

"Everything secret degenerates, even the administration of justice; nothing is safe that does not show how it can bear discussion and publicity."
Lord Acton

THIS PAPER WILL
LAST ALL WEEK

Boca Raton News

75 CENTS

Leading the community to a better tomorrow

51st Year/Issue 23

Sunday, February 4, 2007

3 Sections/52 pages

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Golf Legends come to Boca



Great names - great Boca course in Allianz Tournament

By Dale M. King
CITY EDITOR

Some of the golfing world's legends will be in Boca Raton this week to play on one of the greatest and best-known courses in South Florida.

The inaugural PGA/Allianz Championship tournament will bring such luminaries as Nick Price, Fuzzy Zoeller, Gary Player, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Tom Kite, Curtis Strange, Craig Stadler, Jay Haas, and others. Golfers tee off Monday for the tourney that runs through Feb. 11. Boca Raton Community Hospital will receive all net proceeds.

For Price, the tournament is particularly special because he is eligible to participate for the first time.

The original Broken Sound Club, now commonly known as the "Old Course,"

was founded in 1978 and designed by Joe Lee. Gene Bates completed a redesign of the Old Course in January 2004.

The Old Course features an abundance of trees unique to south Florida and rolling fairways that give it a feel similar to courses in the Pinehurst, N.C., area. It includes the largest stand of natural Florida maples trees in the county.

The 2007 Allianz Championship increases the Champions Tour's early-season Florida

swing to three tournaments.

The Golf Channel will televise live all three rounds of the championship from The Old Course at Broken Sound Club.

The purse will be \$1.6 million in 2007, escalating \$50,000 each of the following two years. The tournament is being managed by Pro Links Sports, headquartered in Minneapolis. Pro Links Sports directs five tournaments on the Champions Tour schedule, and all are voted in the top 10 tournaments by the players.

Champions Tour events generate significant sums of money for charity. The three segments of the PGA Tour and their tournaments reached the \$1 billion mark in charitable giving in October 2005, more than all other sports

com-

bined. "We are delighted to be welcomed into the community with such enthusiasm and support as we bring our Allianz Championship and related activities to Boca Raton," said Hollis Cavner, Allianz Champions Tournament executive director.

"The synergy between what the Allianz Championship is all about and the attributes of living, working and playing — of course, golfing — in Boca Raton is a perfect match for success on so many levels. With the selection of Boca Raton Community Hospital as the tournament beneficiary, we launch a long-term partnership to not only support the hospital, but the ultimate winner of the tournament -- the community of Boca Raton."

Board Named

A board of directors for the Allianz Championship has been announced by Board Chairman Franklin Loh. It will serve as the operational and financial oversight group for the annual Boca Raton event as well as the oversight

continued on Page 10.

Allianz Event Schedule

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The purse will be \$1.6 million in 2007, escalating \$50,000 each of the following two years. Events include a NASCAR Pro-Am on Monday, Feb. 5 (featuring 22 groups consisting of one NASCAR driver and one Champions tour professional and four amateurs playing in a Best Ball competition); a Junior Pro-Am & Pro Skills Challenge on Tuesday, Feb. 6, and the Championship Pro-Am on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 7 and 8, followed by the televised 54-hole competition Friday through Sunday, Feb. 9-11.

The schedule is as follows:

**Monday, Feb. 5
DRIVE FOR THE WIVES PRO-AM;** 11 a.m. Shotgun Start Champions Tour Wives Inc. and Women's Auxiliary of Motorsports, Inc. have joined forces to bring golf and NASCAR together for a one-of-a-kind charity event: Drive for the Wives Pro-Am. The Pro-Am acts as the opening event for the Allianz Championship. The fundraiser will feature 22 Pro-Am teams consisting of one Champions Tour professional, one NASCAR driver and four amateurs.

Participating PGA Champions Tour professionals will include John Bland, Jim Colbert, Bruce Fleisher, Bob Gilder, Hubert Green, Tom Kite, Wayne Levi, Larry Nelson, Gary Player, Dana Quigley, Jay Sigel, J.C. Snead, Curtis Strange, Bruce Summerhays, Doug Tewell, Lanny Wadkins and Fuzzy Zoeller.

Participating NASCAR Drivers include Randy LaJoie (Two-Time NASCAR Busch Series Champion), Ted Musgrave (NASCAR Truck Series Champion / NASCAR Cup Series Veteran), Jimmy Spencer (NASCAR Cup Series Veteran / SPEED Channel Analyst), Boris Said (NASCAR Nextel Cup

Driver), Butch Hylton (NASCAR Nextel Cup Crew Chief), Ken Schrader (NASCAR Nextel Cup Driver / NASCAR Busch Series Driver / NASCAR Truck Series Driver), Mike Skinner (Two-Time NASCAR Truck Series Champion / NASCAR Nextel Cup Series Veteran), Kenny Francis (NASCAR Nextel Cup Crew Chief for Kasey Kahne), Sammy Johns (Competition Director for Evernham Motorsports), Chris Rice (NASCAR Busch Series Crew Chief), Larry McReynolds (FOX/SPEED TV Analyst / 1998 Daytona 500 Champion Crew Chief w/ Dale Earnhardt Sr.), Mike Joy (FOX/SPEED TV Announcer), Jim Hunter (VP Communications for NASCAR), Scott Lagasse (NASCAR Driver for Chip Ganassi Racing), Kevin Lepage (NASCAR Nextel Cup Driver), Rick Crawford (NASCAR Truck Series Driver), David Starr (NASCAR Truck Series Driver), Frank Stoddard (NASCAR Nextel Cup Crew Chief), Teri MacDonald (NASCAR Busch Series Owner / NASCAR Truck Series Driver).

All proceeds from the event will be divided between the Champions Tour Wives Inc. and the Women's Auxiliary of Motorsports Inc. which will impart funds to support their designated charities.

Tuesday, Feb. 6 ALLIANZ CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR DAY

The second day of the weeklong PGA Champions Tour's Allianz Championship will feature its Junior Pro-Am that teams up local male and female high school golfers with PGA Champions Tour professionals for a wide variety of opportunities/experiences.

Noon -- Junior Pro-Am-Local high school golfers and Champions Tour professionals

2:45 p.m. -- Pro Skills Challenge on the 18th green-Pros and participants boast their golf skills in attempting difficult shots around the green.

Wednesday, Feb. 7 ALLIANZ CHAMPIONSHIP PRO AM

The third day of the Allianz Championship, a PGA Champions Tour event, will feature two Pro Am events, pairing up four amateurs with one professional golfer.

7:15 a.m. Championship Pro-Am Morning Shotgun Start

12:45 p.m. Championship Pro-Am Afternoon Shotgun Start

Thursday, Feb. 8 ALLIANZ CHAMPIONSHIP PRO AM

The fourth day of the Allianz Championship, a PGA Champions Tour event, will feature two Pro Am events, pairing up four amateurs with one professional golfer.

7:15 a.m. Championship Pro-Am Morning Shotgun Start

12:45 p.m. Championship Pro-Am Afternoon Shotgun Start

Friday, Feb. 9 ALLIANZ CHAMPIONSHIP

The beginning of the championship rounds will take place for the inaugural Allianz Championship.

9 a.m. First Round of Championship Play

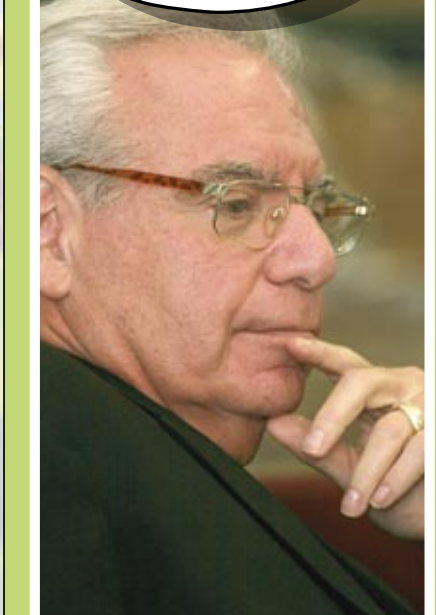
Saturday, Feb. 10 ALLIANZ CHAMPIONSHIP

The second round of championship play will take place for the Allianz

Championship.
9 a.m. Second Round of Championship Play

Sunday, Feb. 11 ALLIANZ CHAMPIONSHIP

9 a.m. Final Round of Championship Play
The final round of tournament play will take place today for the Allianz Championship.



Bob Stone, one of six local lawyers, shares ideas p11

Building homes in India

HomeBanc's Linda D. Jones travels to India with former President Carter to build homes

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Boca resident Linda D. Jones, Senior Vice President and Regional Director of Operations-South Florida for HomeBanc Mortgage Corporation recently spent five days helping build 100 homes with Habitat for Humanity/Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP) in Lonavala, India.

