

"Patriotism is as much a virtue as justice, and is as necessary for the support of societies as natural affection is for the support of families."

-Benjamin Rush

TAKING STOCK
SAY NO NO TO NANOBIZ p9

Boca Raton News

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Leading the community to a better tomorrow

51st Year/Issue 101

Thursday, May 24, 2007

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Boca "Inner" beauties crowned

Miss Boca Raton Teen USA
2008 winner Gabriela Wagner
and Miss Boca Raton USA 2008
winner Linda Hill
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DON'T MISS YOUR
SUNDAY
MAY 27

REAL
ESTATE
GUIDE



NEWS ANALYSIS

Boca cultural arts threatened by proposed county cuts

By John Johnston
MANAGING EDITOR

County Administrator Bob Weisman has issued his second proposed set of budget cuts in advance of property tax cut mandates from Tallahassee. Proposed for elimination by Weisman is some cultural arts funding. Budget hearings at which those and other proposed cuts will be debated begin Monday, June 11.

However, for Cultural Council President Rena Blades - and beyond the impact on Palm Beach County's growing cultural identity - the numbers don't compute.

"As a matter of perspective," Blades said, "the 2007 Cultural Development Fund total of \$800,000 represents only .00018 percent of the \$4,400,000,000 proposed county budget. Also, this fund has not increased since 2003, although the population, demand for funding, and cost of living

have." Specifically, Weisman has proposed elimination of the "entire Cultural Development Fund for mid-sized and small/emerging organizations," Blades said in a letter to affected organizations.

The irony of the proposed funding elimination, Blades said, is that those affected are not getting the most from county coffers. Rather, Blades told the *Boca Raton News* "it's really the grass roots groups" that will lose county funding.

She described those groups as ones with annual budgets of "less than \$1.125 million in general," i.e., the Boca Ballet Theatre (BBT) according to BBT Co-Artistic Director Dan Guin.

"Palm Beach County is considering revoking funding for the category "C" cultural grants. For your information "C" stands for children," Guin said. "BBT

continued on Page 7



(Dale King/Staff Photo)

New jets arrive for DayJet

Katie Edwards, who works in the marketing department at DayJet in Boca Raton, and pilot Rick Hemphill, board one of the three new Eclipse 500 jets just received by the company. DayJet is Eclipse Aviation's largest customer, with orders for 239 Eclipse 500s and options for an additional 70 aircraft over the next two years. The planes are in DayJet's hangar at the Boca Raton Airport.





(Special to the News)

The Delray Beach Public Library has received \$12,000 for its summer literacy program. Attending the presentation are, from left, Brian Cheslack, member of the Library Board; Dan Murtaugh, Board president; Alan Kornblau, library director; Lynda Hunter, children's librarian and Dave Buck, Jarden Consumer Solutions Committee Fund employee.

Delray Library receives \$12,000 for summer literacy program

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A check for \$12,000 from the Jarden Consumer Solutions Community Fund was recently presented to Delray Beach Library Board President Dan Murtaugh, Library Board member Brian Cheslack, Library Director Alan Kornblau and Delray Beach Children's Librarian, Lynda Hunter at the library, 100 West Atlantic Avenue.

In attendance were Deputy

Vice Mayor Brenda Montague, City Education Board members, members of Parks and Recreation Department, children from the Child Care Program at Parks & Recreation and representatives from Commerce Bank.

This \$12,000 check will be used to fully fund the literacy component of the city's summer camps programs for about 360 elementary and 120 middle school children and Library patrons at

the Delray Beach Public Library's expanded Children's Department. The money will fund special literacy programming, games and crafts, storytelling, puppet shows and many new books for each child.

There will be an opportunity to issue new library cards to all children attending these many free programs from June 4 through July 30.

Commerce Bank unveiled its

Summer Reading Program for the first time. If children simply read 10 books over the summer, Commerce Bank will deposit \$10 into a new or existing Young Savers account.

For further information on programs at the Delray Beach Library, visit www.delraylibrary.org or call the Children's Department at 561-266-0197.

POLICE BLOTTER

Singer barred from home

Palm Beach County Court Judge Charles Burton has ordered a Boca Raton man — the former lead singer with the band, Creed — to stay away from his home following his arrest on an accusation that he threw a glass bottle at his wife Sunday morning, according to court records.

At first, the judge said Scott Stapp, 33, could use his recording studio. But after Burton found the studio was inside the house, he prohibited Stapp from using it.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office said Stapp was originally charged with felony aggravated assault, but it was reduced to misdemeanor simple battery. He has been released on bond, court records said.

Disturbance probed

Boca Raton police were called to investigate a disturbance about 12:20 a.m. May 5 on Town Center Circle. They found that two men were fighting as the result of a dispute. Officers said one man suffered minor abrasions while the other had a cut over his left eye. Both parties refused to press charges, police said.

Purse stolen

A woman told Boca Raton police May 5 that she left her purse on the boardwalk and went to the beach at 4000 N. Ocean Blvd. When she returned, the purse was gone, she told police. She said it contained her own cell phone and the phone belonging to a friend, police said.

DUI charged

Boca Raton police arrested a motorist for driving while under the influence of alcohol about 3:20 a.m. on May 5. He refused to take a breath test. He was taken to the county jail. The incident occurred on Clint Moore Road, police said.

Car theft arrest

Two youths aged 17 and 15 were arrested about 10 a.m. May 5 and charged with grand theft auto from the Tri-Rail depot parking lot on Yamato Road. They were found inside a man's car, which was reported, stolen from the Mobil Gas Station on Yamato Road earlier in the day. They were also charged with stealing another vehicle that was found on Congress Avenue, police said. It was stolen from Extreme Motorcars in Lake Worth, which is in the jurisdiction of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Cart stolen

A security officer at Lynn University told police May 5 that someone stole a university-owned golf cart and crashed it in the woods on the west side of the campus, according to police.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT T. MORPHY BOCA RATON

Robert T. Morphy, age 101, of Boca Raton passed away on Friday, May 18, 2007.

Robert was born in Clifton Springs, NY on June 11, 1905. He lived for many years in California and Reno, Nevada before moving to Florida. Robert is a long time member of the Deerfield Country Club and an avid sports enthusiast. He enjoyed his 100th birthday party with all his friends at Edgewater Pointe Estates. The last years of his life were enhanced by the excellent care he received from his aides, Beverly and Mar-

garethe.

A charming and fortunate man, he outlived three beloved wives and is now survived by great nieces and nephews. A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 24, 2007 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Deerfield Beach. Committal prayers to follow at the Boca Raton Mausoleum. A Memorial Service will be held at 4:00 pm Thursday in the chapel of Edgewater Pointe Estates.

