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Friday, May 3, 2019 - Vol. XXVII, Issue 18

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Tourism council looks favorably at snorkeling reef

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN STAFF

Deerfield Beach – Members of the Tourist Development Council [TDC] seemed impressed by this city’s plan to build a near-shore artificial reef and reacted positively last week to Vice Mayor Todd Drosky’s request for \$150,000.

They voted unanimously to recommend funding the project.

Patrick Bardes, the city’s coastal and waterway coordinator, presented the council with a drawing and a sales pitch: This city has 3 million visitors a year and, in the last 14 years, years,

See REEF on page 25

Pompano Beach native returns with air show

By Michael d’Oliveira

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach – Ever since he gazed up at the Navy jets crisscrossing the sky in the air shows of his youth, Clarence Presley knew he wanted to be in the Navy.

Now, as a corpsman attached to the famed U.S. Navy Blue Angels, Presley is one of the behind the scenes

See AIR SHOW on page 24

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Amy Johnson, of Sea Salt Fresh Fish Market, shows off homemade smoked fish dip at last week’s Pompano Beach Seafood Festival. [Story on page 18]

Pompano Beach senior heads for MIT with a helping hand from Bill and Melinda Gates scholarship

By Judy Vik

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach – When Rachel Raybuck graduates on May 31 from Pompano Beach High School, she will have her diploma and a full scholarship to MIT this fall.

She ranked 15th in her graduating class of 281. She says her goal was to be No. 3 “... so I wouldn’t have to give a speech. I’m OK with 15,” she said.

She is one of 300 students nationwide to receive the scholarship funded by Microsoft founder Bill Gates through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

She chose MIT because its STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering Math] program. She will study engineering or computer science. After a recent visit to the school in Cambridge, she says “The people



Rachel Raybuck, Gates scholarship winner, is flanked by her proud parents, Lois Raybuck and Salvador Salgado-Jimenez. [Staff]

were pretty nice. There’s a supportive faculty, and they want you to succeed.”

Rachel’s mother, Lois Raybuck, shares her daughter’s happiness and “the relief that she can go to school

See POMPANO SCHOLAR on page 9

Lonergan to seek supervisor of election seat

By Judy Vik

PELICAN STAFF

Oakland Park – Commissioner Tim Lonergan announced this month on Facebook that he will run for Broward County Supervisor of Elections [SOE] in 2020.

Lonergan was first elected to the commission in 2013 and reelected in 2016, serving both as commissioner and mayor. He also served as president of the Broward League of Cities. With more than a year remaining in his present term as commissioner, state law requires that Lonergan resign his office prior to the 2020 qualifying

See LONERGAN on page 5

Mitchell-Moore field will have synthetic turf

After residents argued for natural grass, city says residents reversed the call and will accept synthetic turf

By Anne Siren

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach – Participants at the Mitchell-Moore Park improvements planning session did not agree with the architects of Walters Zackria Associates when it came to using synthetic turf on their playing field.

Residents met at the E. Pat Larkins Center Monday to hear plans for the 16-acre park adjacent to the Mitchell-Moore Community Center.

Park improvements are budgeted at \$1.3 million from a government bond passed by voters in 2018. But over a

See MITCHELL-MOORE on page 16

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New shuffleboard club aims to preserve courts at McNab Park

By Michael d'Oliveira

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach – The new McNab Park shuffleboard club doesn't have a name yet. But its members have a purpose beyond mere enjoyment of the game: saving the park's shuffleboard courts.

"There are people all over the city interested in playing shuffleboard, and they are signing up. No one knows it exists in McNab Park, [2250 E. Atlantic Blvd.] If there is so much interest in it, the courts at McNab Park should remain intact," wrote Kay McGinn in an email to *The Pelican*.

According to city officials, McNab is the only city park with a shuffleboard court.

Tim Golly, who along with Kay Johnson and McGinn, said he didn't appreciate how nice the shuffleboard courts were until he played there.

He said as a young man, he associated the game with "old folks."

Now that he's older, he understands the appeal. "I don't know if the novelty will wear out but I enjoyed it."

This team's first game was last week. The next is set for Wednesday, May 15 and is open to the public.

But playing at this court may be short-lived as plans are in the works to rezone the park as commercial property.

Under a proposed Community Redevelopment Agency [CRA] plan, which may or may not be approved



Tim Golly and Kay Johnson. [Photos courtesy]



Kay McGinn.

in the future, the shuffleboard courts, along with the tennis court, playground, basketball court and other park amenities could be demolished along with the present chamber building on the same property.

CRA board members want to move the McNab house, currently about a half-mile west on Atlantic Boulevard, to the north end of the park.

CRA board members want to convert the house into a privately run restaurant and possibly add a bed and breakfast or other type of lodging on the site.

Last month the CRA board voted 5-1 to move the house. Board member Beverly Perkins voted 'no.'

Board Chair Rex Hardin said talk about the plan, before the vote to move the house, was "putting the cart before the horse."

To date, funding for the move has not been approved. State law prohibits the use of CRA funds [supported with a portion of property taxes] to be used for city projects. The McNab House is not within the CRA boundaries.

Built between 1924 and 1926, the McNab House, 1736 E. Atlantic Blvd., was recently sold to a developer, Atlantic Residences. If the house is not moved, the developer plans to demolish it.

While members of the Pompano Beach Historical

Society and other residents spoke out in favor of preserving the house by moving it to the park, McGinn says the park should be preserved as it is now.

Board members hope converting the house to a restaurant will bring new life to the park and attract more people. Those opposed say the park doesn't need new life; the park is actively used by neighborhood residents.

Ken Offenther, a member

of the Pompano Beach Shuffleboard Club, board member for the Florida Shuffleboard Association and 2013 International Shuffleboard Association champion, said the courts already provide an opportunity to bring more people to the park.

Offenther said shuffleboard play is gaining popularity, especially among millennials.

Removal of the courts, he said, would hurt the city's ability to capitalize on tournaments and draw visitors, who then spend money at local businesses.

He also criticized the city for not doing enough to promote the courts.

At a recent CRA board meeting, Offenther said, "Please do not allow its destruction and the loss of a potential grand success." he said to board members.

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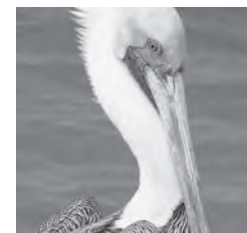
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Grand vision but few details offered at Isle Casino meeting

By Michael d'Oliveira

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach – In a packed Herb Skolnick Center Tuesday, the developer of the Isle Casino offered up a grand vision but few details for the 223-acre property.

“I can’t tell you how excited I am,” said David Cordish, CEO and chairman of The Cordish Companies.

Cordish Companies will develop and operate the area around the casino. Eldorado Resorts, which owns casinos across the country, owns Isle and surrounding land.

The project, which includes an expansion and renovation of the casino, is a joint venture by Cordish and Eldorado.

Cordish told the standing room only audience that the 223-acre Isle Casino property would be redeveloped over a period of 10 years.

Plans for the property include a hotel, residential units, retail, restaurants, entertainment venues, plazas, green space, movie theater, corporate offices, supermarkets, co-working space, town center and a lake.

Previous projects built by Cordish include the Seminole

See ISLE CASINO on page 12

No more room at the shelter for kittens; Broward looks for foster families

By Anne Siren

PELICAN STAFF

Those new litters of kittens showing up throughout the county are signs of spring. And they are on their own unless residents step up to help.

Officials at Broward County Animal Care are asking that residents take these precautions if they come upon a litter.

Observe: The mother cat offers the best chance for new kittens’ survival. If a litter is found without a mother, she may be seeking food.

Wait: Check every two hours to see if mom returns.

Act: Removing kittens should be a last resort, but if the litter has been abandoned, gather them and take them to the shelter, located at 2400 SW 42 St., Fort Lauderdale.



Broward County Animal Care will supply foster parents with food and medical needs. [Courtesy]

The shelter will offer medical help, but they do not have room to keep the babies. They are looking for foster parents.

“Every year, as the weather gets warmer, we become flooded with litters of kittens,” said Lauralei Combs,

director, Broward County Animal Care. “We need the community to help us care for them. We do not have the resources to care for underage kittens as they need to be fed every two hours, around the clock. “Our staff can teach you how to take care of them; they will not thrive on their own without human interaction.”

By fostering, residents can care for the kittens until they are old enough to be placed for adoption.

“Milk Kits,” with kitten formula and supplies, will be provided as well as medical needs to keep them healthy so that they can be placed into adoption.

To foster a kitten litter, visit Broward.org/animal or e-mail foster@broward.org or call 954-359-1313.

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Novel idea taps into people's devotion to their dogs; it's a snack waggin'

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach – Courtney Walter hopes to convert her love of animals into a successful business.

That prospect seems probable.

Her food truck – Bones & Cones, The Snack Waggin' – was one of the more popular concessions at the last two Pompano Beach Green Markets of the season.

Next week, she will take her rig to Miami for an event and after that to Jupiter for a dog-rescue promotion. Her next local appearance will be at Pompano's Old Town Untapped, June 7.

A member of two rescue organizations, Paws of Love and Saving Sage, Walter has plenty of support. Human and animal friends lined up Saturday to get a tasty, homemade treat – a mixture of fruit, juice and ice – served in a cup or cone.

"I keep it simple and healthy," she said.

The owner of two rescues dogs, Cooper and Cody, Walter said opening her food



Courtney Walter opened her food truck for dogs last weekend at the Pompano Beach Green Market. [Courtesy]

wagon is a way to keep her pets in her life. "If you want to know my inspiration, it is my dogs," she said. "I can bring them with me."

She has put water bowls, chairs and tables outside Bones & Cones so dogs and their owners can chill.

"People can plan an outing knowing there will be a place and a treat for their pets," she said. "It's a way for them to have quality time together."

Walters first thought about

See SNACK WAGGIN' on page 27'



Jessica Suhr gives her dog, Lucy, a treat from Bones & Cones.

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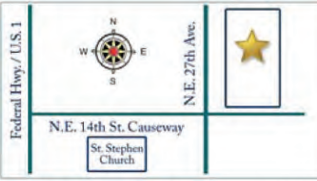


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Love, unity, abortion discussed at city prayer event

By Michael d'Oliveira

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach – The prayers offered at this city’s National Day of Prayer event yesterday included thoughts on national unity, love, guidance for local and national politicians, and abortion.

