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District 2 winner Preston credits his focused campaign

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN STAFF

Deerfield Beach –Ben Preston is pretty sure his determination to knock on as many doors as he could gave him his narrow victory in Tuesday’s special election to replace suspended District 2 Commissioner Sylvia Poitier.

He estimates he and his team of six

See PRESTON on page 18

Fire department budget gets modest hike; no increase in fire fees

By Judy Vik

PELICAN STAFF

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea – Town commissioners unanimously OK’d a \$754,603 budget for Volunteer Fire Department operations, a four percent increase over the current year. They also agreed to budget \$325,000 toward a replacement for Engine 212, the oldest truck in the fleet. The remaining funds will come from the \$180,000 Fire Reserve Fund. Cost of the new truck is estimated between \$270,000

See LBTS BUDGET on page 17



Holding on to a 13-foot Bayliner, Mercedes Sullivan waits for help.

For five, fishing trip turns to rescue effort

By Andrew Scott

PELICAN WRITER

It’s not the way a fishing trip’s supposed to end.

On June 30, when Samuel Cate, Nick Santagado, Andres Escamilla, and Rick Macher boarded Steven Westerholt’s fishing boat at the Sand Harbor Marina in Pompano Beach, they hadn’t a clue what was in store for them. The friends had been fishing just a mile off shore every weekend since Steven bought a 42-foot Bertram sport fishing boat last December. This trip out to sea would be profoundly different.

On that Thursday afternoon, as the men were about to push out from dock aboard the “Dig It!” Rick spotted a



Using the “miraculous” pole, Sullivan is pulled closer to Dig It!



Under severe weather, Rick Macher manages to transfer Sullivan into the boat where Steven Westerholt takes over. [Samuel Cate photographed the rescue from the captain’s deck.]

pole in the murky water below. Using another pole, “I pulled it up and said, ‘hey great, we got a rope pole now,’” Rick recalls. The eight-foot long metal pole would play an important role in the drama that would soon unfold.

The fishing boat roared through the Hillsboro Inlet and out to sea where

the fishermen had their sights set on reeling in some Dolphin, Kingfish, Wahoo or whatever the sea had to serve up. But nearly an hour into fishing, they had had no luck.

“It was pretty nice out, we noticed

See RESCUE on page 27

HUD gives Housing Authority good reviews, response to mayor’s complaint blames blogger for her actions

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN STAFF

Deerfield Beach –Mayor Peggy Noland’s public statement that she wants to dismantle the Deerfield Beach Housing Authority Board has been met by a voluminous response that points out HUD’s favorable evaluations of the agency, Executive Director

Pam Davis’s accomplishments on the job, the negative influences of blogger Chaz Stevens in the matter and Noland’s refusal to meet with Davis and HUD.

The response letter, released this week, and sent to Noland, city commissioners and Congressman Allen West, was prepared by attorney Tom Connick. The packet, some two-inch-

es of documentation, includes HUD reviews, financial statements and auditor’s report, lists of documents requested by the City of Deerfield Beach and the authority’s correspondence saying the documents were ready for pick up.

Connick asks that the commis-

See HUD on page 7

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Mad Hatter Tea Party brings Democrats together in Deerfield Beach

By Anne Siren

PELICAN STAFF

On June 11, Democrats throughout the state gathered to honor Maureen Dinnen as Democratic Woman of the Year.

Dinnen, a Broward County School Board member, District 3, was named Member of the year in 2010.

She is a former teacher in

the Broward School District with a total of 35 years teaching history and math.

Also attending the event was Lois Frankel, former mayor of West Palm Beach. Frankel has announced her candidacy for U.S. Congressional District 22. She will face incumbent Allen West in 2012.

The event was hosted by Maggie Davidson.



Sunrise Commissioner Larry Soffield and Gerald Goen, president of the Greater Democratic Club of Tarpons Springs, added their own hats.



Dee Dee Smith, Maggie Davidson, president, Democratic Women's Club of Northeast Broward County; Janet Goen, president, Democratic Women's Club of Florida; Maureen S. Dinnen, Democratic Woman of the Year



Carol Osno, Joanne Goodwin, Maggie Macauley and Inger Peterson-Jones



Wanda Francis and Sarah Brown



Sophie Bock and Barbara Boynton

Democrats to meet

The North Broward Democratic Club will hear Rodney Statham discuss the current status of redistricting on July 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 NE 6 St., Pompano Beach.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Call 954-783-8232

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New library plans for civic/cultural campus step up pace for 2014

By Anne Siren

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach - The rumor of a new Broward County Library in this city is now a fact, and under the CRA plan it may open as early as 2014.

According to Neil Fritz, Downtown Pompano Project Manager, negotiations with the county are moving swiftly.

So far, the city is about to negotiate a contract with the county to lease a portion of the vacant land to the county for a 34,000 sq.-ft. building of

mixed-use construction that will house the library, a café and possibly a theater.

The county will use \$7.2 million of a library bond issue to fund the library. All other parts of the building will have separate funding from the CRA or from private enterprises.

The county will lease the library property from the city for 50 years at an annual lease of \$10 per year.

On Tuesday, a discussion of a second floor of the library building focused on a cultural

See LIBRARY on page 18



The above rendering of a Civic Campus is one concept. No final designs have come before the CRA, county or city for acceptance. [Note the pedestrian walkway at First Avenue and Atlantic Boulevard as the connection element between Old Pompano Downtown and the Civic Campus.] [Rendering courtesy of CRA website]

Donna Brown is a heart disease survivor and fitness fanatic. She sold her home in 2009 to move to John Knox Village. Donna found The Village is the perfect setting to pursue a life centered on fitness and healthy living. AND SO CAN YOU! Call and make an appointment to learn about John Knox Village and then join us for lunch. Call 954-783-4040 for details.



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RUT leaders say BSO presence discouraged their supporters

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN STAFF

Deerfield Beach – Organizers of a petition drive to rescind the city’s recently approved utility tax are calling actions taken last weekend by city officials “a cheap shot,” and one that promotes “class warfare.”

Jean Robb and Steve Krevoy, chairman and treasurer of Rescind the Utility Tax (RUT), both say the presence of police cars at Constitution Park Saturday was a deterrent to those who wanted to sign their petitions.

Robb paid \$322 for use of the recreation building in

the park on Saturday, July 16, from 1 to 9 p.m. When she and RUT volunteers arrived, the flyers advocating the tax had been posted all over the building: on the front door, on walls, bathroom doors, bulletin boards and placed on the tables where voters were to sign the petitions.

The flyers angered Krevoy, and he removed them and put them in the trunk of his car. “I paid \$322 ... I have the right to decorate the room anyway I want to, and I didn’t want those flyers,” he said this week.

The city employee hired to be at the site for the petition drive called her supervisor

who called Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Walt Bratton. According to City Manager Burgess Hanson, Bratton conducted BSO Chief Pete Sudler who sent a deputy out “to mitigate the situation.”

When the deputy arrived,

Krevoy said, he found no evidence of unlawful activity but asked that Krevoy give him the flyers. After some discussion, Krevoy said he did hand over the flyers after getting a promise that RUT’s \$100 security deposit would

be refunded.

Hanson said 1400 flyers were printed at city expense about 10 days ago and placed at “multiple city facilities... People need to know the facts and then if they want to sign

See RUT on page 21



Martha and Hib Casselberry stay involved directing all the guided public tours at Hillsboro Lighthouse, but they always come home to John Knox Village. **AND SO CAN YOU!**

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Retired fire chief obsesses about his favorite pastime in his book on Florida lobster hunting

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN STAFF

Deerfield Beach – First of all, reading master lobster hunter Jim Mathie's "Catching the Bug" is fun. The full-color, slick publication is full of fantastic photos, tales of daring do and lots of hard facts about the Spiny Lobster, the variety that migrates to our shores from The Keys.