The Jimmy Carter Work Project in partnership with Habitat for Humanity builds Habitat homes for families in the United States and around the world who are in need of decent, affordable shelter. The five-year campaign plans to engage 1 million volunteers in helping to provide shelter in partnership with 250,000 people. The campaign also seeks to raise funds for a sustainable revolving fund worth \$50 million.

"I am proud to be part of an organization that has such a positive presence both domestically and internationally. To date, I have been involved with building in three countries including the United States, Mexico and India," said Jones. "I'm looking forward to continuing to be a driving force in HomeBanc's partnership with Habitat for Humanity to provide decent, affordable housing to those in families in need."

HomeBanc Mortgage Company has been involved with Habitat for Humanity for many years and has committed to building 100 homes in the Southeast United States. Already, Jones and her HomeBanc team have built more than 30 homes for those less fortunate. HomeBanc also helped Jones's during her 5-day "blitz build" in India.

"Linda exemplifies HomeBanc's commitment to community service. She has gone above and beyond our corporate commitment to Habitat for Humanity by donating hundreds of



(Special to the News)
Former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalyn Carter attend homeowner photo. Boca resident Linda D. Jones, Senior Vice President and Regional Director of Operations-South Florida for HomeBanc Mortgage Corporation recently built 100 homes with Habitat for Humanity/Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP) in Lonavala, India.

hours of her own time to home builds throughout the United States and overseas," said Jim Flood, regional president of HomeBanc Mortgage. "Whether it's building homes to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Shreveport or rejuvenating lower-income neighborhoods of Detroit, HomeBanc is proud to help Linda make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate."

According to Jones, HomeBanc's commitment to Habitat for Humanity and support of her personal charitable efforts show the true heart of the company.

"I really appreciate all of the help from HomeBanc," said Jones. "It's through their support that I am able to participate in these projects and I am truly grateful to them for giving me

such a wonderful opportunity to aid those in need."

HomeBanc Mortgage Corporation is actively involved in community efforts including work with Habitat for Humanity and the American Cancer Society. HomeBanc's dedication to community service was one of the factors in the company being named one of the "Top Companies to Work For" by Fortune Magazine for 2006.

"Linda has brought her involvement in community service to the next level. She is just one of the many associates at HomeBanc who go beyond our own volunteer programs and make a huge commitment to help those in the communities we serve," said Flood.

Visit www.habitat.org.

Klein sets priorities

Insurance reform, energy independence, stem cells top list

By John Johnston

MANAGING EDITOR

US Rep. Ron Klein (D-22) is among the 55 first-termers now in office, following last November's Democratic retaking of Congress.

Reform of property insurance is at the top of Klein's priority list. And some sort of a national "catastrophic risk pool" would be at the heart of any reforms Klein told *The Boca Raton News*.

"The property insurance crisis is no longer just a Florida issue," Klein said, enumerating many Middle Atlantic states, "the gulf Coast, and the west coast as well," as all having potentially serious natural disaster issues.

Reforms and modernization of the National Flood Insurance program should also be part of any reform effort, Klein said. Potential flooding issues affect some 30-40 states, he said. Pointing to recent articles by *The Boca Raton News* about outdated and inaccurate flood zone maps, Klein said, "This program needs to be fixed."

Independence

Second on Klein's list of priorities is "energy independence" — including "full funding" of related recommendations made by the 9-11 commission. Energy independence is needed, Klein said, for the following three reasons:

- National security. "Not one more drop of oil" should be factored into the making of foreign policy, Klein said.
- Energy independence would of necessity mean examination and

development of alternative energy sources — "and could mean our development of an alternate economy."

• Alternative energy development would also likely aid "the environmental and help with global warming."

Klein said that many of the first-term congressmen are talking about energy independence. He linked that interest to an overall mandate from voters last November to "stop wasting time on (cultural war) fringe issues," and instead concentrate "on things that affect daily life."

Stem Cells

And because health issues affect daily life, Klein said the third item on his list of priorities is federal funding and other legislation to promote stem cell research.

"This must be moved forward," Klein said.

Governor Charlie Crist specifically denied moving stem cell research forward at the state level this week when he announced he would not support funding for embryonic stem cell research.

"I appreciate the fact that Governor Crist is amenable to putting grant money up for adult stem cell research," said Klein. "However this does not address the important issue of funding much needed embryonic stem cell research."

"It is time for the governor and the state legislature to think big, and pass an embryonic stem cell research bill this year," Klein said, adding:

"Just weeks ago the United States House or Representatives passed a federal stem cell research bill with my support. It is my hope the state legislature will join this effort as we fight to discover cures for our most common diseases and afflictions."

Iraq War

Klein is also among a growing list of legislators at odds with President Bush over the War in Iraq.

The President has "made it clear," Klein said, "that he's not budging on his decision to send 20,000 more troops to Iraq. I strongly oppose his decision -- along with many military experts, Republicans and Democrats in Congress, and the American people. Unfortunately President Bush has missed an opportunity to listen to the American people once again on this critical matter. I will continue to be a strong advocate for a strategic withdrawal from Iraq."

Klein also said he's recently been appointed to serve on three subcommittees on the House Financial Services Committee: the Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee, which has oversight responsibility for the entire insurance industry; the Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit subcommittee, which has oversight of the banking industry, including over 22,000 banks, thrifts, and credit unions nationwide; the Oversight Subcommittee, which has authority to hold hearings and investigate anything under the jurisdiction of the entire Financial Services Committee.

Klein said he would also serve as Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia.

"To receive this honor as a new member of Congress is a rare and unique opportunity. I look forward to providing leadership on Middle East policy in congress. In congress I will fight to restore the credibility of the United States abroad and strengthen our partnership with our sister democracy, Israel."

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Boca and Delray's 'other' senator says insurance reform effort has just begun

By John Johnston

MANAGING EDITOR

Senator Jeff Atwater (R-25) — and Boca Raton and Delray Beach's "other" senator — says, "Some very good things happened for the state's beleaguered property owners," owing to the recent special legislative session — "especially the folks covered by Citizens Property Insurance."

Atwater said he came to the Jan. 15-19 special legislative session with personal information in hand.

"Two of my neighbors— a couple that has lived in their modest home for nearly 40 years — were forced to go without insurance because a private insurer, as Florida law encouraged, took over their Citizens windstorm policy and tried to raise the premium by more than 145 percent."

"I can't tell you how deeply that disturbed me," Atwater said, "and I vowed that after our January special session no Floridian ever again would be forced to gamble on the roof over their head. Thankfully, a majority of the Legislature agreed."

Atwater said the reforms mean that "no longer can an insurance company force you out of your Citizens policy. You now have a say in the matter. You can choose to stay with Citizens, accept a take out offer, or shop around for a better premium."

"And, frankly," Atwater said,



Senator Jeff Atwater

"electing to stay with Citizens could be the better move. Why? Because the company is no longer a 'last resort' insurer. It can now operate more competitively by writing multi-peril policies in high-risk areas such as ours."

Atwater explained that "gone are those controversial wind-zone boundaries that have split Palm Beach and Broward Counties down the middle; all commercial and residential property owners — whether on the coast or inland — will be able to buy coverage for windstorms and other perils from Citizens Property Insurance. As a result, Citizens policyholders will see true relief from their skyrocketing premiums."

The legislature also dropped the 21 percent rate that took effect Jan. 1, and also dropped a planned 56

percent rate hike planned for late this year, Atwater said.

According to Atwater, other reforms include:

- Lower reinsurance rates if a private company writes windstorm coverage.
- Mandated lower premium costs if homeowners take steps to make a home more hurricane-proof — so-called "mitigation" efforts.
- Elimination of "cherry picking" by insurance companies.

Atwater said the cherry-picking reform eliminates a practice where insurers in Florida were only selling "safe, profitable policies such as auto coverage, but not property insurance — even though they offer property coverage in other states. This wasn't fair to Floridians. Outlawing this practice will help ensure that homeowners insurance is more available to our residents," he said.

"The property insurance crisis is the single greatest threat to the economy of our state," said Atwater. "It began when eight hurricanes battered us and insurance companies paid \$36 billion in claims in 2004 and 2005. Even more frightening, weather forecasters have told us this period of increased hurricane activity could last another 10 to 20 years."

"We in the legislature have more work to do," Atwater said.

John Johnston can be reached at 561-549-0833, or at johnston@bocaneews.com

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ASK DR. SHARON

Dear Readers,
This week I'd like to give you some tips on how to improve communication with your children. Working with so many parents and children, the complaint I often hear from both children and their parents is "you don't listen to me." Good communication skills are essential in order for children and parents to develop confidence, feelings of self-worth and positive relationships with others.

The following are some guidelines and tips you can

follow to improve communication with your children:

- Respect children and use a courteous tone of voice. If you talk to your children as you would your friends, your children may be more likely to seek you out when they need to talk to someone.
- Look your children in the eyes so you can tell how they are feeling and whether they are understanding what you are telling them.
- Get at the same height level as your children, by bending or sitting down. This makes

you seem less "overpowering" and more on your their level.

