

PALM BEACH FLORIDA WEEKLY®

IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.

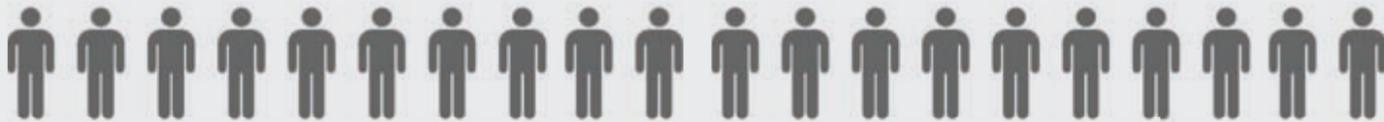
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16-22, 2017

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FLORIDA WEEKLY
IN THE KNOW. IN THE NOW.

A SPECIAL REPORT **GROWTH**



FLORIDA'S CURRENT POPULATION SITS AROUND 20 MILLION. FLORIDA'S PROJECTED POPULATION BY 2070 IS 33 MILLION.



Bad water, poor planning and a flood of people (1,000 move here every day) mean Florida is in ...

Big Trouble

Trouble

The politics of planning. **2**

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pull out section **INSIDE** ▶



Speaker takes full-court press on bullying

BY AMY WOODS

awoods@floridaweekly.com

Anthony Ianni is 6 feet, 9 inches of inspiration. He is 270 pounds of positivity. He is an anti-bullying advocate with autism — and attitude.

The larger-than-life personality promises a stirring speech at The Overcomer Luncheon, an annual affair set for Nov. 16 that raises money for the Autism Project of Palm Beach County and other organizations.

“He’s going to relay ... what solutions

he’s come up with to deal with it through his life,” said Patrick Rooney Jr., who sponsors the event as chairman of Rooney’s Golf Foundation.

Mr. Ianni travels across the country on The Relentless Tour, a Michigan Department of Civil Rights initiative to increase awareness of bullying. His stop in South Florida will mark the fourth installment of the luncheon, whose previous speakers include former Buffalo Bills quarterback Doug Flutie, actress Holly Robinson Peete and philanthropist Shonda Schilling, all of

whom have sons with autism.

“The fact that he speaks for a living and has autism I just thought was a natural combination,” Mr. Rooney said of the Great Lakes State native who starred on the Michigan State University Spartans basketball team prior to graduating with a bachelor’s degree in sociology in 2012. “The point of the luncheon is really to show that, no matter what status you are, you can be impacted by autism and how you can deal with it on

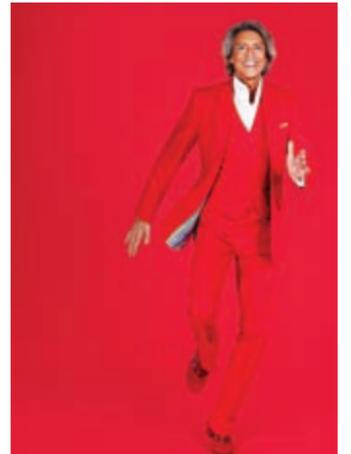
SEE BULLYING, A5 ▶

INSIDE



Gateways

Exhibition invites you to peer into Ann Norton’s world. **B1** ▶



In tune with Tommy

Song and dance man performs at the Maltz. **B1** ▶



Collector’s Corner

Talking turkey with Spode plates from The Church Mouse. **B2** ▶



The Dish

Amazing Mexican fare at Guadalajara in Lake Park. **B15** ▶

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COMMENTARY

The AR-15 'sports' rifle



I've never fired an M-4 or an AR-15 rifle — the weapons of choice for United States Army and Marine Corps infantry units, or increasingly (in the case of the AR-15) for mass shootings by domestic terrorists.

But I'll bet they're a lot of fun. Maybe more fun than firing anti-tank weapons, shoulder-held anti-aircraft missiles, .50 cal. and 7.62 mm machine guns, M-16s (firing 5.56 mm rounds, like an AR-15 in .223), M-14s (7.62 mm, like a 30.06), and M79 grenade rifles firing 40 mm rounds.

That last one in particular is a blast, a shotgun of sorts that will take down not just a goose, a duck, a pheasant or a quail, but a whole flock of geese along with a passing Piper Cub airplane or two and whatever hapless deer happen to be wandering the landscape below when they all come down in flames. And not just at 80 or 100 yards, but at almost 400 yards.

Like I said, a blast. I can't for the life of me understand why more hunters aren't using them, or why they aren't part of every citizen's home security arsenal, especially since they're no longer standard-issue weaponry for infantry units, which have updated versions. So they could be recycled.

Oh, I know; it's the f---ing liberals, trying to take our guns away. Trying to

prevent us from our constitutional right to keep and bear arms in case the government invades our neighborhoods, destroying our freedom to go to fast food restaurants, which are bad for our health.

As a highly-paid professional opinion-ater, I draw the line right there: I'm totally opposed to the government telling us we can't continue to be ignorant, overfed and unhealthy. You can pry my Big Mac from my cold dead ... well, never mind.

The weapons I've described — all of which I've fired, repeatedly, along with a couple of others — would have been invented and constitutionally enshrined by James Madison, who authored the Second Amendment, if he'd just thought of it.

But he didn't because he wasn't far-seeing enough to recognize we wouldn't always have to rely on powder and ball. Which makes him something of a dim bulb.

Our forefathers were imperfect, yes, but we can't blame them for their failings. They had sex and used outhouses with no toilet paper and fired muskets and kept slaves and came up with the Constitution. What are you gonna do?

Thank God we have the National Rifle Association to save us from their short-sighted ineptitude.

The NRA used to be a bunch of harmless old pissants, teaching boys and the occasional girl with skinned-up knees how to clean their single-shot, bolt-action .22s after they fired a few rounds at tin cans or rabbits. I'm not sure whether those old boys used toilet paper.

Now, the NRA is a sleek, fit, ultra-

modern, toilet-paper-hungry lobbying machine that stepped up to the plate — well, they've stepped up to the firing line.

Employing both the First Amendment (to scare the crap out of the gullible) along with the classic Art of Lobbying Politicians in America (to woo the greedy), the NRA has rescued us from James Madison and those other wig-wearing rich guys. Not constitutionally, but fear-a-tutionally.

Terrorists might get us. The government might get us. A neighbor might get us. A spouse might get us. Only-a-good-guy-can-stop-a-bad-guy-with-a-gun might get us.

So now fortunately, and thanks to the NRA, we have a lot of AR-15s and a lot of copy-cat, mass-murdering, homemade terrorists running around shooting the countryside up with assault rifles designed for rapid semi-automatic fire that can be upgraded to automatic, put out rounds traveling at almost 3,000 feet per second, kill you at 50 feet or 500 yards, or more, and be modified to perform all kinds of other fancy tricks.

Various models were banned for a decade, from 1994 to 2004, before President George W. Bush and Republicans in Congress let the ban expire.

The NRA says a lot of people use them for "sport." And now we've seen them employed effectively in many places, including just in the last year or so at an Orlando nightclub (49 killed, 58 wounded), a Las Vegas country music concert (58 killed, 546 wounded), and a Texas church (26 killed, 20 wounded).

In the gun literature, the term of art for

base model AR-15s made by companies such as Smith & Wesson, Armalite, Colt, and so on, is "platform."

The rifle is a "platform" you can custom-fit to your needs. Say, for example, you want to take out a whole herd of deer at night and maybe a bear or two on the side, while firing from the waist like Rambo. You can custom fit the laser sights, the high-capacity magazines, the bump stocks if you need to go full-auto (Rambo would have), and so on.

Ammunition for these rifles isn't cheap, but it's not a deal-breaker, either. For example, you can get a box of 500 .223 Remington "Gold Dot" rounds for \$360, and prices vary from there.

The rifles themselves run very roughly in the \$800 to \$1,200 range for the base platform, and they go up from there into the \$2,500 range. So there's money in it.

The NRA estimates more than 8 million Americans have AR-15s, and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announced 3.7 million were sold in 2015.

At an average price of \$1,000, AR-15 rifles alone brought arms manufacturers \$3.7 billion in 2015. If each buyer purchased \$300 worth of ammunition in a year, that's another \$1.1 billion. Throw in a few accessories like gun lockers and cleaning equipment and range fees and you're well up over \$5 billion just for a 12-month period.

I can draw only one conclusion from this: Those deer better look out. ■

— Editor's note: Leslie Lilly's column will return.

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Palm Beach Gardens
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DECEMBER

COMMUNITY EVENTS & LECTURES



Start Your New Year's Resolution Early – Heart Healthy Cooking Demo

Lecture by Steven Malosky, MD, Interventional Cardiologist on the medical staff at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center

Thursday, December 7, @ 6-7 p.m.

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center // Classroom 4

Are you looking to get a head start on your healthy New Year's Resolutions, but don't know your way around the kitchen? Join Dr. Malosky and a PBGMC chef for a heart healthy cooking demo paired with a lecture. Afterwards, you'll even get to sample the nutritious food.

Reservations are required. Please call 855.387.5864 to make a reservation



Depression Related Heart Disease – Mended Hearts Program

Lecture by Upton Sagar, MD, Cardiologist on the medical staff at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center

Tuesday, December 12 @ 6-7 p.m.

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center // Classroom 4

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center is teaming up with

The Mended Hearts Program to provide support for heart disease patients and their families. Members will be able to interact with others through local chapter meetings, volunteer opportunities and special events. Members are encouraged to listen, share their experiences with other heart patients, and learn from healthcare professionals about treatment and recovery. A small fee* will be collected by the Mended Hearts Program for registration. This month, join Dr. Sagar for a lecture on depression related heart disease.

*\$5.00 per year will be collected solely by the local Mended Hearts Program to provide educational materials for members.

*\$20.00 per year will be collected solely by the Mended Hearts Program if participants would like to become a national member.

*Reservations are required. Please call 855.387.5864 to make a reservation
Light dinner and refreshments will be served.*



Hands-Only CPR Class*

Tuesday, December 19, @ 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue // Station 1
4425 Burns Road, Palm Beach Gardens

Effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim's chance of survival. Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center

has teamed up with Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue to provide free monthly CPR classes for the community. Classes will be held at Fire Station 1. Local EMS will give a hands-only, CPR demonstration and go over Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use. Participants will have the opportunity to practice their new skills using CPR manikins.

*Certification will not be provided

Please call 855.387.5864 to make a reservation



FREE Community Chair Yoga Class

Class taught by Sara Chambers, RN, BSN, CYT

Please choose one class option:

Wednesday, December 6 or

Wednesday, December 20, 6-7 p.m.

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center // Classroom 4

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center now offers a chair yoga class for the community. The class will be taught by the assistant nurse manager of cardiac rehab, Sara Chambers, who is also a certified yoga instructor. Using the same techniques as traditional yoga, the class is modified to allow for gentle stretching, designed to help participants strengthen their muscles and work on their balance.

Please call 855.387.5864 to make a reservation

Smoking Cessation Classes

PBGMC (3360 Burns Road, PBG FL 33410) // Classroom 3

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center is teaming up with the Area Health Education Center to provide education on the health effects related to tobacco use, the benefits of quitting and what to expect when quitting. A trained Tobacco Cessation Specialist guides participants as they identify triggers and withdrawal symptoms and brainstorms ways to cope with them.

The class is delivered over six, one-hour sessions, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- Wednesday, December 6th
- Wednesday, December 13th
- Wednesday, December 20th
- Wednesday, January 3rd
- Wednesday, January 10th
- Wednesday, January 17th

Please call 855.387.5864 to make a reservation

All screenings held at: Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center

FREE COMMUNITY SCREENINGS

Free Heart Attack Assessment Screenings

(blood pressure, BMI, glucose and cholesterol)

Wed, December 13 @ 7am-11am | Classroom 3

Please call 855.387.5864 to make a reservation

Osteoporosis Screenings

(for women only)

Thursday, December 21 @ 9am-1pm | Outpatient Entrance

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OPINION

Shades of gray



bobFRANKEN

Special to Florida Weekly

In 1968, Phillip Morris decided the time had come to market cigarettes toward women, who had begun to make discernible social progress and were finally moving away from the stifling ideal of the barefoot-and-pregnant child-raising homemaker role. They had started achieving a less restricted, independent role where they could choose to make their mark in the professional world.

The cigarette manufacturer celebrated this new glimmering of freedom by creating a Virginia Slims brand that was promoted for women with the slogan “You’ve come a long way, baby!” The cynical message, of course, was that females were now liberated, so they could proudly inhale their own toxic fumes from their own “cancer sticks.”

Almost a half-century later, they have continued to inch forward. Their progress, however, has been littered with ongoing discrimination obstacles.

Even in this day and age, we have pay disparities, gross unfairness when it comes to hiring and promotion, and that lingering poison of sexual assault and harassment. With that one, women definitely have not come a long way, not just over 50 years, but from when we lived together in caves.

We still have an opportunity to figure things out. By “we” I mean men, since the vast majority of offenses are from males directed at females — 80 to 90 percent, depending on the source compiling the statistics. That is just the reported incidents. Perhaps when we look back we will thank movie mogul Harvey Weinstein for raising our consciousness — a perverse gratitude, to



say the least.

The public charges of his sexual brutality over decades, allegedly assaulting women whose performing careers could be enhanced or destroyed by his powerful whim, have created an avalanche. It has buried not only him, but a growing list of other prominent men.

They deserve, in my opinion, to be ostracized. It’s that black and white. Discipline should be harsh going forward for various gross and demonstrably unwelcome propositions that women endure on the job from the horn-dog men who saturate the workplace.

But now we get to that gray area, and the various shades of gray. I’ll pause for a moment while everyone yuks it up about “Shades of Grey.”

Are we done? Let’s proceed: Also surfacing are lots of reports about the unintentional but ignorant forms of harassment — frankly, stuff that I believe should not be considered harassment at all.

Does an off-color remark of any kind qualify? Should we ban any sort of tacit behavior, such as touching some-

one on the arm in a purely nonsexual way? How do we define all that? That would be the shades of gray.

Do we really want a place of employment that would make the Church Lady ecstatic? Are we to make the same mistake that academe has made, by overdoing protections against anything that might be considered politically incorrect.

“Safe places” don’t work on campuses, and they are unrealistic in the adult workplace.

We can become safer, however — and civilized and, might I add, productive. Obviously, we need to encourage prosecution — yes, criminal prosecution — of assault, and dismissal for those who act boorishly.

Beyond that, we can candidly communicate with one another and agree on realistic guidelines.

Only then will women — and men — really have come a long way. ■

— Bob Franken is an Emmy Award-winning reporter who covered Washington for more than 20 years with CNN.

Two very American heroes in Texas



richLOWRY

Special to Florida Weekly

Before the Texas church shooter encountered any police officers, he was run off a highway and dead. He had been shot and chased by two private citizens who took it upon themselves to respond to a heinous crime when no one with a badge was anywhere to be found.

The church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, is another heartbreaking chapter in the country’s epidemic of mass shootings. Devin Patrick Kelley shot and killed 26 people and wounded another 20, accounting for nearly everyone in the small church. The senseless cruelty is hard to fathom.

The response by the two bystanders who refused to stand by is something else entirely.

It was a characteristically small-town American act of self-reliance that shows, no matter how tattered our civil society may be, it still produces people who will risk life and limb for others without hesitation, unbidden by

anything other than their own sense of obligation.

When Stephen Willeford, 55, heard of the shooting, he left his house barefoot with his AR-15 and started exchanging fire with Kelley outside the church.

An expert shot, Willeford hit Kelley and reportedly aimed for the gaps on his body armor. When Kelley got in an SUV and sped off, Willeford jumped in Johnnie Langendorff’s truck and told him to give chase.

Langendorff, 27, didn’t ask any questions. He followed Kelley at 95 mph down the highway, until the perpetrator ran off the road. Willeford jumped out of the truck and rested his rifle on top of Langendorff’s hood and shouted for Kelley to “get out.” The murderer apparently took his own life with a gunshot.

In his interviews, Langendorff, with a scraggly beard and a tattoo of a bull skull on his neck, invariably wears a cowboy hat. He is polite and matter of fact (“he said ‘chase him’ and so that’s what I did — I just chased him”), implying that anyone would have done it.

This isn’t true, although it is almost certainly more true in America’s out-of-the-way places.

Self-help is imperative in these areas

because the alternative is no help, at least not on a timely basis. Small towns might not even have a police department.

This gets to one of the root causes of America’s gun culture: In swaths of the country, a gun isn’t an optional extra layer of self-protection, but a necessary first defense.

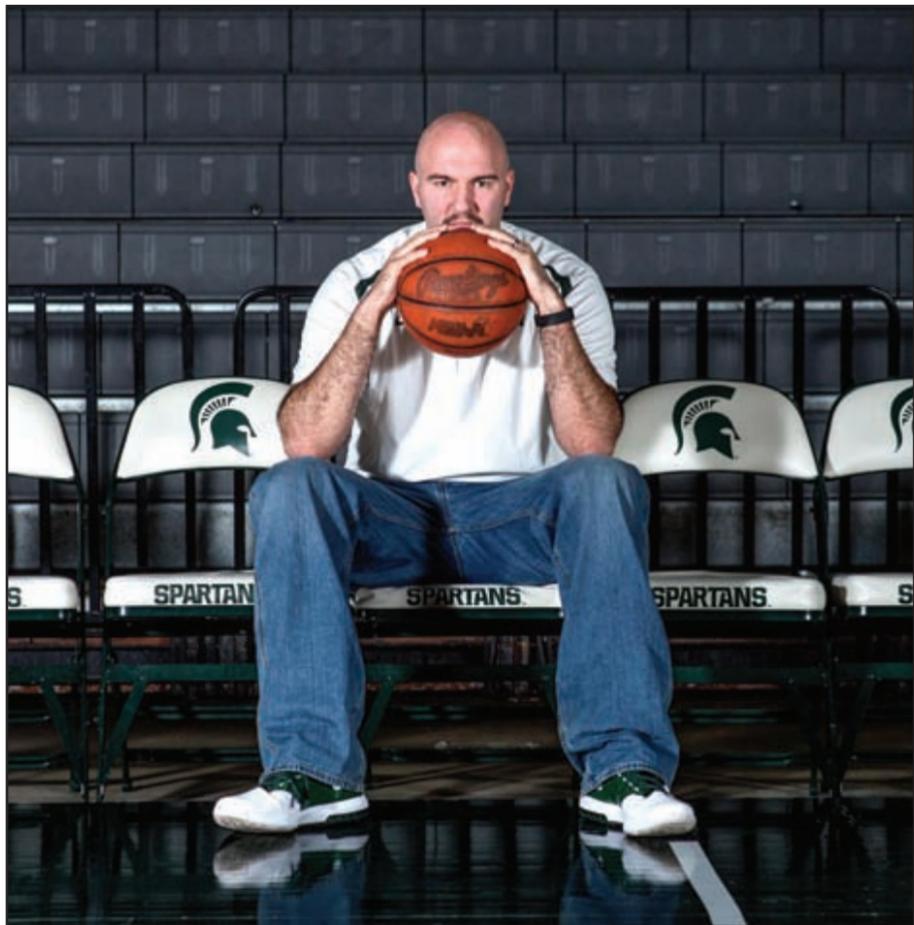
Rates of gun ownership are highest in remote, sparsely populated states like Alaska, Idaho, West Virginia and North Dakota. In a poll of Texans a few years ago, nearly half of the people said they or a family member owned a gun.

Any gun-control measure that is sweeping enough to make a dent in the country’s gun stock and render gun ownership difficult enough to, at the margins, keep firearms out of the hands of psychopaths will inevitably affect law-abiding people as well.

In places like rural Texas, that would rightly be considered a serious imposition. Without a gun, if something goes wrong, the only option is sitting and waiting for the authorities to show up.

And the likes of Stephen Willeford and Johnnie Langendorff, obviously, aren’t the waiting kind. ■

— Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



COURTESY PHOTO

Anthony Ianni dreamed of a career in professional basketball; speaking out against bullying became his passion.

BULLYING

From page 1

your level.”

An additional beneficiary is Potentia Academy, a private school in Greenacres for students who struggle in standard learning environments, like Mr. Rooney’s 19-year-old son. Patrick Rooney III, or P3, as the family calls him, has Asperger’s syndrome.

“He’s been a blessing in a lot of ways, but obviously he has challenges, and to navigate those challenges as a parent has been something my wife and I have had to deal with,” Mr. Rooney said.

The oldest of two sons, he recently acquired his driver license and loves to play guitar.

“He was playing ‘Sweet Home Alabama’ or something the other day,” Mr. Rooney said. “I actually recognized it.”

Catholic Charities will receive a portion of the proceeds, as well.

“We added Catholic Charities for all the weather-related issues going on this year, so we threw that component in there, too,” Mr. Rooney said. “There are people out there really hurting because of the hurricanes.”

Between \$15,000 and \$18,000 is expected to be raised and split evenly among the nonprofits. An estimated 150 will attend.

“For the people who are in the audience, whatever perception that you might have been given about those on the autism spectrum not being able to achieve anything, we’re showing you examples of people who have overcome this neurological condition and have been successful,” Mr. Rooney said. “It is supposed to be inspiring.”

Mr. Ianni has been inspiring those on the autism spectrum since his first speech five years ago in Detroit. An invitation to talk about the disorder in public came from Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, whose daughter, Reagan, was diagnosed at age 4.

“I received a standing ovation,” Mr. Ianni said. “From that day forward, I kind of took it upon myself to be the next generation’s voice.”

On the way home from the benefit, he talked about the experience with his then-girlfriend, Kelly — they are married now, have a 2-year-old son, and a second baby is due in January — and decided his

dreams of shooting hoops didn’t seem as important.

“Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain — I wanted to be like those guys and play a sport that’s just phenomenal,” Mr. Ianni said. “But after discussing it with Kelly, I said, ‘This is where I belong.’ I’m pretty sure this is my calling.”

He is on the road almost as much as he would be had he been drafted by an NBA team.

“It can be brutal sometimes, but you know what, it’s my love and passion that drive me,” the 28-year-old said. “I want to keep doing it as long as I can.”

His message about achievement — setting goals and reaching them — as well as strength — tuning out the trash talk and never giving up — landed him the job at the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

“I’ve always told people that if you have a goal in life, not only should you work hard and attack that goal and go for it, you’ve got to be relentless,” Mr. Ianni said.

His autism — pervasive developmental disorder — led to language problems and difficulty understanding conversations at an early age. Classmates bullied him in elementary school. Doctors told his parents that if he managed to graduate from high school, he never would get into college.

“People were disrespecting me, saying you can’t do this, you’re not going to do that, because you have autism,” Mr. Ianni said. “But the more and more disrespect I had in my life, the more and more haters I had, the more and more motivation I had to go out on the court and just shut people up.”

He became the first athlete with autism to join the roster of a Division I college basketball team.

“You can never give up on anything or anyone in life,” Mr. Ianni said. “Don’t let anyone stop you.” ■

in the know

The Overcomer Luncheon

- >> **When:** 11 a.m. Nov. 16
- >> **Where:** National Croquet Center, 700 Florida Mango Road, West Palm Beach
- >> **Cost:** \$125
- >> **Info:** 561-683-2222, Ext. 146, or www.rooneysgolfoundation.org/theovercomer-luncheon

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COURTESY PHOTO

The first Spring Training game at Roger Dean Stadium is set for Feb. 25; Grapefruit League begins Feb. 23.

Marlins, Cardinals announce 2018 Spring Training schedules

The Miami Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals have announced the 2018 Spring Training schedules, with 29 Major League games to be played at Roger Dean Stadium.

Visiting teams include the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, Baltimore Orioles, Houston Astros, Atlanta Braves, Minnesota Twins, New York Mets and Washington Nationals. Five of the returning opponents for the Cardinals and Marlins qualified for the playoffs, with the Red Sox and Nationals both winning their divisions. The World Series champion Houston Astros will play a total of five games at the stadium, the first set for Sunday, Feb. 25.

The Grapefruit League season kicks off at 1:05 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23, with a game between stadium rivals Marlins and Cardinals. In total, Roger Dean Stadium will host 15 home games for the Marlins, and 14 for the Cardinals. The only night game of the season takes place at 7:05 p.m. Friday, March 23, when the Marlins host the Washington Nationals.

The Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees return to Roger Dean Stadium for the first time in a year, and the Baltimore Orioles return after a two-year gap.

Season tickets for the Marlins and Cardinals can be purchased at the Roger Dean Stadium ticket office or by calling 561-630-1828. Individual game tickets, excluding the Yankees and Red Sox, will not be available until Roger Dean Stadium's Fan Fest to be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 13, when individual tickets will be available at the ticket office and via tickets.com.

New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox individual game tickets will not be available for purchase until 10 a.m. Jan. 27, but are currently available for purchase through a season ticket, "mini-plan" and group Ticket packages.

For information, visit www.RogerDeanStadium.com or call 561-775-1818. ■



in the know

Roger Dean Stadium Spring Training Schedule

- >> Feb. 23, St. Louis Cardinals @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> Feb. 24, Washington Nationals @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> Feb. 25, Houston Astros @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> Feb. 26, Houston Astros @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> Feb. 28, Washington Nationals @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 1, Minnesota Twins @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 2, Boston Red Sox @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 3, New York Mets @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 4, Houston Astros @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 5, Washington Nationals @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 6, St. Louis Cardinals @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 7, Washington Nationals @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 8, Miami Marlins @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 9, Boston Red Sox @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 10, Miami Marlins @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 11, New York Yankee @ Miami, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 13, St. Louis Cardinals @ Miami, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 14, New York Mets @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 15, Baltimore Orioles @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 16, Miami Marlins @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 17, Houston Astros @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 18, Washington Nationals @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 19, Washington Nationals @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 20, New York Mets @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 21, St. Louis Cardinals @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 22, Atlanta Braves @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 23, Washington Nationals @ Marlins, 7:05 p.m.
- >> March 24, New York Mets @ Cardinals, 1:05 p.m.
- >> March 25, Houston Astros @ Marlins, 1:05 p.m.
- >> Info: www.RogerDeanStadium.com or 561-775-1818

Hanley Foundation sponsors art for young artists at upcoming ArtiGras

The Hanley Foundation has signed a two-year agreement as title sponsor of the Youth Art Competition and ArtiKids Zone for the ArtiGras Fine Art Experienced Festival, now in its 33rd year.

The Hanley Foundation ArtiKids Zone is a popular destination at the event, set for Feb. 17-19. The ArtiKids Zone also will display winning submissions from the Hanley Foundation Youth Art Competition. Students from Palm Beach County, grades kindergarten to 12th, participate in the competition and create works of art that embody the theme "Family Time is Time Well Spent" in a variety of mediums.

The Hanley Foundation provides substance abuse prevention and education programs for parents, caregivers and school-age children. It also provides scholarships for patients who could not otherwise afford addiction treatment.

ArtiGras, presented by Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and produced by the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce, is ranked as one of the top 50 art shows in the United States, showcasing a juried exhibition of 300 fine artists from all over the country. The three-day event features art exhibits, demonstrations, live music, children's art activities and food and drink. ArtiGras benefits more than 60 school art programs and nonprofit organizations.

Visit www.artigras.org for more information. ■



Call for artists: ArtiGras Youth Art Competition

Students from grades kindergarten through 12 have an opportunity to submit artwork for the Hanley Foundation's ArtiGras Youth Art Competition in media ranging from pencil and crayon to chalk and paint.

Student art will be judged by a panel of industry professionals, including local artists and art educators. Entries will be narrowed to 77 finalists, whose work will be displayed at ArtiGras. First, second and third place, and two honorable-mention winners will be selected for each school grade, to be announced at noon, Saturday, Feb. 17, at an ArtiGras main stage ceremony.

Student art must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, through the school's art teacher. To learn more, email info@artigras.org or call 561-746-7111. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

Bill Doherty, commander; Ed Skolkin, 1st vice-commander; Irwin Bromely 2nd vice-commander; John Liguori, adjutant and finance officer; Deacon Al Wesley, chaplain; Tom Cieslinski, sergeant-at-arms; and Carl Pridemore, executive committee.

American Legion Post 371 elects officers

The American Legion Post 371 in Palm Beach Gardens has elected and installed its officers for 2018.

The incoming officers are Bill Doherty, commander; Ed Skolkin, first vice-commander; Irwin Bromely second vice-commander; John Liguori, adjutant and finance officer; Deacon Al Wesley, chaplain; Tom Cieslinski, sergeant-at-arms; and Carl Pridemore, executive committee.

The American Legion is a patriotic veterans' organization committed to mentoring youth, advocating patriotism, promoting strong national security and supporting veterans.

The Palm Beach Gardens Post meets at 11:30 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month at the VFW in Lake Park. To learn more, call Mr. Doherty, commander, at 561-312-2981. ■

Wildlife nonprofit funds school trips

Area students can learn about nature. Representatives from the Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge have donated \$4,000 to Palm Beach County schools to help pay for transportation for field trips at the refuge.

The mission of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is to further the public's understanding and appreciation of the refuge's beauty and habitat.

To learn more about the refuge, contact Elinor Williams at 561-496-4305 or visit www.loxahatcheefriends.com. ■



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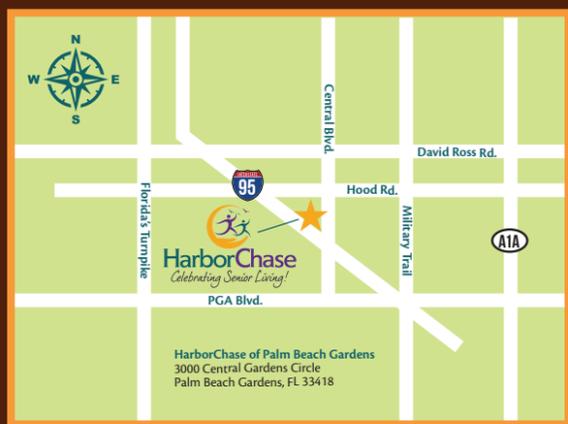
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HEALTHY LIVING

Your negative perceptions may be distorting reality

lindaLIPSHUTZ
llipshutz@floridaweekly.com



Aaron winced inwardly, but weakly smiled, as Brenda and Doug Matthews effusively welcomed him, along with his wife, Tara. Once again, Brenda and Doug were throwing a huge party at their magnificent home on the Intracoastal. The Matthews were the consummate hosts — charming and generous — and could not be more gracious to their guests.

Aaron could not stand Doug, and had felt that way from the minute he'd laid eyes on him. Doug had this cocky, assured posture that just reeked of his good looks, Ivy League education and money.

Although Doug was always friendly and chatty, Aaron got the distinct impression that Doug looked down on him because Aaron was not in a financial position to travel in the same social circles. Every time Aaron was in Doug's presence, he felt ill at ease and defensive, believing there was no way he could measure up to all of Doug's accomplishments.

Aaron couldn't figure out what Tara saw in the Matthews, but Tara was clearly quite impressed. Tara considered Brenda to be one of her closest friends and insisted Aaron come to these parties, despite his vehement protests. Aaron always came home from an evening with the Matthews in a terrible mood.

Aaron knew that he was often quiet and standoffish with the Matthews, but he just couldn't help it.

Aaron often felt tongue-tied and insecure around Doug and his friends when there were discussions of world events or politics, even though Aaron knew that he, himself, happened to be pretty well versed on social issues.

Doug had invited Aaron regularly to play golf at his club, but Aaron had always declined, believing the invite was obligatory because the wives were good friends. Why would Doug want to play golf with Aaron, when he had so much more in common with his country club buddies?

Tara insisted that Aaron was reading Doug all wrong. Tara shared that, in fact, Brenda had told her more than once that Doug was quite impressed with Aaron and hoped to get to know him better. But there was nothing Tara could say that would convince her husband otherwise.

Sometimes, we're our own worst enemies. Some of us face our day-to-day experiences with trepidation, writing demoralizing scripts in our heads, making assumptions that others view us in a negative light, as we predict we will suffer the most dire outcomes. We often compare ourselves to others, feeling inferior. And, we may mentally die a thousand deaths in the process, envisioning the worst.

But so much of the time, we may have misread the circumstances. In actuality, the reality could have been quite benign.

Many of us have an erroneous way of understanding or viewing the circumstances we face, and may be brought down by our "internalized chatter," or negative "self-talk" that could seriously impair our moods and self-esteem.

Experts in the forefront of the fields of psychiatry and psychotherapy have conducted extensive research studies attempting to explore the impact of this erroneous or "distorted" way of looking at our lives on our emotional well-being.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is a therapeutic modality with a premise: Often, it's not the events in our lives that

upset us, as much as the meaning we attribute to them. If our thoughts are too negative, we may be blocked from looking at our lives in a positive manner.

A major component of cognitive therapy is helping people identify negative or distorted self-talk that impacts on their emotional well-being. In his book, "Feeling Good," psychiatrist David Burns describes a series of "cognitive distortions" — erroneous beliefs that can greatly impact a person's mood. These inaccurate thoughts often reinforce negative thinking.

Most of us engage in some distorted thinking. However, people who are highly stressed or despondent are more likely to "beat themselves up emotionally" and regularly engage in more serious negative self-talk. Consistent worry and negativity can get in the way of our happiness, adding to our level of angst and ultimately may be damaging to our health.

The following are just a few of the distortions described by Dr. Burns:

All-or-Nothing Thinking: You see things in black-or-white categories. If a situation falls short of perfect, you see it as a total failure.

Discounting the Positive: You reject positive experiences by insisting they "don't count."

Mental Filter: You pick out a single negative detail and dwell on it exclusively, so that your vision of all reality becomes darkened, like the drop of ink that discolors a beaker of water.

"Should statements": You tell yourself that things should be the way you hoped or expected them to be.

Jumping to Conclusions: You interpret things negatively when there are no facts to support your conclusion.

Mind Reading: Without checking it out, you arbitrarily conclude that someone is reacting negatively to you.

Fortune-telling: You predict that things will turn out badly.

Personalization and blame: Personalization occurs when you hold yourself responsible for an event that isn't entirely under your control. You may blame others — or yourself — for many of life's ills.

In the fictionalized vignette above, Aaron assumed that Doug was viewing him in a negative light, when, in fact, Aaron did not necessarily have a basis for this. Furthermore, he felt defensive and inadequate in Doug's presence because of the difference in their financial levels. Sadly, Aaron may have totally misjudged Doug and his intentions and may have shut out the possibility of a genuine friendship. Of course, in fairness to Aaron, there's the possibility that his assessment of Doug was dead-on. But often we are prone to jumping to conclusions.

Cognitive therapists help clients challenge the negative distortions in the way they think so they can take active steps to view themselves in a more healthy way. Clients are taught strategies of identifying negative ways of thinking and learning how to reframe the negative thoughts into a more positive, self-affirming outlook.

One effective strategy is to imagine that the worrisome news has happened to a friend, rather than ourselves. We are often much more effective in giving our friend advice and to see things clearly when we adapt a more hands-off perspective. We can also employ the Socratic method of attorneys, based on a thoughtful manner of asking and answering questions that is designed to draw out ideas and challenge underlying presumptions.

The process is an active and collaborative one, with the goal of the client adapting a healthier way of understanding and managing emotions. ■

HEALTHY LIVING



PHOTOS BY GAIL V. HAINES/FLORIDA WEEKLY

Barbara Nicklaus, Jack Nicklaus and Colton Smith meet at Nicklaus Children's Palm Beach Gardens Outpatient Center to kick off National Diabetes Month.



Professional golfer Michelle McGann, Dr. Miladys Palau and Colton Smith show off their Medtronic MiniMed 670G systems.

New device restores sense of normalcy to patients with diabetes

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

It's not every day that a 16-year-old high school student gets to swap stories with a professional golfer, but Colton Smith and Michelle McGann have quite a few things in common. They're both athletes, and they both use a new, state-of-the-art insulin pump to treat their Type 1 diabetes. Ms. McGann and Colton also are among the first patients to receive the world's first hybrid closed loop system.

The pair joined Jack and Barbara Nicklaus at Nicklaus Children's Palm Beach Gardens Outpatient Center on Nov. 1 to kick off National Diabetes Month and to show off their Medtronic MiniMed 670G systems. The insulin pump continuously measures blood sugar, predicts when a rise or fall is going to occur, and then delivers precise doses of insulin. It's been called an "artificial pancreas" in some cases, as it requires minimal interaction from the patient.

As a high school football player, Colton lives an active lifestyle. He wanted freedom from insulin shots and constant glucose monitoring, and has had the pump for about six weeks.

"With the new pump, there's a lot of consistency and peace of mind," he said. "It's helped me to live normally."