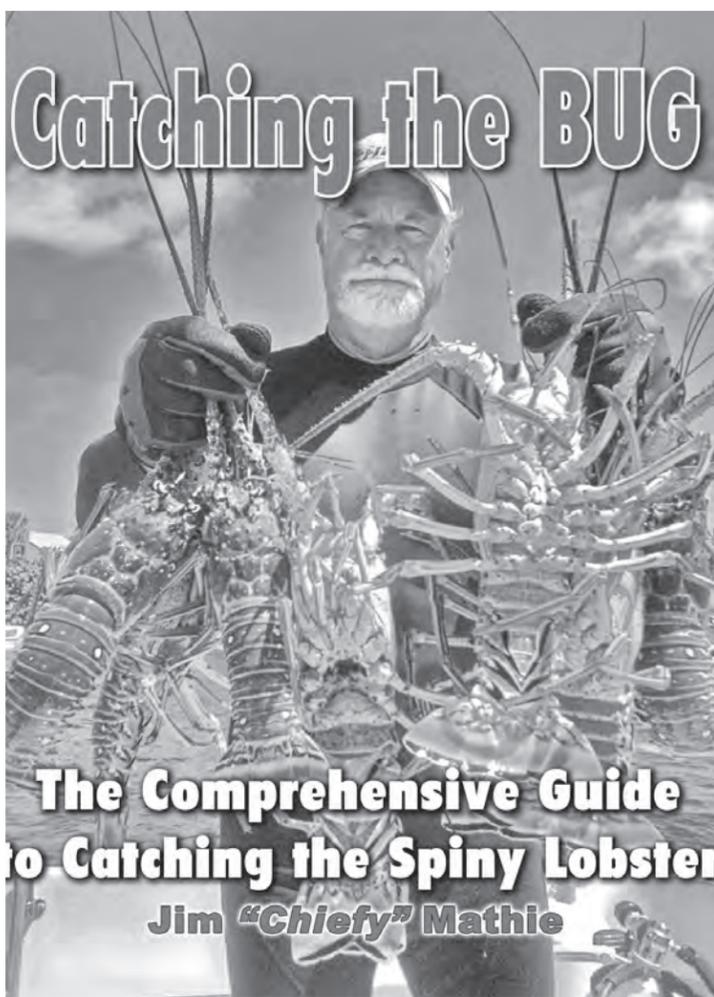
In fact, the crustaceans should be on their northward march just about now. It's timed (not by them) to coincide with lobster season, August 6 – March 31. Whetting lobster lovers' appetites, is the two-day mini-season, this year Wednesday and Thursday, July 27 and 28, and

weather permitting hundreds of divers will be offshore in hopes of catching their first taste of this season's seafood sensation.

It is, however, not a hunt for amateurs. As Mathie, a retired Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue Division Chief explains, a good deal of know-how goes into being successful at luring the spiny creatures from their hiding places.

Mathie has filled his book with tales of his underwater adventures and sound advice. With 25 years under his weight belt, Mathie knows his subject well.

His chapter titles are hints to his light-hearted writing



style. Some titles are "I do some of my best work when I am lost," "The Lobster Assassination Kit," "Thar's danger in them thar lobster holes," "Take the big boys first," and "That story made me thirsty."

He has also simplified the lobster hunting addiction to three things: Find the lobster, catch the lobster, eat the lobster.

But more important is the fact that Mathie's book is probably the most practical, informative guide to lobster hunting to be found, in this area anyway. Along with his stories, Mathie has included all the Florida rules and regulations for the recreation lobster diver including legal limits and how to measure the carapace under water. At the end of each chapter is a Lobster Lesson Learned highlighted in red which more or less summarizes the information.

For lobster hunters, the pictures of "The Bug" will be irresistible. There's a shot of a three dozen lobster on the top of a cooler, Mathie and three of his fishing buddies posing with what looks like 50 lobsters, a close-up shot of a lobster hiding in coral, with the antennae just visible poking out of a crevice. But mostly there are pictures of

See Bug on page 13

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Anne Siren, publisher

Don't lose your vote, it's a gift from those who have died and still fight

On Monday, voters can avoid being declined at the polls by showing up at Pompano Beach City Hall to make sure their registration is still valid.

On Monday, the "Election Connection" van will be at Pompano Beach City Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for residents who need any changes in their voter registration.

The new laws are very restrictive. Don't lose your vote.

One new law restricts the number of "Early Voting" days.

Days for early voting have been reduced from 12 to eight. Early voting now will start the second Saturday before an election.

But here is one thing that might invalidate your vote. If your address has changed, you will only be allowed to make a "provisional vote." Provisional votes are the last ones to be counted and are often never counted. Don't wait until the next election to discover that fact. It will be a simple task on Monday and a nightmare at the polls if you have any changes in your legal status. The last day to register for the Presidential Preference Primary election is Jan. 3, 2012.

This Monday will get those who care about voting well under the wire.

If you vote by absentee ballot, you must reapply for an absentee ballot because you will no longer automatically receive one.

If your name has changed by marriage or for any other reason or if you have moved, your changes must be made now.

Now is the time to remember the men and women of the military who have died and are still fighting to protect your right to vote. They would certainly be disappointed to learn you don't have time to get it right.

The Election Connection Van is a convenience to all of us who have voter cards that we need to validate.

Don't assume anything with voting in Florida. Now is the time to look at your card and make sure all of the information is correct.

For young people who are voting for the first time, Monday is critical.

Who Can Register to Vote

In order to register to vote in Florida, you must:

1. Be a Citizen of the United States of America (a lawful permanent resident is not a U.S. citizen);
2. Be a Florida resident;
3. Be 18 years old (you may pre-register to vote if you are 16 years old, but you cannot vote until you are 18 years old).
4. Not now be adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in Florida or any other state without having the right to vote restored;
5. Not have been convicted of a felony without your civil rights having been restored; and

Provide your current and valid Florida driver's license number or Florida identification card number. If you do not have a Florida driver's license number or a Florida identification card number then you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

If you are headed for college, now is your time to register and to apply for your absentee ballot so you can take pride wherever you are in your first election. Call 954-357-7050 for more information.

Register to vote Monday

Pompano Beach - The Election Connection from the Broward Supervisor of Elections office will be at the Pompano City Hall on Monday, July 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Supervisor of Elections van driver, Dennis Conklin will process all voter services on the spot: Register to vote. Re-enroll in vote-by-mail. Change a name, address or political party. Persons may also sign up as poll workers. Call 954-357-7050 or visit www.browardsoe.org.

Public meeting to discuss utility improvements

Oakland Park - The city of Oakland Park invites all residents and property owners to a community meeting to provide an update on planned utility improvements in areas west of I-95 to Northwest 31 Avenue and from Northwest 28 Street to Prospect Road.

The meeting is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, July 28, at Jaco Pastorius Park Community Center, 1098 NE 40 Court.

Improvements include water main replacement or upgrade, sanitary sewer force main upgrade and street resurfacing with drainage improvements.

For more information, contact Ronald Desbrunes, P.E. at 954-630-4482 or email RonaldD@oaklandparkfl.org or John Perez at 954-630-4479 or email JohnMP@oaklandparkfl.org.

Republicans to meet July 28

The Pompano Beach Republican Club will meet Thursday, July 28, 7 p.m. at the Emma Lou Olson Community Center, 1801 NE 6 St., Pompano Beach.

Judy Smith, president of America's Moms for Soldiers will give an update on the work of this organization. There will be a collection of items needed to send to soldiers serving in Forward Operating Bases.

For a complete list of items needed, please visit www.americasmomsforsoldiers.com. Rose Bailey, a South Florida representative of Agenda 21 Today (www.agenda21today.com) will also present information on UN Initiative, Agenda 21. For more information, call 954-786-7536.

Marchelos named Hometown Hero



Louis Marchelos, second from left, restaurant and pier owner, was honored by the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Property Owners Association as 2011 Hometown Hero. Dennis Ritchie, at right, association president, presented him with a plaque at a recent Town Commission meeting. Looking on are candidates for the honor, Marie Chiarello and Ken Brenner, who received certificates. Other candidates, Wayne Dillistin and Jim Silverstone were not present. (Staff photo by Judy Vik)



Watch Your Speed

HUD

Continued from page 1

sion take no action before the Inspector General's evaluation of the Kessler Report is received. That \$30,000 report was issued early this year and raised issues of lack of documentation and questionable payments.

This week Davis said the payments Kessler questioned are according to HUD procedures. The Deerfield Beach Housing Authority, or DBHA, is managed by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides

88 percent of its funding. The board is appointed by the mayor and approved by the commission,

Noland, when she announced at the June 21 commission meeting that she wanted dismissal of the housing authority board, alluded to the fact that documents were withheld from Kessler and that monies may have been misspent.

Since then, she has said her request is on the "back burner" since the commission is in recess until August. She has issued no formal complaint.

The response contains a HUD January 2011 per-

formance review giving the DBHA a 93 score and "high" rating, another giving highest possible scores for finance and management and another stating procurement procedures were "generally acceptable."

Connick gets negative in the response when he addresses blogger Chaz Stevens and the locations of Kessler International, a company that brands itself as forensic accountants located in 10 prestigious office buildings around the world.

According to information in the response, Kessler's offices are mailboxes in executive business centers located

in upscale office buildings, including its world headquarters at Rockefeller Plaza and an address on Brickell Avenue in Miami.