- Remind your children that you love them. Children are never too old to be told they are loved. Say it often, and consider writing it in a note, which provides them with a reminder that they can hold on to.
- Speak in a quiet voice. Sometimes whispering helps because it forces children to really listen.
- Give your undivided attention when your children talk to you. Don't multi-task.
- Gently touch a child be-

fore you talk; try saying their name as well. This allows you to capture their attention.

- Use door openers that invite your children to express their feelings more, such as, "I see," "tell me more," "No kidding," "Really," etc. Repeat what they say by paraphrasing, so they know you're listening.
- Practice talking with your family about different things, such as what you've seen on TV, what's going on at school or work, etc. The more conversation you have, the easier it will be for your children to

open up to you when they need you.

- Praise your children as often as possible- especially when they practice good communication skills. This will reinforce the positive behavior. Unkind words tear children down and show them that they just aren't good enough, while praise builds children's confidence and reinforces communication.
- Practice these communication skills with your children often. .



Sharon Buchalter

Dr. Sharon has a doctorate in clinical psychology from Columbia University and has advanced training in child and adolescent psychology.

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New Boca Forum launches speaker series

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Bernie Marcus, founder of Home Depot, will be the first in a series of luncheon speakers sponsored by the Boca Forum, a group of business, professional, civic and political personalities who will meet for lunch to discuss issues of the day.

U.S. Rep. Ron Klein, D-Fla., will follow Marcus. It will be his first public speaking engagement since being elected to Congress.

Marcus will speak on Wednesday, Feb. 21 and Klein will speak on Friday, Feb. 23. Both events will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 661 NW 53 St., Boca Raton, at the northwest intersection of Yamato Road and I-95.

The cost of the luncheon is \$25

for members and \$50 for guests, if reserved up to three days prior to each event, and \$5 additional if reserved less than three days before the event.

Membership is \$240 annually for individuals and \$60 for spouses.

A soft drink networking session runs from 11 a.m. to noon and lunch is served at noon. Sponsorships are available for \$300, which includes a tabletop at the session and five minutes on the program. Commerce Bank will be the exclusive bank sponsor.

For information, visit www.bocaforum.org or call 561-852-0000.

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Boca author writes book from bedtime stories

By Nicol Jenkins
STAFF WRITER

Boca mom Kathy Fronte used to read bedtime stories about colorful bears and other adventures to her daughter.

"I've always been very creative and I used to write little stories. When my daughter was a baby I used to tell her these stories and she seemed to like it," Fronte said.

Fronte still reads bedtime stories to her 5-year-old daughter Gabriella. But now those stories are coming from her children's book *Bella's Bow Tie Bears*.

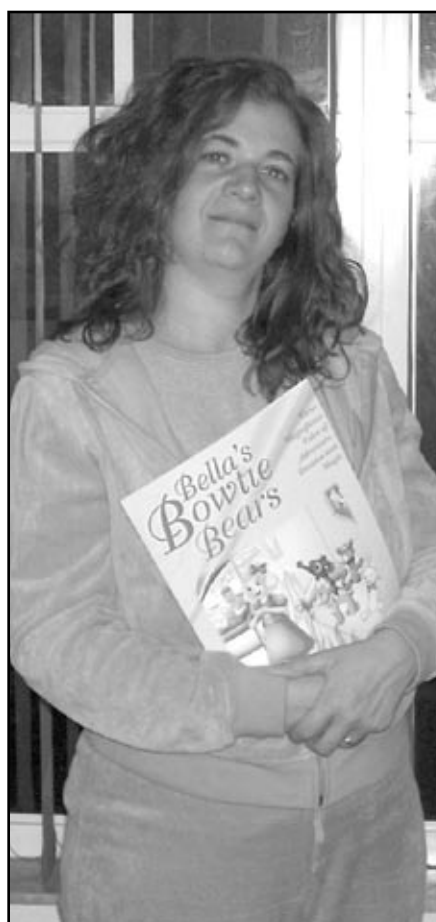
"I thought I should put these stories to paper. It took four years but I did it," she said.

The book, which is geared towards ages 10 and under, is in honor of her daughter and named after her nickname Bella meaning beautiful.

"It's dedicated to her and my mom. And it's more of a keepsake for her when she gets older," she said.

The book tells three tales of four bears and adventures, according to Fronte.

"The book is about a little girl and four bears and they go to other lands across the rainbow and help people. They have these magical bow ties and they light up and it tells them where it's supposed to go, but they have to be back in time to say goodnight to her," she



(Special to the News)
Boca author Kathy Fronte wrote *Bella's Bow Tie Bears* children's book in tribute to her daughter. Ten percent of book sales will go to the South Florida Children's Charity.

than 200 websites including Amazon, Borders, and Barnes & Noble. Ten percent of book sales will go to the South Florida Children's Charity, which provides help to underprivileged and disabled children.

"I want to help people and especially kids because they are our future," she said. "There are a lot of kids out there that are very unfortunate and should have a chance like everyone else."

Fronte believes all ages from youngsters to parents reading to children can enjoy the book.

"It brings out the imagination in all of us," she said. "And it encourages and sparks a child's imagination. That's why it's a good book."

Fronte's daughter seems to enjoy the characters.

"She likes it. She likes the bears and color pictures and illustrations. And the stories of rainbows and unicorns are interesting to her," the mom said.

Gabriella may soon hear more bedtime tales. Her mom said she wants to write another book and hopefully one day "have a cartoon of it and write episodes for it."

Contact www.bellasbowtiebears.com.

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

said.
Each tale sends a positive message to children, Fronte said. Some include making positive choices. "It teaches positive lessons based on choices and provides creative thinking in children," Fronte said. The books are available at more

County to reimburse Boca Symphonia

By John Johnston
MANAGING EDITOR

County commissioners on Tuesday are expected to approve a reimbursement of \$5,000 to the Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, Inc. The reimbursement would offset the cost of the Sounds of the Season Concert held at the Countess de Hoernle Amphitheater at Mizner Park in Boca Raton last December.

Funding would come from the Recreation Assistance Program (RAP), commissioners said.

In other recent business, commissioners agreed to fund \$2,291 for Head Start Policy Council members Michael Smith and Stephanie Taylor for attendance at the Feb. 5-8 Region IV Head Start Association, Inc. 2007 annual training conference in Atlanta, GA.

The monies will pay for conference registration, lodging, ground transportation, and meals. Funding consists of \$1,833 (80 percent) in Federal funds and \$457 (20 percent) in County funds, commissioners said.

Other Business

In other recent business commissioners:

- Approved two contracts with financially assisted agencies totaling \$205,727, as follows: City of Pahokee - \$158,927, for a social-recreational program providing before- and after-care services to at-risk children and their families; and the Mental Health Association of Palm Beach County, Inc., \$46,800 for a mental health support drop-in center.
- Granted a utility easement to Florida Power and Light along

Central Boulevard, enlarging a segment of an existing FPL easement. Commissioners said the easement was needed to accommodate construction of the Scripps Florida project.

- Supported a resolution asking the Florida Legislature to create and permanently fund a program to preserve environmentally sensitive land when Florida Forever expires in 2010.
- Amended an interlocal agreement with Palm Tran and the Solid Waste Authority to include the Supervisor of Elections. The office is becoming independent from the county's payroll system, but wishes to maintain the same health insurance benefits for its 49 full-time employees, commissioners said.

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

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Delray Beach residents spend a night at the roundtable

By Dale M. King
CITY EDITOR

Delray Beach presented its Annual Town Hall Meeting this year in a different format – and with a new name.

Called the Citizen's Roundtable, it was held Tuesday at the Crest Theater. In the spirit of giving residents more time to discuss issues and concerns, Mayor Jeff Perlman said the first hour would be for presentations. During the final 90 minutes, the crowd broke up into small groups to express their feelings. City officials and staff facilitated discussions.

spotlight. Frank Wheat, chairman of the Community Redevelopment Agency, told how the CRA spent its \$26.4 million budget on workforce housing, development beautification and other projects.

The Community Land Trust – normally the first step in creating an affordable housing program – held its first meeting late last year. He said the CRA committed \$12.4 million to affordable housing in 2006 and 2007 along with \$4.2 million for area-wide and neighborhood plans.

He noted that the former LaFrance Hotel is being renovated into dwelling units for low-



(Dale King/Staff Photo)
Delray Beach City Manager Dave Harden discusses the city's annual report during a Citizen's Roundtable Tuesday night at the Crest Theater.

income senior citizens.

Gary Eliopoulos, vice chairman of the Planning & Zoning Board, walked the audience through a variety of projects begun and completed in 2006. "A major review of the city's comprehensive plan" occurred this past year, with completion of an evaluation and appraisal report, called "EAR. It is the first step to updating the comprehensive plan.