Michelle McGann was one of the first people to receive the Medtronic insulin

pump. She has battled Type 1 diabetes since age 13. "It's not a cure, diabetes isn't going away," she said. "But it is the best way to try to live a healthy, normal life."

The Medtronic MiniMed 670G system was FDA approved in 2016. Dr. Miladys Palau, a pediatric endocrinologist at the Nicklaus Children's Palm Beach Gardens Outpatient Center, is among the first in the nation trained to administer the pump. She has eight patients who are using the device.

Because of donations from Jack and Barbara Nicklaus, the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation and the Michelle McGann Fund, the outpatient center is able to provide extensive education and diabetes management programs for children living with diabetes.

"Dr. Palau is one of the many angel doctors we are blessed and proud to have throughout the Nicklaus Children's Health System. The state-of-the-art insulin pump she introduced to us this week, and hearing the impact it has had in the lives of people such as Colton and Michelle, served to remind us of the incredible innovation that goes on daily at Nicklaus Children's Hospital," said Mrs. Nicklaus, founder and chair of the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation. "The people and the work being done there allow us to better serve the children and families in our communities." ■

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SOCIETY

Alzheimer's Memory Walk, Cityplace in West Palm Beach



Linda Agosto, Mark Crosbie and Joanne Weber



ANDY SPILOS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Michael Pearson, Susan Kaplan, Genny Bernstein, Deanna Fairington and Mandy Macleod | 7. Doris Smith and Idrina Valdivia |
| 2. Lynore Harrison, Chan Harrison, Ricarle Adams, Khole Mottley, Shaqwonda Millis and Khamari Jones | 8. Blair McKnight, Brantley McKnight, Jason Cartwright, Daniel McHenry, Cayden Roca and Mike Roca |
| 3. Diana Rodriguez, Jodi Devivo, Sherry Kaepka and Elizabeth Crippen | 9. Yara Ramirez King, Janette Bossaers, Claudia Pascuq, Stella Rose Ellis, Melissa Daggerhart and Ginalu Phillips |
| 4. Ashante Doby and Shay Smith | 10. Joann Miskura and Karen Buchanan |
| 5. Pam Cherry, Kat Penley and Maureen Zavell | 11. Thomas Trone, Alexis Espol, Hugo Montenegro, Audra Afflitto Susan Kaplan and Alina Ramucci |
| 6. Jessica Defaus, Christopher Defaus, Katyna Smith, Maria Ortiz and Sylvia McBurrow | |

BUSINESS

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16-22, 2017

WWW.FLORIDAWEEKLY.COM

| A13

Some businesses were hammered by Irma, others fared OK. Bridge loans are helping.

BRIDGING

THE GAP

BY DON MANLEY

Florida Weekly Correspondent

LOCATION, LOCATION, location, played a huge role in determining the amount of downtime and losses experienced by businesses affected by Hurricane Irma, which was a Cat 3 when it hit Southwest Florida's coastline on Sept. 10 before losing steam as it rampaged northward.

In Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties, the effect of 111 to 130 mph winds, and extensive flooding and power outages,

SEE BRIDGING, A14 ►

MONEY & INVESTING

Business returns, stock steadies as MGM weathers Mandalay Bay tragedy

ericBRETAN

estaterick@gmail.com



As I am writing this article, I am staring out of the floor-to-ceiling window of my beautiful room in Wynn's Encore and gazing down the fantastic Las Vegas strip in amazement. But I know just three miles away is Mandalay Bay and the scene of the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

How does one recover from that? That was one of the main questions to be answered last week as MGM Resorts International, the owner of Mandalay Bay, hosted its first earnings call since

that terrible event. What did Jim Murren, the CEO, have to say about the shooting and how did it affect the company and Las Vegas as a whole?

MGM is the largest operator of casinos in Las Vegas as well as in other states across the U.S. and in Macau, China. It owns such notable venues as Treasure Island, Bellagio, New York New York, Luxor and the Mirage in Las Vegas. They also own key properties like Borgata in Atlantic City and MGM National Harbor in Maryland.

During the call, MGM said there was definitely a significant number of non-group cancellations across all Las Vegas properties right after the tragedy at Mandalay Bay. In addition, new bookings were down in the beginning of

October. Not only did the news of the event cause people to rethink coming to Vegas, but the company suspended all marketing for a number of weeks, which also affected bookings.

However, in the past couple of weeks, the company started limited marketing of its properties with the exception of Mandalay Bay. And the company stated that recent numbers suggest that bookings and new reservations have returned to historical norms. It seems that conventions and tourists have not stayed away from Las Vegas and believe that it still is a safe place to visit. I can say from personal experience that I have seen a slight increase in normal security at hotels — such as K9 units at entrances — but otherwise I concur

with the CEO that things seem to have returned to normal.

MGM reported better than expected revenue during its call as revenue per room across its hotels increased. In addition, its significant Macau property is experiencing higher profitability due to a key holiday period and the meeting of its Communist Party Congress, which drove higher guest volume.

And fortunately for MGM, it has three positive catalysts in its future. First, the company is transforming its fire-damaged Monte Carlo property into Park MGM. This significant investment is currently dampening revenue but once this project is complete, it should

SEE MONEY, A14 ►

“The problem there is their inventory was destroyed ... They didn’t have any refrigeration, and they had to start from scratch. In some cases, the physical damage was to a leased facility, and they have to relocate, and it’s really, really traumatic.”

— **Cathy Haworth**, a certified business consultant for the SBDC and the Naples Accelerator

BRIDGING

From page 13

left many businesses closed for six to 10 days, or longer. But others, especially in Lee County’s Island Park and Alico Road areas, and the southern portion of Collier are still struggling to find a path forward.

At the opposite end of the spectrum was Palm Beach County, which avoided a direct hit and the storm’s full wrath when Irma’s cone shifted to the west. Damage there was minimal, said Kelly Smallridge, president and CEO of public-private Business Development Board of Palm Beach County.



SMALLRIDGE

“We were prepared for something that we thought would be extremely devastating, and I think that we fared extremely well,” said Ms. Smallridge.

Cumulative data on economic damage in Lee, Collier and Charlotte was not available. However, Suzanne Specht, of the Florida Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University, pointed to interest in Florida’s Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program as a barometer.



SPECHT

Bridge Loans provide interest-free, 90-or-180-day loans to businesses with two to 100 employees that experience disaster-related property or economic damage. After Irma, the state allocated \$10 million for the program, which has a \$50,000 maximum per application. The loans are intended to “bridge” the gap between when the damage occurred and when other funding can be secured, such as insurance payments or low-interest Federal Small Business Administration disas-

ter loans, which have a longer-term and a \$2 million maximum.

“We were incredibly busy after the storm, said Ms. Specht, assistant director for the SBDC, which also includes Glades County and facilitates the Bridge Loan Program in its coverage area. “I’ve never, ever seen it so busy. The hurricane impacted everyone. It was just unbelievable. Some businesses totally need this program to survive.”

She said that as of Nov. 6, at least 130 small businesses from the four-county coverage area had received Bridge Loans.

“And many more are in the pipeline,” Ms. Specht added. “That’s a little over \$4.6 million for businesses in our Southwest Florida area.”

Mike Duncan of Marco Island, in Collier County, is one of the recipients. Duncan owned the Marker 8.5, a seafood restaurant in nearby Goodland, a rustic fishing village located in southern Collier County, for four and half years.

His ownership stint ended with Irma’s arrival and the four feet of wind-driven storm surge that washed out the small, waterfront eatery’s porch dining area and bar. Mr. Duncan said the building has been condemned and the structure’s owner intends to rebuild and open a restaurant there, rather than renew his lease, which had six months remaining.

So Mr. Duncan, a trained and experienced chef, is now searching for a new location.

He has received a \$50,000 Bridge Loan that he intends to put toward opening a new restaurant, preferably in the Naples area, but failing that, elsewhere in Southwest Florida.

“They basically saved me,” Mr. Duncan said of the SBDC and the Bridge Loan program. “I can’t put it any other way. God Bless is all I can say.”

He said he felt as if he’d been “sucker punched, knocked out” after seeing the damage, but with the low-interest loan, some private financing and his culinary skills, he’s determined to resume operations as soon as possible.

“Whether it’s seafood, whether it’s fine dining, I’m going to make it happen,” Mr. Duncan added.

Cathy Haworth is a certified business

consultant for the SBDC and the Naples Accelerator. The accelerator is a public-private partnership between Collier County and nonprofit Economic Incubators Inc., which was converted into the county’s Business Recovery Center after Irma to assist small businesses with applying for Bridge Loans and SBA loans.

Activity was brisk at the center in the storm’s immediate aftermath, and while the pace has slowed, inquiries are still being received two months later.

Ms. Haworth said that in reviewing the means of repayment portion of applications, she noticed two trends.

“People in retail are saying season’s almost here,” she said. “September is a slow month for me anyway, so even though I was closed for two weeks, it wasn’t traumatic. However, I don’t have the revenue to purchase my inventory for the season. So what we’re doing with the Bridge Loan is providing them with the means to purchase their inventory now and then be able to repay that loan at the end of the season.”

It was a different and darker experience for Collier’s restaurants.

“The problem there is their inventory was destroyed,” said Ms. Haworth. “They didn’t have any refrigeration and they had to start from scratch. In some cases, the physical damage was to a leased facility and they have to relocate and it’s really, really traumatic.”

According to a Lee County Economic Development Office, post-storm survey, about 96 percent of businesses are open and more than 95 percent of businesses reported experiencing a business interruption of more than five days due to power outage, which was the primary problem reported. Coming in second was flooding, which damaged buildings and equipment and limited access to facilities.

In addition, 84 percent of businesses reported Irma-caused economic damage or damage to facilities and the Lee EDO is working with companies that request help in a variety of ways.



HAWORTH

The survey’s organizer, Rachel Busch, the Lee County EDO’s strategic projects manager, said the agency is assisting businesses with finding temporary digs or new locations because of storm damage.



BUSCH

Warren Baucom, a business assistance specialist with the Lee EDO, said the agency has been assisting companies whose operations were interrupted by the storm by finding temporary work for displaced employees by referring them to CareerSource Southwest Florida.

“There are a lot of the temporary jobs in hurricane recovery through the SBA and other agencies that can allow these people to have income until their employer is back up and running,” he added.

He said he noticed more physical damage to businesses after Hurricane Charley, which struck the area in 2004.

“I think, all in all, the impact on the business community wasn’t quite the same it was with Charley,” Mr. Baucom added. “Anecdotally, I’ve heard from a couple businesses that at least it didn’t hit Lee later, during the season. Their concern was that people know that we’re still open for business so that we can still have a regular season. If they’d had to close down during high season, they would really lose cash flow. If there’s a silver lining, it’s that it came in the off-season.”

Power outages of up to one week disrupted Charlotte County’s retail and service industries, but those losses were offset by pre-Irma purchases by people preparing for the storm, said Lucienne Pears, the county’s director of economic development.

Charlotte’s construction industry bounced back immediately after the storm, she added, and the tourism industry actually received a boost because of Irma.

“Due to mass evacuations ordered for the Keys and the East Coast, and recovery workers arriving after the storm, hotel occupancy was up more than 37 percent in September 2017 vs. September 2016, which is typically one of the slower months of the year,” said Ms. Pears. ■

MONEY

From page 13

provide a boost to the company. Second, MGM China is set to open a new casino in the Cotai strip in early 2018. The casino opening was delayed due to Typhoon Hato in August but it is now back on track. And finally, the newly acquired Bogota Casino in Atlantic City and newly created MGM National Harbor in Maryland are blossoming and should drive higher revenues in the near and long term.

Investors obviously liked what they heard during the call as the stock jumped almost 6 percent on the day. And the stock has been a great performer over the last few years, increasing from single digits five years ago to over \$33 today. The stock pays a dividend as well. I think it is a well-positioned stock to capitalize on the booming Las Vegas and Macau markets and that it has a bright future. ■

— **Eric Bretan**, the co-owner of Rick’s Estate & Jewelry Buyers in Punta Gorda, was a senior derivatives marketer and investment banker for more than 15 years at several global banks. ■



BEHIND THE WHEEL

BMW M760i xDrive – the boss has arrived



There's a higher expectation for executive-level vehicles. After all, most coveted gated community garages have third and fourth spaces to house fun toys. So, if a sedan is going to compete for this attention and play at a CEO-level, it needs to be a coddler, a tech nerd and a track star – all in one. It's obvious BMW knew this when creating the M760i.

The design of the new 7-Series was well-executed. As BMW's flagship car, it's more likely to be purchased by the boss than the intern. In the past, this position of authority led to conservative designs for conservative people. But what someone finally realized is that the disciplinarian likes to have fun, too.

That's why there are large air ducts in the front, furrowed-brow creases in the hood, a sporty chrome line in the profile and bold quad exhaust pipes. It's a look that remembers fast can have class.

And there are some great exclusive features, like the Frozen Dark Brown Metallic matte paint. After all, there's nothing more elite than telling people that the paint is so extraordinary it cannot even be waxed.

It's a \$5,200 special order from BMW, but that doesn't seem too outrageous considering the M760i starts out at \$156,495.

But when is a car worth as much as

a junior executive's house? How about when it comes with 360-degree monitoring, surrounds sound HD stereo, xDrive all-wheel drive, an infotainment touchscreen large enough to always show two functions, dual sunroofs, real-time traffic info and a driver's seat that has 20 ways to adjust and offers a massage.

In Europe, this car would come with an "L" in its alphabet soup name. It is a designation for the longer wheel-base model. In the USA, BMW doesn't bother offering that smaller version, so all 7-Series have limousine-like legroom in the rear.

If the executive is going to let someone else do the driving, there are rear options like a massaging seat and a touchscreen video screen that will control everything the driver could – from

the audio system to the satellite navigation. There's even a built-in detachable tablet that adjusts the atmosphere, including the electronic sunshades and color of the ambient lighting.

There are a ton more interior features in the M760i, but the real reason why it can command well into six-figures is the way it behaves on the road.

BMW proudly displays badging for the V12 motor on the outside and even on the center console – it's obvious but not ostentatious. Then again, with this massive 6.6-liter power plant twin-turboed to 601 horsepower, this super sedan has earned the right to be as boastful as it wants.

It's also good to remember that BMW owns Rolls-Royce, and this motor is similar to the one found in the \$300,000+

Ghost sedan. So, the M760i does a great job of straddling the German's lineage of sports sedans and England's rolling opulence.

The throttle has a world of travel that will easily trundle in urban traffic with upper-class quiet isolation. But peg the accelerator to the floor, and an authoritative roar begins as onramps disappear in the blink of an eye.

The same adaptability is found in the suspension. In comfort mode, the bumps roll with enough ease to never spoil a champagne toast in the rear. But when the passengers finish their glasses, the driver can switch to sport mode and throw this large sedan around corners like it was BMW's M4.

For those who intend to be drivers, it's also worth getting the Assistance Plus package. At \$1,700, it only costs as much as the M760i's gas guzzler tax, and it provides a great semi-autonomous driving experience.

With the adaptive cruise control set, the car will maintain the fixed speed and slow down for whatever traffic ahead. It will even come to a complete stop and assist with steering around lazy interstate curves. BMW is not the only car company to offer this level of autonomy, but there's a smoothness to this system that makes paying attention while giving up some control an easier proposition.

The semi-autopilot and comfort engineered over every inch of the interior create one of the best business-class travel machines around. The BMW M760i is more expensive than hiring a chauffeur for a year but cheaper than a private jet – and it's able to deliver the feeling of both. ■

EARL ON CARS

When a car dealer rips you off, who should be held responsible?



I receive a lot of emails, calls, and letters every week from victims who were taken advantage of by car dealers in buying, leasing, and servicing their cars. They mostly call to ask what they can do to get all or some of their money back. These "victims" fall into different categories:

- The elderly, often widows.
- Young people buying their first car.
- Those who don't speak or understand English well.
- People who are poorly educated.
- People with bad credit.
- Everybody else.

The elderly — The elderly, especially widows, are the most victimized. The reasons for this are that Florida, especially South Florida, is a "retirement" state. Baby boomers and pre-baby boomers make up a disproportionately large percentage of Florida's population. Not only that, but life expectancies have soared in recent years...81 for a woman and 76 for a man. Men usually predecease their wives. Women's role in the American culture is a great deal different than in the 1930s and 1940's. More often than not, the husband was not only the breadwinner, but the decision maker in the household. Widows of that era are often buying their first car today. Men and women in their seventies,

eighties, and nineties (Yes, I have a lot of customers in their nineties) aren't as sharp as they once were. I'm 73 and I'll be the first to admit this. In my opinion, men and women of my age, and older, are more trusting. We can't forget the terrible disease, Alzheimer's. Unless a court declares a person incompetent, a person with Alzheimer's can legally buy a car in Florida and it happens all too often. This is one of the most despicable acts that some car dealers commit.

Young people — What chance does a teenager or kid in his 20s have when negotiating with a car salesman and his manager to buy a car? Usually, it's the parents who tell me how their son or daughter was taken advantage of. I don't tell them this, but what I'm thinking is "Why didn't they accompany them to the car dealership to advise them?"

Non-native speakers of English — South Florida is not only a retirement area, but it's a haven for immigrants from Cuba, Haiti, and South and Central America. Many of these are first generation Americans who have a difficult time with English or can't speak, read, or write English at all. These people are easy prey for unscrupulous car dealers. Can you imagine how difficult it would be for you to get a fair price on a car you were buying in a foreign country where you did not speak or understand the language?

Poorly educated people — Let's face it, there are too many Americans who never had the benefit of a proper education. We have too many high school dropouts and too many high

school graduates who still can't read or write as well as they must to function in our society. Lack of a good education is one of America's most serious problems and we're seeing other countries like China, Japan, Germany and India pass us by in educating their children. It's almost criminal how the educated are exploited by car dealers' advertising and sales tactics. How many car dealers' TV advertisements have you seen that you laugh at, knowing that they are totally untrue, "bait and switch" to lure you into the dealership. You wonder who would believe that kind of nonsense. The reason that car dealers keep running those ads is because they work.

People with bad credit — There are always people with bad credit who have to buy a car, especially in today's economy. In Florida, without an effective mass transit system, a car is virtually a necessity to get to your job or find a job, not to mention the doctor, school, or the pharmacy. People with bad credit are at the mercy of the car dealer. The main thing on these people's minds is not how good a price or a car can I buy or how low an interest rate, but can they be financed? Knowing this, dealers will charge whatever price and interest rate the lender will allow. People with bad credit almost always pay dealers a higher profit than those with good credit.

The headline of this article asks the question, "Who should be held responsible for car dealers ripping off customers?" For all categories except the last one, the answer is our regulators and our lawmakers. But for the last category,

"Everybody else," it's themselves.

It goes without saying that the car dealers who do this are responsible too. But who doesn't know that most car dealers do business this way? Who doesn't know that car dealers perennially rank last on the annual Gallup "Honesty and Ethics in Professions" poll?

I recently received an email from a woman who fell in none of the first five categories above. She was terribly victimized by a very unethical car dealer from whom she bought two used cars on the same night. Her email asked me for advice on what she should do. Of course the "horse was out of the barn" and this makes things more difficult. This woman did not ask for or receive a CarFax report on either used car. Nor did she take either car to her mechanic for approval. She clearly didn't investigate the dealer for reputation. She didn't check any sources like *Consumer Reports* for recommended used cars. She did not shop and compare prices and the list of "did not's" goes on. If you don't do your due diligence when you buy a car you are equally culpable with the dealer who took advantage of you.

At this point, I will shamelessly plug my book, "Confessions of a Recovering Car Dealer." I say "shamelessly" because 100 percent of the proceeds from my book are donated to Big Dog Ranch Rescue. You can buy this book at www.Amazon.com. Or read my blog posts at www.EarlOnCars.com. ■

— *The opinions of this columnist do not reflect the opinions of Florida Weekly.*

NETWORKING

Chamber of Commerce firefighters breakfast, Palm Beach County Convention Center



1. Amanda Paez and Brittany Wilson
2. Rich Ellis, Scott Bielecky and Chris Hoch
3. Edna Palser and Diana Matty
4. Greg Gordon and Luis Gonzalez
5. Randall Temple, Walter Gavin, Mike Almeida, Edgar Valbuena and Jacqueline Clegg
6. Heather Gray and Selena Smith
7. Edna Murillo, Shannon Materio, Diana Matty, Norvin Rosales and Dorritt Miller
8. Dean Fortunato, Bruce Cavallari and Dave Kerner
9. Keith James and Joseph Ianno
10. Mary Blakeney, Stephanie Sejnoha, Kelley Burke and Diane Sauve
11. Mary Lou Berger, Lisa Delario-Diaz and Priscill Taylor
12. Paula Ryan, Gregg Weiss and Susan Bucher
13. Ray Dorsey, Kelly Fanelli and Clifford Hertz
14. Sophia Eccleston, Sally Chester and Donna Small



Florida Weekly welcomes submissions for the Networking photo pages from business events, grand openings, professional association meetings, etc. We need 300-dpi photographs of groups of two or more people, facing the camera and identified by first and last names. Questions? Email society@floridaweekly.com.

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REAL ESTATE



COURTESY PHOTOS

Magnificent Mirasol contemporary

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

This magnificent contemporary custom home offers a stunning panoramic view of the 7th hole of the Sunrise Golf Course, in the country club community of Mirasol.

Impeccably maintained, this two-story home features a light-filled open floor plan with four bedrooms, an office, a loft, four full baths and two half-baths.

Features of this home include impact glass throughout, 24-inch saturnia marble floors on the diagonal, fireplace, soaring 22-foot ceilings with windows from floor to ceiling, automatic shades and gorgeous cherry wood built-ins throughout the home.

The kitchen boasts granite countertops, wood cabinets, an island, double oven, gas five-burner stove, desk area and all KitchenAid appliances. The spacious patio has an extensive golf course views, a fully equipped summer kitchen, relaxing seating area, covered dining area and a tropical pool and spa. This unique home has a three-car garage.



Enjoy the lifestyle at Mirasol Country Club, with two champion golf courses, state-of-the-art practice range and facilities, 15 clay tennis courts, new full-service spa, aquatics center with three pools, fitness center, family sports complex, newly renovated clubhouse, special interest clubs and year-round social events. A full golf equity membership is available with this home. ■

— *Lang Realty has this spectacular home offered at \$1,899,000.00. The agent is Debbie Arcaro, 561-371-2968, debarcaro@aol.com.*



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PET TALES

Saving species

BY KIM CAMPBELL THORNTON
Andrews McMeel Syndication

Train, aka Mr. T or Big Brown Monster, has made four trips to Misiones, Argentina, a rugged and rainy province with an economy that relies primarily on agriculture and logging, as well as some tourism. He's not a sightseer — at least not in the usual way. Train detects the scat, or feces, of jaguar, puma, ocelot, oncilla and bush dog. What he finds helps Washington University researchers analyze the paths the animals travel. This allows them to plan habitat corridors that protect the ability of wildlife to travel through territory while limiting their impact on surrounding environments, which include public and private wildlife reserves, privately owned plantations and farms, and roads and pathways.

Conservation dogs like Train hold jobs around the world. Besides sniffing for scat, they seek out turtle nests that need protection, detect pests that attack plants and monitor the presence of invasive fish species in streams and other waterways. The dogs are employed by wildlife researchers; local, state, and national agencies; and international organizations where they help to track poachers by finding the scent of ammunition or contraband such as rhino horn. You may also see them at work in airports, where they hunt for smuggled products or animals such as bear bile and gallbladders, snakes and even baby monkeys.

At Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) in Namibia, a border collie named Finn



Train flunked out of narcotics detection class, but his excess energy made him a good candidate as a conservation dog.

and a Malinois/German shepherd cross named Levi search for cheetah scat. What they find is analyzed in CCF's genetics laboratory.

"We can do DNA and understand more about population structure and find out what the cheetah has eaten, so we have prey analysis that we can use as well," says Laurie Marker, Ph.D., CCF's founder and executive director.

Finn has been on the job for approximately eight years and is still active at 10 years old. Levi is his younger understudy, capable of covering more ground. They work off leash in the bush, accompanied by a handler who rewards them with a toss of a ball or toy when they give an alert. They wear tracking collars in case they range out of sight. Despite facing risks such as leopards and baboons, Dr. Marker says they've had only one injury. An English springer

spaniel named Tiger, now retired, broke a leg from falling in a hole.

The traits that make a good conservation dog are not what most people look for in a companion, so it's no surprise that many dogs who excel in these careers were pulled from animal shelters, Train among them.

The then-2-year-old dog was selected for his high energy level and ball-driven spirit, says his handler, Karen DeMatteo, a biology research scientist at Washington University in St. Louis. Dogs suited to these types of jobs can't simply focus on a ball or toy, though. They must also be willing to pay attention to the handler and have the stamina and drive to work for long periods without getting bored.

"They work for play," Dr. Marker says.

The dogs are capable of learning to identify multiple scents, making them valuable in a number of situations. In addition to identifying cheetah scat, Levi — trained in South Africa — knows rhino horn and ammunition and is being trained on leopard. Together, the scents give him a well-rounded skill set.

In addition to his work in Argentina, where his repertoire odors include tapir, white-lipped peccary, collared peccary and paca, Train has helped with mountain lion surveys for Nebraska Game and Parks and the Missouri Department of Conservation. DeMatteo is planning to expand his repertoire to include spotted skunk to help find this endangered species in Missouri, where she and Train live.

"Even at 10 years old, he shows no sign of wanting to slow down," she says. ■

Pets of the Week



>> **Phil** is a 2½-year-old, 53-pound male mixed dog that likes his toys.



>> **Flo** is a 2½-year-old female cat that was rescued after giving birth to two litters of kittens.

To adopt or foster a pet

The **Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League, Humane Society of the Palm Beaches**, is at

3100/3200 Military Trail in West Palm Beach. Adoptable pets and other information can be seen at www.hspsb.org. For adoption information, call 561-686-6656.



>> **Amelia** is a 1-year-old female classic blue tabby with white fur. She is a large, affectionate love bug who really enjoys contact with her humans.



>> **Night Sky** is a 1½-year-old black female cat that loves getting attention from her humans.

To adopt or foster a cat

Adopt A Cat is a free-roaming cat rescue facility at 1125 Old Dixie Highway, Lake Park. The shelter is open to the public by appointment (call 561-848-4911, Option 3). For additional information, and photos of other adoptable cats, see www.adoptacatfoundation.org, or on Facebook, Adopt A Cat Foundation. ■

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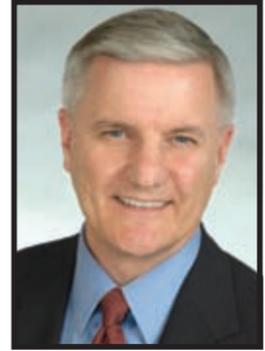
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Jeannie Walker
Luxury Homes Specialist

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Jim Walker III
Broker

Singer Island • Palm Beach Gardens • Jupiter • North Palm Beach • Juno Beach **Featured House Of The Week**



Ritz Carlton Residence 1804A

Steeped in the sun-splashed sophistication of the Palm Beaches, this beautiful Ritz Carlton Residence immerses you in the laid-back luxury of beachfront living at its best. Join us in viewing this contemporary residence where no expense has been spared in accomplishing a quiet "Zen" like feeling of comfort. One has commanding views of both the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway from this 18th floor ultra-luxury retreat. Over 3,600 square feet of imported Carrera marble floors sets the stage for the contemporary furnishings and finishes in soft hues of gray and white. Imported wall coverings continue the flow of sophistication and grace throughout. Here you will find the luxuries of a modern resort and the privacy of a secluded home. This 3BR/3.5BA residence is being sold furnished*. **\$3,299,000.** For a private tour, please call Jeannie Walker (561) 889-6734.



Ritz Tower Suite 7A
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Ritz Carlton Residence 402A
3BR+DEN/3.5BA - \$3,300,000



Ritz Carlton Residence 1904A
3BR+DEN/3.5BA - \$3,200,000



Oasis Singer Island 17A
3BR+DEN/3.5BA - \$2,875,000



Oasis Singer Island 15B
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Ritz Carlton Residence 2104B
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Ritz Carlton Residence 1805B
2BR+DEN/2.5BA - \$1,525,000



Water Club 1703-S
2BR+DEN/2.5BA - \$1,375,000



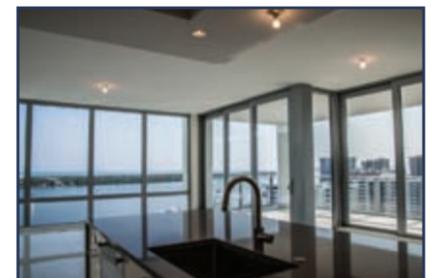
Water Club 1603-S
2BR+DEN/2.5BA - \$1,350,000



Beach Front 1503
3BR/3BA - \$1,349,000



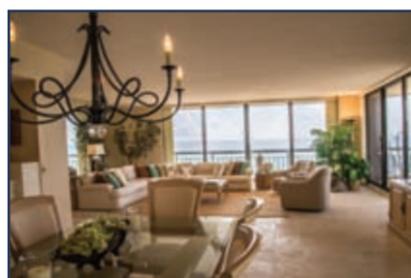
Ritz Carlton Residence 2506B
2BR+DEN/2.5BA - \$1,299,000



Water Club 1504-S
2BR+DEN/3BA - \$1,299,000



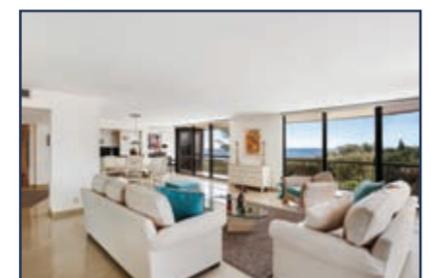
Ritz Carlton Residence 306B
2BR+DEN/2.5BA - \$925,000



Martinique ET502
2BR/2.5BA - \$799,000



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2BR/3.5BA - \$849,000



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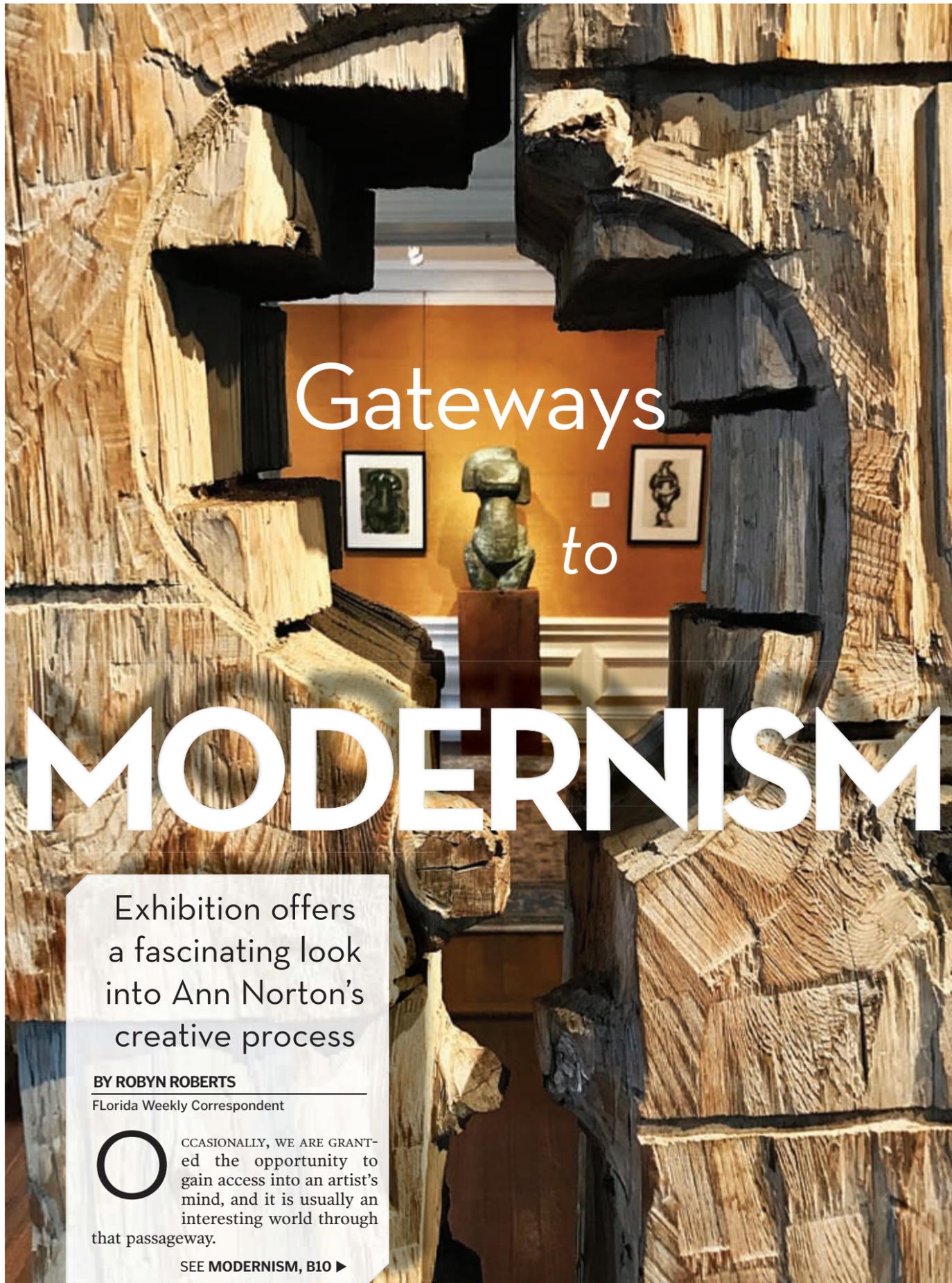


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16-22, 2017

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SECTION B

Gateways
to

MODERNISM

Exhibition offers
a fascinating look
into Ann Norton's
creative processBY ROBYN ROBERTS
Florida Weekly Correspondent

OCCASIONALLY, WE ARE GRANTED the opportunity to gain access into an artist's mind, and it is usually an interesting world through that passageway.

SEE MODERNISM, B10 ►

PHOTOS BY ROBYN ROBERTS/FLORIDA WEEKLY

Tommy stays in tune with stage classics

BY BILL HIRSCHMAN
Floridatheateronstage.com

Tommy Tune is a self-described Ludite. On several levels.

He has no cell phone or computer — although his assistant at Tommy Tune Inc. has both.

He isn't a huge fan of the current crop of musicals compared to those he grew up with. As welcome as some recent revivals like "Hello, Dolly!" are, he wishes that someone would write new ones "like Betty and Adolph and Cy" used to (as in Betty Comden, Adolph Green and Cy Coleman).

He appreciates how performers equipped with microphones have benefited Broadway, but he also pines for something that has been lost with the obses-



TUNE

sion with amplification.

But don't mistake the literally towering 78-year-old iconic dancer-singer-actor-choreographer-director with 10 Tony Awards for someone stuck in the past.

Mr. Tune will headline a one-night-only benefit concert Nov. 18 for the Maltz Jupiter Theatre and its education programs. The theater hired a 10-piece orchestra and orchestrated the more modest score that Mr. Tune has been using in a recently reconstituted tour. He will also provide a master class for students earlier in the

Tune (once listed as being 6 feet, 6½ inches, now listed as an inch shorter) has created a musical bio-revue that reviews his half-century-plus in show business encompassing dancing in "Seesaw" on Broadway, directing and choreographing the groundbreaking "Nine" and "Grand Hotel," traipsing through the film of "Hello, Dolly!" and even acting in Netflix's "Arrested Development."

Interviewed by phone from New York, his voice somehow glowed from the receiver, even though he was still deep in rehearsals. The increased scope of the Maltz project poses a renewed challenge.

"I'm always in rehearsal, reshaping it for an orchestra. All day yesterday. Other

SEE TOMMY, B11 ►

HAPPENINGS



PROVIDED PHOTO

The Wildflowers play a tribute to Tom Petty at Sunday on the Waterfront, at the Meyer Amphitheatre.

Historical
Society to host
appraisal eventBY JANIS FONTAINE
pbnews@floridaweekly.com

Fans of PBS' "Antiques Roadshow" (where dusty household artifacts and ancient family heirlooms are appraised and revealed to be worth thousands of dollars) may want to check around the house and pack up any antiques, fine art, jewelry and silver for the Historical Society of Palm Beach County's EOAR Antique Appraisal Event by Skinner from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 18.

The free appraisal event will be held at the Richard And Pat Johnson History Museum, 300 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. Appointments are required. Call Skinner Auctioneers and Appraisers Coral Gables office at 305-503-4423 or email Florida@Skinnerinc.com.

While you're at the museum, take a moment to visit the new exhibition "Visions of Florida: Clyde Butcher," on display in the Historic Courtroom Gallery until Jan. 31.