The other accusation from Connick is that Noland will not stand up to Stevens' bullying of Davis on his website where Stevens has suggested Davis will be arrested and DBHA money is being misspent. The blogger is well-known for his 'blue' language and formerly included the mayor in his epitaphs. Connick calls him a "negative force seeking to destroy the DBHA."

Soon after her election in March 2010, Noland appointed Stevens to the DBHA Board and he was approved by a 3-2 vote. He resigned

soon after.

Davis became executive director of the DBHA in 1989 at a time when the board could not pay its bills, had no credit or reserves, owned \$30,000 to the IRS and the residents of Stanley Terrace were on strike. The agency now manages 96 units at Stanley Terrace, 100 units for the elderly at The Palms apartment complex, 56 units at the Palms Townhomes and administers 481 Section 8 Housing vouchers.

Board members beside Emery are businessman Richard Sales, community activist Caryl Berner, developer Lee Giannino, Stanley Terrace resident Ernestine Gray, and chiropractor Dr. Alan Leavitt. There are two vacant seats.

For 19 years, Ron Davis was Supervisor of Music for Broward County Schools. Today Ron remains musically active directing the Villagers Men's Chorus. Ron and his wife Dee call John Knox Village, "Home," AND SO CAN YOU!

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Suzi Mautner director of marketing and Ben Smith, owner.

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Although his business is leverage buyouts which means buying and selling companies, Ben Smith, 38, the owner of the two Lighthouse Inns, 3305 SE 5 St. and 3208 NE 11 St., Pompano Beach since 2008 says, "These two assisted living facilities are keepers. I'm attached to residents and would feel like I abandoned them if I sold the Inns.

My aunt, Sue Beall, is the very capable administrator of both residences and Suzi Mautner is our director of marketing. These two people are my life savers."

Mautner nods, "He's a terrific boss and a very astute business man, he's also interested in every resident. He listens to their stories including their compliments and complaints. Right now we're renovating the entire facility. Ben will grab a paint brush or a broom if he sees the need."

Mautner, who is a seasoned executive in this field, was asked how these Inns differ from other rental assisted living residences.

She replied, "We do all of the services one expects. The difference is in the exceptionally caring staff. We're intimate residences with a capacity of 33 in Lighthouse Inn South and 43 in Lighthouse Inn North. We're small enough to give personal attention.

The residents all know each

other and have concerns for each other the way family members do for one another."

Continuing, she adds, "Our case manager/social worker applies for financial assistance for new residents wherever it is indicated. Many of our residents are receiving benefits from the government and VA programs. Until they moved in, they never realized they were entitled to them. This assistance helps them relax and forget their worries about being able to maintain themselves financially. A licensed therapist attends to individual and group therapy when the need exists."

Both facilities have activity directors who keep residents busy with walks to the ocean, bingo, card games, jewelry making, painting and other crafts. There's an exercise class every morning.

Ivan Lozada has lived at Light-

house Inn South for four years. "I like the staff. They take good care of my room and me. The food is good and always fresh. Ribs, chicken and meat loaf are my favorites. They bake the cakes and pies right here too, but butter pecan ice cream is still my favorite. I often walk the beach with my friends and I like bingo. I wish we played for money."

Cindy Ryan, thinks these Inns as life savers. "My dad lived at Lighthouse Inn, North for six years. I was impressed with the quality of care he received. When my husband needed assisted living, I moved them both to the South Inn. And I, unexpectedly ended up here too. They are very good to us. My husband needs constant attention and it is provided by willing and pleasant staff."

These two residences allow small pets. Mautner says, "if the resident can care for them.

Our staff assists residents with bathing, dressing and grooming, medical management, housekeeping and personal laundry service. Physical and occupational therapy, doctor visits and podiatrists are available on site. We arrange for transportation for off site visits to dentists, doctors and other activities. Family and friends are welcome visitors from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m."

BSO to help town reclaim its streets with celebrations

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea – Broward Sheriff's Office Lauderdale-By-The-Sea District will celebrate National Night Out Against Crime from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 2, at El Prado Park, 4500 El Mar Drive.

The event brings residents together to stand up against crime, promote drug prevention and awareness and strengthen partnerships between law enforcement and the public. Informational resources will be available, including: Identity and Scam Prevention Education; Cybercrime and Computer Safety Information; General Crime Prevention Information; Information on Prescription Drug Abuse and Awareness.

BSO vehicles and equipment will be showcased. Free food and soft drinks will be served. For more information, call 954-491-3920.

Prescription drug discount program offered to residents

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea --Mayor Roseann Minnet recently kicked off this town's participation in a national program where residents can save an average of 20 percent on prescriptions not covered by their insurance.

Minnet met with seniors in Jarvis Hall to explain the program's benefits and hand out prescription discount cards. The town commission decided to join the program, operated by the National League of Cities.

Here are the card's benefits:

It's free and may be used by any family member.

Use is not limited. Most pharmacies accept it.

The card can even be used to purchase drugs sometimes prescribed for pets.

Cards may be used anywhere, not just in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. Cards are available at Town Hall, Jarvis Hall or the LBTS Chamber of Commerce. Cards can also be obtained online at www.caremark.com/nlc.

Call 1-888-620-1749.

Local Pompano Beach Kiwanis Club is a small group that makes a big difference in services to the city



Time to draw the winning ticket! On hand (L to R) are Ed Murray, Fred Segal, Jean M. McIntyre, Ruthie Brooks, Domenick Sciortino who drew the winner, and Dennis Smith.

By Phyllis J. Neuberger

PELICAN STAFF

Kiwanis, founded in 1915, is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time...and the Pompano Beach Chapter of Kiwanis meets those expectations.

Kiwanis Board Member and Vice President/Branch Manager of Iberia-Bank, Jean M. McIntyre sat down to talk about the club with the Pelican. "Our branch is in its 60th year. We began in 1951, and currently we have 29 members. We may be small, but we do a lot of service work for Pompano Beach and the surrounding communities. Recently, we were challenged by Kiwanis International, along with every local chapter, to contribute \$2,000 to kick start the new Kiwanis Eliminate Program.

Partnering with UNICEF, the goal of Project Eliminate is to end maternal and neonatal tetanus, the deadly disease that steals the lives of nearly 60,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year. It will take \$110 million dollars to do this worldwide. The local Kiwanis group decided to raise the money by raffling off a cruise. We met and even exceeded our goal by raising \$2,600 and our Pompano Beach Key Club is hoping to contribute even more."

Readers can help by getting a car wash tomorrow, 7/23

The Pompano Beach High School Key Club, a Kiwanis sponsored group of students, is holding a car wash this Saturday at Auto Tech & Body Shop, 429 N. Dixie Hwy. from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All it takes is a \$5 donation for a squeaky clean car; trucks and large SUVs, \$10. All money raised will go to Kiwanis and UNICEF Eliminate Project.

Barbara Kelly wins Kiwanis Raffle Cruise

To make the raffle exciting enough for ticket buyers to part with \$10 per ticket, someone had to hustle up a really exciting prize. Dedicated Kiwanis husband and wife team, Nina and Ray Wolowicz took on the challenge and managed to secure a seven day cruise to the Caribbean, donated by Richard Sasso, president of MSC Cruise Lines. Ray says, "Nina worked for Mr. Sasso when he was the President of Celebrity Cruises so she's the one who deserves credit for getting us this wonderful prize. We were happy to do it for Kiwanis which is such a good cause."

Mayor Lamar Fisher, a Kiwanis member, was to draw the winning ticket. Unable to attend, Domenick Sciortino, owner of the Sugar Chest Antique Mall, stepped in and did



Raffle winner Barbara Kelly accepts her prize of a cruise from Fred Segal, president of Pompano Kiwanis. On her left is Ruthie Brooks who sold Kelly the winning ticket. [Photos courtesy of Pompano Beach Kiwanis Club]

Making a Difference

Phyllis J. Neuberger wants your suggestions about people who are making a difference. Call 954-783-8700.



the honors in IberiaBank lobby. On hand were Ed Murray, Fred Segal, president of Kiwanis and the Broward Country Farm Bureau, Jean M. McIntyre, Ruthie Brooks, Balistreri Realty, Dominick Sciortino, and Dennis Smith. McIntyre feels that people bought raffle tickets to support Kiwanis causes and that winning was incidental.

A beaming Balistreri Realtor, Barbara Kelly, had the winning ticket and she says, "I'm ready to sail! I have a year to decide exactly when to take my cruise. The timing depends on my husband's schedule, too. My friend Ruthie is always selling raffle tickets to good causes and I always buy them. Kiwanis President, Fred Segal, presented the prize to me at a Kiwanis luncheon."