Held outside city hall, Mayor Rex Hardin led the annual gathering, which coincides with the National Day of Prayer. Joining him were residents, city employees and Commissioner Tom McMahon. Dr. Larry Vinkemulder, associate pastor at First Baptist Church Pompano Beach, presided.

“It’s a good opportunity to come together and pray for all of us,” said Hardin before the event began.

The theme, he said, was from Bible verse John 13:34.

“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Hardin called for love and prayer to be daily affirmations, not just once a year.

See **DAY OF PRAYER** on page 21

Loneragan

Continued from page 1

period.

Addressing the SOE position, he wrote, “Efficient, fair, successful and timely elections are critical. It would be more than a goal; it is a promise!”

Loneragan’s second four-year term on the Oakland Park Commission ends in November 2020.

Quality of life improvements, smart growth and public safety have been some of Loneragan’s priorities as city commissioner. He advocated to help secure the \$41 million funding for urgently needed new construction at Northeast High School.

As president of the Broward League of Cities, Loneragan says he has advocated for the needs of more than 1.9 million residents of Broward County. He currently serves on the Broward County Water Advisory Board; Broward County Climate Change Task Force and the National League of Cities 2019 board



Loneragan [Courtesy]

of directors. He serves as the At-Large Member representing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender local officials.

In 2018, Loneragan was named “Municipal Leader of the Year” by the Broward County Council of Professional Fire Fighters and named a “2018 Home Rule Hero” by the Florida League of Cities. He is an active member of the Oakland Park Volunteer Corps and has regularly participated in community service since 2006.

Loneragan and his husband Floyd Anderson were legally married on their 20th anniversary together.

Loneragan, a Democrat, says he will “always continue to represent the best interests of all people, regardless of their backgrounds, differences and uniqueness.”

He says that every resident of Broward County, eligible to register to vote, regardless of party affiliation, should

register, educate themselves on the candidates and current issues and vote in all elections.

As supervisor of elections, he says it will be his priority to guide the team to consistent operational excellence.

He notes that Broward County held its first primary and general election in 1916 with six precincts and a total registration of 908 voters. Today, there are 577 precincts with more than 1.2 million voters. “Now, more than ever, it’s critically important that the elections office actively engage with the residents in the communities throughout the 31 municipalities of Broward County,” he says. “As supervisor of elections, I’ll ensure that happens!”

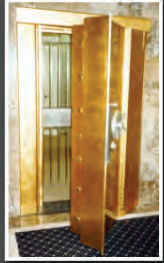
Peter Antonacci, appointed to the post by Gov. Ron DeSantis, has said he does not plan to run for the position. He succeeded Brenda Snipes, who resigned over issues in the 2018 election.

One other Democrat, Ruth Carter-Lynch, has filed to run for the position. So far no Republican candidates have filed.


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Anne Siren, publisher

Opinion

CERT classes are lessons in surviving disaster, helping the community

By Anne Siren

COMMENTARY

We can no longer expect safety at every turn in our lives. We face falls, car accidents, hurricanes, cyclones and of course attacks on schools and religious institutions.

But we do not have to live in fear or cower in the face of disaster. We must prepare ourselves and our children on the fundamentals of survival.

My daughter and I have recently enrolled in CERT classes. CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] literally emerged from the Sept. 11, 2001 [9/11] attacks on our country. The 9/11 Commission reviewed the national response and determined numerous failures, including communication, leadership and response.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] took those failures under study, determined pro-active plans and changed our world forever.

While a great deal of the changes are at the national and state levels, the change that impacts the rest of us: business persons, teachers, religious leaders, students, boaters, chamber members and elected officials, is at the local level.

And that is CERT.

The CERT manual emerged from the 9/11 commission and was approved by FEMA and Homeland Security.

CERT is not meant for official first responders: First responders, fire and police officials, are CERT teachers for the lay person with little knowledge about survival.

CERT is a class, offered by the Pompano Beach Fire Department. For years, residents have been active in this course. There are plenty of CERT residents in town.

When the Jan. 4 sewage spill poured millions of gallons of raw sewage into local canals, fire officials called on CERT graduates to help get hundreds of signs on door handles, warning residents to stay out of the canal waters.

In class, we have learned to make sure our own families are in safe conditions before we head out to assist our neighbors.

CERT classes are free to all residents. As hurricane season approaches, joining a nine-week, once weekly CERT class could be the best preparation for this season and for the rest of your life.

Members of our CERT class are learning simple first aid; we are learning when to take a pulse and where to take it. We accept that we will be leaders in our neighborhood for search and triage.

We accept that we may be victims; we accept we may be first responders. But either way, neither nature's fury nor one person's hatred will make us cower in fear.

This is a must-take class.

Call 954-786-7920 to sign up for the next class.

Opinion

Those that would "re-invent" Pompano Beach may not have the residents' best interests in mind

By Phyllis Franklin

GUEST COLUMNIST

As a long-time resident of this area, I have long felt that I have a sense of what makes Pompano Beach special.

As the city moved into the mid-2000s, some guided enhancement was definitely needed, but a "re-invention" that includes multiple takings of public park lands is something else entirely.

Redevelopment Management Associates [RMA, the CRA consultants] say they are experts at "Re-inventing Your City," and they even have a self-published book by that title.

However, I know that I am not alone in saying that I don't want to have my city completely "re-invented" and overdeveloped to the point it will no longer be recognizable as the neighborly, family-friendly, sports-oriented, beach-oriented special place we have long enjoyed.

How many South Florida cities have both a fishing pier and an inlet with a fishing fleet?

How many South Florida cities have such a wide and (almost) unspoiled public beach?

And how many South Florida cities have sports programs the equal of Pompano's?

From baseball to bocce ball, from soccer to swimming, our parks serve all ages: East side, west side and all around the town our city parks offer all sorts of activities, including sitting and talking to other park goers or just enjoying looking at the green space or the ocean.

Many of us have made new friends at the parks.

There is a wise saying that goes something like this: "To achieve real success, build on your own strengths, rather than investing in improving on your weaknesses."

I wonder if the RMA consultants have ever understood Pompano Beach as a unique and special city that might not be a good fit for a one-size-fits-all redevelopment blueprint.

Sometimes I feel that RMA, the CRA, and the powers-that-be are working to create a city that we will no longer recognize.

"A Destination," some call it; and Delray Beach is often mentioned as the standard to be emulated.

However, according to a recent newspaper article, Delray Beach's redevelopment as a "destination" is now bringing in raucous crowds, with the example given of over 260 people crowded into an establishment with a capacity of 59. According to the article, headlined *Busy clubs under increased scrutiny*, "There are safety issues, and the police and fire department are working overtime."

Do we really want to give up our neighborly, family-friendly Pompano Beach and end up being a raucous party-hearty town?

Pompano Beach has many wonderful parks that are part of our city's culture. Robert L. McNab Memorial Park currently offers tennis courts, shuffleboard courts, a basketball court, a playground, and a small civic building for neighborhood meetings and events. The park serves the neighborhood and the city.

It appears that the city commissioners are being lobbied by RMA consultants and city staff prior to meetings where the plan to move the McNab House to McNab Park will be discussed.

I would urge commissioners to keep in mind that the priorities of consultants and staff can be job-related, and are not always the same as the priorities of the residents that they, commissioners, have been elected to represent.

From what I have seen and heard, the McNab House and McNab Park could both be saved if city commissioners would listen to the residents and be willing to look at alternatives outside the CRA District.

According to at least one city commissioner, the city could fund the move without having to use CRA funds.

The Richardson House in Wilton Manors is a beautiful example of how a family and a city can work together to preserve a historical property -and the family's legacy-for generations to come.

Wherever the blame falls regarding the current predicament with the McNab House, it wasn't "our" fault so "we" should not be paying the price with the loss of a public park.

As *The Pelican* published on these pages on March 29, 2019: "[Taking McNab Park] will set a precedent, paving the way to more park takeovers."

In Pompano Beach, parks are a part of our culture; they are sacrosanct.

Let's keep our parks off-limits for commercialization.

**Send your letters to the editor to
pelicanfrontdesk@gmail.com**

Colohatchee Park renovations complete, new dog park is open



By Gary Resnick

WILTON MANORS
COMMISSIONER

Wilton Manors – The City of Wilton Manors recently celebrated the grand reopening of Colohatchee Park by welcoming residents, neighbors and their pups to the new pet-friendly park. Colohatchee is unique; it offers a peaceful, winding boardwalk through a natural mangrove preserve along the Middle River.

Visitors can observe nature and wildlife along the tidal habitat.

That boardwalk leads to several acres of park space

that now includes two incredible, shaded dog play areas, a paved trail for running or walking, a large pavilion with seating and tables and a covered fitness zone with exercise stations.

Since reopening on March 30, over 130 happy pet owners have obtained permits to use the park so their pets can run and play in the enclosed dog park [up from 55 permits before the renovation].

The park was designed based on ideas and priorities recommended by residents through focus groups and advisory board meetings.

The goal was to create a fun, open, comfortable park that expanded opportunities for active recreation for people and pets and to create community connections among residents. We prioritized the project as an opportunity to invest \$497,406, including \$50,000 of state grant funding, into our parks system, which we believe is the best city parks system in the county.



Wilton Manors' newly renovated dog park. [Courtesy]

The park is now open five days a week. To ensure the safety of our pets, a simple-to-obtain permit is required and will provide you with a key fob to open the gate of the dog play zone.

Please visit Hagen Park at 2020 Wilton Drive with proof of current rabies vaccination and your photo ID.

If you are a Wilton Manors resident, please also provide proof of residency for discounted rates.

We are very proud of the new Colohatchee Park improvements and welcome your visit. Keep an eye out

for special dog-friendly events and receptions that take place there.

Wondering about the name Colohatchee Park? Our Historical Society article shares the history of the name and our region from the early 1900's: wiltonmanorshistoricalsociety.org/pdfs/whats_in_a_name_sept_2008.pdf.