The exhibition reveals a part of Florida many have never seen. Butcher, a conservationist who works tirelessly to raise awareness about the natural beauty, captures the resplendent landscape of South Florida in his photographs. His message is that the wilderness is disappearing along with its fauna and flora and soon we will only have photographs to recall the unspoiled scenery that drew Butcher to Florida in the first place.

For information about the HSPBC or the Johnson Museum, call 561-832-4164; www.hspbc.org

Tom Petty Tribute

The tribute band The Wildflowers will take the stage Nov. 19 at Sunday on the Waterfront for an afternoon of music dedicated to the songs of the rock icon who died Oct. 2.

The band is named for Petty's 1994 solo album, Wildflowers, and the band covers two dozen Petty hits, including "Good to Be King" and "You Don't Know How It Feels," from that album. Led by vocalist Jonathan Guthrie, with bass player Darryell Stone and lead guitarist Curt Granger, backing his every move, the band will transport you to the '90s and the '00s. Drummer Steve Lucas and Glenn Freeman on keyboards, harmonica, guitar and backing vocals round out the band.

Sunday on the Waterfront concerts take place from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. the third Sunday of the month at the Meyer

SEE HAPPENINGS, B10 ►

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Try to serve up a helping of memories this Thanksgiving



scott SIMMONS
ssimmons@floridaweekly.com

I was used to finding them jammed in the turkey's rear, but one year, I found no neck, gizzard, heart or liver, so I shrugged and stuck the turkey in oven.

When I went to carve the bird, I found them neatly tucked in a pouch above the breast.

It was embarrassing then, but I can laugh at the memory now.

Decades earlier, it was Aunt Cleo's turn to bring the turkey. She got up early and roasted half a bird — yes, it was split from stem to stern — and brought it from Pahokee to Fort Myers. It looked pretty funny on the platter, but was Cleo's way of being thrifty — why cook more than necessary?

She also tricked the family into eating oyster dressing — everyone wondered why the dressing that year was so much richer than usual.

Grandma always deemed Ocean Spray canned cranberry jelly to be sufficient, but Cleo made a wonderful relish of fresh cranberries, celery and pecans from the family farm. I'm sure gelatin was a key ingredient, but in the palate of my mind, it was ambrosial.

We served the meal on Grandma's Lenox china — the set had been her mother-in-law's.

I remember she fretted that the service for 12 had been divided when Grandma Bolender died in 1949. That meant she only had six dinner plates and had to set a second table with luncheon plates.

To reduce the risk of breakage, only a couple of us were allowed to help wash

and dry the dishes because the pattern had been discontinued and it was impossible at the time to find additional pieces.

She would sigh as she recounted how her mother-in-law had entertained so elegantly and so effortlessly, and had died too young.

Now, I have a service for 16 in the pattern, and I smile at the memory of Grandma, Cleo and the rest as I set the table and wash the dishes after a meal.

Those rituals are so vital, and they're something that is missed in a world of dishwashers and disposable plates.

We need to take the time to thank the pot that cooked the meal, I remember reading somewhere.

There's a lot of truth in that.

For me, there are few things more powerful than bonding over cooking or cleanup and pausing to remember the times spent.

The food, the recipes and the rituals all remind me of the love I have shared. ■

SCOTT SIMMONS/FLORIDA WEEKLY

Several of these Spode turkey plates are impressed with an F above a 12, suggesting they were made in February 1912.

THE FIND:

A set of five Spode Gadroon-shape turkey plates

Bought: The Church Mouse, 378 S. County Road, Palm Beach; 561-659-2154.

Paid: \$10 apiece

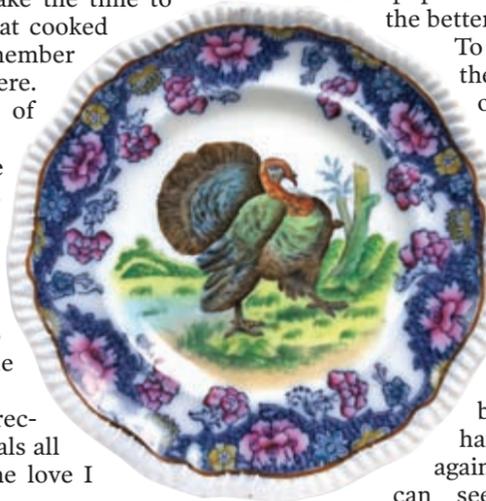
The Skinny: The markings on these Spode dinner plates suggest they date from the early 20th century.

By the time these plates were made in England, flow-blue transferware had been popular with consumers for the better part of a century.

To create these dishes, the design was stamped onto a piece of paper, which was applied to the pottery plate. After that, they would have been glazed and fired.

On these dishes, the turkeys and greenery in the centers and the flowers around the border have been handpainted and fired again for durability. You can see the brushstrokes around the turkeys' wattles.

The dishes also have been used — there are a few utensil marks here and there, but that only adds character, and we're not just talking turkey. ■



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COURTESY PHOTO

The Brasil Guitar Duo performs music by such classical composers as Scarlatti and Bach as well as Brazilian and other South American fare.

Brasil Guitar Duo to perform for Atlantic Classical Orchestra

The Atlantic Classical Orchestra will hold a benefit concert featuring the internationally acclaimed Brasil Guitar Duo.

The event is set for 4:30 p.m. Dec. 13 at Admirals Cove in Jupiter.

The New York Times praised Douglas Lora and João Luiz of the Brasil Guitar Duo for “warm melodies and pinpoint dance rhythms.” The pair blends classical guitar duos from Bach, Scarlatti and Debussy with traditional and Brazilian dance-inspiring choro, samba, maxixe and baião. Brasil Guitar Duo global touring schedule has included perfor-

mances with cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Carlos Prieto, and resulted in its latest CD, performed under the direction of Maestro David Amado of the Atlantic Classical Orchestra.

The evening benefit includes opportunities to meet Mr. Lora and Mr. Luiz, as well as Maestro David Amado at a cocktail-and-hors-d'oeuvres reception following the program.

Tickets are \$100 person and are available by calling the Atlantic Classical Orchestra Box Office at 772-460-0850. To learn more, visit www.ACO-Music.org. ■



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2017
Seatings: 1:00 pm – 7:30 pm • Ironwood Steak & Seafood

Guests will gobble up this beautiful and delicious spread we are serving up at Ironwood Steak & Seafood. Reserve now so that your table awaits!

MENU

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 - Tuna Poke
 - Parsnip Blue Crab Chowder
 - Arugula and Roasted Beet Salad
 - Cranberry Pecan Lettuce Salad
 - Classic Caesar
 - Breads, Biscuits and Sweet Breads
 - Smoked Salmon
 - Yankee Pot Roast
 - Stuffing
 - Maple Roasted Yams, Mashed Potatoes, Pancetta Brussels Sprouts, Garlic Green Beans, Creamed Corn, Duck Fat French Fries, White Cheddar Truffle Mac N' Cheese, Turkey Leg Confit
-
- ### DESSERTS
- Pumpkin Pie, Banana-Coconut and Vanilla Wafer Trifle, Cupcakes, Candied and Caramel Apples, and Assorted Pies and Tarts

\$85 PER ADULT • \$30 PER CHILD AGE 6-12

Plus tax and gratuity per person

For more information or to book your reservation call, 561.627.4852. Groups of 10 or more should call our Private Dining Events Manager at 561.227.2563



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ONESSIMO FINE ART

presents

POP SHOP



Romero Britto



Mackenzie Thorpe



Kfir Moyal



Peter Max

Meet the Artists at two Events:

ROMERO BRITTO
November 10
Friday, 6-8 pm

MACKENZIE THORPE & KFIR MOYAL
November 17
Friday, 6-9 pm

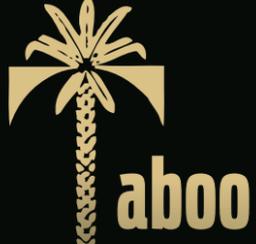
RSVP required (561) 355-8061 or contact@onessimofineart.com

A work by each artist will benefit



Previews begin November 7

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RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED



221 Worth Ave. Palm Beach, FL

CALENDAR

Please send calendar listings to calendar editor Janis Fontaine at pbnews@florida-weekly.com.

THURSDAY 11/16

Art After Dark — 5-9 p.m. Thursday. Free. 561-832-5196; www.norton.org.

Clematis By Night — 6-9 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Waterfront. Live music, vendors and a free sunset. www.clematisbynight.net

Nov. 16: Terry Hanck (Soul Rockin' Blues) www.terryhanck.net.

The Atala Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association — 7-9 p.m. Nov. 16, at the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, 6301 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach. Laurie Albrecht, environmental horticulture agent for Palm Beach County Extension Service will present "Florida Friendly Landscaping." Free. Guests welcomed. www.nabapalmbeach.org

"The Dutch Golden Age, Tulip Mania and the Jews of Amsterdam" — Lecture by Ralph Nurnberger, Ph.D., on the great artists, scientists, writers and scholars who lived in Amsterdam in the 17th century. 7-8:30 p.m. Nov. 16, Osher Lifelong Learning Society Institute, FAU John D. MacArthur Campus, Jupiter. Topic: Tickets: \$25, members; \$35, nonmembers. www.fau.edu/lsljupiter or 561-799-8547.

The Movement, New Kingston and Reinstated — Nov. 16, The Kelsey Theatre, 700 Park Ave., Lake Park. An all-ages reggae triple header. Doors open at 7 p.m. \$15 presale, \$18 at the door. 561-328-7481; www.thekelseytheater.com or www.holdmyticket.com.

"A Christmas Story" — Through Dec. 3, Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth. The classic holiday favorite in an adaption by Phillip Grecian. Tickets: \$29-\$35. www.lakeworthplayhouse.org or 561-586-6410.

"Dreamgirls" — Through Dec. 10, Stage Door Theatre, 8036 W. Sample Road, Margate. Book and lyrics by Tom Eyen, music by Henry Krieger. Tickets: \$48. 954-344-7765; www.stagedoorfl.org

"I Will Survive: Soundtracks of the 70s" — Through Nov. 19, PGA Arts Center, 4076 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. Conceived and written by Kevin Black & Mimi J. featuring music by an array of artists from ABBA to Carly Simon, to Gladys Knight, John Lennon and ZZ Top. Tickets: \$45 weekdays, \$48 weekends. Premium seats are \$65. 855-448-7469; www.pgaartscenter.com.

"A Journey to the Heart of Cuba" — Through Nov. 25, 1615 Cypress Drive, Suite 1, Jupiter. A group of plein air painters and a photographer interpret the country and its people. 561-295-5712; www.thenewschoolva.net

FRIDAY 11/17

The Palm Beach Writers Group — 11:45 a.m. Nov. 17, Chesterfield's Pavilion Room, Palm Beach. Patricia Wakely Wolf will speak about what makes a book a movie. Reservations and prepayment required. \$40 members, \$45 nonmembers. Email palmbeachwritersgroup@gmail.com.

Jensen Beach Pineapple Festival — Nov. 17-19, downtown Jensen Beach. 772-334-3444; www.pineapplefestival.info.

Garden Brothers Circus — Nov. 17-19, South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach. Free kids' tickets are available. www.GardenBrosCircus.com or www.southflorida-fair.com.

Sadie Hawkins Friday Night Dinner Dance Party — Nov. 17, The American German Club of the Palm Beaches, 5111 Lantana Road, Lake Worth. Dinner 6-8 p.m. Entertainment by Matthias from 7-11 p.m. Admission is \$8, dinner is \$12. www.americangermanclub.org.

Santa's Arrival Dance Party — 6 p.m. Nov. 17, The Gardens Mall, 3101 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. A DJ, jugglers, and stilt walkers, Santa. Admission is an unwrapped toy to donate to the Salvation Army. 561-775-7750; www.thegardensmall.com.

LA Mesa: The Artful Table Exhibition and Bazaar — 6-9 p.m. Nov. 17, Artisans on the Ave, 630 Lake Ave., Lake Worth. The opening reception will feature work by more than 40 local artists in a variety of media. Refreshments. Free. 561-762-8162, 561-582-3300, www.ArtisansOnTheAve.com.

The 5th Annual Rhinestone Cowboy Haute Hoedown — 6:30-11 p.m. Nov. 17, Flagler Museum, Palm Beach. Signature cocktails, dining, dancing, luxury raffles, and live entertainment. Tickets: \$200, which benefits Kid-Sanctuary Campus. www.kidsanctuary-campus.org.

PBD Cabaret: Fever: A Tribute to Peggy Lee — Nov. 17-18 in Perlberg Studio Theatre, Don & Ann Brown Theatre, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. Starring Jill and Rich Switzer. 561-514-4042; www.palmbeachdramaworks.org.

SATURDAY 11/18

By the Banyan Tree Historical Walking Tours — 10 a.m. Saturdays, during the GreenMarket. Offered the first and third Saturdays. Rick Gonzalez leads. Leaves from the banyan tree at the corner of Lantana Avenue and North Clematis Street, and finishes at the Johnson History Museum. \$10, benefits the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. Next tour: Nov. 18. 561-832-4164, Ext. 2; www.hspbc.org.

Santa's Enchanted Garden — Nov. 18-Dec. 24, The Gardens Mall, 3101 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. Visit Santa in his Enchanted Garden in the Grand Court. 561-775-7750; www.thegardensmall.com.

The Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County — 1:30 p.m. Nov. 18, at the Palm Beach County Main Library, Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach. Members Paula Vick and Carlos Ruth present a review of many new resources in the Genealogy Library and explain the library's intuitive cataloging method. 561-616-3455; www.gensocofpbc.org.

National Theatre Live: "Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen" — 1:30-5 p.m. Nov. 18, Osher Lifelong Learning Society Institute, FAU John D MacArthur Campus, Jupiter. A pre-recorded broadcast. \$20/member \$20/nonmember. 561-799-8547; www.fau.edu/lsljupiter.

Tea at the Taj — 6-9 p.m. Nov. 18, Ragtops Palm Beach, 420 Claremore Drive, West Palm Beach. Get transported to the streets of India with cuisine from Aroma Restaurant, beer, champagne, cocktails and an exotic bazaar. Hosted by Community Partners. www.cp-cto.org; 561-841-3500.

The third annual Bark Back Benefit — 6-11 p.m. Nov. 18, The Bamboo Room, at 25 S. J St., Lake Worth. First responders from the Palm Beach County Sheriff Department, Boynton Police Department and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue will walk the runway to showcase adoptable dogs, plus live music, vendors, an auction and food trucks. Benefits Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League. Performers include Micah Scott, Dreyfoos Jazz Band, Lindsey Mills Band, Copper Tones and Spred the Dub. A Bark After Dark Afterparty takes place at Propaganda from 11 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10. For the afterparty, suggested donation of \$5. www.barkbackbenefit.com.

SUNDAY 11/19

The West Palm Beach Sports Cards & Collectibles Show — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 19, American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Road, Greenacres. Free admission. All types of collectible trading cards, plus sports memorabilia and collectibles. 772-879-1915 or WPBcardshow@mail.com.

Pet Photos with Santa — Nov. 19-Dec. 3, The Gardens Mall, 3101 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. Make a reservation at the Guest Services desk. Hours are 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 19 and 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 3. 561-775-7750; www.thegardensmall.com.

Thanksgiving Country-Western Picnic — Noon Nov. 19, The American German Club of the Palm Beaches, 5111 Lantana Road, Lake Worth. A family friendly picnic. All-inclusive admission is \$20. Food served 1-3 p.m. Entertainment from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. by the 33 Years Band. www.americangermanclub.org.

Music at St. Paul's — 3 p.m. Nov. 19, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 188 S. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. Duo Beaux Arts performs. \$20 suggested donation. Free for age 18 and younger. 561-278-6003; www.stpaulsdelray.org.

MONDAY 11/20

Exhibition: Amber M. Moran "Celebrating the Sunshine State" — Nov. 20-Jan. 4, Palm Beach Gardens City Hall Lobby, 10500 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens. A 'Meet & Greet the Artist' is planned for 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 1. 561-630-1100; www.pbgreg.com.

Casey Klofstad, Ph.D., speaks — 2:30-4 p.m. Nov. 20, Osher Lifelong Learning Society Institute, FAU John D MacArthur Campus, Jupiter. Topic: "How Biology and Society Influence Our Politics," a lecture that explores important developments in the study of political behavior. \$25/member \$35/nonmember. 561-799-8547; www.fau.edu/lsljupiter

Transgender Day of Remembrance — 6-8:30 p.m. Nov. 20, Compass Community Center, 201 N. Dixie Highway, Lake Worth. Open mic sharing. Info: 561-533-9699; www.compassglcc.com.

Auditions: "It's A Wonderful Life" The Radio Play — 7 p.m. Nov. 20, Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth. Seeking actors of all ages and types. Prepare a one-minute contemporary monologue or a poem to read aloud. Performance dates are Dec. 9-10. Email daniel@lakeworthplayhouse.org for more information.

TUESDAY 11/21

Local Eyes, Global Views: Celebrating the Photography of Barron Collier, Alexander W. Dreyfoos and Leslie Slatkin — Opening reception 6-8 p.m. Nov. 21. On display through Jan. 5, The Palm Beach Photographic Centre, 415 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. An opening reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. Nov. 21. Free. 561-253-2600; www.workshop.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

Clematis By Night — 6-9 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Waterfront. Live music, vendors and a free sunset. www.clematisbynight.net.

■ **Nov. 23: Happy Thanksgiving!** — No Clematis by Night

■ **Nov. 30: Special Clematis by Night** — Holiday Tree Lighting.

Fellowship Friday — 8:30 a.m. Nov. 24, Temple Emanu-El, 190 N County Road, Palm Beach. The Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews hosts breakfast followed by volunteer projects. A collection of nonperishable food and new, unwrapped toys is planned. 561-833-6150; www.palmbeachfellowship.net.

"Cinderella" — 7:30 p.m. Nov. 25 and 2 p.m. Nov. 26, Parker Playhouse at the Broward Performing Arts Center, 707 NE Eighth St., Fort Lauderdale. A production by Open World Dance Foundation featuring Devon Teuscher and Cory Stearns, principals of American Ballet Theatre and dozens of local children. Tickets: \$35 - \$175 at www.browardcenter.org. Info: www.OpenWorldDanceFoundation.com.

Book Signing and Art Exhibit: An Artist's Inspired Journeys in India and Nepal — 4 p.m. Nov. 26, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 100 N. Palmway, Lake Worth. These 'paintings and tales' by Jill Karlin recount her adventures and include a collection of letters, journals, art and paintings featured in her coffee table book. A reception will include wine, punch and cocktail party nibbles is planned. Admission: \$15, which benefits PEACE (People Engaged In Active Community Effort). 561-582-6609.

Jazz Society of Palm Beach: A Toast to the New Season of Elegant Jazz — Nov. 26, Club Colette, Palm Beach. By invitation. 561-420-9182.

Pride Business Alliance Mixer — 6-8:30 Nov. 29, Compass CC, Lake Worth. AIDS Memorial Quilt viewing. Hosted by Compass Inc. Free for members. \$20 guests. Register online at www.compassglcc.com.

"The Songs of the Rolling Stones" — 7-9 p.m. Nov. 30, Osher Lifelong Learning Society Institute, FAU John D MacArthur Campus, Jupiter. Join performer Rod MacDonald & The Humdingers for an easy-on-the-ears tour through the lives, music and genius of this unique band, told in their songs. \$25/member \$35/nonmember. 561-799-8547; www.fau.edu/lsljupiter.

AT THE COLONY

The Colony Hotel — 155 Hammon Ave., Palm Beach. Info: 561-659-8100 or 561-655-5430; www.thecolonypalmbeach.com.

Motown Fridays with Memory Lane — 9 p.m. to midnight.

After Party with Raquel Williams — 9 p.m. to midnight.

CALENDAR

Royal Room Cabaret — Shows start at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$75. Dinner options available.

■ **Dennis Lambert** — Nov. 17-18

AT DRAMAWORKS

Ann & Don Brown Theatre, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. 514-4042, Ext. 1; pbdramaworks.org

"Billy and Me" — Dec. 8-31. Tennessee Williams and William Inge: Two great American playwrights, one turbulent friendship, by Terry Teachout.

Dramaworks Cabaret:

FEVER: A Tribute to Peggy Lee — Nov. 17-18. Starring Jill & Rich Switzer. \$30. 561-514-4042 or online at www.palmbeachdramaworks.org.

AT HARBOURSIDE PLACE

Harbourside Place, 200 U.S. 1, Jupiter. Info: 561-935-9533; www.harboursideplace.com.

Live Music on the Waterfront — 6-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Jupiter Green & Artisan Market — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays, year-round.

AT THE KELSEY

The Kelsey Theater, 700 Park Ave., Lake Park. Info: 561-328-7481; www.thekelseytheater.com or www.holdmyticket.com.

The Movement, New Kingston and Reinstated — Nov. 16

AT THE KRAVIS

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. Info: 561-832-7469; www.kravis.org.

"The Book of Mormon" — Nov. 21-26.

ETHEL's Documerica — Nov. 17. PEAK.

AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

Jupiter Lighthouse and Museum, Lighthouse Park, 500 Captain Armour's Way, Jupiter. 561-747-8380, Ext. 101; www.jupiterlighthouse.org.

Lighthouse Sunset Tours — 4:45 p.m. Nov. 29. Weather permitting. Spectacular sunset views and an inside look at the nuts & bolts of a working lighthouse watchroom. Tour time: 75 minutes. \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers. RSVP required.

Lighthouse Moonrise Tour — 5:45 p.m. Occurs monthly, weather permitting. Spectacular sunset views and an inside look at the nuts & bolts of a working lighthouse watchroom. Tour time: 75 minutes. \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers. RSVP required. Get tickets online or call 747-8380, Ext. 101.

Hike Through History — 8:30-10:30 a.m. the first Saturday of the month. Discover the topography and natural history of Jupiter's National Conservation Lands historic site on this 2-mile trek. Free, but RSVP required. Next hike: Dec.

Twilight Yoga at the Light — 6-7 p.m. Nov. 20, and 27.

Lighthouse Story Time & Crafts

for Kids — 10:30 a.m. the first Tuesday of the month. For ages 8 and younger. Bring a mat to sit on. Free, but reservations are required. Next meeting: Dec.

Lighthouse Book Club — 6-7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month. Join the museum staff in book discussions on all things Florida. November's book is "The Seminole Indian Wars" by John Missall and Mary Lou Missall. The complete book list is available online. Donation requested. RSVP.

AT THE MALTZ

Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E. Indian-town Road, Jupiter. 561-575-2223; www.jupitertheatre.org.

Tommy Tune Tonight! — Nov. 18. Fifth annual Tony Award winner series brings Broadway's tallest tapper to the stage for dancing, singing and tale-telling. Tickets: \$50 and up.

"Disney's Newsies: The Musical" — Nov. 28-Dec. 17.

AT THE JCC

The Mandel JCC, 5221 Hood Road, Palm Beach Gardens. Info: 561-689-7700; www.jcconline.com/pbg.

Nov. 16: Duplicate bridge

Nov. 17: Duplicate bridge

Nov. 20: Timely Topics discussion group; duplicate bridge

Nov. 21: Duplicate bridge

Nov. 22: Duplicate bridge, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Nov. 24: Duplicate bridge, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

AT PBAU

Palm Beach Atlantic University — 901 S. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach. Performances take place at: DeSantis Family Chapel, 300 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach; Persson Recital Hall in Vera Lea Rinker Hall, 326 Acacia Road, West Palm Beach; the Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. 803-2970; pba.edu/performances

Student Directed One Act Plays — Nov. 16-18, Fern Street Theatre. \$15 general admission or two for \$25; \$10 seniors 65+; \$5 students with ID.

Tauni De Lesseps Student Art Show Opening Reception — Nov. 17, Warren Library. Free.

Surprises — Nov. 17, DeSantis Family Chapel. (PBA Symphony Masterworks Concert II). \$10, \$5 non-PBA students with ID.

Oratorio Chorus Concert — Nov. 20, DeSantis Family Chapel. \$10, \$5 non-PBA students with ID.

Early Music Concert — Nov. 28, DeSantis Family Chapel. \$10, \$5 non-PBA students with ID.

Pop/Rock Lab Ensembles Concert — Nov. 30, Persson Recital Hall. \$10, \$5 non-PBA students with ID.

AT THE EISSEY

Palm Beach State College, 11051 Campus Drive off PGA Blvd, Palm Beach Gardens. Tickets: 207-5900; www.eisseycampus.com.

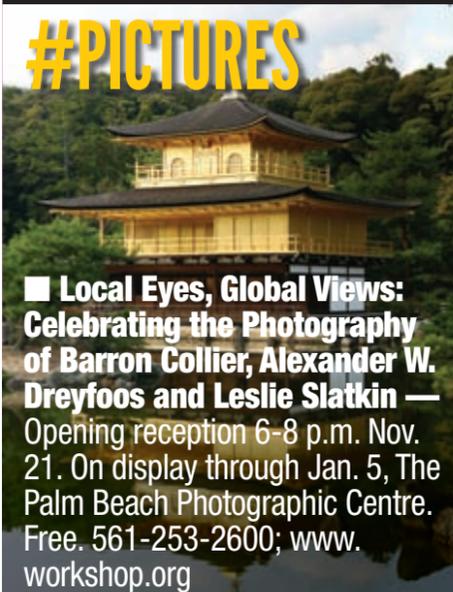
Ethan Bortnick: Generations of



#SFL TOP PICKS

#HOHOHO

■ **Santa's Arrival Dance Party** — 6 p.m. Nov. 17, The Gardens Mall. 561-775-7750; www.thegardensmall.com



#PICTURES

■ **Local Eyes, Global Views: Celebrating the Photography of Barron Collier, Alexander W. Dreyfoos and Leslie Slatkin** — Opening reception 6-8 p.m. Nov. 21. On display through Jan. 5, The Palm Beach Photographic Centre. Free. 561-253-2600; www.workshop.org



#RALPHIE!

"A Christmas Story" — Nov. 16-Dec. 3, The Lake Worth Playhouse. 561-586-6410; www.lakeworthplayhouse.org



11.21-26

■ **"The Book of Mormon"** — Nov. 21-26, Kravis Center. 561-832-7469; www.kravis.org

Music — Nov. 19

Treasure Coast Youth Symphony presents Memorable Solos — Nov. 20

PBSC Music Department Concert Band & Chorus — Nov. 28

AT THE PLAYHOUSE

The Lake Worth Playhouse, 713 Lake Ave., Lake Worth. Info: 561-586-6410; www.lakeworthplayhouse.org.

Main stage:

"A Christmas Story" — Nov. 16-Dec. 3.

AT PGA ARTS CENTER

PGA Arts Center, 4076 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens. 888-264-1788; www.pgaartscenter.com.

"I Will Survive — Soundtracks of the 70's" — Through Nov. 19.

"Irving Berlin Salutes America"

— Nov. 30-Dec. 24.

AT THE IMPROV

Palm Beach Improv at CityPlace, 550 S. Rosemary Ave., Suite 250, West Palm Beach. Info: 561-833-1812; www.palmbeachimprov.com.

Bruce Bruce — Nov. 17-19

John Heffron — Nov. 24-26

AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

The South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach. 561-793-0333; www.southfloridafair.com

Yesteryear Village, A Living History Park — Through Dec. 30. Learn what life was like in South Florida before 1940. "Town residents" will share their stories. Hours are 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 seniors age 60 and older, \$7 children age 5-11, and free for younger than age 5. Info: 561-795-3110 or 561-793-0333.

CALENDAR

Ghost Tours — Fridays through Dec. 30. Wind through Yesteryear Village and hear your guide reveal the haunted places and bizarre happenings in the historic buildings. Tickets: \$18. Reservations required at 561-790-5232 or email yv@southfloridafair.com.

AT THE SCIENCE CENTER

The South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, 4801 Dreher Park Road, West Palm Beach. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Info: 561-832-1988; www.sfsiencecenter.org.

Silver Science Days — 2-5 p.m. the second Wednesday. Guests 60 and older can enjoy an afternoon of science designed just for them. \$10. Next meeting: Nov.

GEMS Club — 5-7 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month. For girls in grades 3-8. Math, science, engineering and technology including dinner and refreshments. \$7 registration fee. A special presentation from a female in the science industry and themed activities and crafts. Pre-registration required at www.sfsiencecenter.org/gems.

Nights at the Museum — 6-9 p.m. the last Friday of the month.

GEMS Club @ STEM Studio Jupiter — 5-7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the STEM Studio; 112 Main St., Jupiter. Girls in grades 3-8 explore the worlds of math, science, engineering and technology. \$10 fee includes dinner and refreshments. Pre-register at www.sfsiencecenter.org/stem-studio-gems.

AT FOUR ARTS

The Society of the Four Arts, 2 Four Arts Plaza, Palm Beach. Call 561-655-7227; www.fourarts.org.

Performances in HD:

The Met Opera: Live in HD — \$27 or \$15 for students. (Student tickets must be purchased in person)

Adès's "The Exterminating Angel" — 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18

Exhibition: "Illustrating Words: The Wondrous Fantasy World of Robert L. Forbes and Ronald Searle" — In the Mary Alice Fortin Children's Art Gallery.

AT THE WICK

The Wick Theatre, 7901 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton. 561-995-2333; www.thewick.org.

"Me & Ella" — Nov. 18

LIVE MUSIC

American Airlines Arena — 601 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. 786-777-1000; aaarena.com

■ **Marc Anthony** — Nov. 17. Full Circle Tour.

■ **Lady Gaga** — Nov. 30. Joanne World Tour. American Airlines Arena.

Hard Rock Live at The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel And Casino — 5747 Seminole Way. Hollywood 866-502-7529; seminolehardrockhollywood.com

■ **I Love Trap Featuring Bad Bunny, Jowell & Randy and**

Noriel — Nov. 22. \$30-\$155. Hard Rock Live.

The Arts Garage — 180 NE First St., Delray Beach. 561-450-6357; www.artsgarage.org.

Afrobeta — Nov. 16.

Raised by Wolves — Nov. 16.

Onyx Art Stroll — Nov. 16.

Paul Nelson Band — Nov. 17.

Hello Elevator with special guest Fireside Prophets — Nov. 18.

Brandon Santini — Nov. 19.

Angry Moon Cigars — 2401 PGA Blvd., 188 & 194, Palm Beach Gardens. 561-296-5995.

■ **Joe Birch** — 9:30-12:30 a.m. Thursdays. Live and acoustic rock.

■ **Robert McCarthy** — 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

The Butcher Shop Beer Garden & Grill — 209 Sixth St., West Palm Beach. Live music 9 p.m. to midnight. www.butchershopwpb.com.

Cafe Boulud: The Lounge — 9 p.m. Fridays, in the Brazilian Court Hotel, 301 Australian Ave., Palm Beach. Info: 561-655-6060; www.cafeboulud.com/palmbeach.

Camelot Yacht Club — Jazz sessions start at 8 p.m. Tuesdays at Camelot Yacht Club, 114 S. Narcissus Ave., West Palm Beach. TCHAA! Band performs. 561-318-7675.

Guanabanas — 960 N. A1A, Jupiter. Age 21 and older. Info: 747-8878; www.guanabanas.com

The Pelican Café — 612 U.S. 1, Lake Park. Monday and Tuesday. 561-842-7272; thepelicancafe.com.

Respectable Street Café — 518 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. Info: 561-832-9999; www.sub-culture.org/respectables.

Voltaire — 526 Clematis St., West Palm Beach, above Lost Weekend. 561-408-5603.

■ **Nov. 16:** Funktion: Public Sounds Collective Ft. Alexander Star

■ **Nov. 17:** Hillside Spirit Revival, Nervous Monks, Keith Johns

■ **Nov. 18:** Cabaret Voltaire Drag Extravaganza

■ **Nov. 19:** Ray's Downtown presents Blues Crusaders

■ **Nov. 25:** Cabaret Voltaire Drag Extravaganza

■ **Nov. 26:** Ray's Downtown Presents Joey George And The Deadbeat Daddies

■ **Nov. 27:** Salon No. 5

ONGOING

The Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens — 2051 S. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors 65+, \$7 for students, free for members and younger than age 5. Info: 561-832-5328; www.ansg.org.

■ **"Ann Weaver Norton: Gateways to Modernism"** — Through Nov. 26. Made up of an array of Norton's drawings and pastels, maquettes and finished sculptures in various media.

APBC Art on Park Gallery — 800 Park Ave., Lake Park. Info: 561-345-2842; www.artistsofpalmbeachcounty.com.

■ **Kenneth Earl Dempsey Solo Exhibit: Across the Pond and Back Again** — Through Nov. 24.

■ **Free Collage Class** — 2 p.m. Nov. 25

■ **Art Salon** — 6 p.m. Nov. 27.

The Armory Art Center — 1700 Parker Ave., West Palm Beach. 561-832-1776; www.armoryart.org.

■ **"West to East Exchange: Ringling College of Art + Design at the Armory"** — Through Nov. 24.

■ **Ceramic Salon: Surface Treatment Discussion with Philip Epstein** — Noon Tuesdays.

The Audubon Society — Bird walk info: asetripinfo@gmail.com; 508-296-0238. www.auduboneverglades.org.

Riverbend Park — 8-11 a.m. Nov. 18, 9060 Indiantown Road, Jupiter. A moderate walk on improved trails, dirt and uneven surfaces of more than 1.5 miles. Leader: Ed Kawecki.

Lion Country Safari — 9:30 a.m. Nov. 28. Advance registration required online at www.auduboneverglades.org. Driving tour. Leader: Clive Pinnock

Peaceful Waters Sanctuary — 8-10:30 a.m. Nov. 29, 11676 Pierson Road, Wellington. Moderately difficult walk. Leader: Scott Zucker

Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts — 1105 Second Ave. S., in an historic FEC train depot building, Lake Worth. Offers classes and demonstrations in glassblowing, glass fusing and metal casting. Also offers museum store. 561-310-9371 or 561-508-7315. www.benzaitencenter.org.

The Box Gallery — 811 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach. 786-521-1199; www.TheBoxGallery.Info.

The Gallery at Center for Creative Education — 425 24th St., West Palm Beach. Info: www.cceflorida.org.

The Cultural Council of Palm Beach County — 601 Lake Ave., Lake Worth. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Info: 561-471-2901; www.palmbeachculture.com.

■ **Exhibition: "Made in Palm Beach Gardens"** — Through Nov. 18. From cattle ranches and scrub pine and swampy wetlands further west, Palm Beach Gardens became the big beautiful city by the sea and 14 artists used the city as inspiration for their work.

Downtown at the Gardens — 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Ave., Palm Beach Gardens. 561-340-1600; www.downtownatthegardens.com.

■ **Jazz Sundays** — 1-3 p.m. the first Sunday of the month.

The Flagler Museum — One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: free for members; \$18 adults, \$10 youth (13-17) with adult; \$3 child (6-12) with adult; younger than 6 free. 561-655-2833; www.flaglermuseum.us.

■ **"Knights of the Air: Aviator Heroes of World War I"** — Through Dec. 31.

The Florida Trail Association Loxahatchee Chapter — Leads nature walks. New adventurers are welcomed. Get info and register at www.loxfltrail.org.

■ **Okeeheliee Park Walk** — 7:15 a.m. Nov. 18. Call Paul at 561-963-9906 for meeting place.

The Historical Society of Palm Beach County — Johnson History Museum, 300 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. Free admission. Info: 561-832-4164; www.historicalsocietypbc.org.

■ **EOAR Antique Appraisal Event** by Skinner — 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Nov. 18. Free.

■ **"Shipwreck: Discovering Lost Treasures"** — Through June 30.

■ **"Visions of Florida: Clyde Butcher"** — Through Jan. 31

The Lighthouse ArtCenter — Gallery Square North, 373 Tequesta Drive, Tequesta. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$5 Monday-Friday, free the first Saturday of the month and for members and exhibiting artists. Info: 561-746-3101; www.LighthouseArts.org.

■ **"Elegant Threads: Wearable Art & Surface Design Exhibition"** — Through Dec. 9.

■ **Third Thursday** — 5:30-7:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Wine and passed hors d'oeuvres reception and exhibits, concerts, lectures, art demonstrations, live performances and gallery talks.

Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center — 14200 U.S. 1, Juno Beach. 561-627-8280; www.marinelifelife.org.

■ **Biologist Beach Walks** — 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A staff member leads guests on the beach to discuss the nesting and hatching processes of sea turtles. \$10.

■ **Blue Friends Beach Clean-Up** — 8:30 a.m. Nov. 18. Bring a trash bucket and garden gloves. Free coffee by Oceana Coffee. Please RSVP to Lynne: bluefriends@marinelifelife.org.