Kiwanis consistently supports other worthy causes

Saturday, July 16 was Christmas in July, a Kiwanis project hosted by

See Kiwanis on page 9

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Kiwanis

Continued from page 8

club districts 23 and 24, held at the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise. Pompano Beach Kiwanis, part of district 23, was one of the sponsors of the event. New shoes and loaded back packs to start the school year were handed out to over 1,000 homeless youngsters living in shelters. McIntyre was on hand to help distribute the gifts and says, "The children, from infants to teens, were elated with their new shoes and backpacks and we all were elated to witness their pleasure. It's heart warming to be on hand and see that you have made a difference in the life of a child."

For elementary school children, Kiwanis sponsors the Terrific Kids and the Bugs programs. Teachers identify winners of Terrific kids, a character program, and Bugs

winners. BUGS is an acronym for Bringing Up Grades which is unique in that students compete only against themselves. Kiwanis rewards the teacher's selections with certificates, bumper stickers and Terrific Kids pencils.

In October, this club participates in the S.O.S. Children's Annual Walk which raises funds for children who turn 18 and are aged out of the foster care system. Money raised helps to provide start up cash for these young adults who are suddenly on their own.

Pompano Beach High School Key Club

Richard Leys, Kiwanis advisor to this club, says, "We had 87 members this year. I love these kids and I felt like a proud father when I attended the graduation of 21 of them this past June. My wife, Gwen, and I were honored to be invited. Tickets are very

hard to get, but my kids got them for us. I call them all my children and they call me Dad or Grandpa."

Like the parent Kiwanis, the goal of the Key Club is to provide service to the community. Leys says the group does in-school fund raisers and also "joins us in participating in different city events. Our club provided \$3,000 in scholarships this year, divided between two students. Many of our clubbers get other scholarships and therefore, unselfishly, do not apply for ours. They want the money to go to those who will benefit the most. I attend their meetings twice a month and the group's Board meeting held once a month."

When asked, he admitted spending between 20 to 30 hours every month with the Key Club. The Kiwanis Florida District honored Leys this year as Kiwanis Advisor

of the Year.

On October 1, Gwen Leys, Richard's wife who is also very active in the Kiwanis will be the Division 23 Lt. Governor, responsible for 16 Kiwanis Clubs.

When asked why she pours so much of her time and energy into Kiwanis, and The Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce, serv-

ing as an active board member of both organizations, McIntyre says, "I am encouraged by iberiaBank to participate. I call these service organizations an opportunity for the business community to network with heart. It's a pleasure to do so with my own heart."

Thank you members of the Kiwanis Club for all that you do locally and globally.

Moonlight Melodies Concert this Friday

Deerfield Beach - This Friday, July 22 at 7 p.m., the beachfront Moonlight Melodies Concert Series will continue with a performance by reggae band Stampede Movement.

Bring your beach chair and take in the oceanfront sounds of the Moonlight Melodies concert series, co-sponsored by the Deerfield Beach Cultural Committee and the City of Deerfield Beach. The free concerts are held in front of the Main Beach Parking Lot, SE 1st Street and Ocean Way. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Guests are encouraged to bring beach chairs and blankets for seating comfort.

Future concerts in the series include: Aug. 12 - **Midlife Crisis**; Aug. 26 - **The Tom Jackson Band** and Sept. 9 - **Scott Ringerson, "The Elvis Experience"** Call 954-480-4430.



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Pompano Beach Chamber events July 25 to 29

BBN Enterprise Group, a networking breakfast group meets at Galuppi's Restaurant, 1103 N. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach July 28 at 7:30 a.m. Call 954-295-1320

Business with a Twist, an after work networking group that meets at Packy's Pub, 4480 N. Federal Hwy., Light-house Point, Aug. 3 at 5:30

p.m.. Call 954-941-2940.

Business to Business Expo, a gathering of local businesses to showcase products and services, takes place Sept. 13 at Pompano Citi Centre, 1955 N. Federal Hwy., Pompano Beach. Tables and spaces are available. Call 954-941-2940.

CRA board approves agreement with RMA

By Judy Vik

PELICAN STAFF

Oakland Park – City commissioners, meeting as the board of the Community Redevelopment Agency, unanimously approved an agreement with Redevelopment Management Associates, or RMA, to review the city's CRA plan and develop an action-oriented plan for the next five years.

"Staff has met with the firm and reached an agreement," Ray Lubomski, community and economic development director, informed the board Wednesday. Cost is not to exceed \$57,000.

In the initial phase of the agreement, RMA will review the city's CRA plan and its

interim plan and meet individually with commissioners and with CRA stakeholders in the next 90 days. They will prepare a five-year strategic plan and look at redevelopment capital plans.

In Phase 2, they would provide ongoing services based on the activities the board decides to pursue. The second phase is not covered in the initial cost.

"The agreement includes recommendations for at least eight public/private redevelopment partnerships," City Manager John Stunson noted. "Phase 2 won't proceed until it's approved by the commission."

Mayor Suzanne Boisvenue asked how much the city already has spent on the

downtown area. Lubomski said it was "between \$25 to \$30 million."

Commissioner John Adornato said he had read through the scope of the proposal and was pleased with what he saw. "I like the goal-oriented deliverables and projects we can review and move forward on. We need to move things forward."

Vice Mayor Anne Sallee said she was pleased with the decision to select RMA and looked forward to the presentation.

The mayor was not so pleased.

"This is our second go-round," Boisvenue said. "I want more than somebody to tell us what has to happen. We've spent \$25 million, and we're not where we should be. I'm very concerned about this. I will support this, but by God at the end of the day, there better be something for

See CRA on page 12

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Learn to live by the Girl Scout motto:

"Keep The Place Cleaner Than You Found It".

Thank you for your support!

Four of us girls from Troop 10285 have put together a beach clean up and are going for our Silver Award and would like to continue this project annually.

Follow us on Facebook and at www.floridagirlscouts.com

For more info email: info@floridagirlscouts.com

Sightings

A local calendar for events, meetings and more in North Broward County. Please email calendar items to siren2415@gmail.com or fax to 954-783-0093.

School Supplies Needed

Assumption Catholic Church and the LBTS Chamber are sponsoring a drive to collect school supplies to get local homeless/needly elementary students off to a great new school year. We would like this to be a true community effort throughout Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. Please join us by donating new supplies such as: pens, pencils, rulers, scissors, glue, highlighters, crayons, water paints, paper, notebooks, pocket folders, backpacks, calculators and dictionaries. Collection boxes are available at Assumption

Church, LBTS Town Hall and the LBTS Chamber of Commerce/Welcome Center from August 1 through August 15.

A small donation from each of us will make a big difference for many families. All materials will be given to local schools.

Art

Art over the Bridge features Atilla Lakatoush, Aug. 5 from 8 to 10 p.m. at 9 Hibiscus Ave., Pompano Beach. Live entertainment, caricaturist and sculpturist.

Hurricanes

Hurricane Info- A seminar Aug. 17 from 9 to 11 a.m., presented by David Bernard, WFOR/CBS4 Meteorologist; Chuck Lanza, Broward Emergency Management Director; Chief Oscar Llerena, BSO; Brooke Liddle, American Medical Response; Chief Steve Paine, Volunteer Fire Dept. will focus on the 2011 hurricane season. The event is sponsored by the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Chamber

See SIGHTINGS on page 15

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CRA

Continued from page 11
me to look at.”

The city of Pompano Beach recently extended its contract with RMA for \$698,000 to lead its two CRAs.

Pompano Beach hired Kim Briesemeister and Chris Brown, principals of RMA, in 2009. RMA also recently worked as consultants reviewing the master plan for the town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea and writing a financial plan to implement it.

Shhh!

The babies are already nesting. Watch your step on the beach. It's turtle season in South Florida



Drainage project to start Monday on West Tradewinds Avenue

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea - Construction is scheduled to start Monday, July 25, on West Tradewinds Avenue in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea as crews begin installing new drainage along two blocks of the street.

Work will be done Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The neighborhood project is expected to take 90 to 120 days to complete.

There will be intermittent closures of West Tradewinds during construction. As an alternate traffic route, motorists and residents are advised to use East Tradewinds Avenue.

The \$146,000 exfiltration drainage project, approved by the Town Commission, is aimed to reduce flooding and water pollution. New drainage will be installed along West Tradewinds from South Tradewinds to Miramar Avenue. The work is being done by Miguel Lopez Jr. Inc.

If residents have any questions or comments about the project, call Tiana Washington in the Municipal Services Department at 954-776-5119.

Bug

Continued from page 5

successful lobster hunters each holding their monstrous catch and grinning from ear to ear.