Have an event for our calendar?
Email

siren2415@gmail.com

Compost items accepted at community garden

Pompano Beach – The Patricia Davis Community Garden, 1089 NW 6 Ave., accepts compostable items. Items can be dropped off Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Acceptable items include coffee grounds, banana peels and other non-cooked biodegradable items. Items not accepted include meat, cooked items and weeds. For more information, text 754-265-8511.

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Lee Scharf gets hero's welcome



Lee Scharf and Mayor Rex Hardin. [Staff]

Pompano Beach – Lee Scharf received a hero's welcome at last week's commission meeting.

After Mayor Rex Hardin proclaimed April 23, 2019 as "Lee Scharf Day" in the city, the audience responded with a standing ovation.

"Lee is a tremendous athlete. Lee brings credit to himself and the City of Pompano Beach," said Hardin.

Scharf was given the proclamation in honor of the gold medal in Ocean Swim he brought home from the Special Olympics World Games, March 14 to 21, in Abu Dhabi. He also placed 6th in the 800 Meter Free Style. Along with the proclamation, he received a special recognition from Mark Beaudreau, recreation programs administrator.

Scharf was among 7,500 athletes from 190 countries who competed in 24 different sports.

Let The Pelican know what's happening in your community!

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Realtor Susan Gauthier of By The Sea Realty shares her love of the area with buyers and sellers

By Phyllis J. Neuberger

PELICAN STAFF

Not only was Realtor Susan Gauthier born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, she is also a third generation Realtor.

She says, "My grandparents moved their family here in the 1940's, and we all watched the town develop into the Fort Lauderdale we know and love. My granddad was a commercial Real Estate broker in the 1950's when Fort Lauderdale still had dirt roads. My aunt is a current Realtor in Fort Lauderdale; I have become the third generation in my family in the business.

"I've been listening to stories about property all of my life and almost feel as if I have been trained for this career.

"Before becoming a Realtor, I was a healthcare administrator for 37 years," she adds. "Skills such as communication, organization and providing customer service helped me to succeed in my current career.

Her seven-year career as a licensed real estate agent has been with By The Sea Realty, located at 223 Commercial Blvd. in Lauderdale By The Sea [LBTS].

She says, "We are the largest and oldest real estate company in LBTS on the corner of Seagrape Drive and Commercial Boulevard in a free standing building with parking available."

Gauthier serves the tri-county area and describes herself as a waterfront specialist.

She says, "People shop now on the Internet where they can actually see property from the comfort of their own homes. It's important that the photography of the property shown is professional and accurate. When it is, they can get a more accurate vision of the interiors, exteriors and surroundings. Aerial



Susan Gauthier holds up the best sign; it's the one that makes both the seller and buyer very happy. [Courtesy]

photography through drones assists in showing the actual location of the property and its relative position to the beach, a canal or just the surrounding area.

"For example, I recently sold a property that was previously listed by another agent who had poor photographs. When I got the listing, I hired a professional photographer who showed that same property in a new light. I was able to sell it. Both the buyer and the seller agreed that photos sell.

"Gauthier reassures both buyers and sellers that the market is strong and is basically a year 'round market.

She says, "Even though the winter season brings more people to our area, it does not necessarily mean everyone is a buyer. Some are just escaping the cold. Once they spend time in our area, they fall in love with our beaches, easy lifestyle and start looking for a new home."

She's passionate about her hometown and is dedicated to helping buyers find the perfect property and sellers get the highest price in the

shortest time.

"This is the Venice of America, and I personally enjoy the ocean activities available," she says. "In my free time I can be found beaching, boating, fishing, snorkeling, scuba diving and even stand up paddle-boarding."

Advice to buyers

- Have your financing in order before shopping. Be pre-approved for a mortgage or if paying in cash, be sure it is accessible. Know your budget.

- Be realistic in your expectations. If you have five things on your wish list, be

happy if you can get two or three.

- Your location and views cannot change, but the interior can.

Advice for sellers

- Hire an experienced and licensed Realtor.

- Listen to the advice in respect to pricing and staging [suggestions on how to prepare for selling your home.]

- Be patient. Properly priced and staged your property will sell.

For more information, call Susan Gauthier at 954-593-5468.

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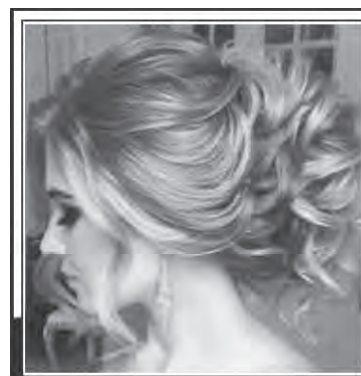


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Pompano scholar

Continued from page 1

and not have all that student debt.

Rachel applied to seven universities and was accepted at six.

Rachel is a product of local public schools from Cresthaven, Norcrest, Pompano Middle and Pompano High.

In high school, she leaned toward civil or chemical engineering. The next year she leaned toward computer science and engineering.

In high school, she took dual enrollment courses at Broward College, including

engineering, computer programming and basic CAD [Computer-Aided Design].

Those classes earned her college credits, but MIT does not accept them.

Although she spends hours on her studies, Rachel also played on the varsity girls' tennis team for three years. She's also been treasurer of the photography club; a member of First Priority, a Christian Club and a member of the Rotary Interact Club.

Rachel is also a member of the school's Comic Book Club and a big fan of DC and Marvel comics and movies. She's looking forward to seeing "End Game."

Why comics? She answers with a big smile, "It's triumph over adversity and

perseverance when you fail. It's a break from school and everyday life."

Her mother says Rachel was a quick learner; she learned the alphabet at two and was reading Nancy Drew mysteries in kindergarten.

The Gates application required recipients to answer some questions.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Rachel's response was "to have graduated from a good college, have skills and connections to make an impact on the world at an engineering or technology firm and be doing something she loves."

Another question was about how she connects to her heritage and culture.

Her father Salvador Salgado-Jimenez is from Mexico, but Rachel says while she can read, write and understand Spanish, she doesn't speak the language. She studied Spanish for five years, but it wasn't until she was in AP Spanish that

she became interested in her culture after meeting students with Argentinian and Colombian backgrounds. She has recently learned about Mexican holiday customs; such as Three King's Day.

As a result, she says, "she is more aware of the plights of immigrants and what a difficult journey it is."

Another questions asked that she re-evaluate something she believed?"

For Rachel it was the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. "Before that I thought my school was safe. After that I realized it could happen anywhere. I knew it was a problem that needed to be addressed."

Rachel's parents are proud. "She's worked very hard to get where she is," says her father, who works as a supervisor for Stimpson Co. in Pompano Beach.

Rachel has an older sister Rebecca and a brother Matthew.

"She's very caring, and she

thinks of others," Lois says of her younger daughter. "When her friends are struggling, she helps them with math and proofreads their essays. She's happy for her friends who also got in the schools they wanted."

Rachel is required to fly to Dallas at the end of June for a four-day meeting at the Gates Scholarship Institute. She and other recipients will learn what is expected of them and what Gates Foundation will do for them.

As for getting a chance to meet Bill and Melinda Gates, Rachel says that had not occurred to her. "Maybe we will meet them. Wow!," she said.

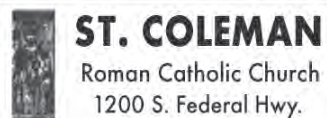
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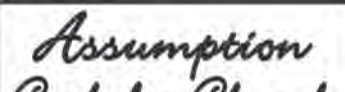
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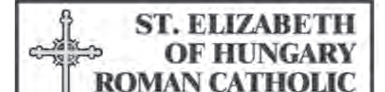
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City, residents put heads together to find [or not] a new location for the 63-year-old Ethel M. Gordon Library; Commissioners pay attention

By Judy Vik

PELICAN STAFF

Oakland Park - A town hall meeting at Jaco Pastorius Park Community Center last Thursday was held to discuss a new location for a city library.

But it turned into more of a rally to save a park and add more green space near the existing library.

Heidi Burnett, library and cultural services director, moderated the session.

Funds for the project will come from a \$40 million bond approved last year by the voters.

City officials are looking at buildings and land it owns to “maximize value” and determine where they can get the best library for Oakland Park, she said.

“We want a library, and we want it to be best for us. We have hired consultants to help craft a vision that is uniquely ours,” Burnett said.

She presented options: **Keep** the Library where it is, 1298 NE 37 St., next to Greenleaf Park. The area is familiar to the public and would support downtown activities; **Move** it to 5399 N. Dixie Highway, a city building where the Broward Sheriff’s Office is located. It’s near three public schools and could be a substantial

In 1956, Ethel M. Gordon founded Oakland Park’s first library. She used the Woman’s Club building and 700 donated books. “I’ve never lived in a city without a library,” the erstwhile New York school teacher said. Gordon ran for and was elected to the commission. In 1963, the city built its library at 1298 NE 37 St. In 2013, the library was named after Gordon.



Referred to as ‘the heart of the city,’ the Ethel M. Gordon Library, 1298 NE 37 St., is now the focus of the city as officials and residents discuss a new building and perhaps a new location. [Staff]

cost reduction; **Merge** with Central Park or Collins Community Center area. A library facility here could be co-located with parks facilities. A potential merger could save about \$2 million. After-school programs could be expanded.

Embarrassment of riches

Burnett said, “At the end of this process, we will get a fabulous new library. Let’s not sit here with heavy hearts. We have only a win-win in these choices. We have bond money, and the city is in the running for a potential \$500,000 state grant for the library. “These are funds

others wish they had. We have an embarrassment of riches,” Burnett said, adding that if the legislature decides to fund the grant, and the governor approves it, a decision on library location will be made this summer.

About 60 people turned out for the meeting, including city staff and four city commissioners. Thirteen residents presented their views with seven asking that the library remain in the downtown, close to its current location at 1298 NE 37 St.

Four spoke in favor of the Collins Center area but stressed the need to save the park and recreation facilities next to the current library.

No one spoke in favor of the municipal building location; one woman spoke against it.

Resident Michael Pittman, presented a petition signed by 72 residents lobbying to save the park and recreation facilities near the current library. Said Pittman, “What I kept hearing consistently was everyone wanted to keep the park. The basketball courts are used every evening. The park has a nice tree, tennis courts, a children’s play lot. Green space is invaluable. It would be a shame to lose that golden place we have. That park is invaluable. We would hate to have the city get rid of parks and turn the land over to developers.”