Babione Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements.

Temple Emeth Brotherhood presents series of summer shows

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Brotherhood of Temple Emeth will present a series of summer shows:

Sunday, June 24 at 2 p.m., Temple Emeth Talent Follies. The audience can see, listen to, admire and applaud your brother and sister Temple members. There will be singing, instrumental performance, specialty numbers and special surprises. All seats are \$6.

Sunday, July 29 at 2 p.m. Cantor Shimon Gewirtz in concert, accompanied by his wife Ilana at the piano. Cantor Gewirtz is a well-known singer, musician, composer and storyteller. Reserved

seats are \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door.

Sunday, Aug. 19, 2 p.m., The Golden Tones of Cantor Norman Brody in a program of songs from Broadway to Yiddish and everything in between. Reserved seats are in advance \$12, \$14 at the door.

A special for all three show is \$25 a person. Ticket sales are in the Judaica shop Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Temple Emeth is located at 5780 West Atlantic Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33484. For further information, call the office at 561-498-3536.

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(Dale King/Staff Photo)

National Safe Boating Week

Boca Raton Mayor Steven Abrams has proclaimed the week of May 19-25 as National Safe Boating Week. He presented the proclamation to Tom Rutherford, commander of the local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 36, during Tuesday's City Council meeting. Rutherford told council members and the audience that accidental drowning could be cut drastically if boat riders wore life jackets.

Ines Vrielynck named LXR area sales manager

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Ines Vrielynck has been appointed area sales manager for LXR Luxury Resorts & Hotels (LXR), according to LXR Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Mark Komine.

Komine said Vrielynck will be responsible for furthering corporate and group sales among the four properties comprising the LXR South Florida Collection: the Miami Beach Resort & Spa in Miami Beach; Key Largo Grande Resort & Beach Club in Key Largo; and Casa Marina Resort & Beach Club and Reach Resort, both in Key West.

In this position, Vrielynck will assist with sales efforts in the lo-

cal market of Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties, with a vertical market of International and tour and travel group-related business.

Prior to joining LXR, Vrielynck held the position of sales manager at the Ocean Reef Club, where she worked for over seven years.

"Ines has proven herself to be an effective leader in our industry," says Komine. "We believe she will continue to excel in her new position and are pleased to have her as a member of our team."

LXR Luxury Resorts & Hotels is a portfolio of independent luxury properties located throughout the United States and the Caribbean.

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Dale King

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(Special to the News)

Kelly Chacon, Secretary, American Heritage Pre-Med Club; Kyle Robinson, Co-President, American Heritage Pre-Med Club; Alan Levine, CEO/President, North Broward Hospital District; Naureen Ahmed, Co-President, American Heritage Pre-Med Club; Paul Sallarullo, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, North Broward Hospital District; Jahan Sharif, Treasurer, American Heritage Pre-Med Club; Dr. Doug Laurie, Vice President, American Heritage School; Dr. Carlos Pulido, Science Department Chairman, American Heritage School; Jane Tuthill, Administrator Product Line Services, Broward General Medical Center and Chris Evert Children's Hospital.

Raising \$45,000 for the Chris Evert Children's Hospital

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The North Broward Hospital District recognized the American Heritage Pre-Med and Pre-Law societies at its recent board meeting for raising \$45,000 for the Chris Evert Children's Hospital through the school's 2nd Annual 5K For A Better Day Run and Fitness Walk.

The North Broward Hospital District's CEO/President, Alan Levine, and

the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Paul Sallarullo, praised American Heritage students for contributing more than \$100,000 to the hospital over the years, and for hosting an annual children's holiday party at the Chris Evert Children's Hospital.



(Special to the News)

Boca resident Lorena Bromell, shown left, Jeanne Monte, and Lauren Tochner have been appointed Community Coordinators for this region by PAX, Program of Academic Exchange.

Exchange program appoints local representatives

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Jeanne Monte of Boca Raton, Lauren Tochner of West Palm Beach, and Lorena Bromell in North Palm Beach have been ap-

pointed Community Coordinators for this region by PAX, Program of Academic Exchange.

Headquartered in Port Chester, New York, PAX is a non-profit

educational organization that invites international high school students to the United States for an academic home stay. Monte, Tochner, and Bromell were selected to represent PAX due to a demonstrated enthusiasm, interest in foreign cultures, and desire to become more active in the community.

They are currently interviewing families in this area interested in sharing their lives with a young person from another country for the coming academic year.

"All PAX students have been carefully screened, speak English, have full medical insurance, and come with their own spending money," says Monte. "We work with students from 35 different countries, including those in Spain, Thailand, Italy, Finland, Germany, just to name a few."

Host families are asked to provide the student with meals, a warm supportive environment,

and a place to sleep and study. Local support is provided to the host family and student by the Community Coordinators. "We're looking for families and empty nesters who are interested in the world and in helping an exchange student learn more about America."

Pongsarun and Christina are just two of the students we would like to place in the community. Pongsarun from Thailand has silver and bronze medals in Tae Kwon Do and plays soccer and sings in the Choir. Christina from Spain would like to expose her hosts to some aspects of her Spanish culture, including the music, food and customs. She loves animals, swimming, fitness, music and also speaks French.

Contact Jeanne Monte at 561-883-2783, Lauren Tochner at 561-797-5736, Lorena Bromell at 561-670-9418 or the PAX headquarters at 800-555-6211.

County helps with event at Mizner Park; expands Delray Beach water plant

By John Johnston

MANAGING EDITOR

County commissioners have approved a \$35,000 agreement with the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, Inc. to help offset the cost of the Israel Independence Day Celebration held at the Mizner Park amphitheater April 24. Approximately 5,000 people attended the celebration, commissioners said.

Separately, commissioners approved a \$230,067 contract with Brown & Caldwell, Inc. for four new production wells at Water Treatment Plant No. 3 in Delray Beach. Commissioners said the additional wells are needed to improve system reliability and to maintain sustainable wellfield yields.

Commissioners also agreed to a \$16,657 agreement with materials and construction of the water end-wall repair project at the Southern Region Water Reclamation Facility. Temron, Inc., will provide \$3,122 in materials, and Murray Logan Construction, Inc. will construct the wall for \$13,535.

Other Business

In other recent business commissioners:

- Approved a \$4 million agreement with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) providing grant funding for construction of the Lake Region Water Treatment Plant. The SFWMD is providing grant funding through the State of Florida General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2006. The SFWMD grant will be applied toward construction costs associated with the raw water and potable water transmission pipelines being constructed by GlobeTec. Matching funds will be applied to treatment plant equipment being installed/constructed by the Poole & Kent Company. Commissioners said the plant should be completed by June 30, 2008. These grant funds will be used to reduce net cost of the plant for the cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay, said commissioners.