“Catching the Bug” is a good read even if you never intend to put on a wet suit, grab a tickle stick and gloves and go into the water.

It gives those who prefer to stay in the boat, or on shore, a much better appreciation of the skills necessary to capture the wily creatures and of the lore that surrounds the sport.

“Catching the Bug” is available at dive shops in the area for \$19.95 from amazon.com, and at www.chiefy.net. It is also being distributed worldwide by Innovative Scuba out of Colorado.

With more than 600 books

already sold since the June publishing date, Mathie has more publishing ideas. He plans a book on spearfishing, “Catching the Spear-It,” and perhaps a cookbook. He also has the copyright to his “Chiefy” nickname and has a line of t-shirts, caps and beer cozies, also available in nearby dive shops.

Ed's Note: In the spirit of full disclosure, writer Judy Wilson was the editor of “Catching the Bug.” She got paid in lobster.

Pompano National Night Out

BSO's National Night Out at Founders Park, 215 NE 4 St., is set for Aug. 2 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Activities will include free child fingerprinting, give-a-ways and demonstrations from BSO deputies regarding crime and drug prevention skills.

The Pompano Beach Historical Society, Miami Dolphin Cheerleaders and the city's fire department will be on hand.

The city fire museum, located at the park will also be open for tours. The Pompano Beach Fire Department will demonstrate how children and adults can escape a smoke-filled room. Everything at the event is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit www.sheriff.org.

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Summer Sizzle Rib Cook-off draws backyard chefs to the playing field this Saturday, but the final test will be determined by taste buds

By Anne Siren

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach - Some 15 or more amateur grill masters are going to fire up the grills, keep their sauces a secret and shoot for the \$500 prize this Saturday, July 23, at the Rib Cook-off and Baked Goods contest at the E. Pat Larkins Center, 520 MLK Boulevard. And at least two of them have declared the win, but that may just be backyard barbecue jabber. For sure, there will be fine cuisine in Pompano

Beach this weekend.

Rodney Wright, 46, a native of Pompano Beach and a Navy veteran, cooked on the USS Bale and other ships for 10 years. Today, he's the head chef for family and other neighborhood events.

As to a recipe, Wright says it's always different. "It's something that I just love to do," Wright says.

On Thursday, Wright was already making his preparations and lining up his crew which consists of his mother, Melba Blue, and his wife, Essie.



"I wouldn't enter it if I didn't think I would win," he says. But he adds that he and his family love the idea of getting out in the neighborhood and having a good time with friends.

"And who knows? There may be one person out there who will want to take my recipe and turn it into a restaurant," Wright says. "So there could be a new barbe-

cue joint out here."

And that is one of the goals of this event according to Jeanine Parisi, CRA marketing director, who is heading up the event for the city's Community Redevelopment Agency. "It's all about development," she says. "And we would hope that someone in the community would like to come in and open up a restaurant here."

Willie Brown, 67, has been cooking ribs for one restaurant, The Glass Key, at 361 MLK Boulevard. And he will be in the competition on Saturday.

In good humor, Brown says, "Everybody thinks they

can cook ribs. They all have their little secrets, and it's just a lot of fun. Oh, yes, we are going to win. We have a surprise. I am pretty sure we will win. We do old-style, not smoked. We are in between smoked and barbecue. That will give us the upper hand. And we have a secret sauce, but the other secret is the preparation. That's more important than the sauce itself. Our ribs will be very, very tender. A lot of people stay away from pork because of high blood pressure. When you eat my ribs, your pressure won't move. We

See SIZZLE on page 15

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Sizzle

Continued from page 14

drain all of that grease out of the ribs. It's even better without the grease."

Brown is still debating what sides will accompany his ribs.

All chefs will offer their ribs for sale. Local judges, yet unknown, will determine the winners by flavor, appearance, aroma and texture.

About the CRA

The city has two CRA's, East and West, which are funded by the property taxes of owners who live in each CRA area.

The West CRA, about 3,000 acres, is essentially bounded by Copans Road, Powerline Road, Martin Luther King Boulevard and

Northeast First Avenue with some smaller additions.

The East CRA focuses on the beach area and Atlantic Boulevard.

Both CRA's focus on re-developing public property, infrastructure, landscaping, lighting and other aspects to beautify an area. Says Parisi, "We want to create an atmosphere that will attract new business."

At the Cookout, CRA personnel will be on hand to answer questions about incentives, financing opportunities and plans for the West area.

And inside the Larkins Center, a free health fair will offer participants diabetes, blood pressure and HIV tests. Call 954-786-7824 for more information.

Sightings

Continued from page 12

of Commerce. Call 954-776-1000

Events

East Village Uncorked

August 5, 6 to 9 p.m. - Enjoy over 15 restaurants featuring international cuisine, wine tastings from around the world in participating shops, artist exhibits throughout Harbor Village and live entertainment in three locations at this free event open to the public. Various merchants will be hosting in-store specials and giveaways, interactive art projects, and more! Win a \$50 shopping spree! Pick-up a Discovery Tour Guide at participating merchants in Harbor Village, Atlantic Square Shopping Center or at the

CRA information booth. Free Parking is available. Event is located just west of the Intracoastal on East Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach. Visit pompanobeachcra.com or call 954.786.7824 for more

details.

Splashes and Smiles
Swim School's 3rd Annual Family Fun Day. Join us for an exciting day of swimming, diving boards, fire trucks,

See SIGHTINGS on page 21

Input sought for revised Pioneer Park master plan

Deerfield Beach - The city's Parks and Recreation department has scheduled a public meeting to review, and get input on, proposed revisions to the master plan for Pioneer Park. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 31, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at City Hall, 150 NE 2nd Avenue.

Stakeholders and interested parties are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting to review the plan and provide input.

For more information, call 954-426-6898 or e-mail web.parks@deerfield-beach.com

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Beach Vacation Rentals win 4 Superior Small Lodgings' White Glove Awards

Pompano Beach - Cleanliness is typically a traveler's top priority when needing to stay in a hotel room or vacation rental. It couldn't get any better than at four Beach Vacation Rentals properties in Pompano Beach after scoring 100-percent during rigorous surprise inspections recently, to win the 2011 Superior Small Lodgings' White Glove Award.

This year, the Beach Vacation Rentals properties that will receive that prestigious award are: Pineapple Place, Pelican Place, Cottages by the Ocean and Sunny Place. All four properties offer fully furnished beach-area apartments or cottages for short-term stays, for about the price of a single hotel room.

"Our inspection reports show that four of our properties achieved 100-percent excellence in housekeeping, which is not easy to do, especially when they are surprise inspections that last for hours," said Elaine Fitzgerald, owner and operator of Beach Vacation Rentals. "My staff deserves all the credit because of their very high standards. They all go the extra mile to keep our properties clean and attractive inside and out."

Fitzgerald's fifth property, Bahama Beach Club, came in close at 97 percent.

Across the state, thousands of hotels, motels, B&Bs, travel lodges, inns, beach houses, and resorts offer 370,000 rooms to Florida's more than 80 million annual visitors. Only 111, including four of Fitzgerald's properties, have earned this year's highly coveted White Glove Award.

"The White Glove Award is our organization's highest recognition for housekeeping achievement," said Donna Boucher, executive director of Florida's statewide Superior Small Lodgings Association.

Honorees will receive their award at our statewide conference this September. The tough guidelines for Superior Small Lodgings inspections go above and beyond the State of Florida annual inspections that are required of all hotel properties.

"The Superior Small Lodgings inspector pulled the bedding down to check the quality of sheets, mattress pad and pillow covers. She looked for any dust on the light bulbs. She measured the sizes of our soap and towels. She pulled the furniture from the walls to look behind. She checked everything including the silverware and pots and pans," said Fitzgerald. "She inspected our places for several hours. It was nerve-racking; but in the end, we scored 100-percent."

Beach Vacation Rentals offers clean, fully outfitted beach-area cottages and apartments with all of the comforts of home for about the



Elaine Fitzgerald, CEO of Beach Vacation Rentals, with housekeeper Laura Barton and maintenance chief Jaime Delgado at Cottages by the Ocean -- one of four Beach Vacation Rentals properties to win the Superior Small Lodgings' White Glove Award for excellence in housekeeping. [Photo by Valdis Vikmanis]

cost of a single hotel room. Nationally rated as Superior Small Lodgings, they have well-equipped kitchens, king beds, free Wi-Fi, laundry,

BBQ areas, pools and tropical landscaping. They are located in quiet neighborhoods just a short walk to the beach, shops and restaurants. For photos,

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LBTS budget

Continued from page 1

and \$550,000.

Fire Chief Steve Paine said Engine 212 is at least 20 years old and called maintaining it "cost prohibitive."