If the library is moved to the Collins area or to the church site near the existing site, some residents have expressed concerns that the city will demolish the current library and the nearby Spiher recreation center and sell the land to a developer.

The current city hall site will likely also be demolished, and that’s right around the corner from the park and library. That would leave a large piece of city-owned land.

Leave the library where it is

Several residents wanted to keep the library where it is or

See OP LIBRARY on page 13

Pompano Beach Children’s Piano Competition

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Making a Difference

Since 2007, they've been singing for their suppers; this month the Singing John Knox Villagers were honored with a steak dinner



Phyllis J. Neuberger wants your suggestions about people making a difference. Phyllis' book, *China Dahl*, is available on Amazon.com. Send your recommendations for this column to pelicanfrontdesk@gmail.com



The party arranger, Bill Davidson [standing] poses with Elaine McNamara, director of the Villagers and Ron Davis, founder of the Villagers as they enjoy the thank you dinner at John Knox Village. [Courtesy of Lauren Wion]

Singing Villagers who bring their music to the Village and to other organizations.

The group was founded in 2007 by Ron Davis, a professional musician whose career spanned over 40 years as church choir director, six years as a high school choral director and 19 years as supervisor of music for the Broward County Schools. Asked if he sings, he laughs and says, "Not solos. My favorite sound is that of a male chorus."

"The idea for a male chorus here in the Village was triggered when two friends called and sang

happy birthday to me on my birthday," Davis says. "I thought, 'Hey, these guys can sing. Maybe I could get a few men together to do a number at the Village's annual talent show.'"

That led Davis to send out 250 letters to see if there was any interest.

In his letter he included a paragraph about research proving the benefits of singing that include better health, fewer doctor visits, less medication, fewer falls, fewer other health problems, better morale, less loneliness and even the desire to become involved in other activities.

"Thirty six men signed up," Davis says, "I don't know if it was for the chance to sing or because they were after those health benefits, but whatever the reason, I soon had 48 singing seniors who never cease to amaze me. I knew that 75 percent of them had never sung in an organized chorus and most could not read music. Yet they learned to sing in four parts, bass, baritone, second tenor and first tenor. My only requirement was their desire to sing, to carry a tune and be willing to memorize

By Phyllis J. Neuberger

PELICAN STAFF

Pompano Beach - The men of the John Knox Villagers are like ambassadors for John Knox Village [JKV], a life care-retirement community of about 1,000 residents.

This lively group of male singers entertains on and off campus showing others what fun senior men can have.

Thanks to one charter member of the group, Bill Davidson, the annual dinner on April 26 celebrated these volunteers. Davidson persuaded management to show its appreciation to the



This photo of the Villagers of JKV was taken in 2017. Since then, several of the members pictured are deceased or unable to continue. They are sorely missed. Five new singers have joined the group and more are being recruited to replace those lost. [Courtesy of Marty Lee]

See **VILLAGERS** on page 13

Victor Toledano, M.D., P.A



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New director takes on parks and recreation, says he's ready for the big assignment

By Judy Wilson

PELICAN STAFF

Deerfield Beach – This city's new parks and recreation director has settled into a home in Deer Chase with his wife and four children, surveyed the multiple facilities he will manage and is eager to know what residents want from his department.

Preston Pooser's first day was April 23. He was hired at an annual salary of \$130,000.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and most recently headed the parks and recreation department in Woodstock, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta. Prior to that he was in Orange Beach, Ala., Laurel, Mich., Lake Wales, Fla., and the Orlando Housing Authority. He has 28 years of municipal government experience.

Here he will manage a \$13 million budget, the city's third largest, and oversee 50 parks, three athletic fields, one mile of beach, a fishing pier, an aquatic center, a gymnasium, a tennis center, open space maintenance, an arboretum, tot lots and playgrounds, a teen center and a year-round schedule of festivals and special events.

He comes here at a time when two major improvements are planned: the rebuild of the Johnny



Preston Pooser

Tigner Center at the Oveta McKeithan Recreation Complex and improvements to Pioneer Park. One of his first outreach sessions will involve the residents of District 2 and their ideas for the Tigner Center.

"We are talking about a facility that will serve people for 50 years, where you might have your wedding reception and years later your retirement party. I want to know what the people want," Pooser said.

Even sooner, he plans an input meeting for the entire community to express its ideas. "I want to see where parks and recreation needs to go, but at the same time, I want to share with them what we have," Pooser said.

See POOSER on page 20

Isle Casino

Continued from page 3

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Ballpark Village in St. Louis and Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tampa.

The groundbreaking will be in the summer of 2020, said Cordish.

The hotel will be a smaller version of the guitar shaped hotel being built by the Seminoles in Hollywood, and will be surrounded by a five-acre lake.

The project will be built under the "Live!" banner the company has trademarked and uses for all its entertainment and mixed-use venues.

Cordish declined to take questions from the audience but said any questions or concerns would be addressed in future meetings with smaller groups. He also invited questions and comments to his email – david@cordish.com – and stated a desire to accept input. "Don't hesitate to shoot me an email. We'll reply."

Cordish promised the development would bring thousands of jobs, both in construction and the long term. He also talked about building a train station along the Tri-Rail tracks which run directly behind the casino

property, and providing shuttles between Palm Aire and the station.

Resident Roger Gingrich said the train station is a plus for a project he thinks will be good for the city. "It's about time Pompano Beach gets a respectful project." One question Gingrich has is "Where are they going to take the business from?"

At a recent city commission meeting, Mayor Rex Hardin and Vice Barry Moss both called the project "a game changer." Moss said Cordish is a first class company.

Charles King, a bartender at the Isle who worked for Cordish in Maryland, agreed with Moss that it's a good company.

King, a member of UNITE HERE Local 355, which

represents hospitality workers, including those who work at the Isle, has concerns over how much Cordish will pay employees.

Byas Brown, a bartender at the Isle who lives in Collier City, also wants to see Cordish pay good wages, hire local and "more people of color."

Asked about the concerns, Cordish said he doesn't have any control over the casino but that Cordish pays good wages.

According to a 2015 *Philly Voice* article, Cordish agreed to pay a minimum wage of \$12 per hour and hire more minority employees at its Philadelphia casino.

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Villagers

Continued from page 11

every word. We sing without music and that is good for the brain. The only woman involved was Anita Ferguson, a resident volunteer, who accompanied at every rehearsal and performance."

In 2014, after seven years of non-stop dedication to the Villagers, both Davis and Ferguson retired. Chris Toth, a professional musician was hired as director in 2015. In 2016, Village resident Elaine McNamara became the director and Toth became the accompanist.

McNamara says, "When I took over three years ago, I had 50 singers. Now, we are down to 33. We are sorely in need of tenor replacements."

Her husband, Jack, is the dominant bass singer in the group; the other bass singers want to sit next to him so that

they can follow his strong voice.

About his wife, Jack says, "People don't realize what a responsibility her job is. The director chooses the music, orders the music, pays the bills, arranges for performances, set-ups, rehearsals, gets buses for off campus presentations and works with other departments to meet their entertainment needs."

McNamara admits her job as director keeps her moving all week. "Fortunately," she says, "I'm a workaholic. I love my Villagers and every volunteer in it."

"I also direct the Ladies' Chorus, the choristers mixed ensemble and the JKV hand chimes. JKV pays my expenses."

Several of the male chorus shared their feelings

Paul Loree says, "I've been singing and loving it since the Villagers began. I know to do two things...smile and watch the director."

David Haun says, "I love to sing. I sang in college. We're a fun group. We're loved as performers and the price is right."

Frank Schmidt never sang in his life, but David Jenkins persuaded him to join the Villagers. He says, "I sing bass, and I love it. Bringing our music to so many destinations off campus has been fun."

Harry Wood, another charter member, says, "I'm no good but I love to sing. Ron made it easy. Our first performance was at the Village Spring Scene. Everyone seemed to enjoy us and we gathered more members."

Thank you Villagers for bringing your music to the Village and organizations off-campus. You deserve every bite of that gourmet steak dinner.

OP Library

Continued from page 10

nearby.

Mary Hardy, a 50-year resident, supported this idea. "Young kids can't ride their bikes to the western site. Build a new, modern library where it is [now]. Improve the Spiher Recreation Center. Have children's programs at the library and after-school programs at Spiher. You will have safe places for children."

Resident Dennis Buchta agreed with Hardy. "Keep the library where it is and add more tennis and basketball courts," he said to applause.

Jennifer Garcia agreed, adding that she and her two young children use the library and the park once or twice a week. They take part in library programs, meet firefighters and police, and then head for the park where the kids sometimes spend the whole day. She says "it's a way to be neighborly" as parents get acquainted.

Jerry Gold agreed. "The general mood is we want the library to stay where it is."

Fix it up a little, and keep the green space."

Keep the green space

Jeff Barnes, vice president of the Corals of Oakland Park Neighborhood Association said, "We desperately need a new library. Combining a library with a community center makes a lot of sense, maybe with a small theater, at the church site or at Collins Center. Move the library and the Spiher Center and expand the park. We don't want to lose a park."

Robert Waters suggested moving the library to the Collins area. Paul Sullivan said, "Renovate city hall and make it a new library. Keep the green space. We live in a city called Oakland Park. It's not the city of Oakland. Keep the parks where they are."

City officials

Four of five city commissioners attended the meeting. Mayor Sara Guevrekian and Commissioners Jane Bolin, Michael Carn and Tim Lonergan all urged residents to contact them with their views. Commissioners will decide on the library location.

"Will everyone get what they want?" Guevrekian asked. "Probably not, but we want to hear what you have to say."

"The library is the heart of the city. We have a lot of opportunity coming," Lonergan noted. "Call us with your views."

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The Board of Trustees of Boca Raton Regional Hospital will be conducting an open Board meeting to finalize the approval process of the Hospital's Strategic Partnership with Baptist Health South Florida.

Consistent with the organization's bylaws, interested community members are invited to join the Board of Trustees for this meeting. A public comment period will be provided for members of the community to ask questions and provide feedback.