More parking is on the way. A new parking garage at Old School Square broke ground in 2006, and is to be finished in October 2007, he said. "When complete, the 528-space garage

will help alleviate parking needs in the downtown."

Both Eliopoulos and Wheat mentioned the new downtown shuttle –called the "Roundabout". The service began Dec. 21. Route 1 runs between the Tri-Rail station and the beach area; Route 2 is the downtown shuttle.

Eliopoulos also said Delray annexed two small pieces of property – a one-acre voluntary annexation that resulted in construction of the Robotics Space Savers. The other was a house lot de-annexed from Boynton Beach.

City Manager Dave Harden talked of the "top quality ser-

vice" available from Delray city government. "Employees provide exceptional service."

Soon, he said, videos of City Commission meetings will be available online or on demand. Residents can pay bills and get permits on line.

He said the city has received a grant to demolish the hurricane damaged Carver Estates, and will work with the CRA to redevelop the site. Harden also said the City Commission recently adopted an ordinance allowing multi-uses for the Congress Avenue corridor.

Dale M. King can be reached at 561-549-0832 or at dking@bocanews.com.



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Heartworm Disease

Heartworm disease is an infectious disease of dogs. It is caused by a parasite called *Dirofilaria immitis*. It is passed from infected animal to healthy dog via mosquitoes. The worms live in the dogs' heart and pulmonary blood vessels. They can be up to 14 inches long and as many as 100 worms can live in one dog's heart. The disease occurs most commonly in tropical and subtropical zones and along the Atlantic coast. Affecting primarily medium to large breed dogs, like Golden Retrievers. While any dog older than 5 months of age is at risk, it is mostly diagnosed in 3-5 year olds. Identified risk factors include 1) living in an

endemic 2) amount of time spent outside and most importantly 3) lack of prophylaxis (monthly preventative medication).

Life cycle of the parasite

A mosquito feeds on a dog (or cat or coyote) that is infected and ingests microfilaria (baby worms). Inside the mosquito these baby worms develop into larva. When the mosquito feeds on another dog the larva are injected into the skin. Once inside the dog the larva grow through many stages over many months and develop into adult worms. The adult worms migrate to and reside in the heart and pulmonary arteries. There they find a mate

and create more microfilaria. When a mosquito feeds on the dog it ingests the microfilaria and the cycle continues.

Clinical signs

Dogs with low worm burdens or in early stages of disease may not show any symptoms at first. As the disease progresses signs range from mild coughing, exercise intolerance and weight loss to heart failure and even sudden death. The diagnosis of heartworm infection is made based on a simple blood test done by your vet. The disease is then staged to determine how severe the infection is. Staging is done with a variety of tests including radiographs, cardiac ultrasound and ekg.

Treatment

Treatment for heartworm dis-

ease is neither safe nor simple. The only approved and effective treatment is Immiticide, an arsenic compound. It is given by injection deep into the lower back muscle 2-3 times; depending on the protocol. The inject site is often swollen and painful for the dog. Other side effects of treatment include but are not limiting to vomiting, coughing, nose bleeds, and fever. In some cases the treatment itself is fatal. Complications associated with dead and dying worms can also be fatal.

Post injections the dog can be discharged from the hospital and treated as an outpatient. They need to be strictly confined to a crate. This means no walks, no playing ball, no running around for at least one month. Rest and anti-

inflammatories help to decrease the risk of pulmonary emboli. In addition to the physical costs to the patient, the treatment is very expensive monetarily.

Prevention

It is best to prevent Heartworm infections and disease rather than to treat it. Most prevention is administered on a monthly basis. Either orally with products like Heartgard Plus or Interceptor. Or topically with products like Revolution or Advantix. Many of the products prevent and treat intestinal parasites and fleas as well. All Golden Retrievers living in South Florida are at risk and the importance or monthly prophylaxis can not be stressed enough. If your dog isn't currently and regularly on heartworm prevention please see



your vet for a physical exam and a blood test ASAP. Be sure to begin prevention as soon as your vet recommends, and remember to give in each and every month for the life of your dog.

"Dr. Cindy Krane, DVM, has been a practicing veterinarian in the Palm Beach area for 12 years, and is currently at Calusa Veterinary Center in Boca Raton."



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'Robot' surgeon has arrived at West Boca Medical Center

By Dale M. King

CITY EDITOR

The newest "doctor" at West Boca Medical Center has a brain, but no heart; is totally outer-directed; is named for a famous inventor and cost \$2 million.

And it's worth every penny, say doctors, nurses and Hospital CEO Walt Mickens.

The doctor is actually a robot — The da Vinci® Surgical System, which can be used for gynecological, prostate and general surgery. The mechanical surgeon preserves the natural eye-hand-instrument alignment, depth of field and instrument control of an open procedure. And the system's EndoWrist® instrument tips can rotate like the human wrist, allowing surgeons to perform complex dissection or reconstructive surgery in the closed chest, abdomen or pelvis.

It is named after Leonardo da Vinci, considered the inventor of the robot.

Mickens said West Boca Medical



Dr. Lanalee Sam, right, discusses the advantages of the da Vinci S robot with Dr. Samuel Heering.

has the only da Vinci robot in Palm Beach County. Not only that, three doctors at the hospital have already been trained on the apparatus.

In fact, Dr. Lanalee Sam, an attending physician in obstetrics and gynecology, recently performed a laparoscopic hysterectomy -- and she never had to get closer than six

feet from her patient.

"The surgeon is at an instrument console," Dr. Sam told the *Boca Raton News*. "Hats off to West Boca Medical Center and CEO Mickens for seeing the wave of the future."

The doctor said the hysterectomy patient was hospitalized for only 23 hours, then was released. If an open procedure were used, she would have been hospitalized for three days and would then have to endure four to six weeks of recovery.

A woman who underwent a procedure on Jan. 17 was recently interviewed — at her workplace. She was back on the job in barely two weeks.

"We started looking into this seven to eight months ago," said Mickens. What really made the proposal interesting to the administration, he said, was the fact that it came from the medical staff.

"Our staff is very good; it is the barometer for what we invest in."

And it was a big investment — about \$2 million — which he called "a significant portion of our capital funds."

"We have three doctors trained to use it — Dr. Sam; Dr. Camil Sader, a general surgeon and Dr. Michael Zahalsky, a urologist."

The da Vinci apparatus arrived late in December. The staff trained on it — and the first surgeries were done Jan. 17.

After Dr. Sam performed a hysterectomy, Dr. Sader did a robotic-assisted gall bladder removal.

"The advantage for us," she said, is better visibility, a 3-D visualization and doing more surgeries laparoscopically, which means less cutting.

The medical center wants to get the word out about the equipment. Dr. Sam said people facing open surgery may want to find out if the da Vinci apparatus — which will leave a far smaller scar — is appropriate.

The da Vinci robot procedure is considered "minimally invasive" because surgery is performed through dime-sized (1-2 centimeter) incisions — also called operating ports. This is in contrast to the much larger incisions used in traditional, open surgery.

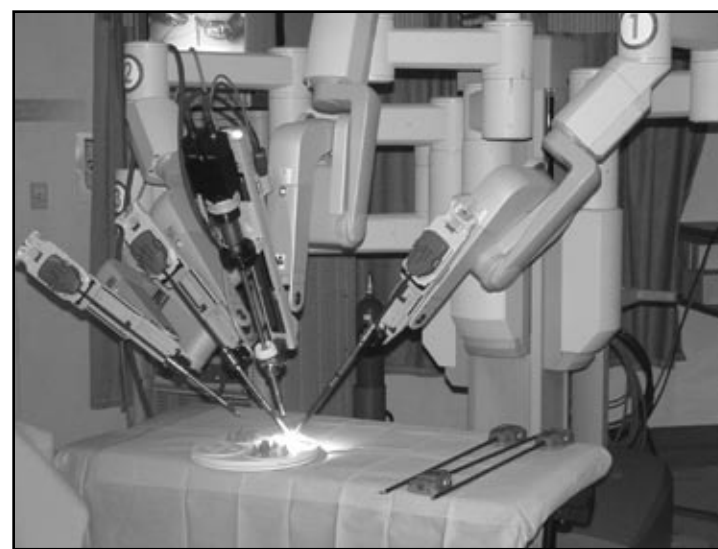
Dr. Sam said the smaller incisions result in shorter recovery times and result in less pain, less blood loss, fewer transfusions, fewer infections and reduced hospitalization costs.

"It's fantastic that West Boca Medical Center is telling people about this," said the doctor. "Most women don't know about it. A lot of physicians don't tell them — because they are not trained to use it."

"The critical message for the public is — there is a choice, there is the technology," said Mickens. "The apparatus is just as important for prostate procedures."

The hospital has a physician referral line for surgical consults on open surgery and its alternatives — 1-866-904-9262.

Dale M. King can be reached at 561-549-0832 or at dking@bocanews.com.