Manatee Lagoon — 6000 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach. The FPL Eco-Discovery Center. Info: 561-626-2833; www.visitmanateelagoon.com.

The Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach — 411 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. Info: 561-868-7701; www.wpbcitylibrary.org.

Mizner Park Amphitheatre — 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. 561-393-7984; myboca.us/pages/mizneramph

■ **FAU Band-O-Rama** — Nov. 19. 7 p.m.

■ **Annual Holiday Tree Lighting** — Nov. 22. 5:30 p.m.

The Multilingual Language & Cultural Society — 210 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach. Info: 561-228-1688 or www.multilingualsociety.org.

■ **Game Night** — 5 p.m. Nov. 18. Improve your French, Italian and Spanish through fun games. Bring some snacks and drinks to share. Free for members, \$15 nonmembers. RSVP.

The New School — 1615 Cypress Drive, Suite 1, Jupiter. 561-295-5712; www.thenewschoolva.net.

■ **"A Journey to the Heart of Cuba"** — Through Nov. 25. A group of plein air painters and a photographer interpret the country and its people. A lecture by Joan Lipton Lecture is planned from 5-8 p.m. Nov. 21.

North Palm Beach Library — 303 Anchorage Drive, North Palm Beach. 561-841-3383; www.village-npb.org.

CALENDAR

■ **Ongoing:** Knit & Crochet at 1 p.m. Mondays; Quilters meet 10 a.m. Friday; Chess group meets at 9 a.m. the first and third Saturday.

■ **Bake Sale and Raffle** — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 5.

■ **The Norton Museum of Art** — 1451 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach. Free admission. Info: 561-832-5196; www.norton.org.

■ **“Earth Works: Mapping the Anthropocene”** — The exhibition is based on photographs taken by Justin Guariglia during seven flights over Greenland with NASA scientists in 2015 and 2016 to determine how melting glaciers are impacting sea level rise.

■ **Brilliant: Recent Acquisitions:** Through Dec. 10.

■ **The 16th annual Live! At the Norton concert series** — Performances are at 3 p.m. in the Fisher Gallery. Tickets: \$5 members, \$10 nonmembers.

■ **Piano Duo Gastesi Bezerra** — Nov. 19.

■ **Old School Square** — 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach. 243-7922; OldSchoolSquare.org

■ **Free Friday Concerts** — Old School Square Pavilion. 7:30 p.m. Fridays. Free.

■ **Orange Sunshine** — Nov. 17. '60s Hits.

■ **The Long Run** — Nov. 24. Eagles tribute.

■ **The Palm Beach Photographic Centre** — 415 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. Info: 561-253-2600; www.workshop.org.

■ **“Local Eyes, Global Views: Celebrating the Photography of Barron Collier, Alexander W. Dreyfoos and Leslie Slatkin”** — Nov. 22-Jan. 5.

■ **The Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society** — 1301 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. every day, except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Tickets: \$18.95 adults; \$16.95 seniors, \$12.95 age 3-12, free for younger than 3. Info: 561-533-0887; www.palm-beachzoo.org.

■ **The River Center** — 805 N. U.S. 1, Jupiter. Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. This teaching facility and recreation area offers programs to enrich the community and the river. Call 561-743-7123; www.loxahatcheeriver.org.

■ **Stage Left Theatre** — Performances at Boynton Beach Playhouse. 145 S.E. Second Ave., Boynton Beach. Tickets: \$20. 561-301-5404; www.stagelefttheatre.net.

■ **“Cliffhanger”** — Through Nov. 19. A Murder Mystery by James Yaffe.

■ **Studio E Gallery** — 4600 PGA Boulevard, Suite 101, in PGA Commons, Palm Beach Gardens. Hours: noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday. 561-799-3333; www.studioegallery.com.

■ **“20/20: 20 Years, 20 Artists”** Exhibit: Evan and Ann Griffith celebrate 20 years' worth of their bold and colorful aesthetic with this interactive exhibit that showcases the 20 resident artists who have made a positive impact on the local community.

■ **The Taste History Culinary Tours of Historic Palm Beach County** — Cultural food tastings at family-

owned eateries, juice bars, teahouses and pastry shops along with showcasing local art shops, historic buildings and emerging cultural districts. The tour is part bus riding and part walking. All tours start at 11 a.m. Fee: \$50-\$60. Free for children younger than age 14. Private and team building tours are also available. Reservations required. 561-638-8277; www.tastehistoryculinarytours.org.

AREA MARKETS

■ **Lake Worth High School Flea Market** — 5 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, year-round, under the Interstate 95 overpass on Lake Worth Road. Info: 561-439-1539.

■ **West Palm Beach Antique & Flea Market** — 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturdays through May on Narcissus Avenue north of Banyan Boulevard. Free. Info: www.wpbantiqueandfleamarket.com

■ **Delray Beach's Winter Green-Market** — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays at Old School Square Park, 96 NE Second Ave., just north of Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach. Live music. Info: 276-7511; www.delraycra.org/greenmarket.

■ **The Green Market at Wellington** — 9 a.m. Saturdays through April 28 at 12150 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington, next to the amphitheater. Pet friendly. Info: www.greenmarketatwellington.com.

■ **The West Palm Beach Green-market** — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays along the West Palm Beach Waterfront, 100 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach. Parking is free in the Banyan and Evernia garages during market hours. Info: www.wpb.org/greenmarket.

■ **Lake Worth Farmers' Market** — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, through April 29, Old Bridge Park, A1A at Lake Avenue (1 S. Ocean Blvd.), Lake Worth. Info: 283-5856; www.lakeworthfarmersmarket.com.

■ **The Gardens GreenMarket** — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, City Hall Municipal Complex, 10500 N. Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens. Live entertainment from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. No pets. Through May 6. 630-1100; www.pbgfl.com/278/greenmarket.

■ **The Village of Royal Palm Beach Green Market & Bazaar Veterans Park** — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Veterans Park, 1036 Royal Palm Beach Blvd., Royal Palm Beach. Through April 29. Pet friendly. www.rpbgreenmarket.com.

■ **Jupiter Green & Artisan Market at Harbourside Place** — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday year-round, 200 N. U.S. 1, along the Intracoastal Waterway in Harbourside Place. Pet friendly. New vendors should email info@harboursideplace.com.

■ **The Green Market at Palm Beach Outlets** — 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, year-round, 1751 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., West Palm Beach. Info: 561-515-4400; www.palmbeachoutlets.com.

■ **Jupiter Farmers Market at El Sol** — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, 106 Military Trail, Jupiter. Info: 283-5856; www.jupiterfarmersmarket.com.

■ **Farm Stands @ CityPlace + Sunset Social farmer's market** — 5:30-9 p.m. Thursdays, CityPlace, 700 S. Rosemary Ave., West Palm Beach. Produce, imported cheeses, breads and pastries, honey, oils and vinegars, seafood, plants, all-natural dog treats. 561-283-5856; www.cityplace.com ■

HIT SHOWS IN PALM BEACH GARDENS!

HURRY! FINAL WEEKS! MUST CLOSE NOV 19



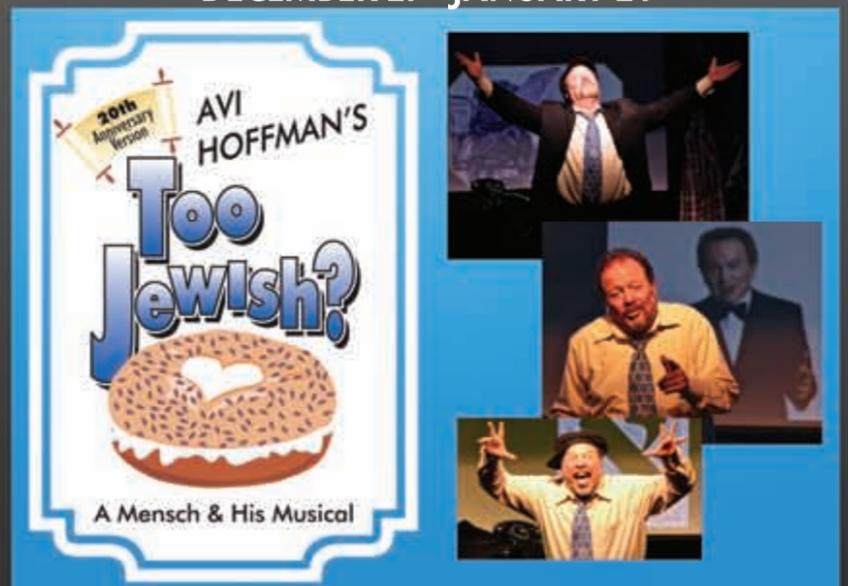
Bursting with energy, and featuring iconic songs and dazzling dancing. *Close to You, Car Wash, Dancing Queen, Proud Mary, Midnight Train to Georgia, I Will Survive*, and so much more.

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 24



A Musical Tribute and Patriotic Holiday Celebration. Irving Berlin Salutes America is a celebration of the music of the greatest composer in American history!

DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 21



In Avi Hoffman's *Too Jewish?* the award winning actor/comedian combines a delightful mix of music, comedy, impersonations, and personal reminiscences to take his audiences on a journey through his own Jewish roots.

PGA ARTS CENTER

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Also Join Us for
our New Year's Eve
Champagne Toast
Song & Dance Celebration
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(Dec. 31st, 7pm & 9:30pm)

SOCIETY

Grand opening of Alex and Ani



Florida Weekly welcomes submissions for the Society pages from charity galas and fundraising events, club meetings and other to-dos around town. We need



SOCIETY

And Ani at The Gardens Mall



Alison Cameron and Lynda Cameron



1. Alison Cameron and Lynda Cameron
2. April Erhard and Stephanie Hill
3. Yashira Rodriguez, Tiffany Oscarson, Dayton Tirado, Rihanna Singh, Penny Tawse, Tamarie McCallan and Janine Jacques
4. Archita Patel and Tim Byrd
5. Craig Evert and Rosemarie Evert
6. Dawn Schnur and Christine Marcellino
7. Holland Smith and Ryan Paterno
8. Paul Schmidt and Shari Saus
9. Stephanie Hill and Brittany Mezzanello
10. Michelle Grande, Natali Marrou and Marish Marrou
11. Tamra FitzGerald, Archita Patel and Shelli Lockhart

ANDY SPIOLOS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

300-dpi photographs of groups of two or more people, facing the camera and identified by first and last names. Questions? Email society@floridaweekly.com.

OPENING NIGHT HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH • 5-8PM - CENTRE COURT

Don't miss the magic of dancing holiday lights and the return of the Downtown Express!

Ring in the holidays with an opening night celebration Downtown style. Enjoy a spectacular light show choreographed to holiday music, train rides and lots of festivities.

- Downtown Express Train Rides
- Live Holiday Music
- Holiday Parade
- Entertainers
- Musical Light Show
- Cookies and Milk
- Visit from Mrs. Claus
- Send a Letter to Santa



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at the gardens

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DowntownAtTheGardens.com

MODERNISM

From page 1

Learning about the background of the creator of fine art increases our awareness of the motive, passion and process that drives the artist.

That is the case with “Gateway to Modernism,” open through Nov. 26 at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens.

“Our mission is to create exhibitions which either illuminate or reflect some feature of Ann Weaver Norton’s life and career, and to produce imaginative, exciting programs which will educate and delight audiences of all ages,” said Roger Ward, president and CEO of Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens.

Like many artists, Ann Weaver Norton (1905-1982) had a relentless passion for her art and would not let anything stop her to achieve her life’s work. However, her story is quite different than one might assume. With the last name Norton, I’m ashamed to admit I originally jumped to the conclusion that she was handed the title of an “artist” because she was married to Ralph H. Norton, founder of the West Palm Beach museum and school of art. However, her artistic career was inspired not by her husband, but rather by three strong women in her life — her aunts.

For example, her Aunt Rose was a woodcarver who had her own studio and carved fine wood furniture, and another was an author. Yet Ann did not always have support from her affluent, Selma, Ala., family. After four years at Smith College, when it came time to pursue her dream to study and create art, her parents were not at all in favor. But she was determined, and to finance her mission to go to New York, she wrote and illustrated three children’s books, which she sold to a publishing company. Although she never wrote or illustrated any more books, that was her ticket to New York, where she studied at the Art Students League, Class of 1933. In 1943, she moved to West Palm Beach and taught sculpture at the Norton School of Art.

In the gallery of the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, pastel and charcoal drawings of monuments are displayed among Norton’s smaller scaled sculptures. Sometimes when people refer to modern art, they make assumptions that there was little planning into the artwork and remark how the creation was done through spontaneity with little thought. The “Gateway to Modernism” exhibition is a beautiful example illustrating the artist’s thoughts and the process that goes into making dynamic works of art. Much of Norton’s sculpture is monumental in size when it reaches its final stage, so seeing earlier concept sketches and smaller models is revealing.

Progression of her artwork is represented beginning with bold charcoal drawings and watercolor washes, and also with small three-dimensional maquettes which were a critical stage in the work’s development. Maquettes serving as smaller scale models of final sculpture were created from plaster, clay and plasticine. Later, these maquettes could be cast using the “lost wax” pro-



PHOTOS BY ROBYN ROBERTS/FLORIDA WEEKLY

ABOVE LEFT: A wooden model greets visitors to the gallery at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens. TOP RIGHT: The study of a head for the sculpture “7 Beings.” BOTTOM RIGHT: Ann Norton’s studio is filled with models and her tools. LEFT: The entrance into the gardens.

cess to create bronzes. Her studies for “Gateway 5” reveal that she changed her design slightly from her mahogany maquette, which can be measured in inches versus the gigantic monumental 20-foot “Gateway 5” sculpture found in the garden.

Nancy Jones, education coordinator at the gardens, explains, “This reflects how Ann would approach a project and would be making changes on it all the time. She was constantly in a state of change.”

One room in the gallery displays Norton’s artwork of human figures and reveals her fascination with the human body. Striking sculptures are juxtaposed with their concept drawings, which

reveal the creative process. Stylistically her artwork progressed from representational, more realistic portrayals of the human body to simple, abstract depictions with thoughtful shapes used to create a figure without specific anatomical details. Her bronze sculpture “Torso” stands next to the pastel drawing mirroring the shapely figure.

When leaving the main house gallery to view the gardens and the colossal sculptures around each bend, viewers are first greeted by an untitled sculpture made with handmade Mexican brick in the 47-foot-long former swimming pool. “The gardens she created are such that she wants the visitor to consider as if they were walking through a jungle,” Ms. Jones said, noting that each turn reveals her sculptures.

Another way the artist took people on a visual voyage was with her temple-like “Gateway” series, in which several sculptures are chiseled out of northern cedar, some 84 inches tall, using the natural wood to her advantage. She told *The New York Times* in 1978, “I like to use everything — the cracks in the wood, the knots, the gnarls. I like my work to flow together with nature.”

When she used the term “gateway,” she didn’t mean so much a gate, but rather a porthole or a passageway not just to another place, but perhaps another part of your brain, imagination or spiri-

tual level. The “Gateway” series is one that has been titled, but many of Ann’s works are untitled as she wanted viewers to make up their own minds about the pieces.

Visitors to the sculpture gardens can spend some time in Ann’s studio, which really captures her spirit. Among the variety of sculptures greeting the guests are her tools and clay, still in the studio as if she has just stepped out for a moment.

“Gateways to Modernism” is a must-see collection of Ann Weaver Norton’s drawings and pastels, maquettes and finished sculptures in various media. The exhibition brings to life not only her compelling story and her artistic journey, but the extraordinary technical development of her work, from small-scale figures to monumental and abstractions in wood, granite and brick. ■

in the know

“Ann Weaver Norton Gateways to Modernism”

>> **When:** Through Nov. 26. Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 >> **Where:** Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, 2051 S. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach
 >> **Info:** 561-832-5328 or visit www.ansg.org

HAPPENINGS

From page 1

Amphitheatre, 104 Datura St., West Palm Beach. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets, pack a picnic or pick up snacks downtown. The dog is even welcome, if he likes loud rock ‘n’ roll.

This free, monthly family friendly musi-

cal event features a variety of regional and national acts. For more information, visit www.wpb.org

For more information about the Wildflowers, visit www.thewildflowersband.com

Tony Bennett tickets

The chance to see a singer of the caliber of the multiple Grammy Award-winning Tony Bennett comes to West Palm Beach once in a blue moon.



BENNETT

That moon is set to rise Feb. 5 at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

Get your tickets now and you’ll be ready with an early Valentine’s Day surprise for your best guy or gal.

Mr. Bennett turned 91 in August, but he’s still touring and still

crooning such classics as “Steppin’ Out With My Baby” and “I Left My Heart In San Francisco.”

Tickets for this performance start at \$36, which is about the same as a dozen roses, but the memory will last a lot longer.

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17, in person at the box office at 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach, by phone at 561-832-7469 or online at www.kravis.org. ■

TOMMY

From page 1

than (appearing) with Chita (Rivera) I've never done this with an orchestra. That's what I do — (pursue) perfection, never attaining it, but always trying."

He continues with the slightest remnants of his Wichita Falls, Texas, twang. "It's about my life. It's all well thought out. It all connects up. But it's not a lot of songs from my (past) shows." Expect Gershwin and Berlin, among others.

Mr. Tune was impressed when he was asked to appear at the Maltz and the management offered to bring in the orchestra to supplement his usual quartet and pay for the orchestration. "That's a really big deal to do for one night," he said.

Florida is far from a foreign venue to him. He remembers visiting the Maltz when it was the Burt Reynolds Dinner Theater. More recently, needing to perfect this unusual-for-him nonscripted non-narrative nonproscenium act, he polished it first at The Colony Hotel's Royal Room in Palm Beach, which he dubbed "the best room in the country."

He adds with a vaudevillian flourish, "I can't play a lot of rooms because of my height. The Colony has real good headroom."

Then he took it on the local condo circuit and later to the Broward Center.

Six years ago, he drafted University of Miami students into a way-out-of-town workshop of a musical "Fifty Four Forever" charting the rise and fall of Studio 54 impresario Steve Rubell.

Mr. Tune speaks with the benefit of an expertise built on decades of experience. He first appeared on Broadway in 1965 in the almost forgotten Sherlock Holmes musical "Baker Street" — a photo of the production shows him as one of three assassins strangling a victim alongside a similarly unknown Christopher Walken.

He can reminisce with ease. "When I got to New York, there were no microphones — and almost no air conditioned theaters. I came from Houston. Everything was air conditioned there. The only theater (using microphones) was "My Fair Lady" because they wanted to pick up Rex Harrison's (sing-speaking lyrics) and it didn't travel enough. So they put microphones on floor. But every time Julie Andrews walked across the floor, you could hear 'clump, clump, clump.'"

"Because of microphones and other things, we have lost a lot of nuance about what theater is really is. As a performer we were in control. You just had to plant your feet" and sing. "The lighting and the sound is better, but it's not as joyous."

FRANCO LACOSTA / COURTESY PHOTO

Tommy Tune plays a benefit show Nov. 26 at Maltz Jupiter Theatre.

in the know

Tommy Tune Tonight!

- >> **When:** 8 p.m. Nov. 18
- >> **Where:** Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 East Indiantown Road.
- >> **Cost:** Tickets start at \$50, but higher prices include a sit-down pre-show dinner and post-performance reception with Mr. Tune.
- >> **Info:** 561-575-2223 or www.jupitertheatre.org.

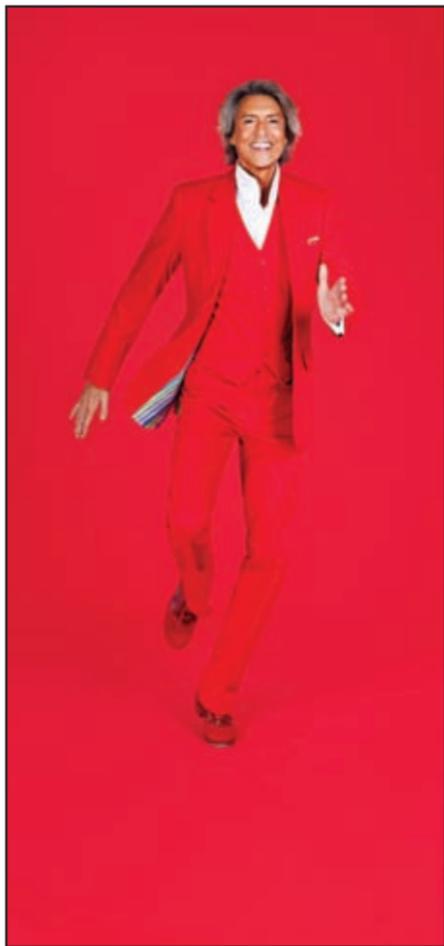
There's a change to tenor as well. "We used to do musical comedies, like 'Bye Bye Birdie.' You don't get comedies today, you get musicals. A lot of the fun and glory and elation has gone out of it and replaced by angst. Creative people feel they have to address the angst of our time.... But I miss musical comedy because a true joyous musical comedy is like champagne."

He admires "Dear Evan Hansen" and the like as well-done theater, "but I miss the effervescence."

"I want some new shows to send me to the clouds. I see so many revivals. We're feeding off ourselves."

"As a director, I have to be in love with the material to take it on. You give up of yourself to make a new show. It's not just time, it's your heart. It takes two or three years. It's a commitment. Even then it might not work, but you have to give it your all, so it has to inspire you."

Tossed a softball question about retirement, he smacks it out of the park: "Retire? From what? Life? This my life. This is what I do." ■



PUZZLE ANSWERS

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HARBOURSIDE HAPPENINGS

MOVIES ON THE WATERFRONT



Featuring: The Lion King (Rated G)
Friday, November 24 | 7pm

Watch "The Lion King" for free at the waterfront amphitheater. Movie will begin at 7pm. Bring a blanket or chair.

CAR SHOW & KENNY CHESNEY TRIBUTE



Saturday, November 25 | 6pm

Live music from Fast Forward, performing legendary classics by "Kenny Chesney"! Music starts at 7pm! Check out the Classic Car Show hosted by South East Rods & Customs. Car show starts at 6pm. Limited number of cars. Preregistration required.

PALM BEACH HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE



Saturday, December 2 | 5PM- 10PM

Harbourside Place is the premier viewing location for the Holiday Boat Parade. Enjoy family-fun activities including face-painting, balloon artist, games, live music, and more!

harboursideplace.com | 561.935.9533

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FLORIDA WRITERS

Arab Spring the driving force in taut international thriller

philJASON

philjreviews@gmail.com



■ **“Come Home” by Patricia Gussin. Oceanview Publishing, 368 pages. Hardcover, \$26.95.**

Remember 2011, the year of the Arab Spring? That turmoil in the Middle East provides a backdrop for Patricia Gussin’s fast-paced thriller, “Come Home.”

Plastic surgeon Ahmed Masud, middle son in a wealthy Egyptian family, is called back to Cairo from his home in the U.S. to help prepare for his family’s future after the Mubarak regime collapses.

Their wealth derives favor from Mubarak’s son, who has handed them an Egyptian cotton empire. Also, Ahmed’s parents wish to see his 5-year-old son, Alex. Succumbing to their pressure, and unsettled by medical malpractice lawsuits, Ahmed steals Alex away to Cairo, rashly jeopardizing his marriage and the American Dream lifestyle he and his wife, also a plastic surgeon, have shared.

Readers will be puzzled by Ahmed’s sudden sense of family duty, as was his wife, Dr. Nicole Nelson, who is outraged and crushed by his behavior. Wanting her son back, she rallies the support of her twin sister Natalie and their accomplished, successful brothers.

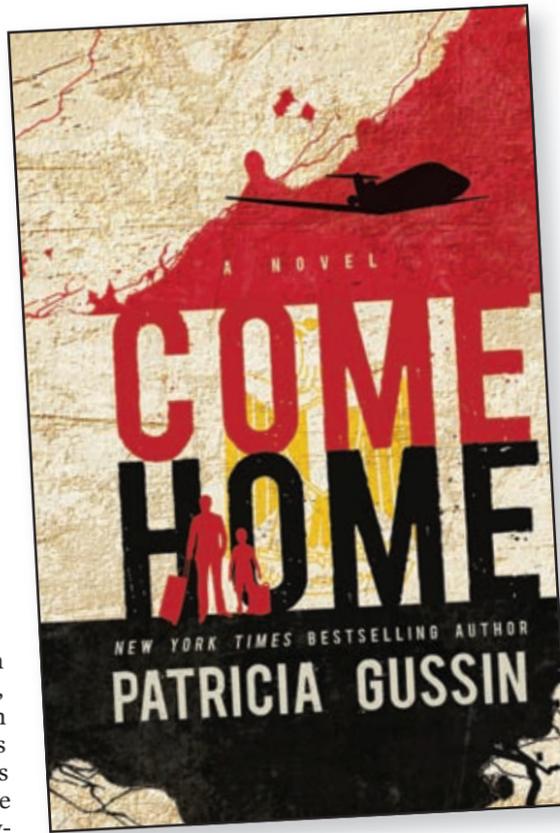
Then a second crisis hits Natalie, who is in charge of a major program at a large pharmaceutical company. Its cancer drug has tested well and is

saving lives with the promise of saving many more. However, people are dying — of constipation. The FDA insists that this serious problem be cleared up. The drug itself is not deadly; rather, the painkillers prescribed to lessen the patients’ suffering are causing the problem. Her career in the balance, Natalie has a difficult time juggling the needs of her company and her desire to aide her sister who is reeling from Ahmed’s behavior. Natalie, however, is up to the task.

The Nelson family hires a major security agency to work on rescuing Alex. The chief of the security team has extensive connections and immediately puts them to use.

The plot runs back and forth among happenings in Egypt, Philadelphia, Uruguay, Belgium and Liberia. The Masud family is under great stress, and Ahmed’s older and younger brothers are power-crazed psychopaths driven to extremes by the threats to the elite Mubarak establishment and by their own greed. There is a race to solve the pharma problem, another to control and relocate the Masud family, and through it all, the chase after Nicole’s missing son.

The author creates some interesting symmetries in the character blocks. The Nelson family has three sons and two daughters, and so does the Masud family. In the Nelson family, all three children are successful in a variety of ways, with the women having prestigious careers. The two Masud daughters seem more highly respected than one would expect in a society in which



— mostly private — that whiz them about. All is portrayed with vivid detail. Similarly, the inner details of characterization are convincingly drawn: the balance of confidence and self-doubt, fear and bravado, hope and despair.

Though we understand the pressures on Ahmed’s brothers and the specific causes of their destructive behavior, they seem a bit overdrawn. These are people without any redeeming qualities, and that absence makes them less credible.

All in all, Ms. Gussin delivers an amazing ride with this original, suspenseful and high-powered story.

About the author

New York Times and *USA Today* best-selling author Patricia Gussin has practiced medicine and has worked in medical research as worldwide vice president for a leading health-care products company. She is a graduate of Aquinas College, Wayne State University School of Medicine and Columbia University Business School, and she has an honorary degree from Duquesne University.

She is the author of seven novels including four in the Laura Nelson series. Her first novel was a Thriller Award nominee for Best First Novel, and she has won the Florida Book Award and the USA National Book Award.

She lives in Longboat Key and in Amagansett, N.Y., with her husband, Dr. Robert Gussin. ■

— *Phil Jason, Ph.D., United States Naval Academy professor emeritus of English, is a poet, critic and freelance writer with 20 books to his credit, including several studies of war literature and a creative writing text.*



GUSSIN

LATEST FILMS

‘Daddy’s Home 2’

danHUDAK

punchdrunkmovies.com



Is it worth \$10? Yes

“Daddy’s Home” (2015) was a predictable lark of unfunny gags, faux machismo and pandering sweetness. To our surprise, “Daddy’s Home 2” is just the opposite: The gags (except for one) don’t play out the way we expect, the machismo is Mel Gibson-ed up to a new level and the pandering sweetness is Christmas-themed, which I’m admittedly a sucker for.

If you’re looking for something fun to do to inspire holiday spirit with the family this year, look no further.

At the start of director Sean Anders’ sequel, Dusty (Mark Wahlberg) and Brad (Will Ferrell) have the “co-dad” thing down pat. Brad is still married to Dusty’s ex, Sara (Linda Cardellini), and together the three of them are raising Dusty and Sara’s kids, Dylan (Owen Vaccaro) and Megan (Scarlett Estevez). There’s no tension or awkwardness because they got that out of their system in the first movie. Also, Dusty is now

married to Karen (Alessandra Ambrosio), who previously had daughter Adrianna (Didi Costine) with Roger (John Cena). Dusty understands the situation from all sides.

After Megan complains of having to split her time on Christmas at two houses, the family decides to have Christmas together this year. Then Dusty gets a phone call: His father, Kurt (Gibson), is coming for the holidays, and he’s a worse version of the insensitive, womanizing and unlikeable Dusty from the first movie. Add to this Brad’s father, the lovably chatty Don (John Lithgow), also coming to town, and you have a house full of wildly different personalities and craziness.

If you’re worried about not keeping all of the familial relationships straight, don’t. In fact, you don’t even have to see the loathsome first movie to enjoy this one, as everything is pretty self-explanatory, and more importantly, consistently funny.

Some comedies telegraph their jokes long before they arrive, making the punch lines inevitable rather than surprising and humorous. With “Daddy’s Home 2” the execution of the jokes comes in ways you don’t expect. For example, in the opening moments Brad bends over to pick something up near a swing set, and there’s a cut to the



swing coming right at him. He swiftly moves out of the way. Good. The joke we knew was coming didn’t come. Then out of nowhere, and with no way for us to expect it, a flying ball hits him in the

face. That’s funny. The only bit that doesn’t work is the one with the house lights, mostly because it feels forced and too outlandish.

There are also lame plot points the film introduces and then skillfully avoids. At one point, Dylan asks Brad for advice on women and insists that Brad not tell Dusty. Lesser movies would have developed tension around the secretive nature of the scene, leading to a tedious payoff later. Thankfully, Dusty and Kurt overhear Brad’s terrible advice and Dusty is able to help. Then the pig Kurt takes it too far. Again, humor coming in the right places the right way.

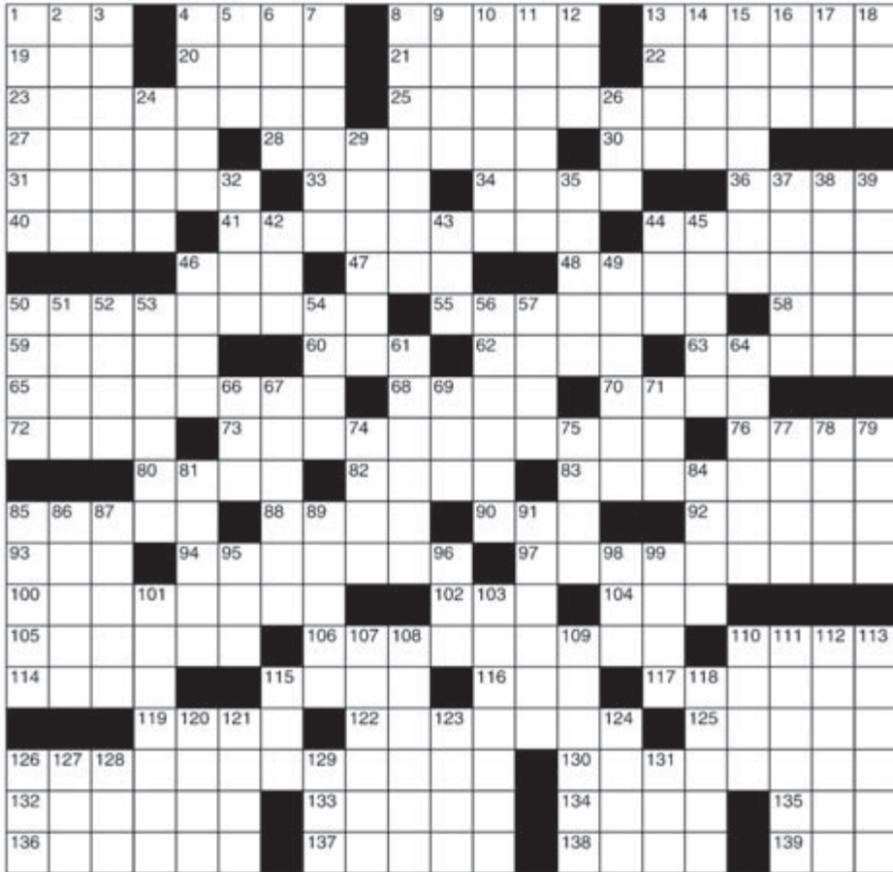
It’s fascinating how Mr. Anders could have co-written and directed the original, which was so bad, and return in the same capacities for the sequel, which is so good. Credit to him for learning from his mistakes, because “Daddy’s Home 2” is a winner. ■

Did you know?

>> In case you’re wondering: **Scarlett Estevez** does not appear to be related to actor/director Emilio Estevez.

PUZZLES

A DOSE OF REALITY



- ACROSS**
- 1 "The Real O'Neals" network
 - 4 Eye-popper
 - 8 Town in NE New Jersey
 - 13 Root
 - 19 Old Olds
 - 20 Some till fill
 - 21 Obstinate reply
 - 22 Nobelist Hemingway
 - 23 Phnom Penh's land [2015]
 - 25 Tonga's site [2011]
 - 27 Top points
 - 28 Purplish-red flower
 - 30 Apple product
 - 31 "Beats me!"
 - 33 Fashion's Anna —
 - 34 Aries, e.g.
 - 36 Home of Columbus
 - 40 Kitchen raiders
 - 41 Neighbor of Mexico [2005]
 - 44 Kenya's home [2001]
 - 46 Zing
 - 47 Virginia hrs.
 - 48 Varieties
 - 50 They're part of French Polynesia [2002]
 - 55 Country with the capital Vila [2004]
 - 58 Tint
 - 59 Sailor's site
 - 60 Big Apple NFL team, on scoreboards
 - 62 Umlaut pair
 - 63 High-five sounds
 - 65 Conduct, as business
 - 68 Legal exam
 - 70 "Adios!"
 - 72 Harvest mo.
 - 73 Where Tagalog is spoken [2012]
 - 76 "Finished!"
 - 80 Sailing
 - 82 Biology div.
 - 83 Inventive
 - 85 Cola brand
 - 88 Comic
 - 90 Log cutter
 - 92 Paradises
 - 93 "Hail, Livy!"
 - 94 Luzon province north of Isabela [2014]
 - 97 Its president is Daniel Ortega [2010]
 - 100 One who dawdles
 - 102 Cartoon yell
 - 104 Tram cargo
 - 105 Where balboas are spent [2006]
 - 106 World's largest rain forest [2003]
 - 110 Cotillion girls
 - 114 Hose mishap
 - 115 "Pardon?"
 - 116 "— tu" (Verdi aria)
 - 117 Diner staple
 - 119 "Mamma Mia!" quartet
 - 122 Treatment process
 - 125 Greek vowel
 - 126 Central American archipelago [2003]
 - 130 Reality show of which 12 title locations are featured in this puzzle
 - 132 "Billy —" (2000 film)
 - 133 Maine city
 - 134 Sky color
 - 135 Butyl or propyl ender
 - 136 Titans
 - 137 Native of Italy's Leaning Tower city
 - 138 Desires
 - 139 Outlaw Kelly
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Secret stuff
 - 2 Signal light
 - 3 Perpetrate
 - 4 Having slack
 - 5 German link
 - 6 Viking Ericson
 - 7 Chant for the Dream Team
 - 8 Aquarium swimmers, to toddlers
 - 9 Deuces
 - 10 Novelist — May Alcott
 - 11 Necessitate
 - 12 Numerical suffix
 - 13 Sewer's line
 - 14 Whale type
 - 15 Horse's mythical kin
 - 16 Ump's kin
 - 17 2000-15 TV drama
 - 18 List abbr.
 - 24 Nap locales
 - 26 Lapel sticker
 - 29 Affectedly adorable
 - 32 Old film critic James
 - 35 Entire scope
 - 37 Too — price
 - 38 Freeze over
 - 39 Havens
 - 42 Co. with brown trucks
 - 43 "True Life" channel
 - 44 Hgt.
 - 45 Soul-seller of legend
 - 46 Many groan-eliciting jokes
 - 49 Egg-hunt holiday
 - 50 Verbal jewels
 - 51 Lot division
 - 52 Harvest
 - 53 Australian airline
 - 54 Opposer
 - 56 Conforms
 - 57 Brief denial
 - 61 "The Wizard of Oz" witch
 - 64 Hoity-toity
 - 66 Jungle beast
 - 67 Fee
 - 69 Jacuzzi joint
 - 71 "Do — say!"
 - 74 Gent partner
 - 75 "— get it!"
 - 77 Blood type, in brief
 - 78 Half of Mork's farewell
 - 79 Film lioness
 - 81 "Attack, mutt!"
 - 84 Richard of "No Mercy"
 - 85 Fealers on insects
 - 86 Brand of spring water
 - 87 Del. neighbor
 - 89 Ground
 - 91 Major Turkish city
 - 95 Noted coach Parseghian
 - 96 Classy gp.?
 - 98 Dove's noise
 - 99 River in Italy
 - 101 Cosmonaut Yuri
 - 103 Poet Ralph Waldo —
 - 107 John Wayne film of 1962
 - 108 Group that shares a culture
 - 109 Files past
 - 110 Actress Moore
 - 111 Late morning time
 - 112 "Vamoosel!"
 - 113 Gazed rudely
 - 115 Used to exist
 - 118 Dance parts
 - 120 Dark stain
 - 121 Smithereens
 - 123 Writer O'Brien
 - 124 Noel
 - 126 Wooden nail mutt!
 - 127 Yale attendee
 - 128 Pie — mode
 - 129 Chop (off)
 - 131 RBI part

SEE ANSWERS, B11 ►

HOROSCOPES

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Love and friendship remain strong in your aspect over the next several days. This is a good time to develop new relationships and strengthen old ones.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A beloved family member has news that will brighten your holidays. Also expect to hear from friends who had long since moved out of your life.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Family and friends are in for a surprise when you accept the need to make a change without being talked into it. (Bet it surprised you, too — didn't it?)