The VFD budget is funded entirely by fire assessment fees levied on LBTS property owners. The fees are designated for fire-related expenses.

In the proposed budget, the assessment will not increase from the current \$130 per household.

Vice Mayor Stuart Dodd said he'd like to postpone purchase of the truck until the commission has some figures to show it's need. City Manager Connie Hoffmann said the fire vehicles were evaluated last summer and she was told the department should start replacing vehicles this year. It takes nine to 12 months for delivery of a truck.

Commissioner Chris Vincent asked about the money VFD has in reserve.

Hoffmann said that in a normal year, fire assessment fees exceed the budget by a significant amount. The excess funds are placed in reserve for equipment purchases

Biggest increases in the budget are for incentive pay. The VFD proposes to increase the incentive budget for ocean rescue activities by increasing the number of days they are on the beach from 175

to 210 days per year. Cost is \$2,800. "This is a small cost to improve public safety," she wrote.

The incentive pay budget for command staff increases by \$5,000 to insure an officer is always on duty. A \$12,500 incentive pay contingency is included for the first time in case of a hurricane or disaster, which necessitates expanded VFD hours and to cover the need to schedule people to be at the station for unforeseen reasons.

Another increase in the proposed budget is an approximate \$6,000 for a four percent salary increase for the three VFD employees on the payroll: the fire chief, who also acts as fire inspector; the office assistant and fire administrator.

Dodd questioned whether the VFD would waive raises

if the commission sets an example and does the same. Mayor Roseann Minnet asked if the salary increase issue was something they could take back to the membership.

Commissioner Chris Vincent moved the commission approve the proposed budget pending a renegotiation of the four percent salary increase. His motion died for lack of a second. Instead, the commission unanimously approved the budget as proposed.

Chamber budget approved

In other business, commissioners unanimously approved a new budget for the Chamber of Commerce which reflects some savings. Budgeted was \$38,861, a \$3,500 increase, to operate the Chamber Welcome Center eight hours a day, seven days a week from September through May and six days a week in summer months.

But eliminated for next year is \$11,159 for advertising and \$2,500 for Christmas by the Sea. Also on the plus side, the town received \$10,000 from Broward County toward the cost of publishing the Visitor's Guide.

Vice Mayor Stuart Dodd said the commission agreed to fully finance the chamber last year with the understanding that any funds the county provided would come back to the town. He also noted that the chamber gets a free building, maintenance and electricity from the town.

Town Manager Connie Hoffmann said that, according to the contract the town has with the chamber, if the county provided funds for operation of the Welcome Center, the town's contribution would be reduced. "With the county contribution for the guide, (the town's contribution) wouldn't have to be reduced," she said, suggesting the commission may want to change the agreement this year.

"This is the thin end of a very thin wedge. I'm not very happy with that," Dodd said.

Hoffmann said the town's out-of-pocket costs for utilities, maintenance and grounds maintenance at the town building where the chamber operates will be about \$25,000. Costs are down from prior years because no costly building repairs are anticipated.





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Preston

Continued from page 1

to eight core volunteers stood on 1,000 door steps, sometimes in the pouring rain, to solicit support for his candidacy.

Wednesday Preston said he wasn't surprised at the election result, but admitted he knew early on it would be a tough race with "challenges that needed to be embraced."

Sending enthusiastic supporters to the streets wasn't enough he said. "I found you had better walk the district yourself." Now he says he will work as hard to win the respect of those who didn't vote for him and try to bring unity to the district.

Preston, 59, the city's first black firefighter, was a candidate for the seat in the March 2011 election, losing to Poitier by 300 votes. This time his 216 votes edged out social worker Gloria Battle by 15 votes, Rev. Anthony Davis by 53 and community activist Andre Samuels by 137.

Of the district's 8369 registered voters, 661 cast ballots. One was for write-in

candidate David Cody.

Preston will have a few weeks to consider his win. He will not be sworn in until Monday, August 1 when the city commission convenes after its summer break.

One of the big decisions he may have to make is consideration of the contract being proposed by the Broward Sheriff's Office to take over management of the local firefighter/paramedic department. Preston said the issue came up while he was still working for the city, a job he held for 25 years, but at the time had little momentum. "I'll do what is best for all the citizens," he said.

Another pivotal issue may come before the commission in September if petitioners asking that the utility tax be rescinded are successful in their drive to take the tax to referendum. Asked if he would vote to rescind, Preston said this week "I'm not for taxes, but if the city needs money what district will suffer most (without additional revenue)? The tax is a sting, but it may be better than an arrow in the back later on."

Library

Continued from page 3

arts center, and design for that floor will have to be approved by the county before construction begins.

"The second floor is an urgent deadline," Fritz said this week. "The county does not want a delay."

Some options on the table for a cultural center could be a separate building, but the most essential part is that the second floor be compatible with the library, said one official.

Funding for the cultural arts second floor would not be funded by the county. If the center is approved, funding would come from either the CRA or the city.

The entire land acreage, about three acres, of the lot is proposed as a civic/cultural campus with the library as its first building.

Preliminary plans include gardens, out parcels, parking and public art.

But Fritz says the CRA will soon request proposals from design firms before any plans are final.

A selection committee for the design firm will include city, CRA and county members.

The Pompano Beach Library on East Atlantic Boulevard is located on city-owned property. The new library will supplant this one.

On Tuesday, Vice Mayor George Brummer said, "Get bold. I would like to see myself get excited."

Portugalia Restaurant

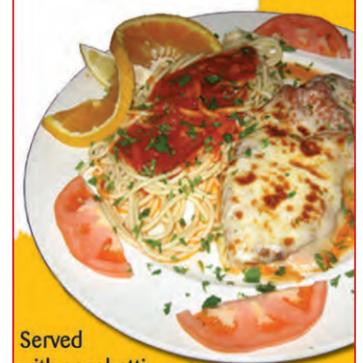
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SWAT

The men and women who respond to grave situations must first pass gruelling tests of mind and body

By Bill Johnson

PELICAN WRITER

Coconut Creek—Fred Hofer wore a bulletproof vest, carried a shotgun and was poised for possible trouble when a dangerous man who had thrown “Molotov cocktails” at people opened his door.

When he saw a police SWAT team he began to retreat, as if to barricade himself in his home, Hofer pulled the trigger on his shotgun. The man in the doorway dropped his rifle, clutched his stomach and fell to the ground. Hofer had indeed shot him – with a beanbag.

In his 13 years as a SWAT



The Coconut Creek SWAT team is funded through proceeds from equipment and automobiles forfeited by criminals in drug-related arrests and for other crimes. [Staff photos]

operator in the Coconut Creek Police Department, neither Hofer nor any other team member has ever shot anyone with real bullets. They have

used Tasers to subdue people who resisted arrest, but they have never seriously hurt anyone.

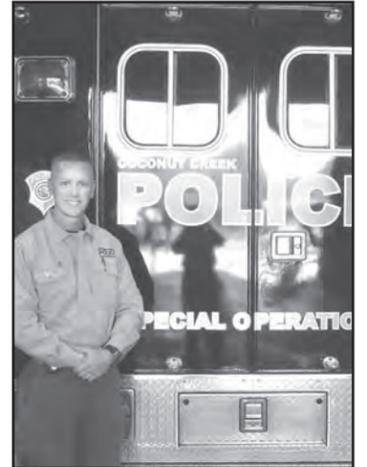
To some extent, Hofer admits there’s a bit of luck in bringing things to a peaceful conclusion without serious injury. But there is also skill and judgment. It also reflects on effective recruiting and training.

Hofer, who serves as executive officer of the SWAT team, takes pride in the team’s preparation and performance. His experience in the SWAT team is ingrained in his law enforcement experience.

SWAT is an acronym for Special Weapons and Tactics.

As Hofer describes it, the SWAT team’s mission is to respond to situations that present grave danger. That includes situations where a hostage has been taken, someone has barricaded himself in a building, or an arrest warrant has to be served on a potentially dangerous person.

To do this as safely as possible, Hofer says, the department wanted “smart people, not just people who are big and tough.” He points out that Coconut Creek SWAT operators don’t get paid extra money. “We don’t want people doing it just for the money,” he says.



Hofer stands by the fire rescue vehicle has been retrofitted to carry all 15 members, along with their equipment.

An officer who volunteers must have at least two years certified police experience, pass a weapons qualification course, pass a written examination on policies and procedures and be interviewed by the entire 15-member team.

The would-be SWAT operator must meet certain physical standards. The candidate must run and climb over and obstacle course twice and run a quarter-mile -- all in ten minutes. There is also time spent in the state-of-the-art training simulator. The officer faces a wall-size screen and interacts with life-size characters in various scenarios. This demonstrates how he reacts under stress and handles himself in different situations.