The da Vinci apparatus at work at West Boca Medical Center.

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But this time, I'm making a difference. Daddy doesn't do "nothing" anymore.

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from Page 1

group for distribution of all charitable funds.

Board members include: Christine Lynn, president and CEO, Lynn Insurance Group; Dick Schmidt, chairman of the Board, Boca Raton Community Hospital and president of Schmidt Companies; Deputy Mayor Susan Whelchel; Harvey Sandler, former chairman of the board, Sandler Capital Management; City Councilman M.J. "Mike Arts"; Daniel Mann, managing director, Boca Raton Resort & Club; Keith O'Donnell, managing director, Codina Realty Services, Inc.; Don Allison, partner in Gillespie & Allison, P.A.; Michael Mullaugh-retired, Mellon Financial Corp.; Mark Zesbaugh, CEO, Allianz Life; Gary Strack, president and CEO, Boca Raton Community Hospital; Franklin Loh, board chairman, retired from Farrington Holding Corp.; Hollis Cavner, president, Pro Links Sports; John Crean, ex-officio general manager, Broken Sound Club; Ann Kagel, ex-officio president, Kagel Group and Allianz Hospitality and Jan Savarick, ex-officio, acting corporate director, Boca Raton Community Hospital.

"It is truly an honor to be associated with such an elite group of individuals who have volunteered to serve on this board," said Loh. "The Allianz Championship will be an event, and major happening, for the entire southeast region of Florida.

The partnership between Allianz, Pro Links Sports, Broken Sound Club, Champions Tour and beneficiary, Boca Raton Community Hospital, will no doubt leave an indelible imprint for all of us to remember and build upon."

Many Volunteers

Not all the action will be on the course. A lot of it happens behind the scenes.

Hundreds of volunteers ages 14 and older have been recruited to support the tournament.

The Allianz Championship will host a variety of events, and the enthusiastic volunteers will assist in many areas -- from off-course, hospitality, admissions and will call -- to on-course, ball spotters, media center assistance, practice facility support and other special events.

"Not only do our volunteers get the chance to get 'beyond the ropes' of a professional golf tournament, their many contributions to this tournament will make an impact on the welfare of the Boca Raton community," said Tournament Director Ryan Dillon.

The event this year is sponsored by Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America, JM Lexus, Charles Schwab, 3M, Administaff Small Business, Woolbright Development, Inc., city of Boca Raton, Greater Boca Ra-

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Title sponsor Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America has supported Champions Tour events as a title sponsor since 2001. Founded in 1896 and based in Minneapolis, Allianz provides fixed and variable annuities, life insurance policies and long-term care insurance products in the United States.

Built by the community and founded July 17, 1967 to serve the residents of southern Palm Beach County, Boca Raton Community Hospital is a 394-bed not-for-profit health care organization with more than 750 primary and specialty physicians on staff who provide preventative and acute hospital care. Specialties include: emergency services; oncology; clinical research; cardiology; women's health; maternity/pediatrics/NICU; radiology; orthopedics; neuroscience; wound care/hyperbarics; cardio-pulmonary and out-patient rehabilitation and home health.

Dale M. King can be reached at 561-549-0832 or at dking@bocaneews.com.

LABOR & LAW

FMLA requires time off for specific reasons

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) requires private employers with 50 or more employees for 20 or more weeks in either the current or the prior year to grant employees (who have worked for the employer for at least 12 months) 12 weeks of unpaid leave per 12-month period for the birth of a child or placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, and in order to care for such child; to care for an immediate family member (child, spouse or parent) if such family member has a serious health condition; or for the serious health condition of the employee which makes the employee unable to perform the functions of his/her position.

Pursuant to the FMLA, employees have the right, in qualifying situations, to the benefit of 12 unpaid workweeks of leave; reinstatement to the same or an equivalent position; intermittent or reduced leave, if medically necessary; continuation of health insurance during leave; the substitution of certain paid leave for unpaid leave; and notice of the employer's FMLA policy. If after 12 weeks of FMLA leave an employee returns to work, the FMLA typically requires no change in the employee's terms or conditions of employment.

To ensure compliance with the FMLA, employers should prepare a written FMLA Policy. Employees should be required to request all leaves on a form which should include the employer's FMLA policy (so the employee is on notice of the terms of leave at the time it is requested), defines the

12 month period for FMLA leave purposes, specifies whether or not employees requesting leave will first be required to exhaust paid leave benefits and states whether or not employees can add the unpaid leave to paid leave benefits or whether the total time allotted for the FMLA will be only the statutorily mandated 12 weeks.

Employers are entitled to require employees to provide up to 30 days advance notice if the leave is foreseeable; require medical certification (again, preferably on forms prepared by the employer) for serious health conditions or if an intermittent or reduced leave schedule is required; require second medical opinions (at the employer's expense); and require all employees to produce a fitness for duty certificate upon return from FMLA leave if taken due to the employee's own serious health condition.

Employers may be able to transfer an employee to an alternative position if reduced or intermittent leave is required, require substitution of paid leave for all or part of the FMLA leave requested, adjust accrual of benefits and freeze seniority as of the date FMLA leave begins. For certain "key" employees (i.e., salaried employees who are one of the highest 10 percent of paid employees located within 75 miles of the employee's workplace), if the employer notifies the employee of his/her "key" status at the time the employee request FMLA leave, the employer may be able to deny the employee restoration of employment.

Employees who wish to request FMLA leave should meet



Larry Corman Glenn Rissman

with their employer's human resources director to discuss the pertinent facts, obtain a certificate of medical need from a physician, review the full extent of paid and unpaid leave benefits available, and explore whether or not the employer will allow the employee to continue in the employee's current position with reduced hours or reassign the employee to better accommodate a FMLA leave request.

Employees who receive FMLA requests and are uncertain as to the scope of the employee's rights should confer with counsel to avoid inadvertently violating the law.

Larry Corman and Glenn M. Rissman are partners in the Business Litigation Practice Group at the law firm of Hodgson Russ LLP in Boca Raton. Mr. Corman concentrates his practice in employment discrimination litigation, commercial litigation, deceptive trade practices, covenants not to compete, and transactional fraud areas. He may be reached at 561-862-4128 or lcorman@hodgsonruss.com. Mr. Rissman concentrates his practice primarily on labor and employment litigation and employment-based immigration and naturalization. He may be reached at 561-862-4159 or grissman@hodgsonruss.com. The above article is for informational purposes only and should not be considered legal advice as to any specific matter. You should not act solely upon this information without consulting legal or other professional advice.

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SYMPOSIUM: Tort Reform

From The Publisher

Whether it's the quintessential ambulance chaser Walter Matthau in the movie *The Fortune Cookie*, or the para-lawyer, sort-of ambulance chaser Danny Devito in *The Rainmaker*, or at the other extreme, the down-on-his-luck, but-saving-the-day-for-the-little-folks Paul Newman in *The Verdict* -- America's view of our legal system suf-

fers from the extremes given to us by the movies:

In sum, either seeking justice from corporate America, or preventing justice for corporate America.

Somewhere in the middle of all that are primarily decent, hardworking attorneys seeking what Aristotle called "the golden mean". That middle ground, where a balance is struck between truth

and reality.

That's what we hoped to find in recently conducting the first of what we hope are many such symposiums -- this one with the stated topic of "tort reform."

We believe that conducting such symposiums is part of our responsibility as a community newspaper, and we hope it will provide information for discussion and debate about important and ongoing issues.

This effort will include future symposiums,

gathering together area physicians to discuss the question of tort reform as it relates to medical malpractice -- and then later, insurance industry representatives to discuss the issue from that vantage point.

PS: A special thank-you to Ian Berkowitz, himself an attorney, who graciously agreed to moderate this first forum.

Craig B. Swill, Publisher

Trial lawyers say tort tweaks, not reform are needed

By John Johnston and Dale King

MANAGING EDITOR AND CITY EDITOR

Photos by Melissa Korman

Aren't greedy lawyers the reason for the nation's malpractice and product liability crisis?

And don't we need some major reform of our legal system?

Ask trial lawyers the same questions, and the answer will come swiftly.

The lawyers will say what's causing major medical malpractice cases is medical malpractice, and what's causing major product liability cases are poorly designed and marketed products and/or services.

The lawyers will say as well that Hollywood is causing both the medical malpractice and product liability issue to be viewed as far more severe than what's happening in the real world.

Not to mention, the lawyers would add, there are major misperceptions created by television

news reports and newspaper headlines

trumpeting major jury awards -- when in reality such awards are rare.

Trial Lawyers

The lawyers also point out that, and since 1975, the Florida legislature has approved broad restrictions on the rights of Florida's citizens to seek justice.

And is justice dollars?

Yes, say trial lawyers and many others. Justice must ultimately be reduced to dollars because every other measurement amounts to a values judgment about which only an opinion based on a belief system can be given.