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Pursuant of the Letter of Intent dated December 7, 2018, by and among BRRH Corporation ("BRRH") and Baptist Health South Florida, Inc. ("Baptist Health"), BRRH and its affiliates will become part of the Baptist Health System through a corporate affiliation to be implemented through amendment to BRRH Corporation's and BRRH Affiliates' articles and applicable governance documents. As a result of the Transaction, BRRH and BRRH Affiliates will remain Florida not for profit corporations, and will be under the ultimate control of Baptist Health.

Education

Teachers of the Year honored by Pompano Beach/Lighthouse Point/Margate Chamber at LHP Yacht Club; Audience gets hard facts

By Anne Siren

PELICAN STAFF

Lighthouse Point - On April 25, Pompano Beach, Lighthouse Point and Margate Chamber members enjoyed lunch with some of the best teachers in Broward County

They gathered at the Lighthouse Point Yacht Club to honor the 2019 Teachers of the Year.

And all of them got a significant lift when Susan A. Colton, a former teacher, principal and author of *Principal's Passion* gave the keynote address.

These classroom heroes responded to Colton more than once.

Said Colton, "If teachers ruled, we would not need classes for social education; if teachers ruled, major business corporations would see vouchers are not needed; we need good public schools."

Colton suggested that teachers need a seat at the table when their salaries are legislated.

"American teachers earn way less than teachers in other countries. Here, teachers are

even taking second jobs."

She recalled a cartoon she saw recently. A man was at a podium holding up a trophy at a similar luncheon for teachers.

The caption read, "We regret that Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Smith, could not be here to accept this award. She's busy waiting tables."

Colton said that every legislator should visit classrooms. "They should see the real picture before they vote on their budget."

"The Florida Senate measure would increase per-student funding by \$1.1 billion or 4.71 percent, which comes to about \$350 more per student. The House is at \$579.3 million more per student or a 2.75 percent increase, roughly \$167 more per student. DeSantis asked for a middle-ground number at about \$224 more per student."

Education Week, April 4, 2019



Susan A. Colton, a former teacher, principal and author of *Principal's Passion* gave the keynote address. [Photos by Nicole McDermott]

Colton set forth a challenge.

"The average teacher influences more than 3,000 students in the course of a career. Use your influence by educating your neighbors and your legislators of the importance of education. Our forefathers believed in educating the electorate. Public schools are the cornerstone of democracy."

She pointed out that the

See **TEACHERS HONORED** on page 15



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Teachers honored

Continued from page 14

average teacher works 400 hours of unpaid overtime every year.

But those figures are not stopping these teachers at the top of their game. One teacher said, "I didn't realize these facts. I'm just a work-aholic," she said. And she found herself a bit uneasy being away from her classroom when state testing was so close.

The Florida Legislature is considering next year's budget which includes education funding.

When the Innovation Charter School Choir performed songs about *Listening to Mom* and *I Won't Be Grumpy*, the applause was



Regine Tertulien, Cypress Elementary.



Katrina Zaiff, Cresthaven Elementary.



Teacher Tyler Jordan, Cross Creek.



Peter Green with his wife, Joline, Teacher of the Year at Palm View Elementary School, Pompano Beach.



Jolie Stevens, Pompano Middle School, with Pompano Beach Commissioner Beverly Perkins.



Honoree Jenny Mann of Sanders Park Elementary.



Dr. Juanita Kears-Creech, Deerfield Beach Middle School.

plentiful.

Teachers honored were: **Michelle Sergel**, Bright Horizons Center; **Marcia**

J. Mitchell, Broadview Elementary; **Bridgett Brown Burkes**, Charles Drew Elementary School;

Tyler Jordan, Cross Creek School; **Katrina Zaiff**, Cresthaven Elementary; **Regine Tertulien**, Cypress

Elementary; **Nordia Barber**, Cypress Run Education Center; **Cassandra Bloom**, Crystal Lake Middle; **Sharnet Morris**, Dave Thomas Education Center; **Melynda Gregory**, Deerfield Beach High; **Dr. Juanita Kears-Creech**, Deerfield Beach Middle; **Natasha Perdum**, Deerfield Park Elementary; **Flora Colbach**, Highlands Christian Academy; **Patrick Hanley**, Lighthouse Christian; **David Bass**, Margate Middle; **Cortney Casella**, McNab Elementary; **Kimberly Ruggieri**, Norcrest Elementary; **Joline Green**, Palm View Elementary; **Charles Martin**, Parkridge Elementary; **Kendra Torrella**, Pompano Beach Elementary; **Florence Petit**, Pompano Beach High School; **Jolie Steven**, Pompano Beach Middle; **Martine Joseph**, Robert Markham Elementary; **Jenny Mann**, Sanders Park Elementary School and **Susan James**, Tedder Elementary.

Following lunch, Monica Ribeiro, chamber board president presented teachers with awards and gifts. Jean McIntyre, Chamber CEO, emceed the event

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Mitchell-Moore

Continued from page 1

million dollars would be used up with synthetic turf that included a cooling system to keep the turf from heating up in the sun.

One resident was concerned about the health aspect of the turf, saying that other parks had removed turf that was made with used recycled rubber tires.

Horacio Danovich, facilitator of the meeting and Capital Improvement and Innovation Director said this turf does not use recycled tires.

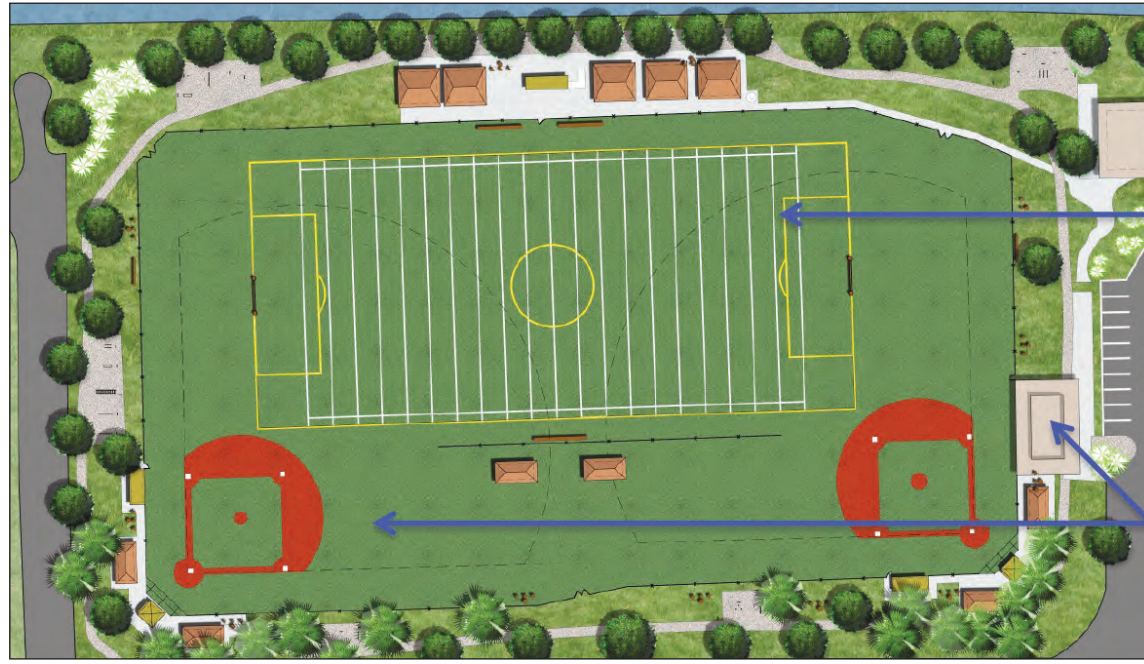
Another resident asked how many playing fields in the city use synthetic turf.

“You will be the first one,” said Danovich.

George Dillon, a long-time coach in the area, said he had coached on a few synthetic turfs and had seen children “throw up” in the heat. “To me it’s not safe,” he said.

Robert Holmes, a resident, suggested the city try it out in another area before testing it at this park.

Danovich said they were at the meeting to find out what the residents wanted. He called for a vote and received a rousing “No” against the turf. He attempted to explain that grass would require expensive maintenance. “With grass you have to let it regrow. That’s the advantage



Proposed changes at the Mitchell-Moore sports field will include interchangeable synthetic turf baseball, football and soccer fields. [Courtesy]

[Turf’s] safer and causes less injuries. It’s more like grass. I’m 100 percent for it.

-Henry Crockett

of turf.”

Another resident said that parks are maintained by the city.

Danovich called for another vote with the same negative response.

“If that’s what you want, you will be stuck with it,” he said.

Then the tables turned.

Commissioner Beverly Perkins said in a conversation later that she wanted the young players to get used to synthetic turf since that’s what the college and pro-players use. She advised Danovich of

the change.

Atlanta Falcons linebacker, Henry Crockett although not at the meeting, applauded the decision for turf.

“It’s safer and causes less injuries. It’s more like grass. I’m 100 percent for it,” said

Crockett. “I tried to get Ely to change to turf, but they wouldn’t.”

Crockett is an Ely grad, Class of ‘92.

Perkins asked if the park would have new digital scoreboards.

Danovich said they cost about \$80,000. The funding would not allow it. “You can go to the commission and see if you can get more money in the capital improvement fund,” he said.

Perkins retorted, “It seems that when something on the east side of town needs funding, you always find the money. Now we are told we need to find it.”

Other plans for the park improvements are a new six-foot fence, landscaping, a new non-digital scoreboard. With more funding, plans could include an exercise area.

Perkins said she had been seeking funding to add digital scoreboards, a covered playground and exercise stations.

Mitchell-Moore Park is at 901 NW 10 St., Pompano Beach. The park includes an aquatic center, a community center and playing fields.

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 10. New Zealand social enterprise brewing company

Down
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 6. Brewery located in the Home Plate Garage of Marlins Ballpark

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CALENDAR of events 2019

Email your calendar events to thepelicancalendar@gmail.com. Events are free unless stated.

This Weekend

5/3 – Old Town Untapped. 6 to 9 p.m. Bailey Contemporary Arts, 41 NE 1 St., Pompano Beach. Arts and crafts, vendors, food trucks, artists, interactive art, free craft beer samples.

5/3 – Movies on the Lawn: Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation. 8 p.m. The Great Lawn, Corner of Atlantic and Pompano Beach Boulevard. 954-786-4111.