Once selected, a new team member goes to SWAT school – two weeks of intensive training, 10 or 12 hours a day.

Recruiting is probably the most important aspect of training, Hofer says, because the department makes a considerable investment in the new members.

All the SWAT team members have other work responsibilities but can be called together as a team at any moment. Hofer is a police sergeant on the night shift. In the last ten years, he says, the team has been deployed approximately 50 times, not counting delivering arrest warrants. They deliver warrants about six times a year.

As a team, the members continue specialized training – at least 10 hours a month. Snipers train an additional four to eight hours a month, and each members has individual training for four to six hours a month.

Training also involves what’s called the “shoot house” – a small house in which the team practices various scenarios. The house

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SWAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19



Target practice is an ongoing training program.

is designed so that walls can be reconfigured to create different – and unpredictable – floor patterns and situations.

Over the years, technology has improved equipment and techniques. Hofer remembers when the team had an old six-person van with no air conditioning. They were equipped with a crowbar and sledgehammer to get into a building if necessary. Now they have a kind of shotgun with special projectiles. It can blow the lock out of a door without destroying the door and without hurting anyone on the other side. The communication system, protective vests and gas

masks are much better.

A fire rescue vehicle has been retrofitted to carry all 15 members, along with their equipment. And there is also a \$350,000 on-site firearms range for convenient weapons training. It is built on a trailer-truck chassis.

All this new equipment, Hofer points out, is at no cost to taxpayers. Other than regular salaries, the SWAT team operates on proceeds from equipment and automobiles forfeited by criminals in drug-related arrests and for other crimes.

As executive officer of the team, Hofer is an example of physical fitness for SWAT

operators. He is what the military calls “squared away” – crisp starched uniform, military-style haircut (“high and tight), and good posture, lean and wiry. This is the result of 10 workouts a week – running, jogging, swimming, biking and some weight lifting. He also participates – along with other team members -- in a few triathlons each year. These events include a quarter-mile swim, a 10 to 14 miles bicycle course, and a 3.1-mile run.

Steeped in team spirit, Hofer was reluctant to focus any attention on himself or to be photographed alone, preferring to direct attention to the entire team. He has thrived on the team spirit and camaraderie – aspects of the work that attracted him to it in the first place.

“My best friends are here,” he says. “I trust them with my life.” In his line of work that trust can be tested at any time.



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RUT

Continued from page 4

the petition, fine," Hanson said this week. "I won't sit by and let them pass around rumors." Information supporting the tax has also been posted on the city's website.

Hanson said he was unaware of the situation until he called Bratton around 7 p.m. as was his wife, Amy, who manages the building at Constitution Park.

Robb said this week, "We feel as though the presence of police deterred the voters from entering the park to

sign our petitions. The people of Deerfield Beach should be made aware of the cheap shot the city took to stymie our petition drive." She said volunteers obtained 200 signatures, but she felt the location could have delivered her 600 signatures. The patrol car was on the scene for about 90 minutes.

In describing the benefits of the utility tax over real estate taxes, the city suggests residents of District 1 and District 4 pay more in property taxes than those in District 2 and District 3, and are, in effect, carrying the tax burden

for the entire city. That statement caused Robb to make the class warfare claim.

RUT has until September 28 to collect 4,500 voters' signatures, which if certified by the voting registrar, could force an election asking that the utility tax be rescinded. The tax was approved by the commission in May after the administration estimated it would raise \$6 million next year, enough to lower property taxes by one mil and float a bond for park and infrastructure improvements. This week, Hanson said he is relying heavily on the new tax in his preparation of the new budget.

The tax was approved by a 3-1 vote, Dist. 1 Commissioner Joe Miller, dissenting.

Sighting

Continued from page 15

snorkeling, games, raffle prizes, and much more! The event is FREE!! We will be raffling off amazing items with ALL proceeds going directly to The Children's Diagnostic Center. Saturday, August 13, 2011 from 4:30p.m.- 7:30p.m. at The Pompano Aquatic Center 820 NE 18th Ave. Pompano Beach, FL 33060. Call 754-246-0665 for more info.

Focal Point Fundraiser - Duffy's Sports Grill, 401 N. Federal Hwy, Deerfield Beach, July 26 from 4 to 10 p.m. 10 percent of all proceeds benefit NE Focal Point. Call 954-480-4460.

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See SIGHTING on page 25



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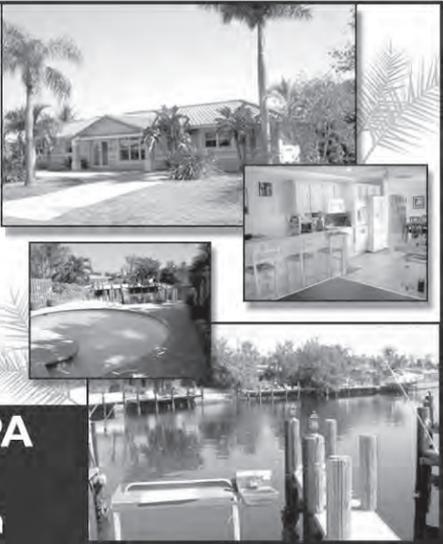
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Millage, fire fees going up in Oakland Park

By Judy Vik

PELICAN STAFF

Oakland Park – City commissioners approved preliminary millage and fire assessment rates at Wednesday’s meeting.

They set the preliminary millage at 6.33, up from 5.72, generating about \$1.1 million. The residential fire assessment fee was increased \$18 from \$149 to \$167, the first increase in five years.

The vote was 3-2 in both cases, Mayor Suzanne Boisvenue and Commissioner Jed Shank dissenting.

Final rates will be set in September after public hearings. The millage rate can be lowered but not raised.

Commissioner John Adornato

expressed concern that the proposed budget includes eliminating nine positions and increasing park fees. He said more options for cuts should be looked for by September, and a code enforcement person should be reinstated.

Vice Mayor Anne Sallee said eliminating the code officer was a difficult decision, with community appearance one of the city’s priorities. “I don’t think we want to see a backwards slide,” she said.

“Perhaps the only benefit of a horrific economy is it affords us the opportunity to find a lean, mean, well-run city,” Commissioner Shari McCartney said. “This city has done an excellent job of heading in that direction over

the past couple years,” she added. “I understand this is a proposed rate, but I’m not yet convinced we have hit our baseline. I still intend to find our baseline.”

Two residents spoke in favor of increases in both millage and fire assessment.

Jack Doren, noting property values are down 17.4 percent, said, “Let’s bite the bullet, do the fiscally responsible thing and vote for a small increase in millage rate and fire assessment.”

Mitchell Stollberg, a member of the city’s Code Enforcement Board, spoke against eliminating a code officer. “When do we start at the top (with cuts) in car allowances and insurances?” he asked.

“Without increasing (fees) to the fire department, I’m afraid those services will go down,” Stollberg said, urging commissioners to raise the millage rate and fire fees.

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2012 Chrysler 300C: a familiar drive but sporting a new style

By Ric Green

PELICAN WRITER

Through the years, the Chrysler 300 has had the reputation of being both stylish and different. But it was in late 2004 when the boxy designed 2005 edition wowed the automotive faithful with its prominent retro-look square grill that went on to become a symbol of street cred. The 2005 300 was a strong performer with its rear wheel drive and V8 bolted to a

older midsize Mercedes-Benz E-Class platform as a result of the Daimler-Benz-Chrysler partnership. Now comes the 2012 300 with the traditional low-roof look, boxy lines and big wheel arches, but the design has been softened a bit. The front grill square grill is still there but it too has been softened a bit. Chrysler's advertising states that a new workout regimen and an Italian trainer have revitalized this



its engineers tackled everything by revising most of this 15-year-old platform to bring it up to speed. They reworked the steering; added suspension upgrades and better four wheel disc brakes. It is obvious that the changes came together and it the driver that benefits. Inside, the look is positively new Chrysler as it sheds its rental car rock-hard plastic for luxurious styles made from stylish new materials. A big central touch-screen display is the focus in the 300's symmetrical dashboard. It is also home to the company's new infotainment system. Fast and functional,

See CHRYSLER on page 25

once-superstar back to a formidable athlete. But I would have to say that a trip to charm school might have also been in the mix

as the 2012 has more style and class than its predecessor. The 2012 300c is very special ride. Chrysler says

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 3835 26° 15.5' N 80° 04.9' W Hillsboro Inlet, Coast Guard Light Station