- Signed an agreement in which a 400 foot free-standing tower on county-owned land at 7800 Forest Hill Boulevard, and formerly owned by AT&T and Bell South, and now owned by Cingular Wireless, would be conveyed by Cingular Wireless to the county within 10 years of the tower being built, as provided in

the original agreement.

- Executed a \$4.1 million change order with The Weitz Company in connection with construction of the Judicial Center Parking Garage change order No. 3 will provide for the Phase II construction of two additional parking levels to the existing parking deck. Phase I work currently underway includes additional footings and shear walls to meet the current wind load requirements of the Florida Building Code, said commissioners.

- Signed a utility easement agreement in favor of Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) for underground electrical services to the 1916 Courthouse in West Palm Beach. FPL requires an easement for installation of underground electrical services and a transformer.

- Approved change order No. 1 to the Contract with Sheltra & Sons, Inc. for the Northern Region Pipeline extension project, decreasing the contract price by \$105,477 and providing a 45-day time extension.

- Approved change order No. 4 to a contract with Ricman International, Inc. for the LaMancha Avenue Pipeline extension project, increasing the contract price by \$5,173.80 and providing a 47-day time extension. Total change orders to date, excluding the \$1,560,334 sales tax recovery program change order total \$396,555, said commissioners.

- Approved a \$65,000 Interlocal Agreement with the East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities (ECR) Operations Board for construction of the ECR Monitoring Wells No. 2 and No. 6 Replacement Project. Commissioners said the City of West Palm Beach, on behalf of the ECR Operations Board, has made several attempts to solicit construction bids for replacing the wellheads for two existing deep injection-monitoring wells. All bids received exceeded the budget for this work. The county offered to include the ECR work as a separate line item in its Systemwide Wellfield Improvements Project. The ECR Operations Board has agreed to reimburse the county.

John Johnston can be reached at 561-549-0833, or at jjohnston@bocanews.com

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Are women being short-changed in federal contracting?

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A RAND Corporation study examining whether women-owned small businesses are underrepresented among firms contracting with the federal government finds that the results vary depending on the way the measurement is made.

The study, conducted for the U.S. Small Business Administration and issued today, is the most thorough analysis done to date of whether women-owned small businesses are underrepresented among firms awarded contracts by federal agencies.

Researchers found that when they examined the total number of contracts awarded, women-owned businesses were underrepresented in more than half of the industry categories studied for federal purchasing during 2002, 2003 and 2005.

However, researchers found that when the dollar value of the same federal contracts was the measurement standard, there was little evidence that women-owned small businesses were underrepresented.

"These findings provide policymakers with new information about how to judge whether women-owned small businesses are underrepresented among federal contractors," said Elaine Reardon, lead author of the study and an economist at RAND, a nonprofit research organization.

While contracting by women-owned businesses has risen over time, it has not yet reached the target set by Congress of 5 percent of prime and subcontract contract dollars for each industry category. Women-owned small businesses accounted for 3.3 percent of the totals in 2005, the last year studied.

Most studies examining whether disadvantaged businesses are underrepresented among federal contractors have focused on the number of contracts awarded. If disadvantaged firms receive fewer contracts than their total representation

• *The study, conducted for the U.S. Small Business Administration and issued today, is the most thorough analysis done to date of whether women-owned small businesses are underrepresented among firms awarded contracts by federal agencies.*

in the industry studied, they are deemed to be underrepresented.

RAND researchers broadened their analysis of women-owned small businesses by also examining the dollar value of federal contracts awarded to businesses in different types of industries. Researchers wanted to see whether the dollar value of contracts awarded to women-owned small businesses was in proportion to their representation in individual industries.

Researchers used both methods to analyze federal contracts awarded to women-owned small business across broadly defined industries such as manufacturing, construction, education services and health care.

The study also addressed concerns that large firms may be obtaining small business contracts. Researchers used Dun and Bradstreet business information to define small firms as well as data on size from the federal government. The effort did not change findings about industries where women-owned small businesses are underrepresented.

The federal government encourages small and disadvantaged business, including small businesses owned by women, to seek federal contracts.



(Special to the News)

Jeffrey Chang, Fred Habibi, Mary Wong, Maureen Wilt, Jessica Strazulla, and Darlene Blystone of Office Depot celebrate with new homeowner Dora Shiver and her daughter, Tierra Knight, 5. Shiver received the keys to her new Delray Beach home at the Habitat for Humanity dedication ceremony. Office Depot sponsored the construction of the home with both a donation of \$50,000 and the volunteer effort of the company's South Florida-based workforce. At right is Darlene Blystone's son, Charles.

Habitat for Humanity dedicates two homes in Delray Beach

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Habitat for Humanity South Palm Beach celebrated the completion of two new homes in Delray Beach Sunday. Attending the dedication were newly elected Delray Beach Mayor Rita Ellis, Habitat for Humanity representatives, community members, and corporate sponsors Office Depot and Bank of America.

With the completion of these two homes, Habitat for Humanity South Palm Beach will have built a total of 69 houses since 1992.

The homes are located at 217 and 223 NW 15th Ave in Delray Beach. The house at 217 NW 15th Ave will be occupied by Dora Shiver and her four young children. Shiver is an employee of Unimed Health Systems in Deerfield Beach. The house was sponsored

by Office Depot.

Local volunteers and Office Depot associates from South Florida participated in the construction throughout a six-month period.

"This home that Office Depot and Habitat for Humanity built for my family is a dream come true," said Shiver. "My children and I are very thankful and excited to be moving into our very own home. We feel very lucky to have such caring friends at Office Depot and Habitat for Humanity."

The home at 223 NW 15th Ave will be occupied by Arenetta Hickman and her two teenage sons. Hickman is a deli manager at Publix and has worked there for more than nine years. The house, sponsored by Bank of America, was part of the Habitat for Humanity South Palm Beach Col-

legiate Challenge.

Students from York College in York, Pa.; Hibbings Community College in Hibbings, Minn.; and Bentley College in Waltham, Mass. spent their spring breaks in South Florida constructing the home.

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in Americus, Georgia, in 1976, Habitat has built more than 200,000 houses in nearly 100 countries, providing affordable shelter for more than a million people.

Headquartered in Delray Beach, Office Depot has annual sales of more than \$15 billion.

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(Special to the News)

From left: Alfredo Guerra, Lisa Tabin and Jim Nau.

Boca company walks for life, raises \$9,000+ for March of Dimes

FROM STAFF REPORTS

NCCI Holdings, Inc. employees and friends walked to raise money for the March of Dimes WalkAmerica on Saturday, April 21. Approximately \$9,300 was raised for MOD by NCCI.