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Restoring an old friendship might not be as easy as you hoped. You might want to explore the reasons for your former buddy's reluctance to cooperate.

PISCES (February 19 to March

20) Your party-going activities pick up as the holiday season takes off. Enjoy your plunge into the social swim as you make new friends and renew old friendships.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your work on a recent job assignment is impressive and is sure to be noticed. Meanwhile, expect to receive news about an upcoming holiday event you won't want to miss.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Saving the world one person at a time is what you were born to do. So accept it when people ask you for help, especially during the holiday season.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Now that you've resolved all doubts about an important decision, you can surprise a lot of people by defending your stand with your strong and well-reasoned arguments.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The holiday mood stirs your need to nurture everyone from the family cat to

great-grandma. But don't overdo it, especially with teens, who like to feel grown up.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Enjoy basking in the warm love of family and close friends. But don't fall into a prolonged catnap yet. There's still much to do before you can put up your paws and relax.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Avoid pushing others to work as hard as you do on a common project. Instead, encourage them to do their best, and they might well reward you with a pleasant surprise.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Like the sensible Libra you are, you no doubt started your holiday shopping already. But be careful to keep within your budget. Shop around for the best buys.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are caring and considerate — two wonderful attributes that endear you to people of all ages. ■

SUDOKU

Difficulty level:



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

By Linda Thistle

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| 1 | | | 6 | 3 | | | | 2 |
| | 7 | | | 9 | | 5 | 4 | |
| | | 5 | 8 | | | 9 | | |
| 3 | | | 1 | 5 | | | | 4 |
| | | 2 | | | 7 | 1 | | 9 |
| 4 | 1 | | 6 | | | | 5 | |
| 9 | | 3 | 7 | | | | | 1 |
| | | 8 | | | 5 | | 2 | |
| | 2 | | | 4 | | 8 | | |

SEE ANSWERS, B11 ►

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Saturday, January 27, 2018

Sponsored by the Charlotte Harbor and Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agencies to celebrate and encourage partnerships across the Harbor. Proceeds from this event support educational programs for the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEE).

- Event Day Registration, 6:00 am - 7:15 am
- FREE Pancake Breakfast w/ Registration
- Events begin at 7:30 am
- Performance T shirt included
- Registration form must be received by December 20th to guarantee T-shirt size, Additional shirts on first come-first serve basis
- Family Friendly Activities and Door Prizes
- One FREE Beer to Participants over 21
- Go to our website for entry fees, deadlines & SAVINGS opportunities

Register online at: www.HandsAcrossTheHarbor.Org, or on Active.Com. Pre-Register today and save!

Event Day Registration 6:00AM-7:15AM
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www.HandsAcrossTheHarbor.org | Hotline: 941.575.5435

Save \$10-\$15 when you Pre-Register before January 12th!!

SOCIETY

Palm Beach Writers Group Luncheon, The Chesterfield, Palm Beach



1. Marcia Shellis, Michele Dargan and Cathy Helowicz
2. Cynthia McCallister and Melanie Cabot
3. Deborah Hutchison and Howard Bruns
4. Erik Brown and Michelle Dargan
5. Lani Click, Marilyn Murray Willison and Angela Shaw
6. Lorraine Garafola and Sharon Wallenberg
7. Margaret Mae Damen, Dwight Stevens and Diane Bergner
8. Maurizia Candotti Russo and Stephanie Murphy-Lupo
9. Patricia Wakely Wolf and Anthony Penta Kramer
10. Valarie Ramsey and Sally Ann Nisberg
11. Gary Wilson, John Hayes and Jerry Klein

GAIL V. HAINES / FLORIDA WEEKLY

FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Leila to offer family-style Middle Eastern dinner

janNORRIS

jan@jannorris.com



It's all about tradition at **Leila** in West Palm Beach, where a family-style Middle Eastern dinner will be offered each month beginning Dec. 6.

Owners **Akram** and **Mirielle Awad** have chosen a menu that reflects their homestyle meals.

The special menu will be offered only at this dinner, which starts with a table spread with small tastes such as garbanzo beans with tahini and garlic with lemon; "oujat" — flash-fried zucchini; a fish dip of sorts made of mahi-mahi with tahini; and eggplant served with pomegranate, tahini, walnuts and parsley.

Main dish is Maqlubi, which means upside-down beef. It's a type of timbale made with eggplant, rice and meat. Once baked, it's overturned on the serving plate.

Baklava and Arabic coffee are the sweet finish.

Along with the meal, a Turkish coffee cup reader will read the fortunes of guests. The "after-party" continues on the patio with cocktails or a hookah.

There will be two seatings for the meal, at 6 and 8 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person, or \$15 for children under 12; reservations are required.

Leila is at 120 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. Phone 561-659-7373; online at www.leilawpb.com.

Quantum's Golf and Gobble

Have brunch and hit some balls around for a good cause — and maybe walk away with your Thanksgiving turkey or at least a pumpkin pie.

Quantum House sponsors its annual **Golf and Gobble** event Nov. 18 starting at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast and registration at the **Palm Beach Par 3** course. It's followed by a shotgun start at 8:15, and winds down to a lunch at 11:30, followed by awards and raffle drawings at 12:30.

All players get a pumpkin pie, and the winner gets a turkey.

Cost for registration is \$125 for individual players.

The event benefits the Quantum House, the home away from home for families who have children being treated at area hospitals.

Reservations are required; visit www.quantumhouse.org for more information and registration.



COURTESY PHOTO

Leila will offer a special menu each month beginning Dec. 6.

In brief

Find new finery to dress your dining room at the Holiday Extravaganza put on by **T is for Table**, the tabletop shop in **PGA Commons** in Palm Beach Gardens. On Nov. 18, more than 10 vendors will be represented at the annual holiday display and sale held 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Let there be (live) music: **Café Boulud** in Palm Beach has a new piano in its lounge and bar area, and there will be nightly performances by local musicians. ... **Sant Ambroeus** in Palm Beach is offering a \$35 three-course prix fixe lunch weekdays in season, with appetizer, main dish and dessert served. ... The 27th annual **Hoffman's Chocolates Winter Wonderland** opens Nov. 18 at the chocolate shop in Lake Worth. The display is open through Dec. 30, showing nightly except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, from 6 to 10 p.m. This popular area attraction will debut an ice skating rink presented by the Florida Panthers ice hockey team. Also new this year is the Holiday Chocolate Class and Factory Tour with Santa. Space is limited; cost is \$24.95 per person. For more details, visit their website at www.hoffmans.com. ... A new menu at **Calaveras Cantina** in **Harbourside Place** in Jupiter has gluten-free options — also available at their "Sexy Mexican brunch," including new Rice Bowls with a variety of fresh vegetable fillings, or pulled chicken, pork, brisket, chorizo sausage, shrimp or steak over a rice and black bean with lettuce and corn base. A Florida lobster enchilada also is new. ■



1 THE BREAKERS

One S. County Road, Palm Beach; 561-655-6611 or www.thebreakers.com

The Mac-Daddy of holiday meals, and one of the largest preparers of turkeys in our area, the stately Palm Beach resort puts out a spread to rival the original harvest dinner in Plymouth, Mass. There are so many options here for those who don't like turkey — sushi, King crab legs, smoked oysters, caviar — but the star is the carved turkey and all the trimmings, with a dessert buffet to carry you to your dreams. You'll pay for the elaborate buffet served from 3-7 p.m. Thanksgiving Day in the beautiful Ponce de Leon Ballroom — \$150 adults and \$60 for kids 11 and younger. Reservations are a must.

2 3800 OCEAN

3800 S. Ocean Blvd., in the Palm Beach Marriott, Singer Island; 561-340-1795 or www.marriott.com

Not everyone is as enamored of turkey and mashed potatoes as we are, so for those who want more sophisticated fare and creative choices, head to the oceanfront dining room at this *Conde Nast* award-winning resort. The Thanksgiving Day brunch buffet — served from noon to 8 p.m. — brings out chef Gustavo Calderon's best. Start with a raw bar, ceviche and crudo choices. Of course, there's the bird with giblet gravy and the trimmings, but we're wooed by the prospect of entrees such as a lamb loin with spicy hummus and mint chimichurri, or a pork belly with mini corn arepa, or seared sea scallops with pumpkin puree, wild mushrooms, candied hazelnuts and cranberry chutney. Expect the creativity to extend to desserts. Prices are \$85 for adults and \$18 for children younger than 12. Reservations a must. Look into the Sugar & Spice suite package — a steal at \$149 a night with a minimum two-night booking.

3 THE REGIONAL KITCHEN AND PUBLIC HOUSE

651 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach; 561-557-6460 or www.eatregional.com

There are many ways to "cheat" making Thanksgiving dinner, but the best one we know of is to buy the food already prepared and throw out the packaging well ahead of your guests' arrival. The secret to pulling it off is to get the food from a great chef. That would be Lindsay Autry of The Regional, a contender on "Top Chef." Choose combinations of take-out meals for six or 10 people. A Heritage Breed turkey and your choice of four side dishes from a list that includes whipped Yukon Gold potatoes, sausage and cornbread stuffing, local green beans with crispy shallots, creamed corn, or a roasted Seminole pumpkin with sage, lemon-orzo risotto with roasted tomatoes, or classic stuffing with celery and herbs. All dinners include Parker House rolls. Pick a pie, or add more sides such as deviled eggs or fried chicken buckets. The basic six-serving meal is \$175; the 10-serving meal is \$275. She's serving the same food buffet-style noon-8 p.m.; it's \$65 per person, and reservations are required.

— Jan Norris

THE DISH: Highlights from local menus

The Dish: Chicken enchiladas with salsa verde

The Place: Guadalajara Restaurant, 905 Federal Highway, Lake Park; 561-814-5740.

The Price: \$7.25

The Details: Lunch at this small restaurant, which is tucked into a shopping center along U.S. 1, was a pleasant surprise.

We started with fresh, crisp chips served with a tangy, spicy salsa — we

had to ask for seconds on that salsa — it was that good.

My two enchiladas were stuffed with tender shredded chicken and topped with an earthy salsa verde, or green sauce, made from tomatillos. Serrano chiles lent a subtle heat to the tart tomatillo sauce.

It was served with refried beans and yellow rice — a perfect combination in my book. ■

— Scott Simmons



SCOTT SIMMONS/FLORIDA WEEKLY



IRONWOOD
STEAK & SEAFOOD

THANKSGIVING BUFFET

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2017

Seatings: 1:00 pm – 7:30 pm • Ironwood Steak & Seafood

Guests will gobble up this beautiful and delicious spread we are serving up at Ironwood Steak & Seafood. Reserve now so that your table awaits!

MENU

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw Bar • Bay Scallops • Tuna Poke • Parsnip Blue Crab Chowder • Arugula and Roasted Beet Salad • Cranberry Pecan Lettuce Salad • Classic Caesar • Breads, Biscuits and Sweet Breads • Smoked Salmon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yankee Pot Roast • Stuffing • Maple Roasted Yams, Mashed Potatoes, Pancetta Brussels Sprouts, Garlic Green Beans, Creamed Corn, Duck Fat French Fries, White Cheddar Truffle Mac N' Cheese, Turkey Leg Confit |
|--|---|

DESSERTS

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healthy living

NOVEMBER 2017

Florida Weekly's monthly guide to Looking, Feeling and Living Better

Making the holidays happier | 2

Help for hemorrhoids | 3

Nonsurgical help for wrinkles | 6

Improve your smile | 7

Eating healthy

PALM BEACH GARDENS MEDICAL CENTER

HOLIDAYS MEAN MANY THINGS TO many people. What we may all have in common during these holidays is tradition. These traditions are often passed down from generation to generation and new ones are made all the time! These traditions also consist of a variety of activities ranging from going out to eat with family, to enjoying a home-cooked

SEE HEALTHY, 4 ►

for the
holidays



Make the holidays healthier and happier no matter what your age!

Wondering how to keep the holiday season safe and stress-free? The holidays are a time when families gather to celebrate the traditions of the season, but when loved ones are frail or suffer from chronic illnesses, holidays can be challenging. Here are some helpful guidelines to ensure the season is fun and festive for the entire family, including senior parents, grandparents and older loved ones!



Irv Seldin
President
and Owner

Visiting Angels
of the Palm Beaches

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Moderation is best. If family members manage their dietary restrictions and alcohol intake, as well as their medications, everyone will manage to have a good time. Alcohol can be hazardous for seniors, bring on depression and confusion, cause interactions with prescriptions, trigger falls and irregular heartbeat. Dietary restrictions do not have to dampen your holidays! All it takes is a little extra planning and preparation, watching your salt and sugar intake, counting your calories, and staying active.

• Enjoy small portions of a few traditional favorites while sticking with healthier items, like vegetable side dishes.
• Go for the main course, but skip the dip, gravy, butter, sour cream and mayo, etc.
• Pick fresh fruit for dessert over cake, cookies, ice cream and pie.
• Stick with sparkling water or choose low-calorie drinks.

• If your physician allows you to drink alcohol, limit the amount, and have it with food.

Health and medical issues

Family members traveling to spend the holidays with you should make you aware ahead of time about any health issues or illnesses, or recent medical procedures. Be sure to remind them to pack their prescriptions and medical supplies, and bring a contact list of their doctors along just in case something happens during their holiday visit. Be sure everyone in the household knows the warning signs of a heart attack and stroke.

- Be sure to take all medications on a regular schedule (no excuses) and pack extra doses if traveling out of town.
- Get exercise, even if it is only yoga in a chair, or taking a walk after a meal.
- Remind diabetic loved ones to check their blood sugar more often if changing their routine over the holidays, and provide “healthy” snacks in addition to holiday favorites; keep glucose gel, or tablets on hand.
- Rest often; get a good night’s sleep.

Safety

Physical limitations, including poor eyesight and hearing, can lead to impaired mobility which creates safety issues. Be sure to remove potential trip and fall hazards, and dangerous holiday decorations in advance of any family festivities. Remember those with Parkinson’s struggle with balance, and those with dementia or Alzheimer’s are in danger of losing their way or “wandering.” Older adults move at a slower pace — be patient — do not rush them. Do not try to force anyone into an activity beyond their capacity.

Activities

Schedule the important activities earlier in the day to avoid fatigue. Non-stop holiday shopping and celebrating can exhaust the elderly and disorient seniors, especially if they are cognitively or physically impaired. The holidays can be particularly challenging when it comes to entertaining relatives who are frail, and perhaps cognitively or physically impaired. Keep in mind that meaningful activities can provide stimulation while promoting a feeling of usefulness, which can raise spirits and keep them from withdrawing. Remember to concentrate on the process, not the results, and enjoy the time spent on it! Suggestions include:

- Play or listen to holiday music, sing holiday songs, watch holiday movies (or just “golden oldies”).
 - Paint, or draw and color holiday images, make holiday-themed collages with meaningful items.
 - Organize sentimental items and trinkets into boxes — elicit the story they have to tell.
 - Look at old photo albums or old home movies you transferred to DVDs.
 - Read the newspaper, a hobby or sports magazine or a book to your loved one.
 - Walk in the park or along the boardwalk at the beach, try chair yoga together.
 - Work on simple puzzles and crosswords, or play board games, card games, Bingo!
 - Bake something simple that smells good in the kitchen, do it together.
 - Tend to the garden or cut and arrange flowers for the holiday table.
- Remember the greatest gift is the gift of your time, no matter what the season.

Manage meltdowns

There is plenty of stress and confusion with holiday shopping, decorating, cooking special meals and entertaining extended family. Try to imagine what it can do to someone with a mental or physical impairment! If you want to avoid the typical family member holiday meltdown keep the following ideas in mind:

- Take depression seriously in seniors, especially around the holidays, when they are feeling emotional and facing physical challenges or the loss of a loved one.
- Don’t try to get everything done in one short holiday visit.
- Don’t demand decisions or action on touchy topics during the holidays. Avoid sensitive subjects like selling the house or moving to an assisted living facility, unless of course a situation is unsafe.
- Don’t argue with siblings about what’s best for Mom, Dad or Grandpa and Grandma.

Thanksgiving will soon kick off the holiday season, so be sure ALL your loved ones are focusing on their health and wellness now so they can enjoy themselves. Happy Holidays! ■

—Visiting Angels of the Palm Beaches has a refreshing approach to homecare relationships. Let our “angels” help you or a loved one recover from illness, accident or surgery, or assist with the care and companionship needed to remain comfortably and safely at home while aging in place or dealing with the daily demands of living with Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s diseases. Call 561-328-7611 or visit VisitingAngels.com/PalmBeaches. Irv Seldin, Owner and CEO, Visiting Angels of the Palm Beaches Article not intended as medical advice


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Help available for treating hemorrhoids

Millions of people worldwide suffer from hemorrhoids – enlarged, bulging blood vessels in and about the anus and lower rectum.

There are two types of hemorrhoids – internal and external.

External (outside) hemorrhoids develop near the anus and are covered by sensitive skin. If a blood clot develops in one of them, a painful swelling may occur. It bleeds only if it ruptures.

Internal (inside) hemorrhoids develop within the anus beneath the lining. Painless bleeding and protrusion during bowel movements are the most common symptoms. However, an internal hemorrhoid may cause severe pain if it protrudes from the anal canal and cannot be pushed back in.



Ronald S. Zelnick
MD, FACS
FASCRS

561-575-7875

The exact cause of hemorrhoids is unknown. Our upright posture

forces a great deal of pressure on the rectal veins, causing them to bulge. Contributing factors include aging, constipation, diarrhea, pregnancy, heredity, straining due to poor bowel function, overuse of laxatives, and spending long periods of time on the toilet.

The tissues supporting the veins stretch and dilate; their walls become thin and bleed. As the stretching and pressure continue, the weakened veins



protrude. Symptoms include bleeding, protrusion, anal itching, pain and sensitive lumps.

There is no relationship between hemorrhoids and cancer. However, the symptoms of hemorrhoids, particularly bleeding, are similar to those of colorectal cancer. Therefore, it is imperative that all symptoms be investigated by a physician.

Mild symptoms can be relieved by increasing fiber in the diet, avoiding

excessive straining, taking warm baths and using anesthetic creams.

More severe symptoms of internal hemorrhoids may be treated by rubber band ligation, which involves placing a small rubber band over the hemorrhoid, cutting off its blood supply. Several days later, the hemorrhoid and band fall off. The wound heals within two weeks.

The newest treatment, HET bipolar systems (Hetsystems.com), involves applying high-energy compression

to internal hemorrhoids under sedation. It can be done in combination with colonoscopy, and multiple hemorrhoids can be treated in one procedure.

External hemorrhoids sometimes become thrombosed – develop a clot. They present as a painful perianal lump. Evacuation of the clot, performed under local anesthesia with a small incision, may bring immediate relief.

Hemorrhoidectomy, surgical excision, is the best method of permanently removing hemorrhoids. It is necessary: 1) if clots repeatedly form in external hemorrhoids; 2) protruding hemorrhoids can't be reduced; or 3) there is persistent bleeding, especially when ligation fails. Surgery is done under anesthesia and is usually an outpatient procedure.

If you are a hemorrhoid sufferer, today's treatment options offer an excellent chance of relief. ■

— Ronald S. Zelnick, MD, FACS, FASCRS, is a board-certified colon and rectal surgeon. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. His office is in Jupiter, Florida, and he may be reached at 561-575-7875.

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Nonsurgical facelift and skin tightening/lifting procedure with PDO threads

Ageing becomes more rapid and visible when we reach our mid-30s. When we age, the first signs that appear include thinner, loose skin that hangs from the face. The skin becomes loose and sagging because of the loss of collagen and elastin fibers as we grow older.



Jennifer Nicholson

Nurse Practitioner
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The PDO Thread Lift procedure safely and instantly lifts up loose skin on the face, neck, jawline, nasolabial folds, marionette lines, arms, thighs, abdomen, breasts, buttocks, hips, knees, elbows, chin, and lips with no downtime.

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ity become more noticeable on our faces, especially as our facial support structure weakens and we lose facial fat. The areas that are generally affected are the eyebrows, areas around the eyes, the cheeks, the jowls and the neck. The result is a longer, more square-shaped and older-looking face.

Traditionally, most people would look into plastic surgery to get a facelift as there weren't very effective noninvasive treatments to lift the loose skin. However, now there is an effective nonsurgical option that can lift and contour and suspend the sagging tissues on the face, neck and the body, especially for those that need only minimal to moderate rejuvenation or for those that do not wish to undergo surgical intervention.

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HEALTHY

From page 1

meal.

Regardless of where we decide to celebrate, there are many things we can do to keep our healthy eating in check, while still allowing us to consume the traditional foods we love. We can start with eating behavior. Use a small plate. It can help you consume less food and to be aware of portion size. Rather than excluding your favorite foods, or consuming too much of them, practice portion control. It allows you to enjoy the foods you love in moderation.

You've heard the term "variety is the spice of life"? Well, this applies to our holiday eating as well! Avoid snacking on only one food, (i.e. crackers and dip) and balance the plate with foods from each food group (whole grains, protein, vegetables, fruit, and dairy). This will create a more appealing plate with multiple colors and textures.

Drinking a glass of water in between meals can help our body determine if we are still hungry and need to eat more, or if we are eating with our eyes. Wait 20 minutes after drinking that glass of water and if there are still feelings of hunger, go ahead and get a few more



COURTESY PHOTO

Pick red wine over mixed drinks.

items on your small plate. Drinking water between adult beverages at holiday gatherings can help keep you hydrated and feeling less sluggish the day after. Opt for a glass of red wine rather than a drink mixed with soda or juice to cut out the excess calories. Modifying your favorite drinks can help cut down calories

as well. For instance, try using club soda with a fresh lime rather than lemon-lime soda. Club soda and tonic water are also good lower calorie choices versus soft drinks and juices.

Sharing is caring

If portion sizes are large, share it with a friend. Eat when you're hungry, rather than "when it's time to eat." This will help consume unwanted calories. Remember to pace yourself. It's ok to have treats in moderation but pay attention to how much is going on your plate. Set limits for eating before going to the party and stick with them! Bring and consume healthy snacks between meals (nuts, veggies, low-fat dip and granola) rather than binging on high fat/high calorie foods.

If you have been advised by your physician to follow certain dietary restrictions to improve your health and well-being, we can help.

Our Outpatient Nutrition Counseling Service at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center's Outpatient Rehabilitation Center is designed to provide comprehensive nutrition assessment and education, including individualized nutrition consultation for individuals who require medical nutrition therapy. Nutritional outcomes are monitored and optimized through periodic visits with our Registered Dietitians.

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We will spend time discussing your health and wellness goals, with a focus on what you want to do to support your body and well-being. We can discuss eating concerns, overall wellness, and disease prevention and management. Our nutrition services are designed to help you put knowledge into action!

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Your personal treatment plan might include a single tooth replacement with a cosmetic porcelain crown, the replacement of multiple teeth with permanent bridge-work or a full set of replacement teeth. Dr. Ajmo also offers a variety of implant-retained denture options that firmly and securely support removable appliances without the use of messy glues or denture adhesives.

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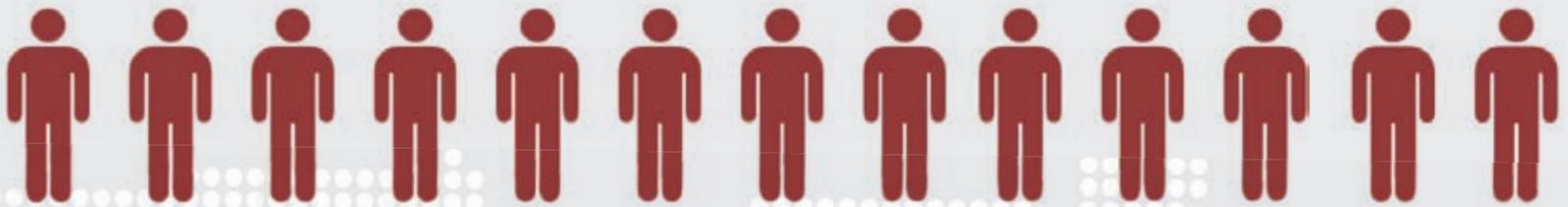
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FLORIDA'S CURRENT POPULATION SITS AROUND 20 MILLION. FLORIDA'S PROJECTED POPULATION BY 2070 IS 33 MILLION.



Bad water, poor planning and a flood of people (1,000 move here every day) mean Florida is in ...

Big Trouble



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Harold Wanless among the million-dollar homes on Miami Beach after a typical Florida rain storm.

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

ANY FLORIDA STORY BEGINS IN THE IMMEMORIAL PAST WITH the influences of three powerful rivers of change: climate, water, and the more recent flood of human beings.

Those sibling rivers happen to be converging now in our lifetimes. That's why Dr. Harold Wanless, professor and for 19 years chair of the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Miami, found himself standing one August morning on the centerline of a street studded with well-manicured, multi-million-dollar homes in Miami Beach. Above him: a sun-splashed blue sky. At his feet: water, lots of it, lapping at his

ankles in a seemingly shallow lake that covered the street, the flawless lawns and the entire neighborhood.

Climate change and expensive but shortsighted planning had resulted in a local flood from a rainstorm the night before — a flood that swept toxic pollutants right past new seawalls and pumps and into the beleaguered eco-system of

SEE TROUBLE, 2 ►

TROUBLE

From page 1

South Florida, he said.

That's not good for the eco-system, obviously. And it's not good for property owners and taxpayers now, or Floridians in the not-so-distant future.

This week, *Florida Weekly* offers readers a sobering panorama of sometimes shortsighted environmental and urban planning that will inevitably lead to profound community challenges throughout Florida in the next few decades. Those challenges — those now apparently inescapable difficulties — stem from man-made environments in real estate and agriculture, and the influence of humans on climate.

Nearly all growth planning in the Sunshine State begins with water; if done foolishly or unwillingly, it may end with water, too.

Only time — and perhaps the Florida leaders voters choose in 2018 or 2020, and beyond — are likely to tell. ■

The politics of planning

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

URBAN OR SUBURBAN SPRAWL HAS PROVEN AN appealing sugarplum to local and regional governments for decades in Florida — and for decades, from the 1970s until 2010 — state regulations to control growth were also supported by many local government officials, in spite of aggressive challenges from developers.

But the regulations, based on growth planning, more or less succeeded, in the eyes of those who were there to see it happen at the beginnings of their careers. Now many of them are still fighting near the ends of their careers — fighting to make growth work by saving the environment.

It can't be done any other way, they say, and that means not everybody can get rich whenever and wherever they want to.

This is their story — the story of a decades-long planning fight.

In the eyes of Wayne Daltry, a retired planner and former Smart Growth director in Lee County who worked to harness a regional vision that would help everybody, the planning history started a long time ago with the Calusa Indians, who built the first canal on the west coast of Florida across Pine Island, connecting Charlotte Harbor on the island's west side with the mangrove-mottled waters on the east, not far from the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River.

The canal allowed them quicker and much easier access to the mainland and inland upriver. The earth-scrape of its western terminus — arguably the first real example of transportation planning and man-made alterations of natural water systems in the lower Florida peninsula — is still visible to any visitor in a little thumbprint of a park at Pineland, complete with a commemorative sign.

Although it offers only the tiniest hint of what would come, nearly every aspiration of Floridians, Indian or European, from the 15th through the 20th centuries and beyond seems to lie in that shallow Pine Island trough.

When the Calusa were doing their planning and engineering, Mr. Daltry said, "Dr. Robin Brown (a retired medical doctor and expert in the Calusa civilization) estimated the population to be 40,000. Their kingdom stretched across Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties, and at least as far to the east as Lake Okeechobee."

After the Spanish arrived five centuries ago, the Calusa population dropped to roughly 1,000; ultimately, they disappeared from the planet.

Not until the advent of World War II did the population of the southwest coast regain the 40,000 mark. Then the Americans moved in suddenly, not

The dismantling of regulations and greed for more development

Although it didn't happen in his lifetime, Disston's massive move ultimately led to a growth explosion: to the draining of the Kissimmee basin and straightening of the river north of Lake O; to the connection of the lake with both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean; to railroads created by Henry Flagler and other development that brought more people; and finally to contemporary Florida.

Only within the last 150 years, since the height of the Industrial Revolution in Europe and America, have humans significantly reshaped the geology and hydrology of Florida and, almost without recognizing it until recent years, changed the climate of the world, the continent, the country and the Sunshine State.

Disston was the Sunshine State spearhead of those people and those changes.

They did it for profit by accommodating cities, towns, suburbs, sub-suburbs, and fields for citrus, vegetable crops, sugar cane and both dairy and beef cattle.

Almost incidentally, their profit planning resulted in the loss of an Everglades so profoundly rich and lustrous that now it's almost hard to imagine — and at less than half the size of its once grand north-to-south stretch, it never can be regained, says Michael Grunwald.

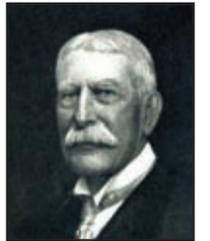
He described it this way in his widely celebrated 2007 book, "The Swamp:"

"The Everglades was the only place on earth where alligators (broad snout, fresh water, darker skin) and crocodiles (pointy snout, salt water, toothy grin) lived side by side. It was the only home of the Everglades mink, Okeechobee gourd, and Big Cypress fox squirrel. It had carnivorous plants, amphibious birds, oysters that grew on trees, cacti that grew in water, lizards that changed colors, and fish that changed genders. It had 1,100 species of trees and plants, 350 birds, and 52 varieties of porcelain-smooth, candy-striped tree snails. It had bottlenose dolphins, marsh rabbits, ghost orchids, moray eels, bald eagles, and countless other species that didn't seem to belong on the same continent, much less in the same ecosystem."

The big-time platting adventure

In effect, Floridians exchanged that natural wealth for platting profits.

After World War II, people began to move into Southwest Florida in droves, from Sarasota to Naples. They bought property and hopped on the



FLAGLER



VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY
Wayne Daltry traces planning back to the Calusa Indians.



DISSTON

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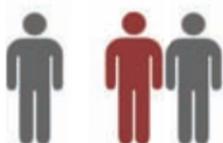
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RON MAYHEW / COURTESY OF FLORIDA WEEKLY

The politics of planning growth are seen clearly in this shot from the Florida Everglades.

plating bandwagon, either as buyers of tiny lots or as sellers of huge expanses of tiny lots, Mr. Daltry explained.

“For Southwest Florida, platting land was like placer mining for gold: You struck it rich or you went busted.”

In the mid-to-late 1950s, before most communities ever heard of “growth management planning,” the big-money developers arrived. The contemporary face of Florida emerged suddenly, equipped with mosquito control using the now banned DDT, and with affordable air conditioning, both of which hit the Florida scene about 1960 or a year or two earlier.

“The dream (of these developers) was to exceed the usual platting of a few acres, or even a few square miles,” Mr. Daltry said. Instead, they platted vast tracts of land and sold them to north-erners on the installment plan.

“Cape Haze, Cape Coral, Port Charlotte and North Port, Port Labelle, Golden Gates Estates, Remuda Ranch, Lehigh Acres, Deltona at Marco, all gave promise of land, water, and exclusivity at a small down payment and small monthly installments for a set period of time.”

For example, “\$10 down and \$10 a month, for 10 years,” was an offer that became an advertising jingle.

For \$100 an acre, a platter could buy land from a lumber company, divide each acre into 4 lots and ultimately gross \$4,800 (minus some labor and machine costs) if he put in a street and drainage, explained Mr. Daltry — and creating those lots also created a lot of jobs, the bottom line in any planning in those days.

Perhaps it’s true: The more things change, the more they remain the same. Once again more than half-a-century later, jobs and “the economy” are the primary reasons cited by Gov. Rick Scott’s administration and many county commissions for expanding development with less regulation.

It’s jobs, more jobs, they say. It’s “good for the economy,” a weather-worn phrase that has echoed almost unquestioned across the decades.

“Those backhoes, and those sales pitches, and those resort hotel rooms (for speculating visitors) created jobs,” said Mr. Daltry. From local governments, “there was no immediate demand or much interest in regulatory controls. Heck, the counties weren’t even authorized to regulate without a special act of the legislature.”

By 1960, the population of Collier, Lee and Charlotte Counties combined was 82,000. In gigantic Palm Beach County with its 1,972 square miles, the western portion remained predominantly agricultural, some of it in the Everglades Agricultural Area; but the eastern half

had begun to develop like a tropical storm, serving as home to 228,000 residents.

By 1970, the population of the southwest coast was 170,000 and of Palm Beach County, 349,000; local governments then had the power, from the legislature, to do some regulating and controlling — if they wanted to. And they began to.

“Too many septic tanks discharging poorly, too much road congestion, too much flooding, too many homes and their wreckage blocking beaches, and too much land clearing,” Mr. Daltry said, explaining the inclination to regulate, even a little.

Changes blowing in the wind

About that time Mr. Daltry, a newly minted graduate of The Citadel, was going to Vietnam, before coming home to Bradenton and embarking on a career as a planner. And counties were beginning to demand change across the state.

“Gov. Reubin Askew, after his election in 1970, took the problem seriously and established the Task Force on Resource Management to look at it,” Mr. Daltry recalled.

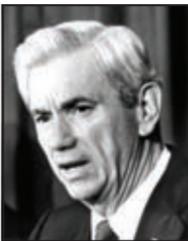
Thus were born modern times.

“The commission developed a set of recommendations, the most memorable being demanding a serious set of coordinated state, regional and local planning programs (they included land use, transportation and public services); an environmental land management program; an air and water quality management program; a coastal management program; and a statewide system of water management.

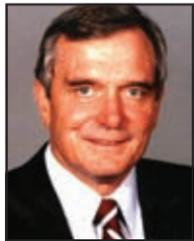
“Then and now, these are the core issues for communities, and they create a sense of regional and state identity.”

Ray Judah, Lee County’s first environmental planner who went on to serve as a commissioner for 24 years, helped create major environmental protec-

tions of water and land in the county. He described three governors — Reubin Askew, Lawton Chiles and Bob Graham — as “true visionaries. They understood in planning for the future that we’re a high-volume growth state. Thankfully those three gentlemen helped form the landmark growth management laws that were beneficial for decades.”



ASKEW



CHILES

Developers themselves were not always the problem, as Jim Beever remembers it.

A longtime county planner who arrived in the mid-1980s, Mr. Beever is now senior planner at the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, created to analyze the effects of new development across a six-county region from Sarasota south.

“Development changed because of the state’s Growth Management Plan (1975), which improved to the State and Regional Planning Act of 1984, which was a big watershed. The requirements for concurrency were improved,” he said.

Mandated by the state Legislature at the time, “concurrency” required county governments and planners to produce County Comprehensive Plans and update them every five years, showing what had changed and how their goals might therefore change.

“Levels of service had to be met,” said Mr. Beever, with parks, with fire and police protection and schools.

“Local governments could do more than the bottom line and some did — they set their goals higher, to make a better standard of living. This occurred from Sarasota to Naples.”

Almost nobody thought the state was spiraling out of control — not the planners, at least.