And what about legislative attempts to reform the tort system?

Some of the legislation since 1975 "provides partial or full immunity to the corporate and medical industries," according to the Florida Trial Lawyers Association (FTLA).

"These immunities have stripped Florida's citizens not only of their rights under the law, but also of many vital protections that have historically served to keep consumers safe by deterring negligence," says the FTLA.

The scope of the immunities passed since 1975 is "surprisingly broad," says the FTLA, adding:

"At every level of interaction, private businesses have been granted a privileged legal position, leaving citizens and consumers at a distinct disadvantage. The overall effect has been to foster a lack

of professional and personal responsibility among the corporate community. Meanwhile, Florida's consumers and citizens have increasingly fewer and fewer opportunities to seek justice and protection under Florida law when they are harmed by the resulting irresponsible corporate behavior. As a result, when irresponsible corporations or medical providers cause injury or death, it is not the responsible party who must bear the full cost of the victim's medical bills and lost wages. It's instead the Florida taxpayer who must foot the bill."

"Caps" on how much a doctor or hospital must pay are cited by the FTLA -- and with then any additional needs of the injured falling on taxpayer shoulders.

The Opinions

Regardless of what the legislature does, put six lawyers into a room and you're bound to hear an array of varying attitudes about the status of the nation's judicial system.

At the end of the day, though, all seem to agree it's still the best method of balancing competing interests.

It doesn't need an overhaul, they said. "It needs a tweak rather than a fundamental change," said attorney Bob Stone, one of a half-dozen jurists who took part in a symposium sponsored by the *Boca Raton News*. Moderator was Ian Berkowitz, a *Boca Raton News* columnist and business and real estate attorney in Boca Raton.

A focus of the free-wheeling discussion was to be tort reform. But the group felt this was not only ambiguous, but also indefinable. Attorney Dan Haverman said many in the business call such a notion "tort deform."

For one thing, where would it come from? "I don't think that legislators can make these decisions," said attorney Bob O'Connell, who has been a lawyer since 1981. And attorney Bruce Silver added: "The issues are too sophisticated."

"And when the issue gets to the legislative level, it becomes politicized," said Haverman.

Politics has already crept into the system, they said. Lawyer fees? "That's a big issue to the politicians," said Silver. Haverman also pointed out the claim that the drug Vioxx was "bad for us was known for years" before the pain-killer was finally banned.

The issue of assessing responsibility has been bandied about the court system for many years. Stone put it frankly: "If someone has done something wrong, they should be held responsible," he said. "I have other issues. What does tort reform really mean? Is it requiring auto insurance for all people who drive cars? There are more compelling issues than trying to assess liability."

"The legislature feels it's more important to protect property," said Haverman. "A lot of people buy minimum insurance policies. All want to have property protected, but they don't want liability."

Even the auto insurance industry is muddled. "You have to insure yourself against the non-insured," said Stone, to which attorney Tom Lardin added, "which insurance companies will discourage you from buying."

Assessing fault by percentages is also basically unfair, said Haverman. "You may be only 3 percent at fault, but the person may have millions in injuries. If you only pay 3 percent, who pays the millions? The public."

Medical malpractice cases have caused angst -- in the trade and in the community. But Lardin said these cases "almost don't exist" any more. Insurance companies are killing malpractice cases "by refusing to settle such cases saying they will not settle."

The lawyer's argument was that -- and with the insurance companies having so much money -- lawyers would effectively be working for "50 cents an hour" said Lardin, if he or she were to pursue each and every legitimate malpractice case brought by a plaintiff.

Norms Distorted

The legislature placing so-called "caps" on how much a doctor can be forced to pay in a malpractice case has reduced the numbers of malpractice cases.

Lawyers thus "can't afford" to take on all but the most obviously severe slam-dunk cases, said Haverman -- which results in the public believing that such cases are the norm -- and that the numbers of actual cases of malpractice have declined.

And the so-called "frivolous" lawsuits that many claim are clogging the court system? "I have never filed a frivolous lawsuit,"

said Silver. "I won't file a case that has no merit."

"You and your client could both be held liable," warned Stone.

"It's almost a silly argument to say that frivolous lawsuits are clogging the courts,"

said Haverman. "There is a bigger percentage of divorce cases and commercial litigation."

Looking at the judiciary overall, Berkowitz said the "jury system is a great system." To which Stone added: "Juries have common sense."

In fact, the group agreed that they would rather deal with a jury than with a judge alone (the second choice) and then arbitration, which some feel is pointless.

"Arbitration, on paper, is a fast way" to reach a settlement, said Stone. "But my experience with the American Arbitration Association is that it is just the opposite -- it is anything but fast, cost-efficient -- or just."

Two Systems

At the end of the day, the lawyers say, the average citizen has two systems of protection -- the tort system, which allows you to sue companies for damages caused by dangerous doctors and/or caused by dangerous and defective products or services.

Or the regulatory system set up by government that prohibits companies from endangering people (or the environment) and punishes them if the law isn't followed.

Tort system critics say that inherently the tort system suffers from being vulnerable to general manipulation, and also subject to a jury's misunderstanding of scientific evidence. Critics also argue that jury decisions are also and often determined by emotion as much as by fact.

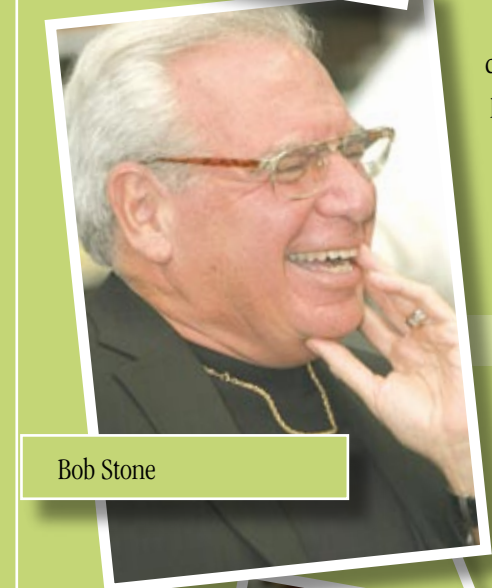
And the government's regulatory system is subject to the will and whim of politics -- changing with each administration change, and either made weaker or stronger in certain areas -- and then changing again with new administrations.

Which leaves us back with the tort system -- or as Stone put it, "it's like how Winston Churchill described democracy" -- a less than desirable system, except when compared to all the rest.

"All we can do for people is get the money," said Silver.



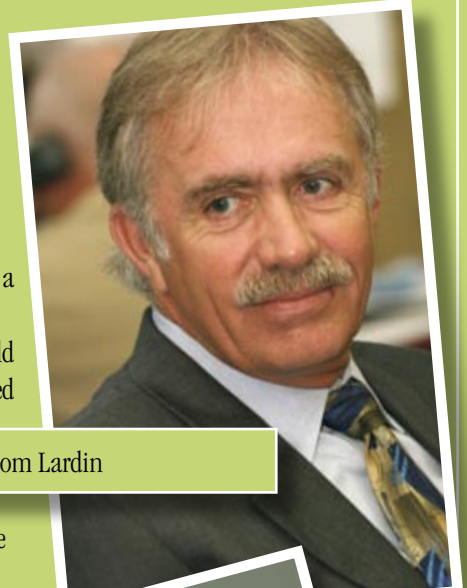
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EDITORIAL

Crossing the Road

Breaking ranks with the White House and fellow Republicans, Rep. Doug Bereuter of Nebraska said in a 2004 letter to constituents that the US military action in Iraq was a mistake. Bereuter, then vice chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and a senior member of the House International Relations Committee, said:

"I've reached the conclusion, retrospectively, now that the inadequate intelligence and faulty conclusions are being revealed, that all things being considered, it was a mistake to launch that military action especially without a broad and engaged international coalition," he said in the letter dated Aug. 6, 2004.

"The cost in casualties is already large and growing, and the immediate and long-term financial costs are incredible," he wrote, reflecting on his 2002 vote in favor of a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

"Our country's reputation around the world has never been lower and our alliances are weakened," he added.

Bereuter's position, of course, meant he chose to cross the road.

And many since then have also chosen to cross the road — as evidenced by those who now hold office in Washington.

In the meantime, there remains that age-old question: why did the chicken, in fact, cross the road? You will, no doubt, have your own answer. Here's how others might respond to that question:

• **George W. Bush:** I was wrong about why the chicken crossed the road. There's was nothing on the other side of the road that threatened the hen house, so I now think the reason that it crossed the road was that it said it was going to do so -- and golly, you know it just had to. I'm proud of that chicken for sticking to its word — now, of course, there was that semi about half way across. . . . white or dark meat?

• **Bill Clinton:** Now do you mean the chicken with the white feathers, or the one with the slightly white feathers -- in which, and in either case --I categorically deny ever seeing either of them cross the road, lay down in the road, or have anything else to do with the road in question, maybe.

