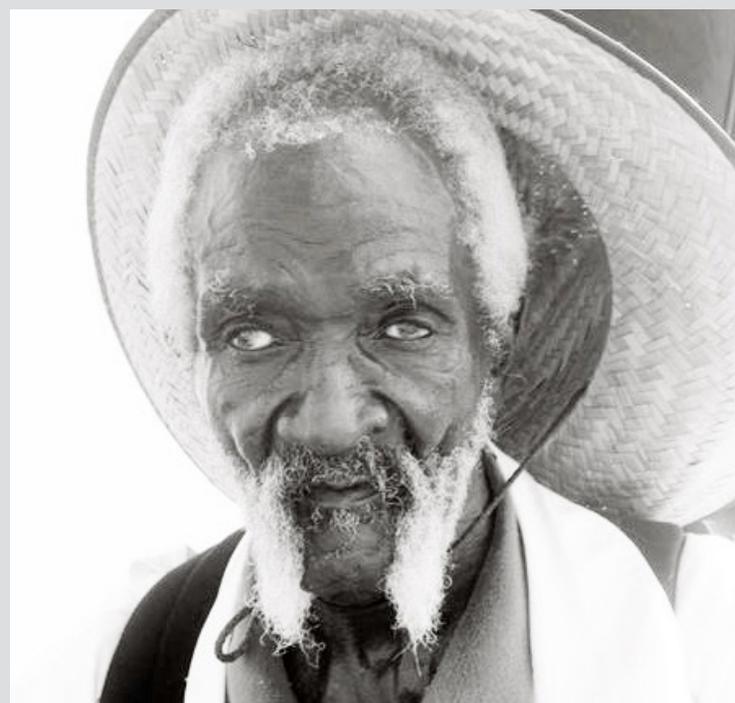
For homeowners, the commissioners' vote helps to provide relief in property taxes.

Assuming a home had an assessed value of \$136,000 in 2003 and that home's assessed value increased by the maximum allowed under the "Save our Homes" limitations, (i.e. 3 percent, per year), to \$150,000 in

2013; the homeowner would have paid the district \$235.77 in 2003 at the 1.7336 millage rate set that year, and would pay \$60.00 in 2013 at the current 0.4000 millage rate. This represents a \$175.77 or a 74.6% reduction in the homeowner's tax bill from the District.

The new rate of 0.4000 represents a 33.33 percent decrease from last year's rate of 0.6000, yielding \$15.5 million in total District tax receipts. Of these tax receipts, the District disburses \$7.7 million to cover the required state funds for the Medicaid match program, as well as support community redevelopment agencies in several municipalities and pay for property appraiser fees. The remaining \$7.8 million in net tax revenue collected from property taxes goes to support only the primary care clinics operated by the District for the uninsured residents of the District. The total net tax revenue represents only 0.5 percent of \$1.56 billion in total budgeted net revenue for the District. 

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