“So it looked like we were on a good track — we had a good rate of growth, we were prepared or preparing for what was coming, and agriculture was still doing well,” explained Mr. Beever. He was sitting in a small suite of offices filled with maps and planning charts at the heart of an aging outdoor shopping and commercial center in Fort Myers, where shop-front glass windows, some with for-lease signs in their corners, peer out on pools of water and mechanical fountains flanked by narrow walkways.

Some developers embraced these ideas — a compact urban core, some areas set aside for agriculture and some for preserves — but not all, Mr. Beever said.

“While those approaches were good for almost everybody, we did have resistance from what I call speculative real estate, as opposed to real real estate.”

The difference is significant, in Mr. Beever’s view.

“Existing, legitimate, ongoing real estate development is a good thing. But speculative real estate goes like this. A speculator — One: finds land for the least possible price. Two: obtains permits to do the most possible development on that land. And three: then lets the public pay for the infrastructure.”



VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY
Former Lee County Commissioner Ray Judah, helped create major environmental protections for Florida waters.



VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Jim Beever, senior planner at the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, says a well-planned development is healthy but speculation is not.

Such an approach occurred on a large scale in such communities as Cape Coral, Lehigh Acres and Golden Gate, for example, with such companies as the Gulf American Corp., the General Development Corp. in Charlotte County and the Mackle Brothers on Marco Island.

“There, taxpayers have to retrofit the infrastructure,” Mr. Beever said. “They used finger canals to promise everyone waterfront. And once built, you have no finances to support services. To a large extent, communities in those places had to play catch-up.”

But with such companies as WCI in Pelican Bay or Bonita Bay Properties, the infrastructure was done in advance, and the companies had to recoup the money they spent doing it, he said. That was doing it the right way.

The regulations were challenged in increasingly sophisticated or forceful ways, planners say — but often they held up in court.

How it looked on the ground

Some people experienced Florida’s planning and growth struggles from a boots-on-the-ground perspective — or boots in the mangrove swamp, in the case of Rae Ann Wessel.

Ms. Wessel started with what was then called the Department of Environmental Regulations. Now 39 years later — a voluble apologist for water, mangroves and wetlands with a still-scrappy will-



WESSEL

ingness and the fitness to wade into the political or geographical swamp, either one — she’s the natural resource policy director for the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

“I cut my teeth chasing Robert Troutman out of the mangroves, in the corridor known as the estuary development (near Punta Rassa), 7,000 acres where the Kennedy-Shriver Trust had bought cheap land in the 1950s and ’60s and designed a building plan,” she said. “They were going to name it after something they were about to destroy.”

Such naming characterized Florida development for half a century or more: Gray Oaks, Bonita Bay, Quail West, Twin Eagles, Pelican Preserve, Garden Oaks, Gardenia Islas, Magnolia Bay, Sandpiper Cove, Wildcat Run and scores more.

SEE GROWTH, 4 ►



ADAM BARON / FLORIDA WEEKLY

The population of Southwest Florida reached 348,000 by about 1980, just after Bob Graham was elected governor for the first time. It hit 600,000 a decade later.

GROWTH

From page 3

“So we took it to the state Supreme Court and won a landmark case. For the first time, the state could claim jurisdiction above the mean high-water line because of plants and soils that were biologically tied in as buffer areas — the mangrove areas, the (brackish) areas.”

Her visit to the Supreme Court, probably a wondrous adventure to a young environmentalist working for state government, proved to be far from the end of that fight, or of a larger one on-going across the region, the state and the decades, she said.

“So the Kennedy-Shriver Trust hired Robert Troutman, an Atlanta attorney who managed the lands. He was very unhappy when the Florida Supreme Court identified these lands as being jurisdictional. This landmark decision allowed us for the first time to identify critical wetlands above the mean high tide line and protect them. Everything we understand about mangroves today was codified in that decision.”

Mr. Troutman didn't like it, and he was a man of action, apparently.

“He was outraged,” Ms. Wessel recalled. “He made a commitment to cut down all the mangroves they owned, and he made it to my face. It happened during a hard rain when I gave him a ride in my car to his — that's when he told me. He was going to cut them all down.”

He wasn't kidding.

“I had an old green Valiant the state issued. So I parked and walked up to the site one day, and Troutman was out there with some work guys, and he had a chain saw in his hand. They were cutting mangroves, but they couldn't hear me coming up in the muck with those saws going.”

Since the DER had injunctions against the trust, she began to take pictures. Of the trust's Atlanta attorney wielding the chain saw — “with the goods,” as she put it.

“And when they paused and the sound went down, I called out. ‘Hey, Robert!’”

Mr. Troutman took off running.

“He ran down through one of the ditches and ended up over by Punta Rasa, where a guy was fixing crab traps.”

When she drove over, saw the fisherman, and asked if he'd seen anybody, the man looked surprised, she remembered.

“He said, ‘Yeah, this old man just jumped out of the woods...’”

That was about 1974, the year before

current Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann first put his boots on the ground of the state legislature in Tallahassee, to which he was elected by local voters in 1975.

“Reubin Askew was still governor, and in those days there was no such thing as planning,” he recalled.

“Large scale development had begun — the Gulf American Corporation and General Development were just two of the hundreds running amuck all over Florida with no thought of how communities would look, of how many lots you could assemble and how fast you could sell them, with no thought whether there would be room for commercial or industrial uses, with no set-asides for police or fire stations — none of that existed prior to the mid-'70s.”

Taxpayers are still paying for that lack of foresight, he said.

“It's expensive to retrofit — to locate commercial or industrial zones or put a police station or school in an area already filled out.”

Growing now, shaping the future

By the mid to late 1970s, however, nearly a million lots had been sold as part of the platting vision of life, only about 10 percent with construction. So retrofitting would prove to be inevitable.

The population of Southwest Florida reached 348,000 by about 1980, just after Bob Graham was elected governor for the first time, it hit 600,000 a decade later, and by 2000 residents in Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties numbered 833,000. And still, only about 33 percent of the platted lots sported homes.

In Palm Beach County, meanwhile, the population jumped from 577,000 in 1980 to 1.13 million in 2000.

“Then came the problem of success,” said Mr. Daltry. “The lots provided a relatively cheap source of land for a runaway housing market that dominated the first part of the 21st century's first decade. And the bubble burst. Rampant speculation caused the collapse, not the lack of services nor the investment in the communities and region.”

The response by contemporary governments was shortsighted, to say the least, in Mr. Daltry's view.

“They gutted most management programs at the state and regional level, and politicized what was left,” he said.

“By 2010 that process was well under-



MANN

way, the population of the three counties was 1.17 million (in Palm Beach it reached almost 1.3 million) and more than half the lots had buildings on them.”

Not only that, he added, “but the demand for transportation, water supply, public services, hazard planning, and buffering with open space has never been as great.”

And now the population is about 1.5 million in the three counties (and 1.35 million in Palm Beach), and county commissioners are about to do away with regional planning of any sort, a move that will likely raise no questions from Gov. Scott's administration or the state legislature, Commissioner Mann suggests. He echoes the opinions of many others, including former Commissioner Judah.

“It gets worse on a state and local level,” Mr. Judah said.

“Now there's an effort to eliminate the regional planning council (Jim Beever's outfit). The state has done its level best to weaken the DRIs — the Development of Regional Impacts (in which communities with updated comprehensive plans must show what impacts a development will have before it can be permitted).

“So, by eliminating the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, the commission is putting us back in the Dark Ages.”

And not just the Lee County commission.

The Sarasota County commission kicked off the elimination of regional planning, he said, followed a month later by the Lee County Commission, both of which voted to pull out of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council of six counties next year, withdrawing funding and support.

Planning Councils provide close analyses of every aspect of a given development, transportation plan or water plan for local governments. That allows governments to work together to control and direct growth for the benefit of everybody.

But now, Collier County and others also are considering abandoning regional planning.

“Why is that bad?” asked Mr. Judah.

“Because the planning council was put in place recognizing that roads, water and development-impact in general does not recognize political boundaries.

“For instance, flow ways: Summer rains and runoff don't just stop at a county boundary. Without the Regional Planning Council to review developments on a regional basis, you run the risk of severing the flow ways that have a huge impact on rivers, estuaries and aquifers; you have a road system of six lanes than can suddenly result in two lanes — if you don't look at the big picture.”

Another example: “You even have aquifers that don't abide by political lines; so if you have one development in one county with a lot of straws in the aquifer, it affects the next county.”

The Department of Community Affairs managed much of this in the state, but it's gone, just as many regulators for the Department of Environmental Protection and researchers who once worked for the state's water management districts are gone, part of Gov. Scott's reductionist notion of government, in the eyes of Commissioner Mann.

“The legislature has undone much of the progress made in the early 1970s, beginning with abolition of the Department of Community Affairs, followed by the fact that we're not requiring developments of regional impact,” he said.

“Those efforts used to be a signifi-

cant part of Florida development. So it's been a huge reversal, where the growth industry is now the beneficiary of far fewer requirements and regulations that protect everybody.”

For Commissioner Mann, “I have great and grave concerns about what will happen in the next 25 years.”

In Lee County, his fellow commissioners have given the green light to a number of developments that would have been restricted by the county's old comprehensive development plan, usually by a vote of four to one.

Less restricted development is a detriment to protecting water quality and resources, says Commissioner Mann, often the dissenting vote in board decisions to allow “leapfrog” development on wetlands or in rural areas beyond the reach of current infrastructure, for example.

The Lee commissioners also hugely reduced impact fees that pay for infrastructure, putting that burden back on taxpayers who already moved into the region and paid those impact fees once.

Mr. Judah explained it this way: “The Lee County Commission reduced impact fees by 80 percent, and then a couple of years ago implemented a slight increase so it's a reduction of 55 percent from what it once was.

“If you look at the total dollars this community has forfeited leading up to March, 2018, it will be about \$80 million.

“So not only have we lost \$33 to \$35 million in road impact fees, but another \$45 million that would have gone to schools.”

Collier County, meanwhile, did not reduce impact fees through the recession or after — “that was just a red herring developers used, and the Building Industry Association used, in Lee,” Mr. Judah said.

Lee commissioners instead, with the strong support of the Building Industry Association, have voted to use “incremental funding” — money taken from property taxes — to make up some of the difference.

In Collier, however — where Naples ranks as one of the best-designed and wealthiest cities in the state — the judgment of county officials has sometimes been far from prescient, in the eyes of Collier Commissioner and Board Chair Penny Taylor.



TAYLOR

“One example is beach parking. In (early '80s planning) the county commission did not plan beach access in terms of growth. So now I think we have six or seven beach accesses in the county, and the city of Naples has 42 beach accesses.

“The way the city of Naples was planned was to understand that people were coming here to enjoy the beach. So, at the end of every street was an access.

“And when a developer or Realtor came who wanted to condo-ize south of the Beach Club, all the way down to the shoreline, the people said, ‘You're not going to do this.’ They had a vision, a relaxed residential feeling that was welcoming.”

The county, instead, had a vision of money, she suggested — a vision that exists today, as well, even when it comes to developing new communities in sensitive wetlands.

“The business of Collier County is the buying and selling of Collier County. Somewhere there are owners of Collier land who all have dreams of a pot of

gold, and they all believe their land will give them that pot of gold.

But it's not true if we're looking to the future — and the growth button is on. The pressure to develop, though, is enormous."

Just as it was when Naples restricted high-rises and created beach access.

"In the county they let properties go, the commissioners at the time sold the access in condo after condo from Vanderbilt going north — even at Pelican Bay," said Commissioner Taylor. "It's private, and they allowed it. It could have been different. That's a very sad story, and we're facing problems with that today."

For any region of the state, the Big Picture planners still strongly recommend regional — not just local — planning and development aimed at accommodating growth.

"Local communities are starting to understand the realities, but sometimes the politicians refuse, Democrat or Republican," noted Steve Bourassa, professor and director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Florida Atlantic University, one of the most celebrated planning departments in the United States.



BOURASSA

"I'd say this about planning in Lee County or anywhere," he added: "What's needed is a broadly regional approach to planning. One issue is transportation. There's a real need to integrate land use and transportation more effectively and on a regional scale.

"So doing away with a regional planning council is not a good move. Also, we need to think about land use patterns consistent with public transportation, with walkable communities, with community water and sewer infrastructure, not septic, which is so much worse for the environment — with something other than traditional suburban track housing.

"But that's what most development in recent decades has consisted of."

Modern times

A great deal — the shape of the future in Florida — depends on who takes the reins in Tallahassee and what future governors and legislatures may require of local governments and of citizens.

"Florida has been pinched between two definitions of 'What is Florida?'" said Bob Graham, the state's 38th governor and retired U.S. senator, who stepped out of Washington in 2005 after 18 years in the Senate. He now heads the Florida Conservation Commission.

"One group says it's a commodity of no distinctive value, and therefore undeserving of our protection. If you want to fill in a wetland to build a shopping center, or build a marina on a dry land, you can do it.

"The other group sees it as a treasure, and serves each generation's efforts to protect and pass it on to the next generation.

"The commodity side was in control for most of the 20th century, and is now in control again."

Elections in 2018 and 2020 will decide how Floridians see their state going forward — either as a commodity, or as a treasure, he added.

Many hope for a return of the sometimes feisty, sometimes careful system optimists of once upon a time who could work across party lines in government to make decisions that would help future Floridians, they say.

Commissioner Mann, now a Republi-

can, was a Democrat and state legislator at the time who helped implement state rules that controlled growth at the county level for decades — a witness to those heady planning days.

In one case when he was governor, Bob Graham recalled, a group of legislators backed by prominent business owners made a strong bid to build a cross-state canal project that would have started near Cedar Key and infused major aquifers with salt water, ultimately destroying part of the Everglades.

"We killed that sumbitch," Commissioner Mann said, describing how he worked closely with Republicans to do the right thing — including the late Sen. Warren Henderson, from Sarasota.

Meanwhile, growth development continues anew, sometimes with little seeming regard for what's about to happen in the next 30 years.

About 230 new condominium buildings came under construction last year in Miami-Dade alone, many along Miami Beach, noted Dr. Wanless.

Across the state, high-rise condominiums continue to appear on the Caloosahatchee riverfront in downtown Fort Myers, where streets were completely submerged at the end of August after a few inches of rain (that was before Hurricane Irma); in Collier County north of Naples, where commissioners for years have permitted high-rises and other development on or near the beach; and at such massive development sites as Babcock Ranch in Charlotte County, where the first of 1,900 homes are rising east of I-75 on a 17,600-acre sprawl that will include 6.5 million square feet of commercial space — but all of it wrapped into less than half of the development footprint. Although Babcock Ranch is a self-sustaining town in design, it will nevertheless require huge changes to regional roads, among other accommodations for infrastructure.

At build out, Babcock could include 50,000 residents.

Whether the planners have anticipated its full impact on regional infrastructure remains to be seen; but taken at a glance, observers say, it's the best-planned development in Florida history, with sophisticated infrastructure and state-of-the-art technologies including solar and smart-vehicle use built into the plan.

But in any development, the proof is in the pudding, suggested Mr. Daltry.

"It doesn't matter how high you are in a condo building, or how well designed it is. If it floods below you, you're in trouble," he said.

On deck

Adam Putnam, the leading candidate for governor next year, a Republican and now Commissioner of Agriculture, did not respond to *Florida Weekly* requests for an interview to ask him how he planned to manage money, water resources and growth if elected governor.

A Democratic opponent, former state legislator Gwen Graham, daughter of Sen. Bob Graham, said planning is essential.

"That's the key word — planning. It's the responsibility of the governor to look forward and anticipate challenges a state will face. Rick Scott's dismantling



CAROLYN ALLEN / FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES

Gov. Rick Scott in Miami in 2015. Jobs and "the economy" were the primary reasons cited by his administration and many county commissions for expanding development with less regulation.

of our growth management laws has resulted in a failure of planning. A healthy economy in Florida goes hand-in-hand of with a healthy environment."

That may be where the problem becomes complicated.

"We have to get back to making smart state government decisions," she said. "We're going to have 15 million more people in Florida than today in the not-so-distant future. We have to plan this so we aren't overwhelming Florida's unique quality of life.

"Water, beaches, springs, state parks — I am proud to be someone who recognizes that growth is positive. But we need to be managing this growth in a smart way, with regulations that have buy-ins from those being regulated so we have benefits for all."

And time is pressing. "You only have one chance to do this right, in terms of reversing some of the damage that's been done. We're not going to stand in the way of growth, but we won't let it (destroy) us."

For Dr. Wanless, the first step in good planning is to face reality.

All the evidence points to what is now an inescapable tsunami of environmental change and growth bearing down on the Sunshine State. Nothing like this has happened either in the memory or the history of any humans here. Not, at least, since the first Europeans arrived and ultimately destroyed the Calusa.

In fact, he insists, some contemporary beachfronts will become future shallow marine environments, as hard as that may be to accept, now. And they can have the potential to spawn a healthy ecosystem — if they're cleaned up starting now.

"Without intense and responsible effort (those waters) will become highly polluted from inundated waste disposal sites, polluted ground on industrial sites, and pollution released from inundated buildings and infrastructure," he predicted.

We are too late to alter the inevitable change, but we can adapt to it if we confront the realities now and with transparency: Our state and regional growth planning must become more rigorous and better coordinated. And our on-going efforts to clean and prepare the environment elsewhere, especially across the entire Everglades system from Orlando south, must be hastened, experts say.

"I'm almost 81, and I have been an optimist all my life," said Sen. Graham, who grew up on a dairy farm near Coral Gables.

"I have seen Florida when it was on

its knees, particularly after devastating climactic events, primarily hurricanes. And I've seen it on its knees after economic collapses that have seemed to occur on roughly 20-year intervals," he recalled.

"In all these cases it's recovered with a stronger sense of its future and a stronger economy. But I am concerned now. Things are different." ■

"The Lee County Commission reduced impact fees by 80 percent, and then a couple of years ago implemented a slight increase so it's a reduction of 55 percent from what it once was. If you look at the total dollars this community has forfeited leading up to March 2018, it will be about \$80 million. So not only have we lost \$33 to \$35 million in road impact fees, but another \$45 million that would have gone to schools."

— Ray Judah, former Lee County Commissioner

Climate change

When it comes to our receding beaches, the struggle is real

BY Nanci Theoret

ntheoret@floridaweekly.com

ONE MORE MAJOR STORM AND DRAKE BLISS'S Manasota Key home likely will be a little closer to the beach. Since purchasing the property 12 years ago, Mr. Bliss has watched the Gulf of Mexico claim most of the 30- to 40-foot-wide swath of beach and a man-made sand dune he estimates was once 20 feet tall.

"When I first bought the property there was a large beach there," said the Cape Coral Realtor. "A half-mile or more has just disappeared in the last three years. All that's left is riprap and rocks where the dune used to be. Every major storm started taking swipes at it."

And that was before Hurricane Irma took out a 200-foot section of Manasota Beach Road.

Mr. Bliss's home, a vacation rental built in 2011, is safe. It's on the eastern side of the island's major roadway and built to stringent hurricane codes. The owners of condos and a single-family home right on the beach haven't been so lucky. After Tropical Storm Colin and Hurricane Hermine dealt a one-two punch last summer, their homes were deemed uninhabitable with cracked foundations and waves lapping at the back door.

"It was ground zero," Mr. Bliss said. "Storms come in, breach the seawall and trash the place. My house is designed to take the flood. It's new construction. But the 1950s homes are way below the flood zone and people can't afford flood insurance."

Along Southwest Florida's beaches, erosion is one of the many sides of climate change caused by growth and the "hardening" of the coast — seawalls, riprap and other structures designed to protect multi-million dollar manses, waterfront businesses and municipal recreational facilities. Scientists say climate change will lead locally to increased hurricane events, extended droughts and shorter but more intense rainy seasons and the introduction of tropical diseases to livestock and humans.

Those flooding rains in August and Irma in September were just a harbinger of what's to come.

Southwest Florida and Florida, for that matter, are among the most susceptible areas in the world threatened by rising seas. The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has been tackling climate change for two decades, studying the area's vulnerability and how policy changes can reduce



BLISS

the acceleration of the inevitable.

Back in 2009, when Jim Beever, a geobiologist and the council's principal planner, began assessing the impact of climate change, the general consensus estimated a 1.2-degree temperature increase and a 12- to 18-inch rise in sea level by 2100.

"The acceleration to higher temperatures seems to be coming on faster than previously thought," he said. "It looks like we'll get there sooner, around 2080. It's getting hotter sooner. The rate of sea level rise for our region has been about the thickness of a Velveeta cheese slice, each year. It doesn't seem like much, but stack it up and you get a Velveeta box before long."

Internationally, the just-released and most comprehensive study of climate change ever, the Climate Science Special Report, outlines in over 600 pages a 1.8 degree Fahrenheit increase in global temperature since 1902 and a sea level rise of 7 to 8 inches during the past 117 years with a 3-inch increase since 1993. It also attributes these changes to human activities.

Just as growth is inevitable for Southwest Florida, so too, is a changing climate which will unleash a range of complications and challenges. While it's impossible to stop this natural process, it can be slowed down through smarter planning, better building codes and land development, an emphasis on green building, reduced vehicular emissions and a host of other measures.

"It's important to make it clear you cannot stop this," Mr. Beever said. "But we can adapt. We can slow the acceleration. The only thing humans can affect is manmade."

Left to run its course, Mother Nature would shift barrier islands and deal up beach-claiming storms, redepositing them elsewhere. But now, cities and counties are shelling out millions of dollars to keep beaches in the same place, reactively re-sanding them to stay on top of storm surge and armoring the shoreline with seawalls, which impact turtle nesting and pose other adverse environmental consequences.

Collier County renourished its shoreline to the tune of \$3.9 million in 2016. Charlotte County is facing a potential \$30 million project to save its shoreline, part of which could include reclaiming Manasota's disappearing beaches and creating a natural underwater barrier to tame waves. Storms have scraped away sand, leaving four acres of bare, hard limestone.

Nearly 44 miles of Southwest Florida's beaches are critically eroded, according to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Erosion is considered critical if there's a threat to or a loss of upland development, recreation, wildlife habitat and important cultural resources.

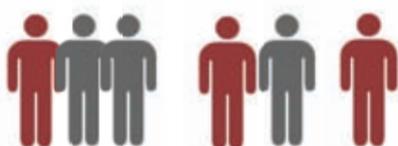
Threatened beaches remain on the list despite renourishment projects to aid the state in acquiring future federal funding for larger scale projects. More than 14 miles of Collier's beach fall in the category. In Lee County, 22.4 miles of its 47 miles of coastline is considered critically eroded and those portions of former beachfront along Manasota Key toward Charlotte's northern boundary are among the county's 6.5 miles of shoreline rated as critically eroded.

Eight critically eroded areas in Palm Beach County span 33.6 miles, with a 1.5-mile section from Tequesta and Jupiter Inlet Colony threatening private developments and recreational facilities at Coral Cove Park.



COURTESY PHOTO

Collier County renourished its shoreline to the tune of \$3.9 million in 2016.





COURTESY PHOTO

On both coasts, water is claiming beachfront. Cities and counties are spending millions of dollars to protect and renourish beaches.

“The rate between renourishing and renourishing again is getting shorter and shorter,” Mr. Beever observed. “We’ve spoken up in meetings but engineers, renourishers and some politicians deal with facts not approached by science.”

The regional planning council cites three reasons why communities have failed to address climate change: “uncertainty over or denial of climate change and its implications; failures to include the true economic, social, and environmental costs of present policies that encourage, allow and subsidize such risky development; and legal tenets of private property rights.”



CRIST

On the flip side are the naysayers who believe the environment-friendly agendas of liberal state and national government are crying wolf. During the administrations of former Florida Gov. Charlie Crist and President Barack Obama, the Environmental Protection Agency generously doled out grants to fund climate change vulnerability studies and money for resiliency implementation.

“At one time the federal government was much more interested in this,” Mr. Beever said. “But then we changed governors and we changed presidents. There were mandates and programs encouraging planning and funding that planning but they went away.”

Climate change’s impact on Southwest Florida won’t be the stuff of an apocalyptic movie. No coastal cities underwater or high-rise towers swept into the ocean (although it might make it easier for some to step out their door and fish, Mr. Beever quipped).

“The issue of doom is overdone on this,” he said. “We want to be able to live in a way that makes sense.”

According to the planning council’s research, climate change impacts of sea-level rise are already evident throughout the region — salt marshes have moved inland about the length of a football field since the 1950s, coastal flooding has increased and storm surge is more pronounced during tropical storms. And it’s not just coastal communities that will incur the complications of climate change.

“Inland, Labelle is experiencing major

water-quality issues,” Mr. Beever said. “Its water supply, increased droughts and shifts of temperatures will affect agriculture and the types of crops that will grow. We anticipate more tropical products and also increased tropical diseases in cattle. Zika, dengue fever and other tropical diseases are showing up in small amounts in all communities of Southwest Florida.”

Mr. Beever sees evidence some local cities and counties are taking climate change seriously. “Municipalities are more a leader on this than the state,” he said. “One reason is mayors have to get things done. They can’t just sit around and talk philosophy.”

He’s completed 15 climate control resiliency studies, having just wrapped up one for Cape Coral.

The regional planning council has presented to Charlotte County and completed the Lee County Resiliency Plan in 2010. The latter included more than 70 suggestions for educating the public, reducing fleet emissions, incorporating climate control measures in building and land codes, and protecting and enhancing key environmental areas. In November 2010 the county also lauded its involvement as one of the eight inaugural adaptation communities in the country to participate in the Climate Resilient Communities program.

Yet despite all the fanfare, the county has yet to implement a single recommendation or take steps toward adopting a

climate resiliency plan and reducing its vulnerability, which were also outlined in its CompleteLee sustainability plan. Jonathan Romine, a principal for EnSite, a Fort Myers design firm specializing in sustainable planning, civil engineering, urban design and landscape architect, worked on the plan, which took three years to develop. He reads aloud the recommended actions outlined in the document.

“Nope, that didn’t get done,” he said. “No, that one didn’t happen either. They didn’t do that ... We prioritized goals, conducted public workshops on climate adaptation and the steps they could do to adapt.”

There was also funding available to help with implementation, Mr. Romine said.

“Coastal communities need to be doing things to address climate change,” he said. “One thing the county was supposed to do as a priority was to improve facilities so they would be better prepared for a natural disaster. There were things they could have been doing that would have better prepared the community for Irma. Imagine if it had landed in Estero, Cape Coral or Fort Myers.

“Charley wasn’t the hurricane. It was just an example.”

Collier County has been taking steps to address climate change. Before breaking for summer recess, commissioners learned the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had approved a \$1 million grant for Florida Gulf Coast Uni-

versity Professor Michael Savarese and his colleagues from the University of Florida to map out and analyze sea-level rise risks throughout the county. “It’s a way of providing Collier County, its municipalities and managers of urban and natural resources an understanding of what our region might look like in the future as sea level rise continues and as storms continue,” Mr. Savarese told the board.

Funded by BP monies under the RESTORE Act following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the three-year web-based project will create maps, simulations and animations illustrating and predicting the impact of sea level rise in 2030, 2060 and 2100 using a variety of magnitudes and storm scenarios. “It provides a suite of possibilities for what the future might hold for us,” said Dr. Savarese. “It’s \$1 million in new science available to us. It requires the county and its municipalities to have some kind of planning effort ... that moves in concert with this project.”

The Naples-Based Southwest Florida Nature Conservancy is also actively involved in climate change, conducting a systematic internal assessment to identify existing gaps in Southwest Florida and use its expertise in policy, science and education to develop solutions, said President and CEO Robert Moher.

“We have core expertise in critical ecological infrastructure, notably mangrove forests that are essential bulwarks against sea level rise.”

In October, a summit on sea rise organized by Naples City Councilwoman Linda Penniman and Commission Chairwoman Penny Taylor attracted 200 and included presentations by government officials from Miami-Dade County. The South Florida county, along with Palm Beach and Broward counties, formed the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact in 2010 to coordinate mitigation and adaptation activities across county lines.

Its ninth annual climate leadership summit in December will focus on engaging businesses and the community in critical decisions on adaptation, climate and energy solutions, and resilience.

Of the three counties, Palm Beach has the highest elevation, at about 15 feet. Miami-Dade and Broward average six feet. The Breakers rises 13 feet above sea level; the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts towers at 33 feet.

Punta Gorda is well ahead of the climate change curve, its city council unanimously approving the incorporation of the Punta Gorda Adaptation Plan into its comprehensive plan in 2009. The city was able to piggyback onto the regional planning council’s comprehensive vulnerability assessment of Charlotte Harbor through the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, which targeted Punta Gorda as among the first regional cities likely to suffer negative effects of climate change. It identified 246 management adaptations that would help the entire Southwest Florida region and also noted the loss of mangrove forests along the harbor, the degradation of water quality and geomorphic changes to barrier islands.

“Jim was looking for a partner for his estuary work and came to us,” said Joan LeBeau, Punta Gorda’s interim urban manager, who was the city’s chief planner at the time. “We thought it was a great idea and an important planning tool. As a small city, this wasn’t something we could do on our own. They planned the majority of the work. It makes sense if you’re near water; you have to plan for issues.”

Critical to the city’s success, much as its unprecedented recovery from Hurri-



COURTESY PHOTO

Under Barack Obama’s administration, the Environmental Protection Agency doled out grants to fund climate change vulnerability studies and money for resiliency implementation.

cane Charley, was community and business involvement — a commitment from all stakeholders.

From the beginning of its climate change discussions the city involved the public who knew all too well the power of the sea and hurricanes. About 100 people attended the first of a three-day workshop.

“A lot of times you start talking climate stuff and people start politicizing,” Ms. LeBeau said. “You have to introduce and explain the science first and start with baby steps to help move and get people realizing this is coming. Having buy-in made a world of difference. The plan came to council with the backing of the community.”

The city’s final adaptation plan identified several strategies for addressing climate change at little to no cost. The city has implemented all but two or three. Components of the document call for building infrastructure on higher ground, restoring oyster bars and mangrove fringes to add structural integrity to weakened shorelines, and trumps federal and state building codes to push foundations an additional .25 inches higher.

“There are both positive and negative impacts,” Ms. LeBeau said. “Updating the building codes and raising the base flood elevation is more costly to developers who have to add another quarter of an inch but in the long run it buys you time.”

She points to Tangier Island, Virginia, as a dramatic example of sea level rise.



DANIEL DI PALMA / COURTESY PHOTO

Coastal erosion during a king tide at Dania Beach south of Fort Lauderdale.

Since 1850, the island’s landmass has diminished 67 percent, cemeteries are underwater and moderate sea-level rise models project the town will likely be abandoned in the next 50 years.

Ms. LeBeau’s department also is working with the Southwest Florida Conservancy to determine the feasibility of creating a living shoreline on the northwestern side of the city and hopes to present the project to council soon. Implementation would help soften wave action on sea walls.

“The reason we’re pushing ahead on this is because one of the businesses in town is excited by the stuff we’re doing in climate change and sea level rise,” she said. “We want something more natural that helps soften the hard edge. We spent a million dollars on Harbor Walk and want to protect it.”

Fertilizer, however, remains the city’s — and the entire Southwest Florida region’s — most challenging panacea, contributing to algae blooms in waterways throughout the area and impacting overall water quality.

Punta Gorda was named one of the most progressive cities in the world by the 2014 National Climate Assessment and the CHNEP was cited by the EPA as one of the six initial Climate Ready Estuary pilot programs in the country.

“Punta Gorda is the very best example,” Mr. Beaver said. “When a critical facility reached the end of its life, it was moved to a safer inland location. The city has a whole new building code everyone is doing and being consistent. There are no exemptions. One of the things that will make a plan not work is if everybody can get out of it.”

A living document, the plan will be updated continuously. “Any course we take, we’re going to vet first and make sure it’s the right thing for Punta Gorda,” said Ms. LeBeau. “We’re dealing with things our current population might not see in their lifetimes. We have a group here that is progressive and sees it as:

‘My kids will be here and I want to do something.’”

Meanwhile, Charlotte County is dealing with the plight of its shoreline, putting together a 10-year feasibility and management plan after state legislators denied funding. How and who will pay for beach restoration is one of the key unknown factors.

“We’re in the public workshop stage right now,” said county spokesperson Brian Gleason. “We’re working through identifying the scope of the project and funding.”

Charlotte County’s comprehensive plan doesn’t reference climate change specifically, however it does address coastal erosion and sea level rise through zoning and its coastal management plan, Mr. Gleason said. The only way property owners can circumvent the county’s prohibition of hardscaping on its barrier islands, is by emergency declaration from the state, likely after a significant storm.

“We don’t allow any type of construction or development in areas susceptible to storm surge,” he said, adding it’s simply impossible for builders to bypass codes or flood-level requirements. Buildings are inspected by the county several times before a certificate of occupancy is issued. “It’s inconceivable that much of an epic fail could occur.”

Without enacting climate control measures, coastal communities could be forced to armor up against flood waters and sea level rises or retreat to higher ground. Back in 2009, Mr. Beaver priced out alternative climate change controls for Punta Gorda, estimating construction of a surge-blocking bulkhead at \$381 million; a view-blocking earthen dike with pumps as high as \$3.8 billion; and the “Venice approach” of raising buildings above storm surge zones at \$1.2 billion and already underway in Galveston, Texas.

“The take home message is there is time to do a climate adaptation plan and if you plan ahead you’ll be happier,”

said Mr. Beaver. “Those that don’t do anything aren’t necessarily doomed but they’re going to be pretty miserable. They could become communities left behind.” ■

“The rate between renourishing and renourishing again is getting shorter and shorter ... We’ve spoken up in meetings but engineers, renourishers and some politicians deal with facts not approached by science.” — Jim Beaver

BY THE NUMBERS:

12-18

Possible rise in inches of sea level by 2100 in Florida.

44

Miles of Southwest Florida’s beaches critically eroded.

\$3.9 million

What Collier County spent to renourish its shoreline in 2016.

1.8

Degrees the global temperature has increased since 1900.

6-8

Feet of sea level rise estimated on the planet by 2100.

in the know

The Toll of Climate Change

Even under the least impactful scenario, Southwest Florida will experience:

- Increased climate instability
- Increased coastal erosion
- Continuous sea-level rise
- Wetter wet seasons
- Drier dry seasons
- More extreme hot and cold events
- Shifts in fauna and flora
- Increased tropical diseases in plants, wildlife and humans
- Destabilized aquatic food webs including increased harmful algae blooms
- Increasing strains upon and costs in infrastructure
- Increased uncertainty concerning variable risk assessment with uncertain actuarial futures.

Water.

The key to
Florida's future is
pretty clear.
Or is it?

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

WHEN A STRONG SUMMER SQUALL FLOODED Miami Beach one day in August, the incident was a harbinger of what's to come, not an anomaly, said Dr. Harold Wanless, a University of Miami geologist and climate change expert.

The local flood will be repeated many times elsewhere in coming years, just one of many environmental challenges Floridians have never faced in such large degree, he predicts.

One of the biggest problems: the nearly half-million acres of sugar cane planted mostly south and west of Lake Okeechobee in land known as the Everglades Agricultural Area, a barrier roughly 20 miles deep that blocks the traditional flow of water southward into the Everglades.

The 143-mile, 30-foot-high dike around Lake O that protects the big farming interests and some 40,000 people living near the lake is crumbling and it offers no major southern spillway. Without a spillway on the south, water can't pass southward into the now off-limits Everglades Agricultural Area, the Everglades and Florida Bay, as it once naturally did.

"Since the dike was built, when water in the lake was held at or below 15 feet, the lake's marshes generally thrived," according to Audubon Florida's official account. When water goes higher to a consistent 16 feet, "plants begin to die in the 65-square-mile submerged marsh zone." Ultimately, that kills everything else up the food chain, including wading birds and alligators and even tourism, on which resident human life here sometimes depends.

"After hurricanes raised the lake levels in 2004 and 2005," reports Audubon, "the crappie fishery took about eight years to recover."

Meanwhile the dike continues to be ranked one of the most dangerous sites in North America — one of the most likely to fail, a one on a scale of one to five — by the international insurance firm, Lloyd's of London.

Since 2000, Americans have spent

\$870 million to repair that 80-year-old dike in an ongoing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project likely to cost at least another \$1.5 billion, officials now say, ranking this at the high end of the most expensive jobs ever shouldered in North America by the Army Corps.

As things stand now, those challenges and others will paint the Florida landscape of the near future far and wide with scores of local and regional floods resulting not just from rainstorms but from normal or king tides — not to mention more significant floods from future hurricanes that resemble Charley (2004) or Irma (2017) but worse: they are likely to bring life-altering storm surges.

Over time, not a long time, they'll defeat infrastructure and hugely reduce the quality of life in the Sunshine State.