• **Albert Einstein:** Relatively speaking -- whether the chicken crossed the road, or the road moved beneath the chicken -- determines the answer to this question; indeed, whether there is a question, or only a series of moving answers.

• **John Kerry:** Self-evidently, the fowl traversed the roadway seeking a better way, means and life for itself, and its 14 offspring, 21 immediate family members, 74 distant relatives and, let me add, that to cross the roadway and not shirk the responsibility of crying out, foul, foul, gives us pause to consider there may be profound and salubrious reasons to believe that our right and just nation should endeavor to persevere.

• **Sigmund Freud:** Could it be indicative of fears of inadequacy that the question is asked in the first place?

• **Buddha:** What is the sound of a chicken crossing the road on one foot?

• **Agent Muldar:** What do you

mean, chicken crossing the road? Did you see a chicken crossing the road? Are you sure it was a chicken? How many more chickens must you see before you understand they are really aliens?

• **The Reverend Al Sharpton:** The road is undoubtedly a black macadam road, whereupon this almost certainly white leghorn chicken trods her heavy, clawed (and more than likely diseased) foot.

• **Rush Limbaugh:** Across the road? Is that where I have to go now to get my medicine?

• **Ayn Rand:** But of what benefit is it for the chicken and myself to cross the road at the same time? I will tell you: clarity. Now give me those eggs; they're mine.

• **Richard Nixon:** I am not a crook. Not one penny's worth of chicken feed ever found its way into my pocket. And I did not, repeat, did not, steal that chicken's road.

• **Gloria Steinem:** Of course --- cook the meals, have the kids, cross the road --- of course.

• **Al Gore:** There are voters on the other side of the road; voters disenfranchised and not permitted to vote for me, the president in defect, er, effect.

The truth of the matter, however, is that the chicken crossed the road because that's where the rooster was.

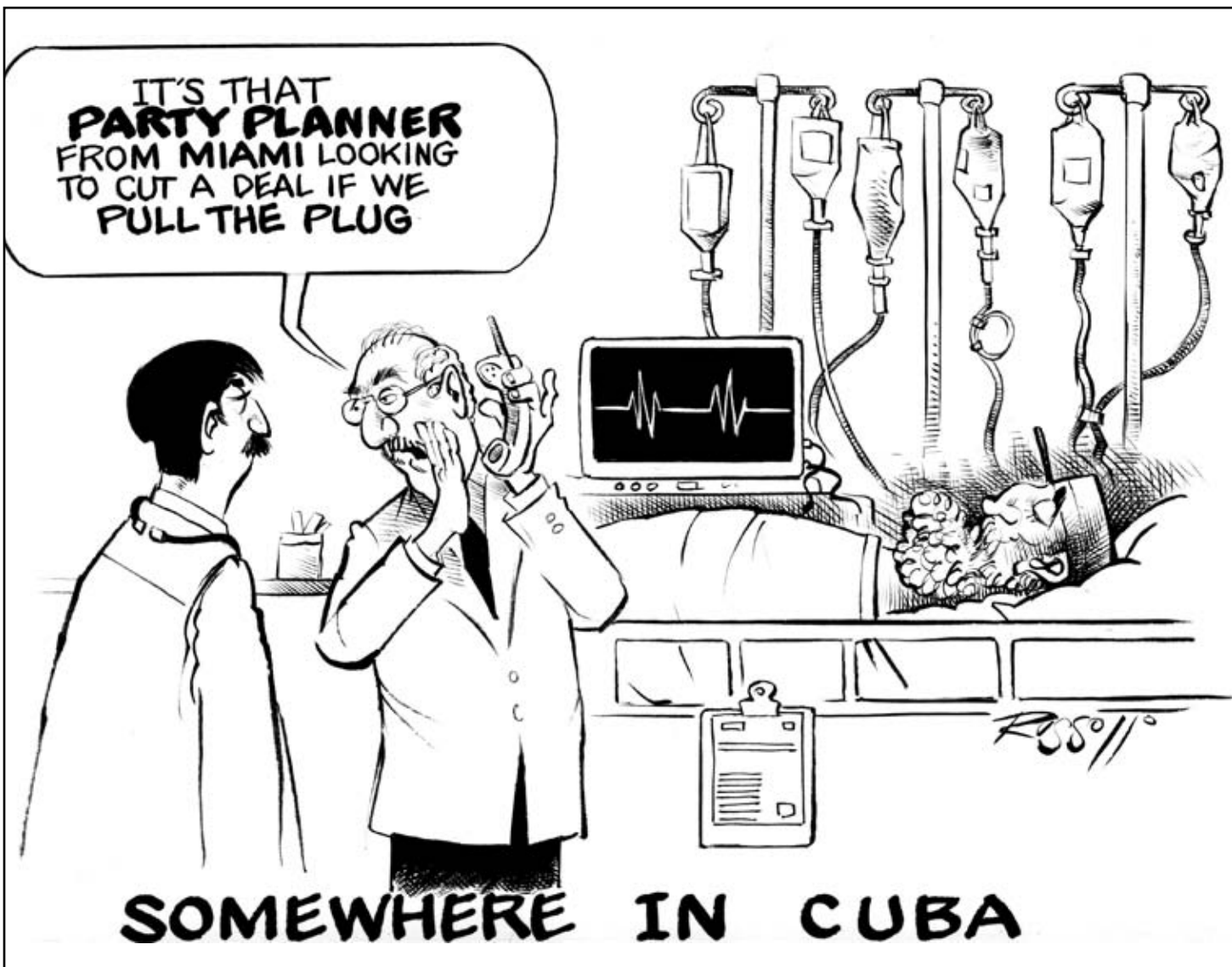
Should we have crossed the road because Saddam Hussein's ravaged world awaited our white horse?

Would we have been chicken otherwise?

And now, having blown up the henhouse, would we be chicken to just wish the now wandering fowl well, then leave and go back home?

These are questions for the historians; trouble is, the nation, indeed the world, wants and needs an answer now.

RUSSOTTO



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Oh, the mind games we play when we have to get on a line -- be it the supermarket, the movies, airport security or wherever.

We always have to find the fastest line. We are consumed by speed. So before we just jump on any line, we reconnoiter. After carefully evaluating the situation, we end up with two finalists. It's either the line with the guy in the brown shirt or the one with the lady in the blue dress. Just on a gut feeling, we go with the brown shirt.

Things are moving nicely. You keep checking your progress against the blue dress. You're ahead and pulling away. This is like the Kentucky Derby and you

picked the winner. Then all of a sudden, your line hits a wall. The lady in front is arguing with the scanner about a 25 cent coupon. Neither side is giving in. The scanner calls for the manager. This could go to the Supreme Court. If you were in your car, you would honk this lady off the road. But you have no horn.

Now comes the fatal error. You play the "If" game. "if only I had gotten behind the blue dress, I would almost be at the counter." Self doubt starts creeping in. But remember, you chose the brown shirt. So live with your decision.

You can't. They're still arguing about the coupon and the blue dress keeps getting farther and farther ahead of you. You

start thinking the unthinkable. "Should I change lines? Should or shouldn't I? Yes I should! No I shouldn't!" You start to go. You stop. You're torn apart. You're driving yourself crazy. Finally, you jump lines!

Two minutes later your new line hits a wall. You check your old line. "Oh, God, the brown shirt is getting scanned already." Why did I do this? How stupid of me! I was on the fastest line. I guessed right. I threw it away. Should I go back to my old line? Will they accept me?" By now, you need a psychiatrist.

My advice. Avoid lines. Stay home and just get on line. GOTSIXTY@AOL.COM

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ity, style and accuracy.

THE BUZZ ON BOCA

A call to action

There are a lot of great folks in Boca Raton. They work hard, they play hard and often times it's for a good cause.

On Saturday night hundreds of generous folks made a pilgrimage to Red Reef Park to celebrate - and to raise money- all at the same time. The event is known as the Caribbean Cowboy Ball and its mission is raise funds for the George Snow Scholarship Fund. The fund awards college scholarships to deserving Palm Beach County and Northern Broward County high school students and single parents. This non-profit educational venture is named after George Snow, a compassionate Boca Raton educator, builder and philanthropist who disappeared in a helicopter accident in 1980.

The ball is legendary among locals. John Cahorshak and wife Dottie have attended every year for the past 14 years. Donning a black leather vest, lizard cowboy boots, silver spurs and a red cowboy tie John looked the cowboy part. He also embodied the philanthropic spirit. "We're fortunate enough that we can give money to send kids to college. This is the most generous group of people you will ever find," said the Shakman Hospitality executive.

You can say that again. According to Tim Snow, the President

of the George Snow Foundation, the event raised a record breaking \$150,000. At the live auction prizes were auctioned off like lunch in an oceanfront tree-house, a year's worth of Merry Maids and a week in Duck Key, Florida. True to the giving spirit, the Duck Key week went for \$3000 and a Quail hunting trip was sold for \$6,900.