Together with 22 other team members, NCCI CFO Alfredo Guerra and NCCI employee Jim Nau, along with friend, Lisa Tabin, enjoyed their scenic walk on the FAU campus in Boca Raton as they helped to stamp out birth defects by raising money for the March of Dimes (MOD).

MOD was instrumental in establishing neonatal Intensive Care Units at Boca Raton Community Hospital and West Boca Medical Center.

NCCI Holdings, Inc. of Boca Raton is the largest and most experienced provider of statistics and employee injury data for the workers compensation industry. It is located at 901 Peninsula Corporate Circle in Boca Raton. To learn more, visit www.ncci.com.

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Boca "inner" beauties crowned

Miss Boca Raton Teen USA and Miss Boca Raton USA 2008

By Nicol Jenkins
STAFF WRITER

Melissa Korman
PHOTOS

For Boca residents Gabriela Wagner and Linda Hill, beauty is beyond skin deep.

Although the duo possess an outer beauty, it was the inner that won over the judges at the recent Miss Boca Raton USA and Miss Boca Raton Teen USA 2008 pageant held at West Boca Raton Community High School.

Thus the two were crowned. Wagner, 17, took home the title of Miss Boca Raton Teen USA 2008. Hill, 21, was crowned Miss Boca Raton USA 2008.

"It was the total package," said Pageant Director Jeanne Brander. "Not only did they have smarts but they looked great and spoke great, and they are very sweet people. They're two terrific human beings."

The winners competed in an interview process and on stage competition which included a swimsuit, evening gown and question and answer session.

Hill will go on to compete in The Miss Florida USA Pageant that will be televised this July in Hollywood, Florida. The first runner-up was Jennifer Olkitsky and second runner up was Megan Brooks. Other titles that were awarded in the Miss Category included, Miss Amity, won by Kira Brooks, Miss Photogenic won by Kourtney Gallego and the Peoples Choice Award also won by Linda Hill.

Wagner will compete in the 2008 Miss Florida Teen USA Pageant in October. In the Teen division, the first runner up was Karlee Janigian and the second runner up was Rebeca Garcia. Miss Amity was won by Karlee Janigian, Miss Photogenic was won by Brittani Robins and the Peoples Choice Award was won by Gabriela Wagner.

The two will hold the titles until next year's pageant, which will be held in January 2008.

"Beauty" Pageant

Both winners went into the pageant without a superficial goal and instead hoped to bring awareness to those in need.

For Wagner, it was a first.

"I was so shocked that I won because I was the only contestant that had never done a pageant before," she said.

And she says she's not the everyday beauty queen.

"I don't wear makeup, I had to learn how to walk in heels, and I was the only one eating cookies. I'm the girl at school who's not wearing makeup and doing experiments in biology lab," Wagner said. "I'm the antithesis of a beauty pageant girl."

So why did she enter?

Wagner said this competition was more than looks.

"I researched this a little bit and found that it was not just about beauty. I only believe in promoting beauty in the environment. I feel people should care about appearance only to a degree and not be consumed by it," she said. "This pageant takes into account the whole person. They're looking for an overall person, not just a Barbie doll and not someone who is superficial."

Unlike Wagner, Hill has dreamed of being crowned since she was little and has competed in various pageants. But like Wagner, Hill learned that being a winner means more than looking good in a bikini.

"For all the other pageants I always thought it was about the looks and I always focused on things like wardrobe or smile, which turned out to be kind of superficial. I figured all the girls that were winning were doing something to help the community and that made me want to reach out and do something good, not just to win but to help others," Hill said.

Helping Others

Both growing up in Boca Raton and involved in community service, the winners say they will use the titles to help others.

Wagner, a junior at Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, said her top priority would be animal rights. This holds a special meaning since Wagner almost died a year ago after her horse accidentally kicked her unconscious and she was left with 250 stitches, a crushed skull, multiple surgeries and three weeks of blind-

ness. Despite the accident, Wagner said she wants to bring aid to all animals.

"I want the entire community to promote more animal welfare awareness. So many animals are dying. And 15 million animals in the United States are going to a shelter this year. It's so sad. That's why we have to prevent animal cruelty," said Wagner, who has various community service projects at her school to raise money for animals in need.

Besides aiding animals, Wagner said she also wants to focus on bringing confidence to teen girls and all teens while giving back to the community. 0

"Every girl has a twinkle and charm inside of them that's intrinsic, and by not utilizing and cultivating it, that goes to waste. That beauty will become dull if they use it on something stupid like drugs or drinking or feeling succumbed by boys," she said. "It's essential that each of us make the best of our gifts whether it's intelligence, music, or sports. That will benefit ourselves and then we can use our gifts to benefit the community."

She added, "The uniqueness of every girl makes her so special and it's what makes her even better than any type of Miss Teen USA."

Wagner's platform is "to help animals make our community stronger and inspire all teens not just girls to try their best, and by doing their best they should want to give back to the community."

On the other hand, Hill, a student at Palm Beach Community College and Florida Atlantic University, wants to devote her time to bringing comfort to soldiers overseas through her project, We Love Our Soldiers.

"It's all about showing the families who live in our communities and have sons and daughters serving our country that we appreciate everything that they're doing. It's something with all the controversy with the elections and school shootings that has kind of been forgotten and people are still overseas being killed and traumatized," she said. "Sometimes they go weeks without mail and I want to raise money to put together baskets and letters."