"Buying a Prius and planting a couple of trees isn't going to change this. It's going to happen," Professor Wanless said.

Those floods may come with a flip side, as well — but the flip-side of a proverbial coin with no heads, only tails: Hugely destructive droughts, to name one. Polluted or salt-spoiled drinking water and compromised wastewater treatment facilities near the coasts, to name another.

Lacking restorative quantities of fresh water inflow from the north, Florida Bay is dying. Its alarming increase in salt — now twice the traditional natural level — coupled with rising sea levels also now threatens the vast Biscayne Aquifer, the subterranean source of drinking water for roughly 8 million residents of the southeast coast and the Florida Keys.

Unfortunately, that's not all. Nightmarish blooms of algae also infest Lake Okeechobee and its tributaries — a suffocating cyanobacteria that kills plants and animals from Charlotte Harbor on the west to the once super-fecund Indian River Lagoon on the east, which stretches south more than 150 miles from the Ponce De Leon Inlet in Mosquito Lagoon to the Jupiter Inlet north of West Palm Beach.

Not only did that entire water system endure the "lost summer" of 2013, it suffered a disastrous algae bloom in 2016 that covered almost 240 square miles of Lake O as well, threatening the fisheries on both coasts, along with the tourist industry.

Now as 2017 winds down, the spec-

ter of such catastrophes looms large again.

"This is Florida so we average 60 inches of rain a year, but it isn't that. It's 40 inches or 80 inches and sometimes there's only a 30-mile distance between them," said Marty Baum, born and raised in the region to a long line of pioneering Florida families, and now Riverkeeper on the Indian River Lagoon.

"So the water has to go somewhere and now it's polluted, and the system is overloaded."

The effect is dire from east to west and on both coasts. The problem is neither parochial nor local. It's regional and peninsular.

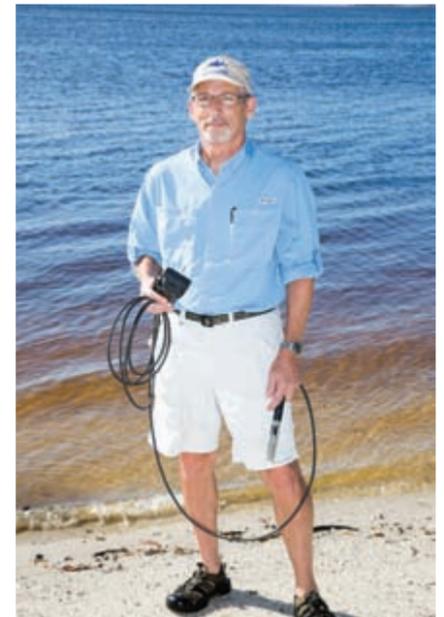
"The water management in Florida absolutely defaults to agriculture, specifically Big Sugar, which holds the plug to solving our discharge problems," Mr. Baum said.

"There is no other viable solution than to buy some land south of the lake, put the water in the system, and send it south, clean. The management of dirty water is killing us. The algae is the new normal. It's here to stay. And it's only going to get worse."

Almost a month after Hurricane Irma — early in the second week of October — water levels in Lake O had risen to more than 17 feet. And that was after the Army Corps had been releasing vast quantities of polluted, nutrient-rich water downstream, both east and west, a fact many seemed to ignore as October waned and the sunny, cooler days of November approached.

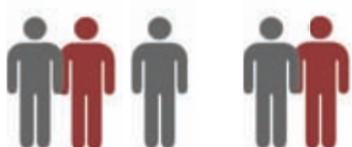
On the west side of the lake, flow through the Caloosahatchee Estuary was 14,732 cubic feet per second at the Franklin Locks in Lee County, a panic

SEE WATER, A12 ►



VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY
Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani is one of 11 Florida members of the Waterkeeper Alliance.

"Buying a Prius and planting a couple of trees isn't going to change this. It's going to happen."
— Dr. Harold Wanless

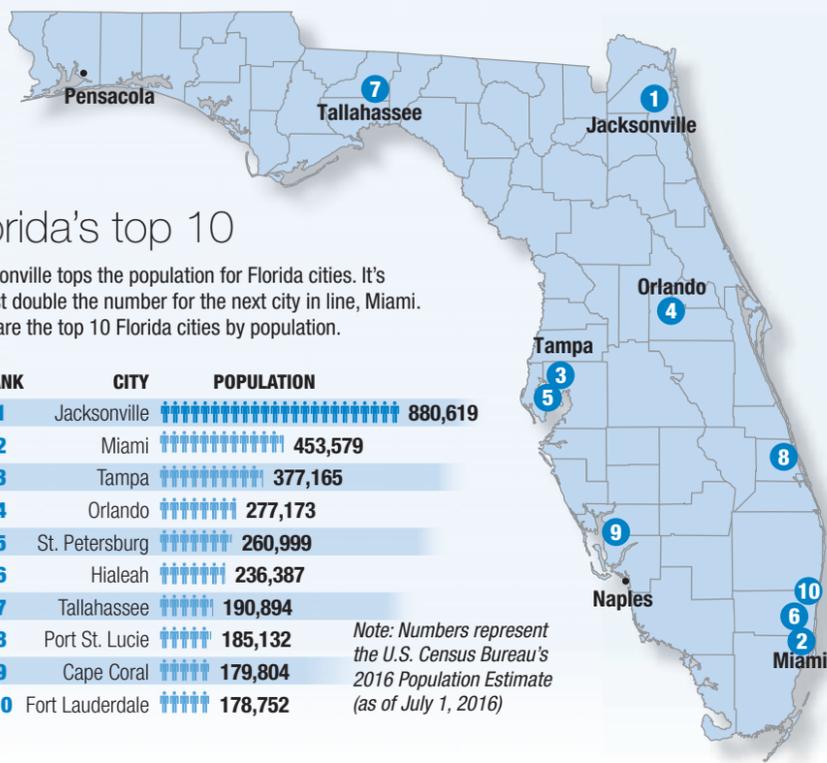


The data.

Inhabited Florida: From the International Space Station, it becomes very clear which portions of Florida are populated at night. This will change in future decades.



COURTESY PHOTO

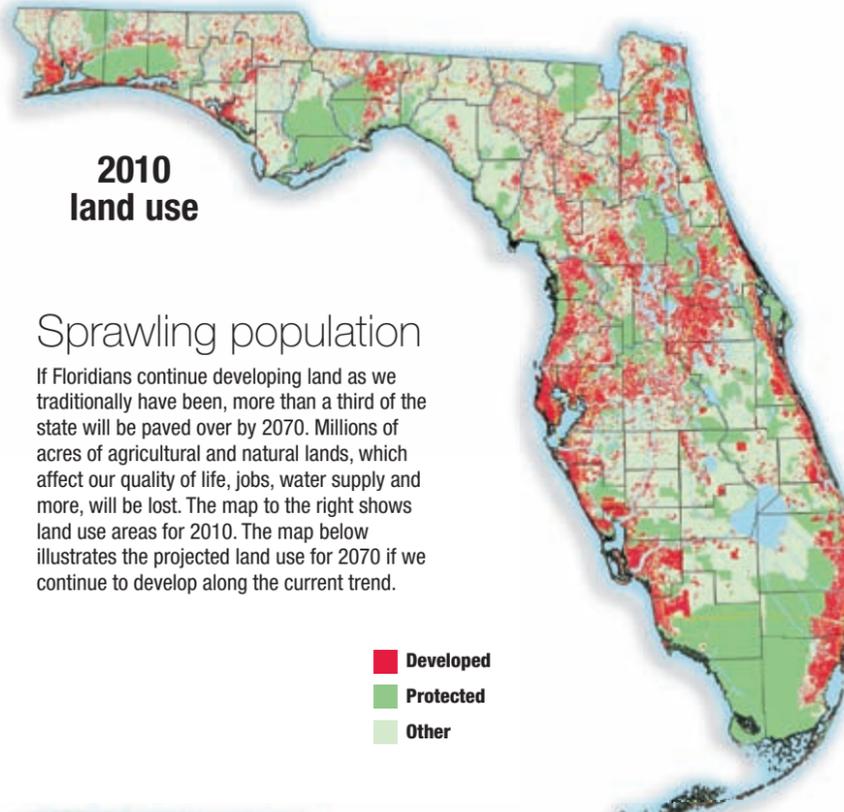


Florida's top 10

Jacksonville tops the population for Florida cities. It's almost double the number for the next city in line, Miami. Here are the top 10 Florida cities by population.

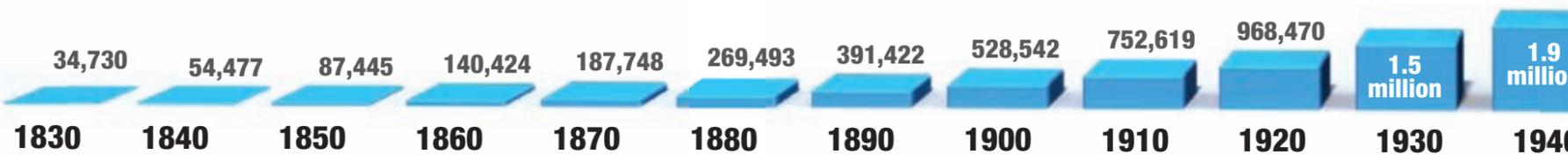
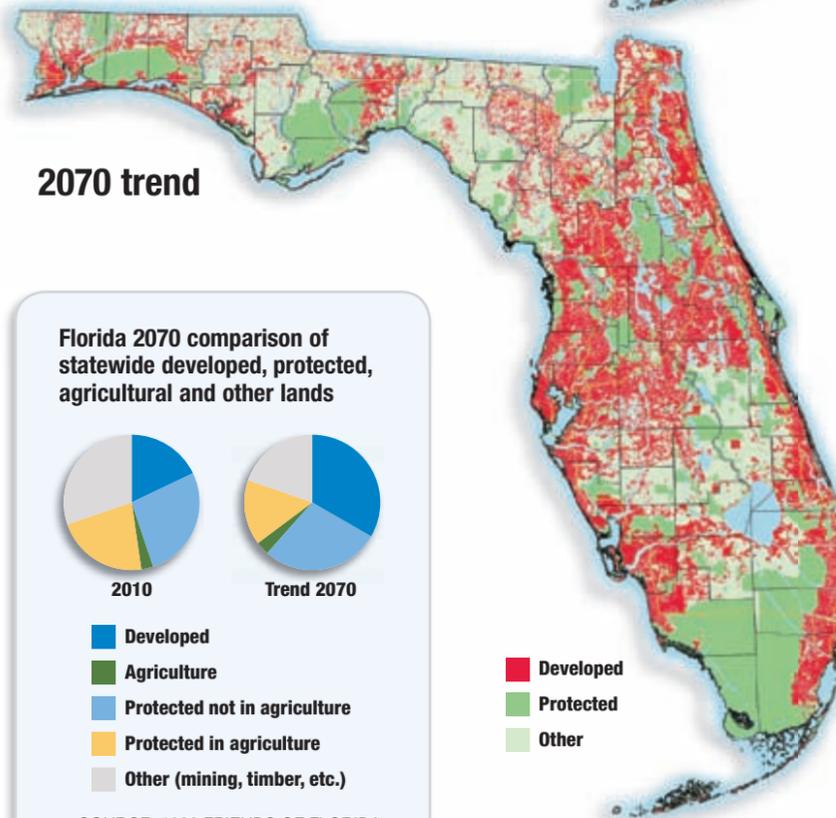
| RANK | CITY | POPULATION |
|------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | Jacksonville | 880,619 |
| 2 | Miami | 453,579 |
| 3 | Tampa | 377,165 |
| 4 | Orlando | 277,173 |
| 5 | St. Petersburg | 260,999 |
| 6 | Hialeah | 236,387 |
| 7 | Tallahassee | 190,894 |
| 8 | Port St. Lucie | 185,132 |
| 9 | Cape Coral | 179,804 |
| 10 | Fort Lauderdale | 178,752 |

SOURCE: UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU



Sprawling population

If Floridians continue developing land as we traditionally have been, more than a third of the state will be paved over by 2070. Millions of acres of agricultural and natural lands, which affect our quality of life, jobs, water supply and more, will be lost. The map to the right shows land use areas for 2010. The map below illustrates the projected land use for 2070 if we continue to develop along the current trend.



1845: Florida becomes a state. Federal and state officials create the first-ever plans to drain parts of it and control water.



1893: Henry Flagler plats West Palm Beach and begins constructing the Florida East Coast Railway.



1937: The Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee is finished in a footprint of its current form, but work continues into the 1960s.

1947: President Harry Truman dedicates the original Everglades National Park, now about 1.5 million acres, a quarter of the original Everglades.



1960: Platters and speculative developers are arriving. They buy large tracts of land, selling it in quarter-acre lots to would-be residents aiming to build homes, without thought of significant infrastructure.



1975: The Florida Growth Plan, the first comprehensive growth management plan, is adopted.



1870s: West Palm Beach, first known as "Lake Worth Country," is founded by a few hundred people.



1917: The West Palm Beach Canal is connected to Lake Okeechobee, creating the first version of the Cross-Florida Waterway.



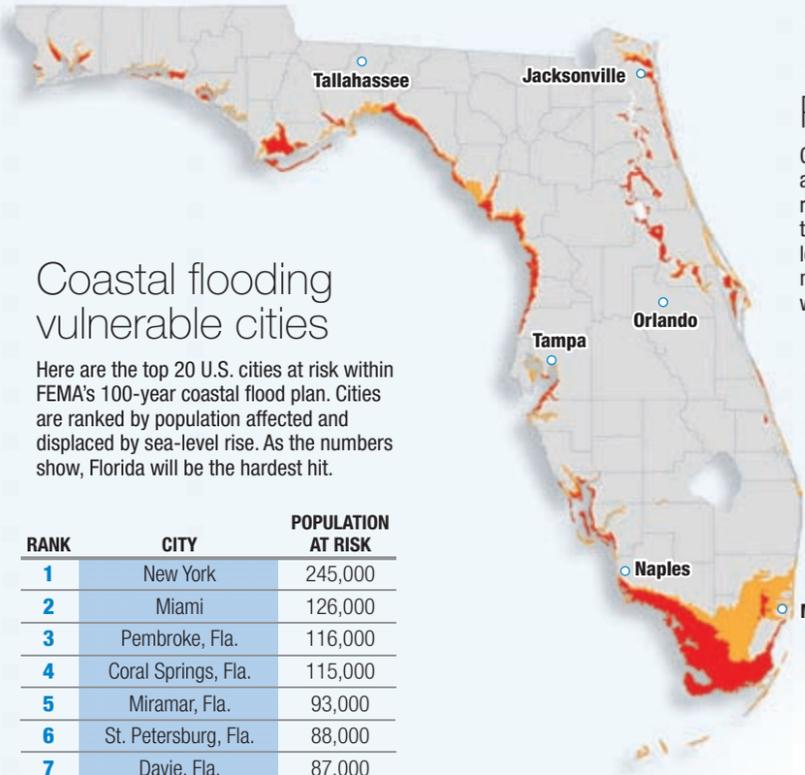
1947: Marjory Stoneman Douglas publishes "The Everglades: River of Grass," warning of its potential destruction. The book creates a widespread national awareness of catastrophic environmental damage.

1960: Air conditioning becomes affordable to middle-class residents, and mosquito control, using the pesticide DDT, becomes an essential part of local-government service.



1960s: The Army Corps straightens the Kissimmee River, creating a 30-foot cut of the one-time headwaters of Lake O. and the Everglades. It also straightens and dredges the 60-mile Caloosahatchee River and basin west of the Lake.





Coastal flooding vulnerable cities

Here are the top 20 U.S. cities at risk within FEMA's 100-year coastal flood plan. Cities are ranked by population affected and displaced by sea-level rise. As the numbers show, Florida will be the hardest hit.

| RANK | CITY | POPULATION AT RISK |
|------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | New York | 245,000 |
| 2 | Miami | 126,000 |
| 3 | Pembroke, Fla. | 116,000 |
| 4 | Coral Springs, Fla. | 115,000 |
| 5 | Miramar, Fla. | 93,000 |
| 6 | St. Petersburg, Fla. | 88,000 |
| 7 | Davie, Fla. | 87,000 |
| 8 | Fort Lauderdale, Fla. | 85,000 |
| 9 | Miami Beach, Fla. | 85,000 |
| 10 | Hialeah, Fla. | 76,000 |
| 11 | Sunrise, Fla. | 74,000 |
| 12 | Pompano Beach, Fla. | 73,000 |
| 13 | Hollywood, Fla. | 69,000 |
| 14 | Lauderhill, Fla. | 66,000 |
| 15 | Charleston, S.C. | 64,000 |
| 16 | Cape Coral, Fla. | 59,000 |
| 17 | Tamarac, Fla. | 58,000 |
| 18 | Margate, Fla. | 50,000 |
| 19 | Tampa, Fla. | 50,000 |
| 20 | Fountainebleau, Fla. | 48,000 |

SOURCE: CLIMATE CENTRAL

Rising water

Global warming has raised global sea level about 8 inches since 1880, and the rate of rise is accelerating. As global warming continues millions of people will be impacted as low lying coastal areas become unusable. The map at the left shows how areas are affected with a sea level rise of 3 feet and 6 feet.

3 foot rise
6 foot rise

SOURCE: CLIMATE CENTRAL

MAPS COURTESY OF 1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA



Florida's historical growth planning

Florida has grown much more inviting since its early days of 'growth planning.' In 1513, Ponce de Leon encountered the inhospitable Calusa Indians, was wounded by a poison-tipped arrow and retreated to Cuba, where he died. Now it is estimated that Florida grows by 1,000 people a day. That's the equivalent of adding a city the size of Tampa every year.

The large chart shows Florida's population since 1830, the projected growth through 2040 and the estimate for 2070.

The timeline below highlights some of the important points in Florida's growth to become the third most populous state in the U.S.

SOURCE: BUREAU OF ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS RESEARCH, 1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA

The legislature establishes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, designed to alter the 20th-century management of water from near Orlando south to Florida Bay, saving the Everglades. The projected date of completion: after 2030.

1999-2000: Congress passes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, designed to alter the 20th-century management of water from near Orlando south to Florida Bay, saving the Everglades. The projected date of completion: after 2030.



2006: Syd Kitson buys more than 90,000 acres of the timber, crop and cattle operation, Babcock Ranch. He sells 72,000 acres back to the state. The town will be created on about 17,600 acres.

2012: Under the Scott administration, the budget for the SFWMD is cut roughly in half.



2015: Population Southwest Florida: 1.25 million. Palm Beach County population: 1.43 million. Florida population: 20.24 million. Florida becomes the third most populous state in the nation.

2017: Commissioners in Sarasota and Lee counties vote to withdraw from the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, a six-county think-and-planning tank that analyzes the influence of any new development on a region, not just a single county.

and dredges t-deep canal

1984: The legislature passes the State and Regional Planning Act of 1984, requiring County Comprehensive Plans updated every five years by commissioners. Bob Graham is governor.



2005: Ave Maria is conceived and building begun to develop a city in eastern Collier County far from any urban core.



2011: Gov. Rick Scott disbands the 42-year-old Department of Community Affairs, tasked with monitoring home and commercial development in Florida. He creates the Department of Economic Opportunity.

2015: The legislature does away with the 40-year-old "Development of Regional Impact" process requiring big developments to be vetted by both state and county governments.

2017: The first homes at Babcock Ranch are built and sold, with a "downtown" commercial center in operation. Growth in Florida continues, with the population of the Sunshine State expected to reach almost 21 million by year's end.

SCOTT SLEEPER / FLORIDA WEEKLY

WATER

From page 9

flood maintained by the Army Corps to prevent a dike collapse. The last time so much water came down the estuaries was July, 1973, said John Cassani, the Calusa Waterkeeper.

Unfortunately, the water is untreated after decades of environmental, agricultural and urban growth planning that created the problem, and then subsequent decades of planning that has failed to solve the problem, he explained. So, it's polluted with high-nutrient agricultural waste and leeching septic systems, the powerful stimulants of cyanobacteria.

Like Marty Baum, Mr. Cassani — an affable water scientist and 60-something distance runner for whom marathoning is a form of meditation — represents the Waterkeeper Alliance (www.waterkeeper.org), an international non-profit organization of experts and activists based in the U.S. aiming to protect water in various regions of the world and the nation.

The Alliance has 11 waterkeepers working in Florida (sometimes called riverkeepers or coastkeepers). Those include the Indian Riverkeeper, Marty Baum, a Miami Coastkeeper, and a Collier County Waterkeeper, among the others north to south.

“At this rate of flow,” Mr. Cassani noted of post-Irma water releases from Lake O by the Army Corps, “the C-43 reservoir would fill in just 5.5 days, assuming it was empty to begin with.”

The C-43, a companion idea to the C-44 on the east of Lake Okeechobee, doesn't exist. Like the recently approved SB10, a reservoir fast-tracked by the legislature and governor to someday store water on public lands south of Lake O, the C-43 is merely a plan — a water-storage reservoir yet to be built along the Caloosahatchee in Hendry County.

Meanwhile, the dirty water keeps coming.

It's a long downward spiral that can stretch from boyhood into manhood. The kind of fishing Capt. Daniel Andrews, a guide, did as a boy in the Caloosahatchee estuary and Charlotte Harbor over prolific beds of sea grass

“Everyone now acknowledges that Florida's water problems and the Everglades have to be fixed, and restored. On every political side of the issue — the left-wingers, the right-wingers and the Buffalo-wingers — they know there's no other choice. So the pressure to make the fixes will mount”

— Michael Grunwald, Everglades expert



COURTESY PHOTO

Algae blooms in May 2016 killed marine life for miles along the Caloosahatchee River.

and oyster banks is “all but gone,” he told *Florida Weekly*. Now he often has to take his clients 25 or 30 miles offshore just to find fish.

The experience encouraged him to co-found the organization that champions the cause, Captains for Clean Water. It makes good economic sense, to start with: Sport fishing alone in Florida stimulates \$9.3 billion in economic activity and creates 123,000 jobs, according to the American Sportfishing Association.

Rising sea level warnings

On that wet August morning when Prof. Wanless stood in a sunny, flooding Miami Beach neighborhood, the \$500 million effort of taxpayers to stiff-arm flooding with seawalls and pumps had failed. And not after a king tide or big storm, he said, but following a merely energetic rain squall.

It put everything in perspective, for him and others.

“The mayor of Miami Beach told us we're going to fix Miami Beach so you can enjoy it 1,000 years from now as you do today,” he said. “That's almost criminal, to say that. That's buying into it. Miami Beach won't survive the century, maybe not the middle of the century. But government officials are concerned about holding on to tax rolls. And nobody wants to needlessly scare people.”

On the other hand, he added, “it's also a horrible thing to lie to them.”

The underlying reality of flooding and infrastructure collapse isn't complicated: By 2048, sea level rise on the planet is expected to be two feet above the current level, with three feet of rise by 2063,

according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — which issued an addendum to that estimate in January that could take it higher.

And by 2100, when this year's crop of newborns turns 83 — men and women destined to live with the consequences of today's decisions — conservative estimates put sea level rise at 6.6 feet (NOAA's addendum now says it could go to more than 8 feet).

Here's what that means.

“A two- to three-foot rise of sea level will make nearly all of the barrier islands of the world uninhabitable, initiate inundation of a major portion of the world's deltas, and make low-lying coastal zones like south and central Florida increasingly challenging communities in which to maintain infrastructure and welfare and to assure protection of life and property during hurricanes and other extreme events,” Professor Wanless wrote in July.

Such infrastructure failure, therefore, is destined to happen many other places besides Miami Beach in the next three or four decades, he warns, noting that Marco Island, Naples, Fort Myers and Sarasota are particularly vulnerable on the west, along with many oceanfront and island communities along the east coast. And not just after a major storm event such as Hurricane Irma.

Bottom line: Things are going to get rougher than they have been; we're going to leave our children with that reality. Planning therefore becomes essential, say the experts. The decisions of voters and current political leaders will either inhibit the worst of this outcome, or let it happen in ways that change Florida forever.

What can we do?

“So what can we do?” asks Mr. Cassani, who spent a first career as a hydrologist in Lee County.

Now as the Calusa Waterkeeper he finds himself working at the crossroads of the lower west coast's three greatest planning challenges: First, to overcome pollution from decades of agricultural waste flowing into Lake Okeechobee, most of it from cattle ranches and dairy farms north of the lake in the now-restored Kissimmee River basin, and from the vast cane fields around the lake owned by Florida Crystals' Fanjul brothers, and by the U.S. Sugar Corporation. (Added to that “legacy pollution” are toxins from old septic systems and urban drainage in the Caloosahatchee basin.)

Second, to encourage elected and appointed officials to aggressively protect the waters, and thus the land, the people and the economy, with sensible development that preserves wetlands and water.

And finally, to restore sufficient quantities of timely fresh water flowing from Lake Okeechobee west down the estuary and south into the southern Everglades, thereby maintaining a healthy estuarine system and bay on the Gulf of Mexico.

The same challenges exist for waters in the St. Lucie estuary flowing east out of Okeechobee and into the southern terminus of the Indian River Lagoon on the Atlantic coast, Marty Baum points out — once one of the most fecund fisheries on the planet. And so does the same question: What can we do?

No one works in a vacuum.

No one produces crops and meat, or builds new developments, or serves visitors in restaurants and hotels, or fishes, or lives here as a permanent resident, in a vacuum, he explains, echoing the opinion of many others.

Fixing the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries will also require connecting other fixes in the Everglades system and restoring both water quality and appropriate seasonal quantity — not just along the Kissimmee River north of Lake Okeechobee to the lake itself, but throughout the Okeechobee basin and all the way south through public and private lands to Florida Bay.

That's not happening now at a pace that can accommodate growth, even though the fixes have been identified. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan enacted by the U.S. Congress 17 years ago has made little progress in water storage, acknowledged as the key to Everglades and estuary restoration.

“We have the know-how, but not the political willpower,” Mr. Cassani said, adding his voice to a chorus of observers citing the same problem.

“The problem is our elected government,” added Mr. Baum.

“The current administration (of Gov. Rick Scott) has gone out of its way to support agriculture and big oil and all of these polluting entities. They deregulated, so the state isn't really managing our natural treasures in a manner that is sustainable. They chip away and chip away, and they're not alone. The federal government is dismantling the EPA as we sit here. As a waterkeeper, I find that pretty grim.”

Those opinions have been echoed in part by many others, including the University of Florida Water Institute's Dr. Wendy Graham, co-author of a seminal 2014 study analyzing water problems and solutions in Florida — a study disputed by virtually no one.

Water storage that does not now exist is the key to the practical side of the



JOHN MORAN / COURTESY PHOTO

Blind Pass after an early 2016 rain event shows discolored water with low salinity coming from the Caloosahatchee River into the gulf.

planning problem, with estimates put at an additional 1 million to 1.4 million acre feet required, she noted (an acre foot is one acre of water, one foot deep; or a half acre of water, two feet deep, and so on.)

“Our report said, this is a big problem with hydrologic, legal, and infrastructure constraints, and there is no silver bullet that will solve the problem.

“We’ll need storage — north, south, east and west — and probably more storage in the lake to make it work.”

As for water moved south, into the ‘Glades, into Florida Bay assuring that 8 million people with more coming can keep drinking from the Biscayne Aquifer — “not only do you have to store it, but you have to convey it to where you want and treat it to legal standards,” explained Dr. Graham.

Ingenuity coupled with greed

Michael Grunwald is an Everglades expert and heir to the environmental legacy of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, who published the most celebrated book in the history of environmental apologists here: “The Everglades: River of Grass.”



GRUNWALD

That was 70 years ago, in 1947. Mr. Grunwald, who wrote the forward to the 60th anniversary edition of her book, authored a groundbreaking book of his own now a decade old: “The Swamp: The Everglades, Florida and the Politics of Paradise.”

A senior staff writer for *Politico Magazine*, he lives in the Miami area with his wife and two young children. That fact shapes what he sees now, he says — which includes a darkly comic and troubling interpretation of Florida’s growth appearing under his byline on the cover of the November-December edition of *Politico*.

He calls his piece, “The Boomtown That Shouldn’t Exist,” explaining a classic Florida story in the subtitle: “Cape Coral, Florida, was built on total lies. One big storm could wipe it off the map. Oh, and it’s the fastest growing city in the United States.”

Mr. Grunwald spoke with Florida Weekly not long before his story appeared in print.

“Central and South Florida used to have this fantastic water control district — it was called the Everglades,” he said.

“It rained a lot, water sat on the wetlands and trickled down, in the dry season there was enough and in the wet season it didn’t cascade on top of everything.”

But that changed.

“Then half the Everglades was paved and drained, much of the rest was dammed and ditched and diverted, and now you have 2,000 miles of levees and canals and engines cannibalized from nuclear submarines for pumps, they’re so powerful. That screwed everything up.”

Decades of American ingenuity coupled with greed has not resulted in our control of the water; on the contrary, it controls us, he acknowledged.

“Now in the wet season when Lake O gets high you have to blast it out (down the estuaries east and west). And in the dry season you get these horrible droughts.”

None of that’s natural, that’s for sure.

Like Dr. Graham and John Cassani, Mr. Grunwald suggests everyone knows the practical answer to the problem.

“The answer to all of this is storage,” he said. “So you don’t have to dump water where you don’t want to in the wet season, and you have enough in the dry for agriculture, bugs and bunnies, and the 8 million people who live around here.”

Mr. Grunwald is an optimist, he insists — in part because of his children, ages 9 and 7.

“Everyone now acknowledges that Florida’s water problems and the Everglades have to be fixed, and restored. On every political side of the issue — the left-wingers, the right-wingers and the Buffalo-wingers — they know there’s no other choice. So the pressure to make the fixes will mount” — and mount because his children with many others may encourage voters to pay more attention, and elected leaders to do the right thing.

If that’s not a justifiable cause for optimism, there’s another: Some progress has been made, he said.

“The water is cleaner than it used to be. It’s still not quite clean enough, but over 30 years, and continuing over the

last 10, there has been real improvement. That’s something people should feel really good about. In a sense, we’re poisoning the Everglades a little more slowly. But that’s real progress.”

Pocked by terrible periods of regress.

“The obvious moment that showed how dysfunctional the ecosystem is was the sort of stinkification of the Treasure Coast (first, in 2013). One of North America’s most bio-diverse estuaries looked like guacamole and smelled like crap.

“That’s (a result of) the main plumbing problem in Everglades, which the massive restoration project now 17 years old was supposed to fix. And it has done virtually nothing. We still have the same problem.”

Mr. Grunwald was describing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, first presented in 2000.

“So now, the Everglades is a \$16 (to \$20) billion water-storage project going on for 17 years, that has provided nothing. Not one reservoir has been completed. Storage wells? There were supposed to be 330 (many north of the lake). We’re no longer even thinking of them.”

There are other missed opportunities staring at the sky, too.

“The rock quarries you see when you fly into the Miami airport? The idea was, when we’re done mining for highways and driveways we’ll provide storage for water in those quarries. But that’s not going to happen anymore.”

So, it comes down to politics, he says. At least in part.

“We’re getting nothing done, and it’s partly because of politics, and partly bureaucratic inertia. There are powerful interests standing in the way of getting things done the way you might want to.”

Know-how isn’t willpower, it seems. The real solution to the environmental problems in Florida is something besides knowledge and technical savvy, longtime observers agree.

“The solution is political and we have a broken political system in which big money has corrupted policy making at the state level and other levels,” said Mr. Cassani, again echoing the voices of other scientists who have realized politics, not just science, is the answer to a better quality of life, and a less expensive way of life, for future Floridians.

“But in politics,” Mr. Cassani concluded, “the greater public interest is often subordinate to the interests of the biggest water consumers and biggest polluters.” ■

“Central and South Florida used to have this fantastic water control district — it was called the Everglades ... It rained a lot, water sat on the wetlands and trickled down, in the dry season there was enough and in the wet season it didn’t cascade on top of everything.”

— Michael Grunwald, Everglades expert



COURTESY PHOTO

Algae blooms devastated environments on the Caloosahatchee River last year.

Affordable housing

Finding it is becoming harder and harder

BY NANCI THEORET

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IT'S NOT UNCOMMON TO HEAR LONG-TIME LOCALS REMINISCE about the days when Corkscrew Road was lined with sweeping ranches, Estero was just a blip on the Trail between Fort Myers and Naples, and how unlikely it was for development east of U.S. 41 to continue its eastern march past I-75.

In Palm Beach County, the opposite was true: Who could ever imagine living west of U.S. 441/State Road 7 except equestrians and farmers?

Fast forward 20 years and Estero is now an incorporated village, gated communities and neighborhoods have popped up in the exurbs miles east of the interstate, and a drive along any major roadway or backroad is likely to reveal a new community under construction, sometimes where it once seemed impossible.

Examples of such development: The 20-home Hill Tide Estates being built on nearly 10 acres on the southern tip of Boca Grande and plans for a restaurant, retail, 148 residences and a hotel that will forever erase a slice of old Florida at the historic Placida Fishing Village. Arden, just east of Twenty Mile Bend in rural Palm Beach County, is planned for 2,000 homes and dubs itself as nature-friendly and an 'agri-hood' because of its onsite community farm.

Since the Great Recession spun Southwest Florida into a real estate downfall, the building boom has returned with a vengeance. Florida's continued growth is creating the need for more homes; however, today's building frenzy is pricing many out of homeownership. Home prices are up. Rents are also on the rise. Salaries aren't. And the majority of these planned new developments are well beyond the means of the average employee.

The issue is particularly pronounced in Naples and Collier County, where luxury homebuilders cater to an affluent clientele of second-home and vacation-home owners. Except for teardown properties, there's no real buildable land in the city limits. In the county, upscale gated golf communities have risen out of abandoned quarries several miles east of I-75 and an entire town — Ave Marie — is some 20 miles farther out. Commercial corridors have followed. And with all this demand there's little reason for developers and builders to reinvent their business model, although, as Palm Beach County Mayor Paulette Burdick points out, their own employees also are priced out of the market.

"Affordable housing is Palm Beach County's No. 1 leg-

islative issue," says Mayor Burdick. "Every county in the state has a desperate need for workforce housing. It's a crisis situation in the state of Florida."

That's also how the Urban Land Institute and the National Association of Home Builders categorize the dire need for affordable housing.

Prices in Naples Park, once the neighborhood for the working class, have more than doubled since buyers discovered its proximity to the beach. Resident and builder Edward Armstrong remembers when lots sold for \$1,200 in 1971. He's built as many as 75 homes in the neighborhood, including one that sold for \$28,000, as well as the first house with a swimming pool.

While he expressed some surprise at \$800,000 sales in the community, he calls Naples Park "a sleeping giant. It's so close to the water."

Locally, the inability to afford a home close to their workplace is forcing mid-level employees, firefighters, teachers, law enforcement and other professionals to live elsewhere. Some Collier County firefighters commute from as far away as Fort Lauderdale, said Christopher Spencer, president of the North Collier Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics Local 2297 and a long-time advocate for affordable housing.

"Some of the younger guys live with their parents," he said. "Others are living out in Lehigh or Cape Coral and have to calculate what they're saving versus tolls, time and fuel. It's painful to see how expensive it is to live in Naples and how far behind the curve we are. They're making their money here and investing it back in Lee County, Arcadia and Hendry County. They can work in Lee County and make less but they don't have the tolls or travel time. A dollar in Lee County goes further than a dollar in Collier County."

Not only does Collier County miss out on the economic impact of workers spending their money in the county and paying taxes, those daily drives by an estimated 16,800 commuters increase traffic congestion and physically strain infrastructure and roads.

"Affordable housing is one of the larger barriers to economic prosperity we're going to experience," said Eric Berglund, executive director of the Southwest Florida Economic Development Alliance. "Teachers, firefighters, police officers and nurses can't afford to buy houses. That impacts what the community looks like."

"Our hospital CEOs are expressing their concerns because they can't hire nurses and other healthcare professionals," said Mayor Burdick. "The top tier for workforce housing in Palm Beach County is \$120,000 for a household. I don't know too many planners, firefighters or nurses who make that kind of money. Schools are having a tough time recruiting teachers because they can't afford to relocate here."

Groups in Southwest Florida's three counties — ranked among the fastest growing areas in the country according to recent Census data — are researching options to include workforce development in the mix. Previous attempts have failed. During the height of the last building boom, Collier County required developers to pay into an affordable housing trust based on the size of their proposed new development. The county collected \$604,581 of an anticipated \$8 million from 2005 to 2007, and then stopped as the market collapsed. In 2011 it ended the program and refunded developers for homes or lot sales that never happened.