5/4 – 7:30 a.m. 5K Run for the Angels at Pompano Air Park

runway to support Angel Flight, free air flights that provide children and adults access to physicians who can save their lives. runsignup.com.

5/4 – Waterworks. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mitchell Moore Park, 901 NW 10 St., Pompano Beach. Inflatable water slides, pool obstacles, an enchanted coral reef photo station with live mermaids, a kiddie mist pad, gigantic water balloon launcher, raffle prizes and more. pompanobeachfl.gov or 954-786-4111.

Art

5/4 – Hand-Printed Nature Greeting Cards Workshop. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. BaCA, 41 NE 1 St., Pompano Beach. “Create one-of-a-kind prints on blank notecards using, plants, stencils

and other everyday objects using a gelatin printing surface. This is a creative, spontaneous process, requiring no previous art experience. Each print is a delightful surprise of layers of colors and shapes.” For teens and adults. Cost is \$50, all supplies included. 954-786-7879.

5/6 – ART Mondays. 2 to 5 p.m. Herb Skolnick Civic Center, 800 SW 36 Ave., Pompano Beach. Paint clouds, a gazebo, streams, pines and palms in Palm Aire. First and third Mondays of the month. Artist Pat Anderson. Registration. 954-786-4590.

5/30 – ArtServe’s “Reflect: Healing Through Art” Exhibition Unites Community. Exhibits with discussion on June 5, 6 to focus on healing through art. 954-776-1999, ext. 255.

Auditions

5/8 – Broward Women’s Choral Group seeks women singers. 10 a.m. to noon. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3970 NW 21 Ave., Oakland Park. Held every Wednesday. Call before attending. 954-942-8711.

Chamber events

5/8 – Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Chamber of Commerce Business Over Breakfast. 8 to 9 a.m. Jarvis Hall, 4505 N. Ocean Drive. Sponsored by Howard Goldberg, Re/Max Consultants Realty I. Topic is “How to Use Social Media to Market Your Business.” info@lbts.com.

5/14 – South Florida Women’s Chamber of Commerce meets from 11:50 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. at 200 W. Commercial Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. “Out of the Box Lunch.” Networking at City College. Cost \$15. Call 954-334-0771.

Clubs

5/7 & 8 – Fort Lauderdale

Westminster Academy sophomore takes 5th place in opera competition

Margate - Michelle Castillo, 16, already has her life plans in order. She wants to build her own voice studio.

This week, Castillo returned from the National Opera Center, New York City, as the fifth place winner in a voice competition, held April 28.

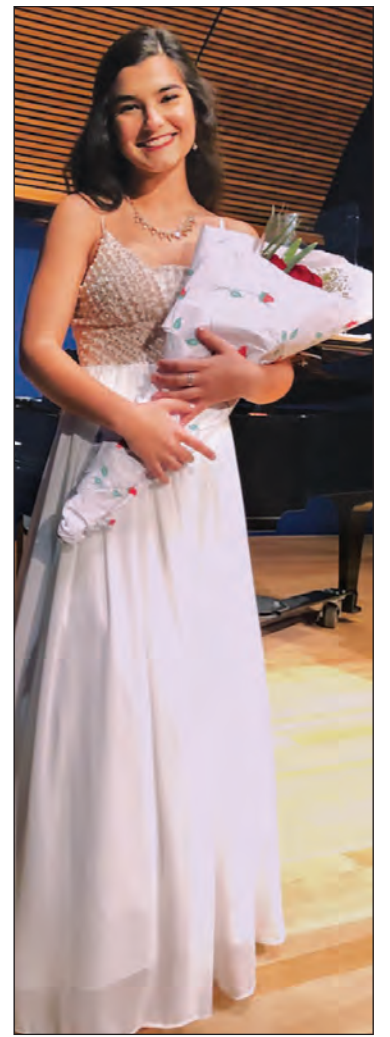
Castillo credits her voice coach, Annette Myers, as the reason for her success. “I had been singing all my life.”

At 10, her parents enrolled her at the Singers Studio in Boca Raton, where she first met Myers.

“I would not be singing half as well as I do,” said Castillo, “without Annette Myers.”

Recently she was hired as a choir section leader at section leader at New Presbyterian Church in Wilton Manors.

When Castillo settles down back from this competition, she will continue working on her next piece, “Mein Herr Marquis” often referred to as “The Laughing Song” from Strauss’ *Die Fledermaus*.



Michelle Castillo [Courtesy]

Bridge Club games and lessons. Beginning, intermediate and advance lessons. Free mini lesson offered before games 11:45 a.m. Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club, 620 NE 8 St., Ft Lauderdale. 954-761-1577 or info@ftlbc.com or ftlbc.com.

Events

5/12 – “The Last Resort” film series. 2:30 p.m. NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale. Tour the exhibit Remember to React followed by a screening of The Last Resort with Q&A with co-director Dennis Scholl. Tickets \$9 to \$18. 954-525-5500.

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Annual Pompano Beach Seafood Festival raises money for charity while delivering big flavors and great music at new venue

By **Malcolm McClintock**
PELICAN WRITER

Pompano Beach – Eschewing its traditional seaside location at the end of Atlantic Boulevard, the yearly maritime-themed bacchanal known as the Seafood Festival celebrated the event at its new home last weekend on the grounds of the Pompano Beach Community Park and Amphitheater.

While some visitors retained fond memories of the erstwhile oceanfront locale, most attendees were satisfied with this year’s leafy and spacious Federal Highway destination that featured mouthwatering seafood, over 150 arts & crafts vendors and 25 live bands including *The Guess Who* and *Foghat*.

“Turnout has been awesome this year,” asserts head organizer Kyle Good representing the Good Management Team that has been hosting the event for the past 35 years.

“People seem to love the new grounds as there is far more parking and it is much easier to get to. Also, the City has been really helpful and supportive in making this event such a success.”

Indeed, the throngs of seafood aficionados were in luck with 3 days of perfect April weather in which to sample a vast array of oceanic delights.

Some of the noteworthy entries included a piquant Gulf shrimp ceviche from Sea Salt Fish Market; mouthwatering crab legs and lobster corn dogs from Elegant Eatz Catering Co.; conch fritters and étouffée from Florida’s Fine Food Corp.; Jude’s famous Caribbean pepper shrimp,

blackened Mahi and fried scallops from South Beach Grill and all manner of fresh seafood from Papa’s Raw Bar.

For those seeking turf rather than surf, multiple vendors were on hand to provide more traditional offerings such as Santillo’s classic Philly cheesesteak, roasted turkey legs, hot dogs, hamburgers, sausages, corn on the cob and potatoes in all imaginable forms.

And to slake one’s thirst, numerous outlets served up libations of all kinds including the 26-degree Brewing Co. with their crafty creations

See **SEAFOOD FESTIVAL** on page 19



Visitors of all ages make the 2019 Seafood Festival a resounding success. [Staff photos]



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Chiles en Nogada

Seafood festival

Continued from page 18

and the volunteers from the Exchange Club whose members were slinging rum runners and cold beer.

“All the proceeds are going to children’s healing institute, youth projects and veterans,” say past Club presidents Brian Rask and David Vivies. “It’s a great opportunity to give back to the community.”

In fact, as stated in the literature, “the Seafood Festival is a not-for-profit corporation. Revenues benefit a wide variety of charities and civic organizations. It is one of the things that makes the festival so unique. This is a largely



An eye-popping paella overflowing with fresh seafood is a must-try Spanish specialty.



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a volunteer driven event. Groups like Pompano Beach High School, the Boy Scouts, Blanche Ely High School, Exchange Club, Pompano Proud and civic groups like

the Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo, Women in Financial Services, Kiwanis, Rotary, Soroptimist, and others supply volunteers and benefit from the profits. Over the years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised for all these groups.”

To wit, “we have 11 non-

profits who are involved with this event,” states Kiwanis and Key Club representative Richard Leys. “And as we are expecting attendance to top 20,000 visitors this year, it should result in substantial contributions to various programs and worthy causes.”

The Seafood Festival seems poised to continue the long-standing tradition of great

food and music in Pompano Beach.

“I love this event,” says Deerfield Beach resident Susan Ciers as she loaded up on artisanal hot sauces from the Everglades Hot Sauce Co. “I look forward to it every year.”

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Town looks to county to help fund visitor's center; County may consider

By Judy Vik

PELICAN STAFF

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea -- No decisions have been made yet, but the response seemed positive at a county Tourist Development Council [TDC] meeting last week. The town had appealed for county funds to operate the Visitor Center

Pooser

Continued from page 12

A major task he has set for himself is to get his department accredited by CAPRA, the only national accreditation agency for parks and recreation departments. It is something he accomplished at his last job.

He also wants to develop a new master parks plan. The last one was done in 2004. The 50 acres that were formerly the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course, donated 10 years ago to the city for athletic fields, has yet to be funded and developed. But to do that, "We have to have a plan," he said. "I'd like to do the system-wide plan in the next fiscal year."

The department has been without a director about a year ... but Pooser, 52, seems unfazed at the work ahead.

"I like the challenges of Deerfield Beach," he said. "I'm excited about those challenges."

in LBTS, according to Debbie Hime, town special projects coordinator.

Hime and Ann Marchetti of the chamber presented a proposal, supported by the town commission, asking the TDC to increase funding for the Visitor Center at 4201 Ocean Drive.

Ann Marchetti is a consultant to the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Chamber of Commerce and a former board member.

The town currently provides \$60,000 annually to fund the center. The chamber manages the center and contributes \$20,000 each year, and the TDC has been contributing \$20,000 annually to the chamber for center operational expenses.

The center is now the only freestanding visitor center in Broward County.

The LBTS proposal calls for TDC funding of \$168,000 with \$83,000 for operating expenses and \$85,000 for staff.

A one-time contribution from TDC of \$31,000 would go to building renovations, a new street marquee and building signage and other expenses. That brings the total for the first year to \$199,000.

"The presentation was very well received. There was no vote at this meeting, just a presentation but all were very supportive," Hime said. "Any considerations and funding would be in their FY20 budget. They all love LBTS!"

County Commissioner

Lamar Fisher, who represents LBTS, urged the TDC to support the proposal.