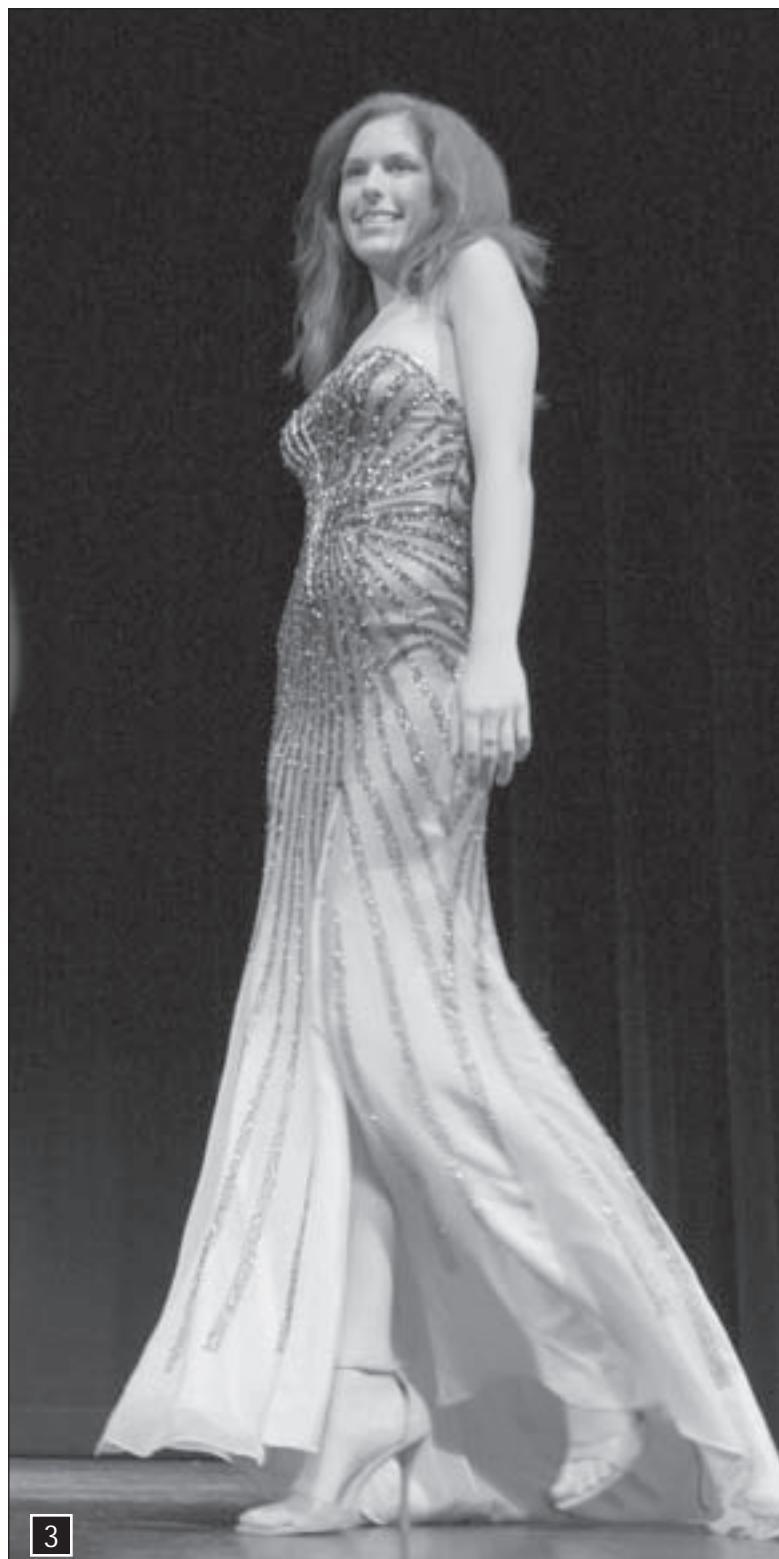
Hill plans on filling that void by raising funds to send care packages to the troops filled with goodies they like from CDs to movies and letters to show that the community still cares.

In addition to helping soldiers, Hill hopes to also focus on aiding other countries since she is from Dominica. She's currently pursuing a degree in international journalism.

"I'd like to travel and one day be an ambassador for a country," Hill said. "Through the pageants I've learned to be appreciative of what I have and not to be mediocre. I want to do something big because you only get one life and I really want to stand out and contribute to society. Even if I am not recognized for it, that's fine as long as I have it in my own heart and know that I did the best I could."

Both winners said they hope to continue to represent Boca Raton.

Nicol Jenkins can be reached at njenkins@bocanews.com or 561-549-0844.



1 - Ashley Star Shannon - Miss Boca Raton USA 2006

2 - Rebeca Garcia in the Evening Gown Competition (2nd Runner Up)

3 - Kourtney Gallego (Winner of Miss Photogenic)

4 - Boca Cheer Center & Boca Extreme All Stars

5 - Miss Boca Raton USA Delegates - Linda Hill, Kourtney Gallego, Megan Brooks, Jennifer Olkitsky, and Kiri Brooks

6 - Left Delegate Brittani Morgan Robins claps for the announcement of the Miss Boca Raton Teen USA winner Gabriela Wagner. Gabriela is crowned by Miss Boca Raton Teen USA 2007 Arianna Parchment. Miss Boca Raton USA 2007 Dana Jo Alley presents Gabriela with her flower bouquet

7 - Linda Hill (Left) hears her name being called as the winner of the Miss Boca Raton USA 2008 contest. Kourtney Gallego and Kiri Brooks clap for the results

The Pineapple Grove Arts District in Delray Beach hosted the 10th annual Bed Race, Parade and Street Dance May 8.

(Melissa Korman/Special to the News)

In honor of the 10th anniversary, this year's race featured the Ultimate Bed Race Challenge between all past champions, an attempt to regain their titles.

The team from the Bru's Room took the title.

All teams were asked to decorate their beds in honor of the theme, "Wackona" which means "one really crazy time" in Polynesian.

1 - The FAU team carries on.

2 - FAU Team, from left, Kris Bartels #27, Josh Pinnick #97, Ashley Kent, cheerleader, right front, Taneem Acevedo #9 and right rear Rusty Smith #11.

3 - Shane, Chris, with his daughter Lacey, 14 months, Kelly and Dylan Siska accept their awards with friends.

4 - Tamara, age 10, of the "Diamond Steppers."

5 - "Diamond Steppers" are led by Captain Brianna, age 10, as they practice their routine for the parade.

6 - Delray Beach Medical Center's entry in the Bed Race.

7 - The team from the 505 Teen Center in Delray Beach.

8 - Moe's Southwest Grille races on.

9 - Master of ceremonies for the race, Ted Miller of Sunny 104.3, thanks race director Susan Keleher for putting together the event.

10 - Beach Boys v. Moe's Southwest Grille.

11 - From left, Dylan, Chris, Kelly, Shane and Rory Siska of Team Bru's Room team up before the final race and go on to win it.

12 - Dania Khan, Queen for Delray Beach Marriot, gets help fixing her pineapple crown before the parade from Donna Schnell.

13 - While waiting for the Bed Race to start, Ashley Kent, FAU cheerleader, grabs the football from FAU football player Rusty Smith.



1



7



8



2



9



3



10



11



4



5



12



6



13

Sentries for homeowners

Tenth in a series

One of coal miners' earliest warning systems for danger in the mines were little yellow canaries. Their highly sensitive metabolism was very attuned to methane and carbon monoxide; if the canary died, the miners needed to leave the pit before it exploded.

There are certain plants in the botanical world that act as sentries for homeowners. In these drought conditions, sentry plants can serve a valuable function — they wilt. That's how they let us know when it's time to water before everything else wilts.

"Starburst (Clerodendrum quadriloculare) is our indicator in the nursery that we need to turn the sprinklers on," said Elise Ryan, owner of Color Garden Farms wholesale grower in Loxahatchee.