Palm Beach County adopted a workforce housing program in 2006, requiring developers who were granted increased density to allocate a percentage to workforce housing. There also was a buyout option.

"They have an \$80,000 buyout when the median price of a home is \$340,000," Mayor Burdick said. "Since 2006, zero workforce homes have been built."

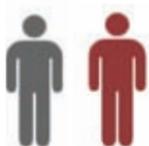
Collier County is delving deeper this time around, tasking nonprofits, city and county officials, affected employees and citizens to devise solutions based on recommendations from a visit earlier this year by ULI planners who outlined the economic impact and human toll on communities that lack affordable housing. The organization made 35 recommendations, including zoning changes, increased density, improved access to transportation, creating revenue streams, using available public land or vacant and underused retail sites, and forming a housing trust fund.

"Affordable housing impacts nearly every element of the local economy," said committee member Michael Dalby, president and CEO of the Greater Naples Area Chamber of Commerce. "It impacts businesses' ability to attract and retain workers. It's the chamber's No. 1 priority."

For affordable housing to happen, many contend solutions must involve a concerted effort between public, private and nonprofit initiatives addressing policy changes, incentives for developers and out-of-the-box thinking — ideas as novel as converting long-vacant strip malls into affordable housing and increasing the emphasis on mixed-use development. One ULI recommendation rejected by the commission called for increasing minimum wage, a concept



BURDICK



supported by Mr. Berglund and others intent on preventing brain drain.

"We have to develop a high-quality workforce to make sure everyone gets a step ahead in life," he said, referencing the FutureMakers Coalition's goal of increasing college degrees, certifications and quality credentials in Southwest Florida's workforce. "Quality of life begins with a good job."

After 18 months of exploring the issue, Collier County's Community Housing Plan Stakeholders Committee presented its recommendations to a lukewarm commission in late October. The committee is advocating for establishing an affordable housing trust financed by linkage fees, a square footage-based assessment representing the additional housing needs created by new or redeveloped commercial property. It would generate an estimated \$2.5 million annually to provide grants and awards to developers building workforce housing.

Key components of the recommendations also include developer incentives such as increasing certainty of approval, streamlining the permitting process, reducing development costs and adopting an affordable housing density program. The proposal calls for a mixed-income ordinance to promote developments identified by the ULI as vibrant and attractive to a variety of demographics. It would also continue the county's efforts to reduce reliance on impact fees.

Members of the committee expected some of the recommendations to be controversial and require courage from commissioners to make difficult and unpopular decisions for the county's future and ultimately the greater good.

Affordable housing — whether mortgage or rental payments — is defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as 30 percent or less of a household's gross annual income. Those spending more than 30 on housing costs are considered "cost-burdened" while a household shelling out more than 50 percent is considered severely cost burdened.

Entry-level employees and those earning median incomes in healthcare, public safety and professional sectors are more likely to "experience a cost burden than are the people holding executive, management and supervisory positions," the ULI noted in its Collier County study. "Collectively the employment sectors that are the most at risk to incur a significant cost burden represent more than 50 percent of the local labor force."

More than 61 percent of jobs in Collier County pay less than \$33,250 a year.

"The affordability spectrum covers a wide range of people," said Nick Kouloheras, president of Habitat for Humanity of Collier County, who's the chairman of the stakeholder committee. "The public has the perception that affordable housing is for those working in the hospitality or farming industry or construction labor force. But housing affordability in Collier County touches everybody's life. It's employees who provide services like first responders and landscape maintenance. There's a huge lack of decent affordable housing for retirees and people with disabilities."

Under current housing scenarios, a household needs to gross about \$128,000 annually to afford the county's median home price.

"There are stereotypes but the reality is that affordable housing in Collier County is a household making a six-figure salary," Mr. Kouloheras said.

Committees in Palm Beach County also are researching options for attracting workforce housing and are expected to report to the board of commissioners by summer.

"In areas that need affordable housing we're considering increased density," said Mayor Burdick. "We're looking at waving permits fees and hookups to bring down the costs for a developer to build workforce housing. It costs \$10,000 to hook up to water and sewer. We're sitting down with everyone at the table to come up with new solutions as a county to this significant problem."

Because developers often have little to gain financially in creating workforce housing, any plan in any county is almost guaranteed to include sprawl-containing higher densities and government subsidies. Speaking before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee in August, Granger MacDonald, chairman of the NAHB and a Texas developer and homebuilder, urged passage of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act to promote construction of affordable rental apartments. He cited a Harvard University Joint Center of Housing study which determined the number of renter households considered severely cost burdened is at an all-time high of 11.4 million or more than one in four U.S. renters.

"Fees, regulatory compliance, modern building and energy codes, building materials, land and labor costs determine whether a project is financial viable," he said. "If we want to provide affordable rental housing for lower-income households, we cannot do so without a subsidy."

In Florida, money to create workforce housing is already in place, according to Mayor Burdick. "For the last 10 years Tallahassee has been swiping money from the Sadowski Trust Fund to balance the budget," she said. "I am hoping all of our 67 counties will support workforce housing as the No. 1 legislative priority and let Tallahassee know we need those Sadowski funds."

The William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act was established in 1992 in honor of the Florida Department of Community Affairs secretary who died in a plane crash. The act increased the state documentary stamp tax collected during a real estate sale and channeled the additional revenue into trust funds overseen by the Florida Housing Finance Corp. Ideally all the extra doc stamp money should benefit programs that lead low- to moderate-income families to home ownership, help senior citizens age in place, retrofit homes to accommodate those with special needs and create competitive incentive loans for developers to build low-rent apartments.

Legislators, however, have swept out nearly \$1.3 billion since March 2007. Fighting these annual decisions is the Sadowski Housing Coalition, comprised of 30 statewide organizations, including Florida Realtors, the state home builders association and advocates for the homeless, elderly, veterans and people with special needs. The coalition projects \$314 million for fiscal year 2018-19, noting a full allocation of the trust to affordable housing would create 30,000 jobs and a \$4 billion economic impact in just one year. It could result in over 12,700 homes been built and housing for over 93,000 people.

Since the recession, more Florida households are renting. Homeownership fell from 71 to 65 percent between 2007 and 2014 and included low- and high-income families, according to a 2016 Florida rental market study. About 32 percent were cost-burdened by rents.

The average rent is \$1,900 in Palm Beach County.

Southwest Florida's three counties don't have enough affordable rentals to meet the growing demand. A study by Estero-based John Burns Real Estate Consulting determined Charlotte County needs to

add 219 market-rate apartment units during the next five years.

County commissioners took steps last year to make that happen, revising a portion of the 2050 comprehensive plan to allow "incentive density" to speed up the construction of moderate income, workforce housing as well as units for those with low and very low incomes. Already underway is Charlotte Commons, a 50-acre development along Peachland, Loveland and Veterans boulevards which will add 256 apartments and 119 townhome villas.

The county's lingering Murdock Village is also planned for 2,400 residences.

John Burns also projects a 4.4 percent increase in rental households nationally during the next five years due to demographic changes, convenience, mobility and the lack of financial commitment.

Punta Gorda recently turned over city-owned land and earmarked four vacant commercial buildings to nonprofits, which have created affordable housing units, said City Manager Howard Kunik.

"Affordable housing remains an issue," Mr. Kunik said. "In order to attract working families, this is something we have to do in the long run to be sustainable."

As development consumes land closest to the urban core and coast, it's shifting to the east in Southwest Florida and the west in South Florida, where agricultural lands have been abandoned and those that aren't include zoning for ranchettes and offer the potential for subdividing plots. Of course, a pro-development board of commissioners or city council could approve zoning changes that forever impact community character.

A number of rural properties in Southwest Florida currently on the selling block include the zoned 154-acre Coral Creek South on Burnt Store Road approved for up to 999 housing units and 20,000 square feet of commercial development; 37 acres in Alva that under its current rural zoning allows one home per acre; a 78-acre palm farm on Pine Island; and in Collier County's rural fringe mixed-use district, the 956-acre HHH Ranch, three miles east of CR 951 with a maximum density of 115 units.

In Palm Beach County, growth is creating pressure to develop in the west, including the 21,000-acre Agricultural Reserve and the rural central western Loxahatchee region, said Commissioner Steven Abrams. The Ag Reserve was established in the county's comprehensive plan to preserve unique farmlands and wetland with provisions for low-density residential development.

"The challenges to support development have always involved having infrastructure in place," Mr. Abrams said. "It's been a particular challenge over the past several years since the legislature has greatly loosened growth management laws."

Because of existing high-end residential in the southern portion of the Ag Reserve, the infrastructure is already in place to support development, including the "mega swap of development rights" between the reserve and Loxahatchee being proposed by GL Homes. The developer wants to build 2,315 homes on 738 acres in the reserve in exchange for saving nearly 2,900 acres in Loxahatchee as farmland.

"It's an interesting proposal the board will be considering at the beginning of next year," Mr. Abrams said. "GL Homes has holdings in both areas and is willing to give up development in a more rural area.

Farmers will tell you farming is more productive in the central western region. It's not a question of if it's going to be developed but when. Property owners have a constitutional right to do it."

Lee County's comprehensive plan mentions affordable housing 29 times, allowing for increased density near Florida Gulf Coast University for student housing, identifying potential sites for pilot and demonstration projects, incentives for mixed-use development and forming public-private partnerships.

The latter is being spearheaded by the Southwest Florida Community Foundation which has assembled an attainable housing coalition comprised of community stakeholders. Members Kitty Green and Mike Quaintance say policy change is necessary to make it a reality.

"We're going to have to intensify builder incentives to provide product 20 percent below market value," said Mr. Quaintance, a professor at Keiser University. "We have to make it financially palpable to garner support from the private sector. As a college professor I see students struggling every day to work full-time, pay for college and find affordable housing. We have to figure out how to incorporate affordable housing into the urban centers to reduce the impact on transportation. We continue to perpetuate the problem by pushing (development) out to Lehigh."

Affordable diverse housing is among the 10 principals the Urban Land Institute touts as essential to smart development as growth impedes on the urban fringe. "Of critical importance ... is a mix of housing types, price points, and uses offering a more vital and diverse community. The need to direct growth to walkable mixed-use neighborhoods rather than to conventional subdivisions offers the opportunity for more diverse housing types. Rental and ownership single-family houses with yards, townhouses, and multifamily apartment buildings are all needed to meet the varied lifestyles of people living in the suburbs."

Providing these options, it concludes, will entice those teachers, service workers and first responders to live where they work.

Those trying to shape the future of affordable housing in South Florida are hopeful of a resolution, although caution it's going to be a long time in the making.

"This is one of the few times there has been so much interest from so many areas," said Ms. Green, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties. "It's going to take all areas in the community to make any kind of impact."

"There's no one answer," added Mr. Quaintance. "It's not going to be easy. We have to look at multiple solutions to embrace the new economy and what it takes for someone earning a living to survive in Southwest Florida. We have to be open-minded and work together to resolve this issue." ■

"Affordable housing remains an issue ... In order to attract working families, this is something we have to do in the long run to be sustainable."

— Howard Kunik,
Punta Gorda city manager



KUNIK

Getting there

It's about where we live and work, and creating alternatives to get there

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

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PLANNERS SAY WE NEED MORE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS that lessen our reliance on cars — along with affordable homes in compact, mixed-use communities — to preserve our quality of life in a fast-growing region.

“You can live in your car, but you can’t drive your house,” an old saying goes. Besides its dark-humored, hard-times wisdom, it suggests the inextricable relationship between transportation and real-estate, a relationship that determined how we grew in the past, and how we will grow in the future.

Petroleum-powered cars are the raison d’être for vast swaths of suburban real-estate and roads after World War II. Suburbia is out of fashion but still blankets South Florida and other parts of America such as Denver and Los Angeles, with sprawling oases of single-family homes and condos disconnected from shopping malls and employment destinations. To get where we wanted to go required ever more and wider roads supported by business, financial, and government systems that took deep root.

Now, the center cannot hold, urban and transportation planners warn. The old way is not sustainable. The new relationship between transportation and real-estate should look something like this: a mix of residences and businesses in compact, pedestrian-friendly communities that offer multiple, connected transit options such as trains, trolleys, buses, “connected” and driverless cars, bikes, and your feet. One example of such communities are New Urban and “transit-oriented developments” or TODs, with homes and amenities clustered within a half-mile of transit services.

“We’re kind of hitting a capacity issue with automobiles,” said John L. Renne, director of the Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. “So, the growth of our region does depend on finding alternative solutions to complement cars, not replace cars.”

In fact, planners have been warning us to contain sprawl at least since the 1970s when Florida’s Growth Management and later Smart Growth and Complete Streets policies were created, and often ignored by political leadership and developers.

“So Florida has always been in the vanguard of not only growing badly, but trying to control and manage better growth,” said Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, an urban planner and architect based in

Miami who is renowned as one of the parents of the New Urbanism, an anti-sprawl movement that began nearly four decades ago.

Evidence of its effort to remake suburbia, urban and downtown areas — and even build entire cities — can be found in places such as Cape Coral’s entertainment district, Punta Gorda’s Sunloft Center, 5th Avenue South in Naples, CityPlace in West Palm Beach, and the city of Seaside in northwest Florida.

Now with new people flocking to regions such as Southwest Florida’s coastal Collier, Lee, and Charlotte counties, an area that could rocket from 1.2 million residents toward the 2 million mark in the next quarter century, those warnings to change the way we build transportation infrastructure and living spaces have become more urgent. On the east coast in Palm Beach County, more than 300,000 new residents are expected during that time to boost the population to 1.7 million.

Adding to the influx will be seasonal travelers. The number of people coming and going from Southwest Florida International Airport, for instance, is projected to rise from 8.6 million in 2016 to 14.3 million in 2040.

Without public and private investment in new types of transportation and urban development, planners tell us, we face increasingly congested, dangerous intersections, long commutes and loss of the natural beauty and resources that make South Florida special.

“The question is, where do we build and what kind of communities do people want to live in?” asks FAU’s Mr. Renne, who in addition to his position at the school is managing director of the TOD Group, a private real-estate development company that builds and invests in transit-oriented development.

“The research and the data about where people want to live is beginning to say that people want walkable communities where they can have transportation options to be able to get to other places,” he said. “And it could be jobs, it could be places for recreation, to go out to dinner, to go shopping, wherever. But South Florida is really built around automobiles and low-density, single-family communities and we’ve separated shopping from living. So if we look to the fu-



PLATER-ZYBERK



RENNE

ture, in several decades down the road, what we’re starting to see is there’s a great opportunity to rebuild South Florida to try to create more of these transit-oriented development opportunities.”

And while widening and building new roads has helped ease congestion, it is by itself a failing long-term solution, said Bill Spikowski, a veteran urban planner on Florida’s southwest coast. He believes passenger rail will be a key addition here as it was on the east coast years ago.

Mr. Spikowski adds that widening surface roads to more than four lanes can increase congestion because it creates more conflict between drivers, and is unappealing and dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.

“The truth is they (public transportation planners) can’t afford to keep doing what they’re doing because it’s more expensive to build roads to serve sprawl,” he said. “The pain isn’t immediate, but the long-term cost is actually more. It happens 10 years from now when the roads go from congested to really congested.”

Official county Metropolitan Planning Organizations or MPOs are required to develop long-range plans that look ahead 25 years at transit plans. The most recent were created in 2015 and look to 2040.

Among the challenges they and other planners face are creating genuinely competitive alternatives to cars; paying for expensive new high speed transit such as trains and busses; and building transit-oriented or New Urban-style developments with affordable housing for families on working-class wages.

Driverless and “connected” car technology is also being widely studied and developed, but how it will affect practical transportation planning is at this point “largely conjecture,” said Gary Harrell, principal planner for the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO. He speculates that one day self-driving cars could illuminate the need for parking garages.

Michael Masanoff disagrees. The developer of a planned TOD in West Palm Beach called Transit Village, he says they could worsen traffic if fleets of empty, driverless cars are roving our roads in between picking up passengers.

Collier MPO executive director Anne McLaughlin says the cars could mean “fewer crashes, fewer injuries, fewer fatalities... It could be a marvelous change of direction.”

Fortunately, MPO officials, Smart Growth and New Urban advocates, developers, politicians, and other planners all have plenty of ideas about how to build better living spaces and transportation, even if they don’t all agree on how to get there. Here’s a look forward at how they’re planning the future.



A Complete Streets philosophy that purports to accommodate all modes of transportation has been widely accepted. But state and local governments have often not aligned when it comes to policy, and cyclists and pedestrians have gotten most of the attention.

“(C)onventional wisdom of widening streets and adding lanes is under strict scrutiny right now with Complete Streets and other programs going on,” said Bonita Springs Mayor Peter Simmons. “So the city of Bonita Springs is looking at all the approaches to not only move cars, because that’s where everybody wants to start, but we also need to look at how to move pedestrian traffic and bicycles and walkers and joggers, so we’re taking that holistic view on everything.”



SIMMONS

Controlling sprawl and congestion in fast growing regions of South Florida, planners such as Mr. Renne and Mr. Spikowski say, also involves greater investments in passenger rail, busses, and the dense real-estate that makes them financially viable.

With Lee County alone set to welcome some 300,000 new residents by 2040, Mr. Spikowski urges taking steps now toward developing commuter or light rail. Doing so could in turn spur the density of homes and businesses built near such a rail line that is needed to sustain it.

There is an ideal opportunity to do that, he said, on the CSX/Seminole Gulf Railway line where it runs through the heavily traveled heart of Southwest Florida: from northern Collier County through the historic centers of Bonita Springs and downtown Fort Myers in Lee County. The line continues across the Caloosahatchee River, though Charlotte County and up to Arcadia.

Mr. Spikowski analyzed state employment data showing how the CSX line runs directly through Lee County job centers, “a rail road in the most perfect place you’d want it to be” for commuters, he said. He envisions the line with stops in key areas including downtowns, transit-oriented developments, park-and-ride lots, and feeder bus lines that could move riders across the county and connect to places like the airport and Florida Gulf Coast University.

While it is not the sole solution to transportation growth, “It’s one essential part,” he said, “and there’s really no like second choice for that. We need better bus systems and we probably have some places for street cars, but those run on roads and as the roads get crowded those slow down, too. This is one way to make transit fast, without adding to the roads.”

Lee County’s MPO in 2013 completed a rail “feasibility” study which recommends that the county and state purchase the right of way along a 37-mile stretch of the CSX/Seminole line that could — at some point — be used for commuter or light rail, as well as bus rapid transit, and a multi-use bicycle and walking path.

Lee County commissioners, mayors and city council members, who make up the MPO board, roundly endorsed the study’s conclusion but have yet to work with the state to purchase the right of way.

“I think certainly (the Florida Department of Transportation) will be open to looking” at that purchase and developing passenger rail, said FDOT spokesperson Zac Burch. “Like we said, there’s a limit to how many roads and how big a roads you can build. Anything to take pressure off the state highway system is certainly something we’re willing to have a conversation about.”

Buying CSX’s rail corridor is complicat-



PASON GADDIS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Traffic in Collier County on Immokalee Road and Interstate 75 is just one place that gets extremely congested during peak times in Florida.

ed by the fact that the property is leased to Seminole Gulf Railway for the next 30 years, which allows them to use it for freight and The Murder Mystery Dinner Train. The county and state have several options, including buying the right of way and negotiating with Seminole Gulf to add passenger service. Otherwise they’d have to wait until Seminole’s lease runs out to use it.

Lee County commissioner Larry Kiker said he has not approached CSX or Seminole Gulf about the rail line.

“But our board, from what I am able to gather, is very interested in looking into those possibilities and I think it would be very exciting to do something like that,” he said. “The idea is intriguing, it’s exciting and it would certainly help our transportation model. It would absolutely be beneficial in my opinion.”

Buying the right of way is not especially expensive; it could cost up to \$15 million, the study found, and at least allow the public to hold on to what planners consider an irreplaceable asset. On the other hand, building a commuter rail along it could cost \$10 million to \$20 million per mile.

The Denver model

The first rail line in the Denver, Colo. area’s Regional Transportation District opened in 1994. It now serves a population of 2.9 million in an eight-county region with 87 miles of commuter and light rail track connected to a fleet of more than 1,000 busses with 9,000 stops.

Mr. Renne and others point to it as a model for how fast-growing areas with large swaths of suburbia develop and pay for rail or other new, potentially pricey modes of transportation.

Like South Florida, the Denver area was blanketed with suburbs after World War II and has experienced rapid population growth. Later, rail spurred billions in private development along its line, and proved an indispensable way to reduce congestion on roads, said RTD spokesperson Nate Currey.

“It’s not something you’re going to see immediate dividends,” he said, “but the economic development that goes along with these (rail) lines is unreal.”

Like areas of South Florida, the sprawling 2,342-mile RTD was originally built out for cars.

“We were built on the automobile post-World War II,” Mr. Currey said. “That’s how this place really expanded. But we’ve still done it. We’ve built out a ton of rail and people are using it really well.”

“Denver’s a growing city and it has been since the ’60s. People thought the first section of light rail we built that we were crazy. No one was going to invest in it, no one was going to ride it. But once ridership was there, interest really picked up. Public sentiment went along with it as well as investment along the corridor.”

Officials here, especially on Florida’s west coast, are also skeptical that rail is financially viable. They contend that people and businesses in the region are too spread out and “low density” to support rail or even significantly expand the bus system, while others contend that if you build it, the population density will take care of itself.

“We’ve looked at (passenger rail) and we’ll continue to look at it,” Bonita Springs Mayor Simmons said. “We continue to hear that we simply don’t have the density of people on the Southwest coast of Florida to make it economically viable.”

In Collier County, “In the transportation world, we’re at the baby steps stage,” said MPO director Ms. McLaughlin. “We just don’t have the density to be talking about light rail unless someone wants to bring it here and add a few stops for Collier.”

But that could change as Southwest Florida’s population grows.

“You can induce higher density,” said urban planner Ms. Plater-Zyberk. “The transit and development is always a chicken and egg thing. You wait for development then there’s no place to put the transit; you put the transit in and nobody’s riding it for a while so you subsidize it; you never get it exactly right.”

Mr. Spikowski believes developers would be willing to build along a planned passenger rail line in a fast-growing county such as Lee, as they have in Denver, on Florida’s east coast, and elsewhere.

“They flock to those areas to build high-density housing even if it’s not going to

be there for five years,” he said. “Because if it’s something that’s in the works, first of all they can use it as a sales point. That’s why it’s so frustrating when people talk to me here: ‘well, no developer would...’ Well, actually they would if there’s a reason to.”

The streets and developments around the stations would also need to be pedestrian friendly to gain ridership, said FAU’s Mr. Renne, as many people would walk or bike the last quarter or half mile or more to and from home.

“(The station areas) need to be places where people feel comfortable walking and don’t feel like they’re taking their life in their hands when they’re walking across the street,” he said. “The last leg of your trip needs to be a pleasant experience and if it’s not people will revert to driving their cars.”

Unaffordable housing

Transit-oriented developments around stations, and other New Urban, mixed-use types of communities that have popped up around Florida, have been criticized for not offering affordable housing for families.

“You look at something like Coconut Point (a mixed-use shopping mall with residences in Estero),” said Lee MPO executive director Don Scott. “But those places aren’t where it’s that affordable for a family to live and work.”

Mr. Renne says home prices in New Urban and TOD developments remain high in large part because not enough of them have been built yet, a matter of supply and demand. Coconut Point is also an example of how many trendy developments built on New Urban principles have also failed to offer one of its key elements: alternative transportation options. Surrounded by a huge parking lot, Coconut Point is still built mainly to be visited by car.

Mr. Renne adds that if developments offer truly multi-modal options, people could end up saving money even if they pay more for housing.

“The average American spends around 20 percent of their income on transportation cost,” he said. “But if you don’t have to have a car you can cut that down to like

SEE GETTING, 19 ►

Transportation options.

Cities hope
Brightline transforms
rail service along
east coast

BY JAN NORRIS

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THOUGH THE DATE FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE \$3 billion Brightline, the high-speed passenger rail system connecting Miami to Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and ultimately Orlando, is still unknown, anticipation is growing.

Representatives from Brightline's parent group, All Aboard Florida, are reluctant to project a start date for Phase I of the passenger train service — the West Palm Beach to Miami route. The launch has been delayed from late July, to September, and now, to the end of 2017.

Stations and tracks are still under construction, though all five of the trains that will make up the Phase I service in South Florida have been delivered to the Workshop — the railroad operations center in West Palm Beach.

The three-story stations are brightly lit, with meeting space, WiFi and work areas. Miami's station will have retail shops and restaurants in its larger terminal.

Ticket prices have not been announced, either, though officials say there will be a promotional fare to start, and later, monthly, weekly and weekend passes will be available, as will other incentives, possibly through area businesses or city promotions.

A spokesperson for the train said the ticket price would be comparable to operating a car for the trip.

Up to 32 trains daily will deliver passengers from downtown West Palm Beach to Fort Lauderdale in 30 minutes, and to Miami in about an hour. Trains are scheduled to run hourly from early morning to late night.

West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio is anxiously awaiting the first ride. She sees Brightline as a huge addition to the growth of the city, and the region, with the trains bringing businesses, workers, and tourists to the area. The city has been working with Brightline since it was planned in 2012.

"I'm very optimistic about the effects of Brightline on West Palm Beach. I think it's really going to add so much to our city. It's good for businesses, and offices and their workers," she said.

Business owners she's talked to expressed interest in opening offices here or moving here, while maintaining offices or extending their business to Broward or Miami-Dade.

"I spoke with some young people with an engineering firm in Lauderdale looking to open an office here," she said. It's the kind of movement Brightline planners and the cities it reaches are hoping to achieve.

The exposure for the area will be sig-

nificant, she said. West Palm is ready for additional visitors coming for culture to the Kravis Center, the Norton Museum of Art or the many playhouses. She also sees the potential for event visitors — SunFest, the Palm Beach International Boat Show, and more baseball fans coming for spring training.

The city is getting ready for lodgers with more accommodations adding to those already in and near downtown. "We have a lot of hotels in the proposal stage, and some already under construction."

Brightline is building a parking garage and a 290-unit apartment complex at the station, as well — another boon to the growing downtown that has dozens of cranes visible on its skyline.

Rick Rose, co-owner of the Grandview Heights Bed & Breakfast in West Palm Beach, is optimistic about the train, as well. He's active in the tourism and hospitality areas of the city's plans.

He sees a significant boost in visitors coming for short stays during Phase I of the train line.

"There's going to be two different groups of people. The Europeans, who might not rent a car — they are used to trains. They fly in and go to Miami Beach by taxi. And a lot of New Yorkers take a shuttle to Miami Beach and never see a car while here.

"They're going to say, 'Let's go to Palm Beach for a couple of days.' Maybe they'll catch an act at the Kravis, or go to a museum, or an exhibit at the Norton."

Those visitors have been to Key West or Fort Lauderdale maybe to party and want a bit more culture or more mature crowds offered here, he said.

"They will do an overnight or two days here," he said. Already many of his guests come up from Miami; the train will make it that much simpler; they can be here in half an hour, and then, "We can pick them up, or they can even walk over."

But the real potential, he says, the second group of riders. They'll come when the Orlando route opens and families come north to go to Disney World, or south to fly out of Miami after going to the theme parks.

"Right now, people fly into Miami and to get to Orlando, rent a car and take the Turnpike or I-95. They see West Palm Beach on a highway sign — that's it.

"When Brightline's Phase II opens, it's going to be a different ball game. West Palm Beach will be their first tropical stop (southbound). We're right in the middle of the route," he said. "People

have read about it, maybe, and now they'll see it and want to stop over."

The potential for longer "stay-put" vacations, especially for families, is huge, he said. "Palm Beach County is the No. 1 family destination on the Gold Coast. Miami and Fort Lauderdale are more for singles and couples. We're family-friendly."

The ability to walk and get around near the station is a part of that appeal for riders, he said, so he expects some hotels and some bed and breakfast rooms to fill those needs.

Because they're more rapid-transit savvy, "The international folks and families will definitely use this service," he predicts.

Raphael Clemente, executive director of West Palm Beach's Downtown Development Authority, agrees. He's a big supporter of the train system for dozens of reasons.

"First of all, I think it's a huge amenity for West Palm Beach and for the region — not just where it ends in the north in Phase I.

"Having the South Florida region and major population centers connected with a major rail system is a tremendous step forward" in smart growth plans, he said.

"It's incredibly well designed, and from the user perspective, it's going to be a great success."

The modern trains, with level boarding, are equipped with wide seats, touchless restrooms, high-speed WiFi and a "select" (reservation) option for prime seats and food and beverage service. Luggage storage and bike racks are on-board.

Mr. Clemente, an urban planner, sees the privately funded train as a long needed answer to some of South Florida's unique traffic and congestion problems stemming from its booming growth.

He explained the area's layout. "Unlike most metropolitan areas, we are a linear metropolis. Chicago, other major metropolises are more circular with different patterns.

"Our connectivity as a region is limited to the Turnpike and I-95 and Tri-Rail."

Rebuilding, expanding, and maintaining roads is an expenditure, while building mass transit is an investment, he says. "Do we spend, or do we invest in our future?"

He believes the era of single-occupancy vehicles is ending, making the question moot. "Increasingly people are making that decision not to drive," he said. Generational or because of cost or time in traffic, the reasons are many. He acknowledges there will always be those who want to drive their personal vehicle,



CLEMENTE



MUOIO





COURTESY PHOTO

Brightline President Michael Reininger addresses a crowd with BrightBlue in the background.

and some have a need.

But the clogged roads are inadequate in moving people efficiently, he said, and they're only going to get worse with South Florida's growth.

"I talked to a businessman from Fort Lauderdale just today who was at a meeting in downtown West Palm. It took him an hour and 40 minutes in his car from Fort Lauderdale to get to downtown West Palm Beach. That's a lot of wasted productivity," he said.

Add to that the parking costs and tolls, it makes little sense for one person to drive their car in between the cities, he said,

when there's an opportunity to have the system like Brightline in place.

The North-South traffic corridor cries for a rail system, he said. And while there will be drawbacks and growing pains — backups on roadways at the rail crossings that are undesirable chief among them, "They are more desirable than building more and bigger roads and having more congestion.

"We have to create opportunities for multi-modal transportation. We are giving people mobility options. It's not a luxury — it's a necessity."

Another component Brightline adds is

socio-economic and it's long overdue as well, he says. It's a chance at affordable housing and economic equality, especially once feeder systems are in place to connect with Brightline's hubs, he said.

"If we're going to have true urban neighborhoods, where people live and work, transportation is critical. When we start talking about housing affordability, it can't be separated from transportation. If you're forced to live 10 or 15 miles from where you work, you're spending so much to live outside on transportation, it's not economically feasible."

He points to service sector jobs — a core in South Florida's hospitality industry. Most of those jobs are in the urban centers, in or near downtowns. "They have to get to work somehow.

"I'm standing in front of Rocco's Tacos (on Clematis Street in downtown West Palm Beach). They employ 70-plus people. Lots and lots of those don't have a car, or don't drive. Or some do and wish they had another option."

Now, he says, they have a shot at possibly even a better job, as long as the cities step up with connective transportation options to the trains.

Key will be connecting the western communities and the airport. "We have to look at our regional systems," he said. "Hopefully there will be great support."

The downtown trolley is a perfect example of a go-between in the area. The city is changing the route to stop at Brightline.

"Here's a stat for you: 500,000 people rode the trolley last year. They use it to access Tri-Rail, hotels, shopping areas. Now we're adding in the Bikeshare program, and

there will be a rack there (at Brightline)."

He's looking forward to riding for both business and pleasure. "I frequently go to Miami for work, and take Tri-Rail. I take my laptop and work on the train, or just chill out with music or watch a video."

On Brightline, though, "I'll take my family to Miami just for fun," he said. "And eventually to Orlando to see the grandparents."

He acknowledges it may take a while for people who are skeptical about how efficient it can be versus the cost of the ticket. But that will change once they get aboard, he says.

"From a user perspective, I think it's going to be a great success. Once they ride it, it will be a big 'Aha!' moment." ■

"Having the South Florida region and major population centers connected with a major rail system is a tremendous step forward... It's incredibly well designed, and from the user perspective, it's going to be a great success."

— Raphael Clemente

GETTING

From page 17

5 percent."

Although there are numerous New Urban-style developments in Florida, there are few genuine examples of TODs, Mr. Renne said.

A West Palm Beach developer named Michael Masanoff hopes to change that. For the last two decades he has been working on creating Transit Village on the western edge of downtown, a half-billion dollar planned community on seven acres. It would, he says, connect commuters to the Tri-Rail line, buses and the downtown trolley, as well as offer affordable workforce housing that a city employee or teacher could afford, with units located in the same downtown apartments with "market rate" homes.

The project was nearly green lit this year, but Mr. Masanoff and city officials have not come to an agreement on how much public financing should go toward the Village.

"The municipalities and counties which get a tremendous amount of tax dollars for the TOD have to participate in creating a better system for their people," Mr. Masanoff said. "Having people understand that's tough."

How to pay for transit

Even if governments don't have the money or political will to fund expensive new transit projects that could take decades before they begin to pay off and potentially cost hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars, in some cases the private sector does.

In an article this year for the journal Housing Policy Debate, FAU's Mr. Renne suggests that partnerships with the business world could be transit's future, taking some of the risk of a major investment off the public's shoulders.

All Aboard Florida's Brightline project



COURTESY IMAGE

A rendering of the Brightline station in Miami.

on the east coast and the Denver RTD's new \$2.2 billion Eagle P3 line, he pointed out, are two modern rail projects innovate for their private sector funding.

Brightline, which is scheduled to open with stations in Miami, West Palm Beach, and Fort Lauderdale this year, and eventually connect to Orlando, is entirely privately funded with public sector support through low-interest bonds. A key part of its profit margin, Mr. Renne notes, are apartments and other real-estate the company is building around its stations in Miami and West Palm Beach, areas that used to be "forgotten places."

"The problems have shifted from blight to fears of overpriced housing and gentrification," he wrote.

All Aboard Florida declined to make executives available for an interview because they were traveling.

"Brightline is setting a new national standard for the introduction of privately funded express intercity passenger rail service and the development of mixed-use real estate around the transportation hubs," the company said in a statement, and will "serve millions of business and leisure travelers."

Denver RTD's Eagle P3 project will cover 36 miles of new commuter rail lines. It's funded with a combination of a federal grant, sales tax, fares, and Denver Transit Partners, a consortium of private investment firms and other companies that will be responsible for building, maintaining and operating the Eagle line for close to 30 years.

"Everybody's looking at us right now to see if it's going to work or not," Mr. Currey said. "And I believe that it will. It's a good model. It's going to enable cities to look at different ways of funding infrastructure."

In Charlotte County, help from private businesses could be a route to developing public bus service, Commissioner Bill Truex said. (The county currently operates a Dial-A-Ride system that offers curbside pickup service but must be reserved days in advance.)

He envisions a bus line possibly connecting Punta Gorda to areas such as Englewood, Deep Creek, and Murdock Village.

"Near the main road off (U.S.) 41 and offshoots, you could probably get some pretty good usage out of it," he said, "but still the ridership is going to be too weak and it would definitely be a taxpayer subsidy to

keep it operational without a public-private partnership...

"It would be important to try to make sure we had a private investor on board, because they make sure that they pay their own way. So in the past, transportation in some areas of New York for example were done via this method and advertising and things like that on the busses helped to pay for (it)."

He added that shared public bicycle programs that have been instituted in Punta Gorda as well as larger cities around the United States could have potential as a form of daily public transportation in growing areas of Charlotte.

"(P)ark-and-ride bicycle programs could become a potential for areas like Murdoch Village and maybe even Parkside in the future," he said. "I've brought that up as a potential for Englewood Beach. I think we just have to start looking at avenues to bring in alternatives that are not break-the-bank type things."

FDOT is also looking at ways to ease traffic while saving money on expensive road-widening projects.

Suggesting just how overfed our road system is, the state is this fall planning to put a congested, dangerous stretch of U.S. 41 near downtown Fort Myers on a temporary "road diet." They'll use construction barrels to take it from six lanes down to four lanes for a couple of months to see how drivers and pedestrians react.

"Could it function with four lanes and if so then what can we look at doing?" asks FDOT's Mr. Burch. "Can we look at adding on-street parking? Can we look at adding bike lanes? Medians with landscaping to make it more attractive looking?"

Roughly north of Hansen Street to downtown, one lane in each direction will be blocked. Sound fun? Not to worry, Mr. Burch said: "If after a week it's total gridlock and it's horrible we can just go pull the barrels," he said. "Or do people adapt? Do they look at different ways to get where they're going?" ■



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