Hime said when the town launched a marketing plan and did an analysis, they realized the center was reaching a broader audience than staff and hoteliers realized. "We were a bigger player in the South Florida tourism market than just serving our town."

"And while we thought a shortage of parking was our weakness, tourists who came to the center didn't know parking is an issue. They just want to go to the beach."

TDC member Dean Trantalis, Fort Lauderdale mayor, said LBTS was setting a precedent in asking for the funds, Hime said. He said Fort Lauderdale is planning to

build a visitor center on Las Olas Boulevard and might also seek county funding to help.

If the LBTS proposal is approved, the town's only expense will be to maintain the building and property, Hime said. The building the center occupies is owned by the town and could continue to operate rent free as a County Visitor Center.

Marchetti said the TDC board members were very positive. "They're looking at a fair and equitable way to spread their resources across the county for others that may want to open visitor centers. We have been in the business of sharing resources

See CENTER on page 28

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Day of prayer

Continued from page 5

Resident Lisa Mullins offered prayers for Congressional leaders and talked about loving “those who have differences.”

The city’s official proclamation, read by Hardin, called upon the nation’s current leadership to “humble themselves and seek the Lord’s guidance.”

The proclamation also harkened back to the nation’s first leaders.

“From our nation’s humble beginnings, prayer has guided our leaders and played a vital role in the life and history of the United States. The very ideals upon which this country was founded were based on biblical truths, no matter how some try to rewrite history to deny that very fact today.”

Like the mayor and Mullins,



Dr. Larry Vinkemulder, associate pastor at First Baptist Church Pompano Beach, [right] and Mayor Rex Hardin. [Staff photos]

Vinkemulder offered prayers for public officials, from

President Donald Trump all the way down to “the lowest dog catcher.”

Vinkemulder also condemned abortion and the recent deadly shooting in North Carolina.

He said abortion violates God’s “law.”

Before speaking, Vinkemulder told *The Pelican* he was proud the city observed the National Day of Prayer and said he’d like to see more religion mixed in with politics.

“It’s not a politically correct opinion but I’m not a politically correct person.”



City employees and residents were among those who attended the National Day of Prayer event at city hall, including Pompano Beach BSO Chief Wayne Adkins [right]

Blues, brews and ocean views

Deerfield Beach – The 3rd annual Ocean Brews & Blues festival features more than two dozen craft breweries and the music of three bands.

This city-sponsored event is May 18, 3 to 8 p.m. at the main beach parking lot. An assortment of 125 beers will be served along with the music of blues musicians, local food, other cold beverages and craft displays.

To sample the beers, festival goers must be 21 years of age and purchase tickets; \$40 in advance, \$45 on the day of the event. VIP tickets at \$60 include five hours of unlimited samples, 3 to 8 p.m. a souvenir glass and VIP swag.

General admission tickets include four hours of unlimited sampling, 4 to 8 p.m., and a souvenir glass.

On the bandstand will be D. Marion & Company, 3 to 4:15 p.m.; Adam Uhlán & the Blue Risers, 4:45 to 6 p.m.; and The Joey Gilmore Band, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Parking will be available at the Cove Shopping Center, a short walk to the event. A complimentary shuttle service is also planned to and from the Cove, 2:30 to 9 p.m.

-Judy Wilson

Energy audit workshop

Deerfield Beach – A public workshop to discuss the audit conducted by Siemens will be held Monday, May 6 at 7 p.m. at the Hillsboro Community Center, 50 Technology Drive.

Last year the city commission awarded a contract to Siemens to evaluate city facilities and create a list of projects that will reduce the cost of energy. At this workshop, Siemens will present the results of the Investment Grade Audit and the recommended projects, as well as plans for furthering the city’s sustainability program. The cost of each project must equal the expense of implementation. The aim will also be to reduce the city’s carbon footprint and promote other sustainable practices.

Staff will be seeking direction from the commission on how to proceed. For more information, contact Hillary Silverstone at 954-480-1420.



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SUDOKU Edited by Margie E. Burke
Difficulty: Easy

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HOW TO SOLVE:
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

(Answer appears elsewhere in this issue)

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MEET SOPHIE!



Here is a long haired gorgeous female who is eager to find a loving home. Sophie is about 10 months old and is up to date on shots and tested negative for FIV and leukemia. She's a real love bug. Sophie loves to be pet and cuddled and would be a great companion.

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The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

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ACROSS

1 Contend with	42 St. Petersburg's river	67 Trunk of the body	9 Paris waterway	35 Wake-up call?
5 Map collection	43 What some become in old age	68 Prepare for publication	10 Austrian money	37 Sharp side of a blade
10 Weeps	45 Squirmy one	69 Make eyes at	11 Sainly king of Norway	38 Confiscate
14 High point	47 Chaotic situation	70 Knock follower	12 Bundle of hay	41 Type of drapery rod
15 60's symbol	48 Arsonist's goal	71 Building block	13 Put the pedal to the metal	44 Calm period
16 Storm harbinger	49 Nightmare street		21 Lesson for toddlers	46 Cogged wheel
17 Trailer's place	50 Otherwise		23 Carplike fish	48 Guiding signal
18 Boredom	52 Meat from 1-down		25 Backslide	51 Flooring choice
19 Fit as a fiddle	54 Higher court		27 Grace word	53 Word following record or address
20 Plant life	58 Synagogue leader		28 Poe bird	54 Furthermore
22 Explored underwater	62 Told a tall tale		29 Concert venue	55 Metallic sound
24 Up for the job	63 Type of squash		31 Southern speech, sometimes	56 Ringing of bells
26 Blue-green color	65 Springsteen's "___ in the USA"		33 Fred Astaire's sis	57 Civil wrong
27 Car cover	66 Fabric flaw		34 Take pleasure	59 Portend
30 Golf attendant				60 Navy jail
32 Bumbling aunt on "Bewitched"				61 Gung-ho about
36 Tall flower				64 And not
38 Beer mug				
39 Smooth				
40 Sudden outpouring				

DOWN

1 Farm newborn	2 October birthstone	3 Money for Miguel	4 Background actor	5 Jungle dweller	6 Became nervous	7 Long and lean	8 Perceptiveness
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Sunday May 5, 1-3pm Pompano Beach - Atlantic Urban Village, 33 NE 24th Ave. Beautiful, updated 3-story 3BR/3.4BA/2CG in great east of Federal location. Private elevator. All Ages. Large Pet OK. \$375K. Call Ruthie Brooks, Balistreri Real Estate, 954-803-4174.

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Retired business owner with great organizational skills seeks part time position as personal assistant. Will provide transportation to appointments, shopping, dining out and other social activities. I am a reliable and efficient companion. Also able to help with lifestyle transitions, i.e. moves to assisted living facilities or simply downsizing. References available. 561-347-8383 or jyusem@comcast.net.

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Part or full time morning shifts. Exc. Supplement income for retired individual. Call between 3 and 7 p.m Alex 954-648-6594

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Yellow Strawberry Salon. 2907 E Commercial Blvd. Apply in person.

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See CLASSES on page 23

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Classes

Continued from page 22

SUPPORT

Center for Active Aging offers weekly Caregiver Support Groups. Wed. at 10 a.m. and Thurs. at 4:30 p.m. The Center conducts the caregiver training and support group for individuals caring for people with Alzheimer's disease, memory impairments, dementia, and cognitive limitations. Call 954-480-4463.

CLASSES

Line dancing at the Beach Community Center by Galt Ocean. A fun exercise for both the mind and the body. Wednesdays from 6 - 8 pm. Beginners Welcome! 781-812-5878 for details.

Yoga - All-Inclusive Yoga program. Special populations in mind but open to all to enjoy. For more information, please call 954-480-4494 or email Kenny Lawrence at klawrence@deerfield-beach.com. Constitution Park, 2841 W. Hillsboro Blvd., Deerfield Beach.

New Art Class at Herb Skolnick Center. Instructor Pat Anderson. For more information call 954-786-4590.

Dancing By The Sea - Instructor Danny Carter. Swing, Salsa, Tango and Ballroom dance. Great fun for all ages. Call 954-640-4225.

BOARD GAMES

Play Pinochle from 6-9 p.m. at Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 NE 6 St., Pompano Beach. 954-554-9321.

Play Bridge & Mahjong Fridays at 10 a.m. Jarvis Hall, 4501 N. Ocean Drive, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. Call 954-640-4225.

Scrabble - Free. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Emma Lou Olson Civic Center. 954-786-4111.

Bingo - St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, 1111 E. Sample Rd., Pompano Beach. Thursdays 1 to 4 p.m. and Sundays 2 to 5 p.m. Call 954-942-5887.

Bingo - Tuesdays at St. Martin Episcopal Church at 11:30 a.m. 140 SE 28th Ave. Pompano Beach. Call 954-941-4843.

Water Fitness - Pompano Beach Aquatics Center. M/W/F at 9 and 11 a.m. All levels. Evening Classes T/Th at 6:30 p.m. Cost \$3 per class. Call 954-786-4128.

Hiring event at Beachcomber Resort

Pompano Beach - The city and the CRA have teamed up with Beachcomber Resort and Villas to host a Free Out-Placement Hiring Event on-site at the resort, 1200 S. Ocean Blvd., Pompano Beach, on Monday, May 13 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The goal of this event is to mitigate unemployment due to extensive renovations at the resort by fast-tracking the connection between the employees facing layoff and employers seeking their skillsets.

Employers looking to fill any positions can contact Dahlia Baker for a registration form to reserve free space at the event. Call 954-786-7866.

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So, what's your elephant?

Pompano Beach - The first of the Pompano Beach film series tackles issues that most do not want to face, often referred to as the elephant in the room.

Titled, *What's Your Elephant?*, Niki Lopez will lead a post-film discussion, based on her film, "Caressed" May 30 at 7 p.m. at the Pompano Beach Cultural Center, 50 W. Atlantic Blvd.

People Magazine profiled Lopez and her story of breaking free from a cult after being raised there with her mom.

Now a prolific artist, her visual art and film-making come together to help others begin their own healing from their personal traumas.

The intentions behind Lopez' work is to not only share a personal elephant but to have discussions surrounding unspoken topics such as abuse, survivors of abuse, awareness, the power of a 'share' and how the arts can be used to heal, to empower and to educate.