Even though they're native to Florida, wild coffee (Psychotria nervosa) droops when it's too dry. Normally found in shell ridge hammock understories with fil-

tered sunlight, it positively swoons in direct sun if it gets too dry, letting the homeowner know that irrigation is necessary. Distinguished by its beautiful evergreen foliage and bright red berries, its conspicuous veins give the plant a textured look. But its whole appearance shows distress well before other plants in the landscape.

Homeowners without sprinkler systems are advised to hold off on watering until they see their sentry plants wilt. Be sure also to follow current water use restrictions.

"During the summer months, the best way to water is to irrigate only when the landscape needs it rather than on a schedule," said Bill Schall, Palm Beach County Extension Agent. "I've gone entire summers without turning my sprinklers on. I'll just spot water a dry area by hand when it starts to wilt."

Other sentry plants in South Florida landscapes that act as bellwether indicators for the need



to water include Purple Showers (Ruellia brittoniana), Allamanda (Allamanda schottii), Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (Brunfelsia grandiflora), Firespike (Odontonema callistachyum) and many of the hibiscus hybrids.

If you have questions about any of these GrowSmart techniques, call the South Florida Water Management District at 561-686-8800 or the Palm Beach County Extension Master Gardener Hotline at 561-233-1750.

TAKING STOCK

Firm's new battery has strong negative charge

Dear Mr. Berko:

I want to invest in a small company that specializes in nanotechnology because I think this is the wave of the future. I'm told of a company called Altair Nanotechnologies that is, according to research given to me by my broker, on the cutting edge of many new products. I would like to buy 20,000 shares of Altair at \$3.90 because it seems to have excellent promise according to WR Hambrecht's research. Hambrecht, as you know is that big New York Stock Exchange firm which was very active during the tech stock market and people made big money following their recommendations. Hambrecht's people believe that Altair's revenue will grow tenfold this year and that the company will finally make a profit. Hambrecht is a member of the NYSE so their research certainly must meet sound standards. But I would like your thoughts on this stock, which would also give me an added level of comfort before I invest \$39,000.

N.W.

Kankakee, Ill.

Dear N.W.:

Altair Nanotechnologies Inc. (ALTI-\$3.30) is a research and development firm with activities directed at high-sounding sectors like: advanced materials, air and water treatment, alternative energy, lanthanum-based pharmaceuticals, biocompatible materials and chemical delivery products. Last year ALTI put \$4.3 million in revenues on the books and lost 29 cents for each of its 69 million shares, or about \$20 million. ALTI hasn't made a profit since it emerged from the woodwork as a new issue four years ago.

Nanotechnologies is a fancy name that excites millions of gullible simpletons who believe there's a Golconda behind every rinky-dink, small company in the nano-business. Most of ALTI's research, except for alternative energy, isn't worth writing home about especially its lanthanum (a ductile rare metal) based pharmaceutical research, which has been an embarrassing bust.

However, ALTI's alternative energy research seems to have excited the hoi polloi who pushed the price up 65 percent from December's \$2.50 a share to \$4.10 last March. And the price has fallen even more from \$3.90 to \$3.30, which is a \$4,000 savings on 10,000 shares. The big deal is ALTI's rapid-charge, high-powered nano-battery. Supposedly a sport utility vehicle, equipped with this battery using nano-structured materials for the negative electrode, recently "put on an impressive performance." Now I don't know what "an impressive performance" is but I can tell you that ALTI's chief executive officer, Alan Gotcher Ph.D., has been talking up his nano-tale batteries for several years.

But all is not as bad as it seems; Gotcher's battery has produced more than \$75 million in losses that can be used as a write-off if ALTI makes a fortune on a rumored nano-patent for powdered water.

Still there are idiots on the street who believe ALTI is the next Microsoft, Google or Walmart. Brokerages I've never heard of like Merriman Curhan Ford, Canaccord Adams and the Maxxim Group have "buy" recommendations on the stock. And some poor schlump (John Roy) at WR Hambrecht also rates ALTI as a strong buy. This fellow thinks that orders of ALTI's nano-batteries will generate \$42 million in new revenues this year.

So computing this new revenue factor into his kindergarten computations, JR suggests that ALTI, rather than losing millions this year, will net 9 cents a share, or \$6 million. Meanwhile, ALTI management wantonly spends money like drunken sailors on shore leave. So in order to meet lease obligations, payroll, etc., Gotcher has to raise cash to pay the bills; so guess which brokerage firm is ALTI's underwriter? Why Hambrecht, of course, and they're telling starry-eyed investors like you that ALTI will soon be a \$6 stock.

One would think the buffoons who run the New York Stock Exchange should sense a conflict between Hambrecht's published research reports on Altair and Hamrecht's position as



Malcom Berko

• *Nanotechnologies is a fancy name that excites millions of gullible simpletons who believe there's a Golconda behind every rinky-dink, small company in the nano-business.*

an underwriter for ALTI's shares. But I'm not surprised; Hambrecht has skilled friends with bushels of bucks who lobby the NYSE! Not long ago when my office was visited by the NYSE staff, one of their auditors lost his patience with my questions and blurted, "We don't give a blankety-blank about the public. You break our rules, and you're toast!" Some say the NYSE and its member firms have inveigled more money from investors than the Mafia, but that's a conservative guess. Meanwhile, if that battery is so good, please tell me why ALTI is still selling at a low \$3.30 a share?

Please address your financial questions to Malcom Berko, P.O. Box 1416, Boca Raton, FL 33429 or e-mail him at malber@adelphia.net.



(Special to the News)

Sharon Hall, right, director of the Capstone Program for Junior Achievement Worldwide, addresses the audience during a JA Finance Park program. To her right is Ken Cunningham, a member of the board of directors for JA and president of Gold Coast Financial Group, LLC.

Junior Achievement holds first finance park program in Palm Beach County

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Junior Achievement recently conducted the first-ever JA Finance Park program in Palm Beach County, with teachers and 8th grade students from St Clare's Catholic School.

JA Finance Park is a six-week economics education program that introduces personal financial planning and career exploration.

Following a series of 14 lessons delivered in school, students visited JA Finance Park in West Palm Beach. After being given a fictitious adult life situation card, they had the opportunity to put into action what they learned by committing to a personally developed budget, assisted by their teachers and a staff of trained

volunteers.

Junior Achievement is a non-profit economic education organization serving Palm Beach, Martin and Hendry counties. Northwood University in West Palm Beach will be the permanent home for all Junior Achievement programs upon completion of a planned facility.