Friday, July 22 High 1:29 AM Low 7:58 AM High 2:08 PM Low 8:19 PM	Monday, July 25 High 3:57 AM Low 10:34 AM High 4:58 PM Low 11:06 PM	Thursday, July 28 Low 12:49 AM High 6:53 AM Low 1:07 PM High 7:40 PM
Saturday, July 23 High 2:12 AM Low 8:47 AM High 3:00 PM Low 9:13 PM	Tuesday, July 26 High 4:57 AM Low 11:28 AM High 5:56 PM Low 11:59 PM	This Week's Tide Tables should not be used for navigational purposes. Boaters should confirm tables with the Coast Guard Weather Station Information taken from www.saltwatertides.com
Sunday, July 24 High 3:02 AM Low 9:40 AM High 3:57 PM Low 10:09 PM	Wednesday, July 27 High 5:57 AM Low 12:19 PM High 6:50 PM	

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Chrysler

Continued from page 24

the touch-screen's menus are intuitive and clear. The test vehicle I drove had a base price of \$38,170. A new \$2,795 option is

Chrysler's new Safety Tec package. It adds a full slate tech toys that includes: adaptive HID headlamps, forward collision warning, blind spot and cross path detection, adaptive cruise control and front and rear

parking sensors are some of the cooler toys. With a few other options, everything in this 300C rolled off the lot at \$45,725. The C designation brings with it a 363-horsepower power plant. The 300's HEMI 5.7 Liter V8 is strong and coupled with a

five-speed automatic transmission giving it the power to dance when asked. Adding to the numbers is a solid and accessible 394 lb-ft. of torque. Improved and enhanced in almost every way, the 300C makes as strong a case for itself now as it did back

when it first rolled through the streets in 2005. Under its familiar but new style, everything is dramatically improved, making the 300C an easy to justify upgrade if you're in the market for big luxury and performance without a premium car price tag.

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Sighting

Continued from page 21

package plus a vinyl banner and advertisement of your company throughout the evening. Call Karla at 508-332-0153 or Nona at 954-304-4248. Deadline, July 15.

Leisure

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 142 has Bingo on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Post, 171 SW 2 St., Pompano Beach. Food is available from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 954-942-2448.

The NE Focal Point Alzheimer's Day Care Center, located at 301 N.W. 2nd Avenue in Deerfield Beach, offers a weekly Caregiver's Support Group every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Clubs

Zonta International meets

See SIGHTING on page 26

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Weekly Fishing Report

Capt. RJ Boyle is an experienced angler in South Florida. His studio is located in Lighthouse Point. Call 954-420-5001..

Don't be fooled by the calm ocean, the swords are big and biting

In the past few days the ocean has been incredibly calm, Yet the daytime swordfish bite has been anything but calm with boats averaging 3 to 4 shots a day.

Seems most of the fish caught this past week have been above average in size to boot. What a great combo a flat ocean and productivity on the fishing end.

Just like we reported last week the dolphin bite has been

steady with strong bunches of schoolie size fish mixed with larger fish with them in the 25 to forty plus range.

A lot of boats have been sifting through many bonito bites to get their shot at a wahoo, also staying consistent with last weeks report.

The yellowtails and mutton snapper bite has fallen off the radar a little bit, yet it is still above average in the 80 to 130 depth. So take advantage of the calm sea, especially for those who get a little quezy at the sight of a ripple

Have fun and get tight
RJ

Sightings

Continued from page 25

on the third Tuesday of the month at Duffy's Diner, 401 N. Federal Hwy., Deerfield Beach at 11:15 a.m. Zonta International is a classified service organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women locally and worldwide through service and advocacy. Call 561-392-2223.

Health

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See SIGHTINGS on page 28

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Rescue

Continued from page 1

some clouds coming in but thought it was no big deal, just some rain clouds," Samuel recounts. "But before you knew it, the wind picked up like crazy so we decided to head in and started pulling up our lines."

"Within 15 minutes, the waves went from 1 to 2 feet to 5 to 7 feet, it really just picked up," Rick says. "I would call it a squall but it wasn't, we were in gale-force winds, in excess of 70 miles an hour." Dark ominous clouds blanketed the skies. Before they knew it, the group was in the middle of a freak storm.

As the crew hastily reeled in their lines to head back to shore, Nick spotted something unusual. Off in the distance,

caught in the mean waves, "I just happened to see this guy hanging on to a boat. I couldn't believe it. We were all in disbelief for a couple of seconds." The man's boat had capsized. As he clung to it, it was obvious his energy was spent.

That's when the fishermen swung in to action. Boat Captain Steven spun the fishing vessel around amid the choppy seas and punishing winds. Waves of water came crashing on to the boat's deck as the men tried several times to pull the man in distress from the water. He grabbed a life ring the crew tossed him. Finally, on their fourth attempt, Rick grabbed the 8-foot pole he had fished out of the water prior to leaving the harbor and stretched it out to the man on the rear or aft of the vessel.



Nick Santagado, Samuel Cate, Steven Westerholt, Rick Macher aboard *Dig It!*

boat and Nick immediately started CPR. The Coast Guard boarded and also attempted to resuscitate the man. "It was pretty obvious he wasn't breathing very well," Sam says.

Back on shore, 51-year-old Torres was pronounced dead.

"I was pretty choked up," Sam remembers. "I never had anything like that happen to me in my life."

"We said a prayer on dock for the friend who died," Rick adds.

A week later in Davie, the anglers gathered to pay their respect at Torres' funeral service.

They've gone fishing since, ever mindful that one never knows what may await them in a day.

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"When I grabbed that pole earlier, I knew God had put it there at the dock by providence," Rick says.

Pole in hand, Rick and Nick pulled a battered Mercedes Sullivan from the waters onto the boat.

But the rescues weren't over. Mercedes spoke. "My friend, my friend is still in the water," Rick recalls.

In that moment, "We went from euphoria to you-got-to-be-kidding-me," Samuel told *The Pelican*.

After the Coast Guard arrived and transferred Mercedes onto their vessel, there wasn't any real discussion about whether the five friends would go hunting for the missing man. By then the winds had subsided. Skipper Steven steered the boat alongside a trail of debris on the way into the Hillsboro Inlet. Forty-five minutes after making the initial rescue, they found Mercedes' friend, Jose Torres, floating in the water. They hauled him into the

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Night Out Against Crime

On Aug. 2, Wilton Manors will hold its "28th Annual National Night Out."

From 7 to 10 p.m., residents are encouraged to spend time outside, hosting block parties and cookouts in order to present a united community against crime.

The event is organized by the residents of Wilton Manors with co-sponsorship from the Wilton Manors Police Department.

Residents had until July 15 to submit forms notifying the police department of their scheduled gathering.

Wilton Manors residents can look forward to strengthening their bond with the police community through flashlight walks, safety fairs and anticrime rallies.

In 1984, the National Association of Town Watch or NATW, a non-profit organization, organized the first National Night Out event. Their goal was to increase awareness and encourage participation in local anticrime efforts.

According to NATW records, last year's National Night Out event involved 37 million people in more than 15,110 communities from all 50 states. The traditional events of NNO are lights on porch vigils. Since 1984, activities have expanded to include neighborhood walks, meetings, safety fairs and block parties.

For more information, you can contact Sergeant Shawn Chadwick at 954-390-2172 or visit the Wilton Manors police department online at www.wmpd.org.

Sightings

Continued from page 26

Lectures

Sons of MyStro, violin virtuosos perform Aug. 4 at the E. Pat Larkins Civic Center, 520 MLK Blvd., Pompano beach. Call 954-454-9800.

Vivace Heritage Youth Orchestra performs Aug. 12 in Plantation, featuring Carole "Marour" Demesmin and Erol Josue. Call 954-793-1172.

Outdoors

Annual August Broward Sierra Club Picnic at the Beach, Aug. 7 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at John U. Lloyd Park, Dania Beach (Pelican Pavilion). Cost is \$5. Call Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913. Food & beverages provided, but bring a dish to share if you like and please bring your own non-disposable dishes and utensils.

Balistreri to host garage/tag sale Saturday, July 23

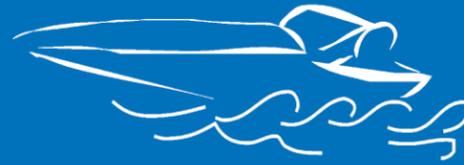
Great prices and lots of goodies for everyone, from furniture, clothes, bicycles, costume jewelry and assorted decorative accessories.

The sale takes place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is to benefit an employee who is ill. The sale will take place in The Balistreri Realty parking lot, 1350 N. Federal Highway, Pompano Beach, FL 33062

If you have any question or would like to donate any items, please call Aggie Stern 561-886-1682

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