This session will consist of a video screening, performance and the artist-led discussion based on the mission of "What's Your Elephant."

This film series take place monthly on the last Thursday at the Cultural Center and/or Ali Cultural Arts museum.

Tickets for all events are \$10 and can be purchased at the door. For more information ccpompano.org or call 954-545-7800.

-Anne Siren

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Air show

Continued from page 1

servicemen and women who help make this weekend's Fort Lauderdale Air Show possible.

"This is so amazing to have a show in your hometown. It's pretty cool. I remember seeing all the pretty jets. I always wanted to join the Navy. I knew that was the branch I wanted to be in," said Presley, 35, a Pompano Beach native who moved to Long Island in 1999.

Presley joined the Navy nine years ago and became part of the Blue Angels team four years ago.

As an aerospace medicine technician, Presley is responsible for performing flight physicals on the pilots, working with the flight surgeon and making sure medical records are up to date.

When he's not performing his main duties, he helps out wherever needed. No job is too small, even if it means holding screws for a mechanic.

"We all pitch in. No one's sitting around. We are a total team effort."

Although still part of the Navy, Presley said being a part of the Blue Angels is



Corpsman Clarence Presley. [Courtesy]

much different than normal fleet duty.

The main difference is the interaction with the public.

"We interact more with civilians [than most Navy personnel] doing community service and team work. They get to see what we do on a

daily basis."

The public viewing area for the air show will be at Sunrise Boulevard and A1A in Fort Lauderdale.

The aeronautical demonstrations will be held from noon to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Parking is at the Galleria Mall, 2414 E. Sunrise Blvd.

The air show will also feature the F-22 Raptor Demo Team, A-10 Warthog, C-17 GlobeMaster III, Geico Skytypers and more.

Visit fortlauderdaleairshow.com for more information.

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Reef

Continued from page 1

has contributed \$2.6 million in bed tax revenues to the Greater Fort Lauderdale Visitors and Convention Bureau.

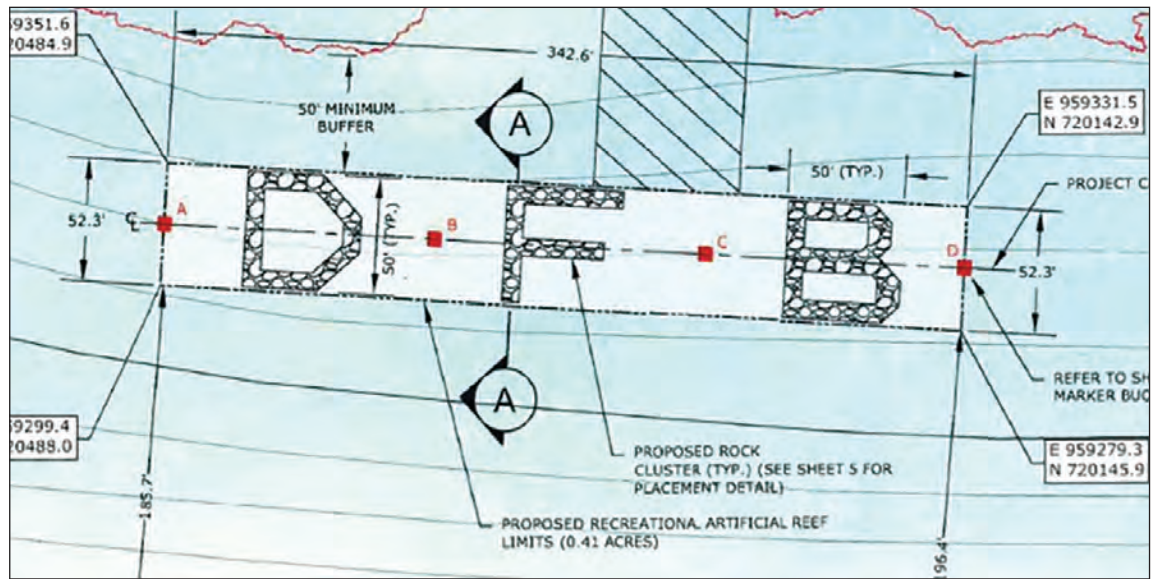
Said Bureau CEO Stacy Ritter, "It is a great project. Not only for tourists, but it protects the shore and puts sand on the beach. It benefits the community."

"As soon as we have the

money, we will fund it . . . The closer we get to the end of the fiscal year, we will know what we have to spend."

Although the TDC's vote was unanimously in favor of the reef, the Broward County Commission will have to approve the funds.

The reef, made up of limestone boulders spelling out DFB, would be sunk in eight to 10 feet of water about 200 feet offshore making it swimmable from the beach.



Rendering of the artificial reef which will spell out D F B. [Courtesy]

Just when the money will be forthcoming is not clear at the moment.

But for the future, Ritter is working on language that will allow the TDC to fund local projects and municipal visitor's centers. Although the centers have received funds in the past, those donations, she said were "outside of protocol . . . we are getting back on a correct path."

Elated by the Council's reaction, Vice Mayor Drosky said, with the funding promised, the contractor will go ahead and build the three letter formation – D F B – each letter in a 50 foot by 50 foot square.

"I don't see it [the funds]

as being an issue," he said, noting both County Mayor Mark Bogen and County Commissioner Lamar Fisher were in favor of the funds the TDC meeting.

When the matter was discussed last week at the Deerfield Beach City Commission, three contractors had bid the project, in two iterations – DB and DFB. Drosky was not in favor of the two-letter design.

The city has \$230,000 [\$30,000 from a Florida Sea Grant] to contribute to reef construction.

"The eco-tourism industry is on the rise in Deerfield Beach," Drosky said. "Although my district doesn't

include it, I am the reef's biggest champion."

Artificial reefs are habitats for juvenile fish, they reduce the pressure on natural reefs and provide educational and research opportunities.

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Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity through neighborhood book-sharing boxes.

Fishing report

Mahi and seaweed



Pictured to the right is Gavin Heale with a beautiful bull dolphin caught earlier this week out of Lighthouse Point.

We have been seeing some really big fish mixed in with all the seaweed.

At times, it seems almost unfishable with all of this seaweed around. If you get a chance, come by the store as we have come up with some weedless trolling baits.

We have narrowed it down to just a few rigs but they sure help with all the seaweeds.

The most logical explanation of the seaweed bloom I have heard is that polluted waters flowing out of South America have created the perfect conditions for this bloom.

I will post the link to our Facebook page so you can read more about it.

*Get tight
RJ Boyle*



Hillsboro Mile/A1A closures for the week of May 6

Partial road closure for Hillsboro Mile/A1A for 24 hours a day [1 lane of traffic] for sanitary sewer and force main installation and road restoration from approximately 1063 to 1103. Traffic will be controlled with flag persons. Take note: the furthest residents can travel north is town hall at 1210.

Complete road closure for sanitary sewer and force main installation from approximately 1205 to approximately 1212. No access through the closure except for emergency vehicles. All residents living at and north of 1212 must travel north, town hall at 1210 must be accessed from the south and all residents at and south of 1205 must travel south. Take note: no access will be allowed past or through town hall at 1210.

These traffic impacts are a projection of the following week's construction progress and may be subject to change.

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Snack waggin'

Continued from page 4

a food truck attractive to a dog's palate about a year ago. But she didn't take herself seriously until February. In just two months, she bought her trailer, developed her menu and got her licenses.

She assembles her shiny, new food truck, which hitches to her SUV, with the help of her brother Bernie Walter, but she will go it alone on the road. She has already learned to back her rig into tight spaces.

Bones & Cones treats run \$3.75 to \$4.75 each and can be custom blended. The ingredients of each treat are mouth-watering and certainly



Bruiser gets a sweet treat from the hand of his owner Alexandra Flaks. [Courtesy]

edible – strawberries, bananas, blueberries, coconut oil, pumpkin seeds – although she cannot advertise them for human consumption.

Walters has also packaged freeze-dried protein snacks to be taken home. The dogs' favorite are her chicken feet.

Her doggie treats are certified by the Florida Department of Agriculture

as required by law and she has the proper permits for her venues. Now she is exploring agreements with this city and Broward County to set up at dog parks in Quiet Waters and Pompano Beach.

Co-owner of a homeowner's association debt collection service, Walter says, "rescue is my true passion."

So, at age 36 she has a

vision for her food truck that includes franchising the idea to others and making it a fulltime business. She has already targeted pet-friendly cities like Austin and Charlotte for possible expansion.

"This has not been done before," she said. "Even in a recession, the dog business doesn't take a hit."

Sandbag crew helps prep for hurricane season



Oakland Park – Volunteers will return on Saturday, May 4, starting at 8 a.m. to fill more sandbags for use during hurricane season in Oakland Park. They're gathering at the Public Works facility at 5100 NE 12 Terr. The group in this photo worked so quickly during a similar event in April they filled 1,100 bags in about an hour and 45 minutes.

"We could be finished with the remainder of our goal about 9:30 at the rate this volunteer crew works," said Bruce Garrison, volunteer program manager. "These volunteers treat this like a Saturday morning coffee social. They really enjoy the process and camaraderie and promise to come back in the event of a storm, if needed." For more information, call 954-630-4502.

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Solution to Sudoku

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

Solution to Crossword:

G	O	P	E	A	T	L	A	S	S	O	B	S
A	P	E	X	P	E	A	C	E	C	L	A	P
L	A	S	T	E	N	N	I	T	H	A	L	E
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S	N	A	G	T	O	R	S	O	E	D	I	T
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Center

Continued from page 1

with the county for 25 years. Hopefully, they will see the opportunity and take advantage” of operating the LBTS center, she said.

If the county doesn't approve the proposal and fund the center, “We will go back to the drawing board

and determine if that's the business we ought to be in. We're a small chamber and a small town, and we've been spending \$20,000 a year to subsidize the visitor center. We can't continue to do that.”

And while other cities might also seek funding from the TDC for a visitor center, Hime noted the town of LBTS and LBTS Chamber of Commerce have funded the

Visitor Center here for more than 25 years. Hime also points out that wayfinding signs to the center have been in place for 20 years on I-95 and Florida's Turnpike.

And the town has a well-trained staff in place and looks forward to the county's tourism marketing expertise “raising our game.”



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