MEMORIAL DAY

In remembrance of all military personnel who died in service to the United States of America

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

"All Gave Some . . . Some Gave All"

Monday, May 28, 2007

10:00 am

Boca Raton Cemetery
449 S.W. 4th Avenue

Arranged by

American Legion Post #277 • American Legion Auxiliary Post #277 • Boca Raton Elks Lodge #2166 • Estahakee Chapter NSDAR
Boca Raton Community High School NJROTC • City Of Boca Raton • Great Boca Raton Beach & Park District

★
Special Words and Memorial Day Thoughts
Presentation of Ceremonial Wreath
Special Music by Hurricane Harmonizers
Fort Lauderdale Highlanders
Boca Raton Community High School Band

Evening concert as part of Memorial Day Observances
Mizner Park Amphitheater • 7 p.m.

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Crossword

Grid for crossword puzzle with numbers 1-58 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS 1 'Dagnet' star, 5 Potential syrup, 8 Portent, 12 Unoriginal one, 13 George's brother, 14 Ersatz swing, 15 Arrivederci, 16 Trawling need, 17 B&Bs, 18 They're marine and 'army', 20 Braggart, perhaps, 22 Opposite of 'trans-', 23 Pompous fool, 24 Poison-ivy symptom, 27 Dining surface, 32 Vast expanse, 33 Mound stat, 34 Mess up, 35 Variety of orange, 38 Hydrox rival, 39 Annoy, 40 Prankster, 42 Cuff-to-crotch measure, 45 Vacillate, 49 Track transactions, 50 Make up your mind, 52 Narthex neighbor, 53 Enrages, 54 Neckline shape, 55 Oklaho-oma city, 56 'Finding Nemo' character, 57 Cauliflower, maybe, 58 Ohio team, DOWN 1 Texas city, 2 Grand story, 3 Pulsate, 4 Pin, 5 Evil, 6 Exist, 7 Cracker spread, 8 Futile, 9 Give service (to), 10 Sea flock, 11 Egg container?, 19 Circle ratio, 21 Young woman, 24 Doctrine, 25 Wonderland quaff, 26 Sugar holder, 28 Onassis, familiarly, 29 Railing, 30 Raw rock, 31 Expert, 36 Chic, 37 Alias (Abbr.), 38 First game of the season, 41 Yours truly, 42 Footnote abbr., 43 Pianist Peter, 44 Relocate, 46 Logical, 47 Eager, 48 Becomes one, 51 Princess' insomnia cause

Solution time: 21 mins.

Completed crossword grid with words filled in.

Yesterday's answer 5-23

Sudoku

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers to 9 in the empty squares so that each column and each 3x3 contains the same number only once.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled.

Difficulty Level ★★

Answer to previous puzzle

9x9 grid containing the solution to the previous puzzle.

Difficulty Level ★★

Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Thursday, May 24, 2007:

This year, communicate your energy and spirit in a manner in which others can understand. Simplicity draws many more people and adds to your professional and personal success.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES March 21-April 19

New beginnings are possible if you don't go to extremes. Nix exaggeration, whether it comes from you or someone around you.

TAURUS April 20-May 20

Where others lack imagination, you have ideas. Let your knowledge dictate your choices, and use your ingenuity to make them possible.

GEMINI May 21-June 20

You mean what you say. Nevertheless, confusion surrounds plans, perhaps a long-term plan. Don't try to reverse a situation.

home.

CANCER June 21-July 22

You might need to clarify and ask more questions. What appears to be right-on and clear to you could be most confusing to a key associate or loved one.

LEO July 23-Aug. 22

Curb a need to spend until you get a better grasp on a situation; you might not be right or on target. Acknowledge someone for what he or she has to offer.

VIRGO Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You might be on top of your game, but if you look around, others might not be. If you can pitch in and make someone's day a little easier, do.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22

For better or for worse, whatever decision or move you make falls apart. You might not understand what is happening. Isolate yourself from chaos.

SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Aim for more of what you want from a dubious situation. If you act clearly, then others might have a backdrop to work with in their confusion.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Maintain a low profile rather than get caught up in a whirlwind of

activity, confusion and misunderstanding. Gain a perspective through watching. Do what you must; others might be more observant than you think.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Take the high road. Avoid getting caught up in problems that surround you. Investigate possibilities with a clear eye.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Know when to back off. Though you absolutely might feel you are on the right track, you could be off. Give yourself time.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

Others clearly want to dominate. Who are you to prevent them from doing what seems natural and important? What you might be working through in your mind might be based on a false premise.

BORN TODAY

Singer Patti LaBelle 1944, singer Rosanne Cash 1955, basketball player Joe Dumars 1963

Advertisement for 'WIN A DAY AT THE BOCA RATON NEWS & THE PALM BEACH ZOO'. Includes promotional text, a graphic of a zebra, and a contest entry form with fields for Name, Address, Phone Number, and Email Address.

SPORTS

thursday sports
spring football – boca high at spanish river 7 p.m.
atlantic high vs. ely high 7 p.m.

YOUR TEAMS ARE OUR TEAMS

Garrish leads Boca High against River

By Mario Sarmiento
SPORTS EDITOR

At first, Boca Raton High quarterback John Garrish didn't know how bad it was.

On a botched special teams play against Palm Beach Gardens last year, Garrish had to run with the ball and took a hit in his right knee. He came out of the game and wanted to return, but Coach Rick Swain thought better of it and had his junior quarterback sit out.

Garrish was fine until the next practice. Then, after his 15th pass, it happened.

"I probably had my best practice that day of the year," he said. "I took a three-step drop, and the knee gave out on me."

The diagnosis was grim. Garrish had torn the ACL and MCL in his right knee, and he also damaged the meniscus.

"It brought me to tears," Garrish said. "I've been playing football all my life and I never had an injury."

His season was over after two games, and the Bobcats never recovered, falling to 4-6 and missing the playoffs for the first time in four seasons.

Thursday, Garrish takes the field for the first time in a game since that night, when his Bobcats play

at Spanish River High at 7 p.m.

Garrish had surgery eight days after his injury, and the combination of painkillers that dulled his appetite and the inability to work out trimmed 30 pounds from his 195-pound frame.

Garrish's father John, who is the assistant head coach and running backs coach for the Bobcats, said the injury was especially difficult because Garrish loves to work in the weight room.

But Garrish worked as hard on his rehabilitation as he did with weights, and it helped that the surgical team that operated on him was the same one used by the Miami Dolphins.

Garrish was given a good prognosis though, and in fact his 40 time now is just a tenth of a second slower than it was last year.

Once doctors told him he would be ready for spring football, Garrish circled Aug. 1 on his calendar and spent every day working towards it.

Still, last season was a wasted one for Garrish. Junior year is always a pivotal one for a high school athlete, since it's the first chance to send out tapes to prospective colleges. And with Garrish hurt after two games, his tape wasn't long enough to show much.

"He wants to be able to prove himself now, and he has a smaller window to do that this year," his father said.

By the time spring practices rolled around, Garrish had reclaimed his place as the starting quarterback for the Bobcats.

"He's a great kid and he's a hard worker," new Boca Raton coach Eddie Giersbrook said.

There was still one more hurdle for Garrish to overcome — he had to take his first hit in pads at the Blue and Gold game last Friday night.

"I definitely wanted to get it out of the way," Garrish said. "I figured if I was worried about it when I ran, that's when injuries happen."

Garrish thought it would take him a few plays to adjust to being back, but he said he was able to step right in and play as if nothing had happened to him.

In fact, at practice on Monday, Garrish threw his body around on a block when the Bobcats ran an end around that showed he had suffered no ill effects from the ACL tear.

With Giersbrook coming in, Garrish has had to digest a new offensive system, which he said has been less complicated than the Wing-T Swain favored.

It also helps that Garrish has



Mario Sarmiento/Staff Photo

Boca Raton High quarterback John Garrish sees his first game action Thursday in the spring game against Spanish River High at 7 p.m.

talented teammates like Antonio Fenelus and Tony Cornelius to help him on the field.

"It's a lot easier on me, because, I throw it out there and they get an 80-yard TD, and really all I

did was just dump it off to them," Garrish said.

Not only is Garrish hoping to return to form, but he hopes to bring the Bobcats along with him.

"We have plenty of talent, the

line's playing strong," he said. "And I see a team that's very together in the spring. I think it's huge. I think in the fall we're going to be very good, and certainly compete for the district title."

Sharks athletes raise money for scholarship fund

By Mario Sarmiento
SPORTS EDITOR

On Tuesday night, the Spanish River High boys volleyball team took the home court for the last time as a group. But the reason the Sharks came together was not for volleyball or to celebrate their back-to-back state championships.

The players reunited for a worthy cause, to play in the first annual Naryana Gaspar Scholarship Fund Game, in which the volleyball team took on the Spanish River boys basketball team in a game of hoops.

The game raised \$1,675 for the fund.

Naryana Gaspar was a Spanish River student who was killed in a car accident when her friend lost control of her vehicle in August. Gaspar was not wearing a seat belt, which got her mother Lidia to thinking about honoring her daughter's memory while delivering a message about safe driving.

Lidia had an idea for a fundraising event, and her cousin Sabrina told her husband, who coaches the Boynton Beach High volleyball team. He in turn relayed the information to Sharks coach Austin Lindley when the two coached against each other this season. Lindley signed on immediately to take part in the fundraiser.

"We were going to do my volleyball team against the faculty, but then Gustavo (Cintron) started trash-talking the basketball team and it became a basketball game, which I think worked out for everybody," Lindley said.



Mario Sarmiento/Staff Photo

Joining Lidia Gaspar, Naryana's mother (right) at the first annual Naryana Gaspar Scholarship Fund Game are (from left) Spanish River High boys volleyball coach Austin Lindley, Lidia's cousin Sabrina, and Sharks boys basketball coach John Jones. A basketball game between the Sharks boys volleyball and basketball teams was played in honor of Lidia's daughter Naryana, who was killed in a car accident in August last year.

The boys basketball team won the game 51-23, but the score wasn't important.

"This is one of the happiest days of my life after the accident," Lidia said. "It was unbelievable."

Admission was \$4, with an additional dollar contributed by students and parents who competed in a halfcourt shooting contest at

continued on Page 15

Schneider leads new-look Sharks

By Mario Sarmiento
SPORTS EDITOR

New Spanish River High football coach Perry Schneider is no stranger to rebuilding projects, having taken over bad football teams at Taravella and Deerfield Beach High and turning them into perennial powers.

This year, Schneider faces a similar reclamation project with Spanish River, which has endured back-to-back 1-9 seasons.

The Sharks only had 45 players come out for spring practice, which makes depth a concern for Schneider.

Spanish River is also replacing key contributors to last year's team, including quarterback Rob Lee, running back Ricky McDermott and tight end/cornerback David Casado, who all graduated.

The starting quarterback Thursday against Boca Raton High will be ninth-grader Brandon Burkett.

"He's very good, he's done a good job,"

Schneider said.

Burkett is running the multiple set offense Schneider has installed, which is a pass-oriented attack that will differ greatly from the ground-hugging tactics of former coach Bob Braunstein.

Brett Swider is the only returner at the running back position, and that is where the depth issues begin.

"The only thing we have depth is at lineman," Schneider said.

On defense, the Sharks will run the typical 4-4 look favored by many high schools.

Schneider has been impressed by two players so far, lineman Alex Gonzalez and linebacker Jimmy Wilson.

He said the biggest aspect of this rebuilding project is to get his players to believe they can win football games, though Thursday Schneider is looking for something a bit simpler.

"Effort," he said. "All I want is to watch. I'm not paying attention to the score."

Eagles look to take flight against Ely

By Mario Sarmiento
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off of a 10-2 record in his first year as Atlantic High football coach, Andre Thaddies is hoping to build towards another successful season with Thursday's spring game against Ely. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. at Atlantic.

"We look very good," Thaddies said. "We have some bright spots, some kids who have stepped up unexpectedly."

Those players are running back Sammy Noel, lineman Robert Robertson, who Thaddies said had "a great spring," and running back/wide receiver/quarterback Jay Ron Hosely.

After losing Cleveland Hankerson, one of the top running backs in the area, one would think the Eagles would have cause for concern at that position.

But Thaddies said the tandem of Thomas Hankerson, Cleve's brother, and Boca Raton High transfer Demetrius McClendon will more than compensate.

Last year, as a change-of-pace back for his brother, Hankerson ran for 401 yards and scored six touchdowns on only 62 carries.

"They give us diversity," Thaddies said. "We can switch them up. They can catch the ball, have great vision."

Another position Thaddies isn't worried about is quarterback, where senior Chivas Jones returns after passing for seven TDs and running for three more in his first season with the Eagles.

"He looked great," Thaddies said.

"His speed of the game has picked up. He's throwing some really crisp balls. He's caught up to the speed of Florida players."

The major concerns right now are with depth and at the linebacker position, where the Eagles lost two starters to graduation.

Isaac Jean, who played 11 games at the position last year, will be the anchor, while sophomores Eliza Vil and Vincent Vasquez get the start alongside him Thursday.

Thaddies also has other players he can rotate in at that position.

The secondary is again led by Karnell Hatcher, the No. 3 high school prospect in the South Florida area.

Thaddies hopes the new players will mesh well with the old ones Thursday.

"(I'm looking for) teamwork, to really get it together," he said. "Just work on execution, be very efficient and do what we do."

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