Guests nibbled on shrimp and crab fritters, chicken satay and BBQ meatballs prepared (and served) by young people from the West Boca High School Culinary Department at West Boca Raton Community High School. There was a silent auction, knee thumping country music from the Sunset Bay Band, dinner from Outback Steakhouse and a cozy fireplace surrounded by bales of hay.

On Sunday afternoon there was another cry for help, only this one was of a more global nature. Its mission was to create awareness and compassion for those suffering in Darfur. Young and old, black and white, Jews and Christians came together to educate and commiserate -- at the "Rally To Save Darfur (held at Temple Beth El)." There were lots of speakers - Congressman Ron Klein, Pastor Billy Thompson, Miami Heat forward Wayne Simien, Jr., State Senator Ted Deutch, Reverend Lance Chaney of the St. John Missionary

Baptist Church in Boynton Beach, Barry Silver of congregation L'Dor Va-Dor as well as others.

Although the speakers came from diverse backgrounds -- rabbis, priests, ministers, politicians, relief workers and ball players -- they had a similar message: Stop the genocide in Darfur. "We are here to decry another chapter of degradation and suffering... we come together to say 'never again,'" said Rabbi Andrew Rosenkranz, Florida regional director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Because the violence in Darfur has already caused 400,000 deaths and 2 million refugees, there was an urgency in the hearts and minds of attendees. "Every time a woman goes out to get wood in Darfur the result can be death or rape, that's why we are taking solar cookers to them. If you donate \$20 you can supply a solar cooker to a family of four for a month," said Sister Francis Madigan.

Barry Silver and Zachery Schwartz had a similar message. Sung to the John Lennon song "Imagine" was the following: "Imagine all the nations saving the Sudan, you may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. Today please join us and the new day will begin."

Miami Heat Pastor Billy Thompson got a thundering round of applause when he cried out, "We need to make every effort

to bring awareness and resolution to our brothers and sisters in Darfur." And our hearts melted when the young Garments of Praise dancers from St. John Missionary Baptist Church (in Boynton Beach) swayed with outstretched torsos to the gospel song, "Doesn't matter what color you are as long as your blood is red."

If you want to help, Senator Klein has a suggestion. "Can one person make a difference? Yes they can. You can raise money and let Washington know we must raise the awareness for Darfur. We have to work with our leaders so genocide doesn't happen again." For more information, go to stopdarfur.org.

If you have an itch to do good while having a roaring good time, check out the other events around town. One of the most exciting is a car show that mixes celebrity with charity. From February 23rd to 25th Concours d'Elegance is hosting an exotic and classic automobile exhibit at the Boca Raton Hotel and Resort. The weekend event -- that includes a Saturday night gala -- will be hosted by car fanatic and TV personality Jay Leno. There will be tours of private auto museums and a chance to run your fingers over vintage, classic and exotic cars. A live and silent auction will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs (877-556-6789) or www.bocaratonconcours.com).

(Do not be confused with an-

Diane
Feen

other worthwhile charity fundraiser six days later at the Boca Raton Municipal Airport -- but also featuring the Concours d'Elegance exotic and classic automobile exhibit. That March 3 event is the Morgan Adams Concours d'Elegance, and is designed to raise money for pediatric oncology research.)

There will be a Casino Night benefit for Gilda's Club South Florida Saturday, Feb. 17 at the home of Doug Bugie. The event will help expand services currently offered by Gilda's Club South Florida in Palm Beach County. Gilda's Club is the leader in social and emotional support and education for anyone touched by cancer-- any cancer. For more information contact Cristina Chediak at (954) 763-6392 or cristina@gildasclub-southflorida.org.

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SANDELMAN

The Problem is They Don't Know the Problem

Editor's Note: Bob Sandelman, a man referred to by The New York Times as "the wizard of sales promotion," was the first to define the sales promotion industry. He formed the first sales promotion agency, Robert Brian Associates, in 1955 in the United States.

His unusual and successful ideas have earned him an outstanding reputation among such prestigious corporations as Nabisco, Chesebrough-Ponds, and American Home Products. He is the mind behind entertainment in supermarkets and is the creator of the American Express Gold Card. Edited by Managing Editor John Johnston, The Boca Raton News is pleased to present a serialization of Sandelman's book: "The Problem is They Don't Know the Problem." A current Boca Raton resident, Sandelman can be reached at sandelman@msn.com. The next installment follows:

He stood six feet tall and was about 24-years old. He was a young man who could take on many personas.

"Joe, I would like you to get another job."

"Bob, why are you firing me?"

"I'm not firing you. I'm sending you on a special assignment. I would like you to apply for and get a job as a truck driver for a lumber yard."

Joe nodded, "But I'm an account executive, why do you want me to become a truck driver? My father was a truck driver and I never liked that job."

"I'd like you to find out what's going on in the company," I explained. "Eventually you'll become one of the boys, and if they'll take you into their confidence, you'll learn how they operate. All I want you to do is call me every Friday at 6 o'clock and let me know what you found out."

Joe applied for the job and within the week was hired to drive a truck and make deliveries in the company's Brooklyn yard. The following Friday he reported in.

"Bob, there's an awful lot of stealing going on. I'm not sure how it's done yet, but I hear about it because they talk openly in front of me."

"Keep your nose to the grindstone and call me in two weeks," I encouraged.

Two weeks later the phone rang. It was Joe. "Bob, they like me," he spoke breathlessly. "They treat me like one of their own. I don't think it will be long now before I'm invited into the organization. As a truck driver delivery man, I'm an important cog in the operation."

About a month later, Joe was welcomed into the group. He was now considered one of them. He learned the entire system. Joe explained their scheme to me, and I listened carefully.

At a meeting in our office, we tried to piece together the problem. Each partner drove a Cadillac and parked it in front of the facility that they supervised. Four expensive cars parked right in front of the plate glass windows, reminding all the employees that the partners were doing quite well, thank you very much.

Yet these same Cadillac-own-



Robert Sandelman

I left you last week with a pilferage problem at a major Manhattan lumberyard.

"We've had off-duty police officers and dogs patrolling the yard. We just don't know how to stop it," Danny, one of the owners told me. Danny was also a neighbor.

He knew the result of his problem - reduced money in his pocket. But what he hadn't done was isolate the problem.

Stealing seems to be a problem in every retail store in the nation. Pilferage, however, is one of the biggest problems and accounts for a large percentage of lost sales and profits.

I shook my head. "I really don't like doing business with a neighbor, but let me think about this, and see what I can do."

"Bob, we'll pay anything if you can help us. I think the stealing amounts to many thousands of dollars over the course of the year."

"Let me think about it and get back to you."

About a week later I visited one of the lumberyards. In fact, I visited the headquarters store. There I met the four partners.

Each of the partners had individual talents. They were a nice group; they parked their four Cadillacs just outside the store. The partners were convinced that pilferage was their biggest problem. They advertised regularly in the Daily News and other local papers. As sales grew, however, so did the pilferage.

As I left the meeting, I was at a loss as to what I would recommend. Suddenly it occurred to me. What if I put a "spy" into the organization to see how the pilferage was accomplished? Back at the office I called in one of our account executives.

Forgotten Soldiers Outreach plans dinner dance fundraiser

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Forgotten Soldiers Outreach Inc. will hold its second annual dinner dance fundraiser (black tie optional) Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Benvenuto Restaurant in Boynton Beach.

Delray Beach Mayor Jeff Perlman will be the keynote speaker. The Color Guard from Forest Hills High School JROTC, other special guests, including local recipients of Forgotten Soldiers Outreach, will also be present. There will be a silent auction and live auction. Bob Nicholls will be the celebrity auctioneer for this event.

Delroy Cashmere, anchorman and reporter of Channel 5 WPTV be the emcee again this year. There will be dinner and dancing as well. Entertainment is by Mike Henry.

"It is incredible that this or-

ganization continues to grow to a greater magnitude each year and to receive not only local and national recognition, but true support from all over the United States," said Lynelle Chauncey, president and founder of Forgotten Soldiers Outreach.

"More and more soldiers are now enrolling themselves in our program on a daily basis overseas and many are now on their third and fourth deployment and actually registering themselves with FSO, as their families cannot afford to send them CARE packages anymore."

encouragement and hard work put in by volunteers as we all join together to show support of our servicemen and women currently deployed overseas and to let them know they are not forgotten."

The proceeds from this event will be used by Forgotten Soldiers Outreach to cover the shipping and other related costs of sending packages to the servicemen and women currently stationed overseas. Forgotten Soldiers has sent packages to well over 15,000 U.S. troops who are serving on active duty with U.S. armed forces.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Elaine Schwartz at 561-737-1087 or Forgotten Soldiers Outreach at 561-369-2933 or via email at Lynelle@forgotten-soldiers.org.

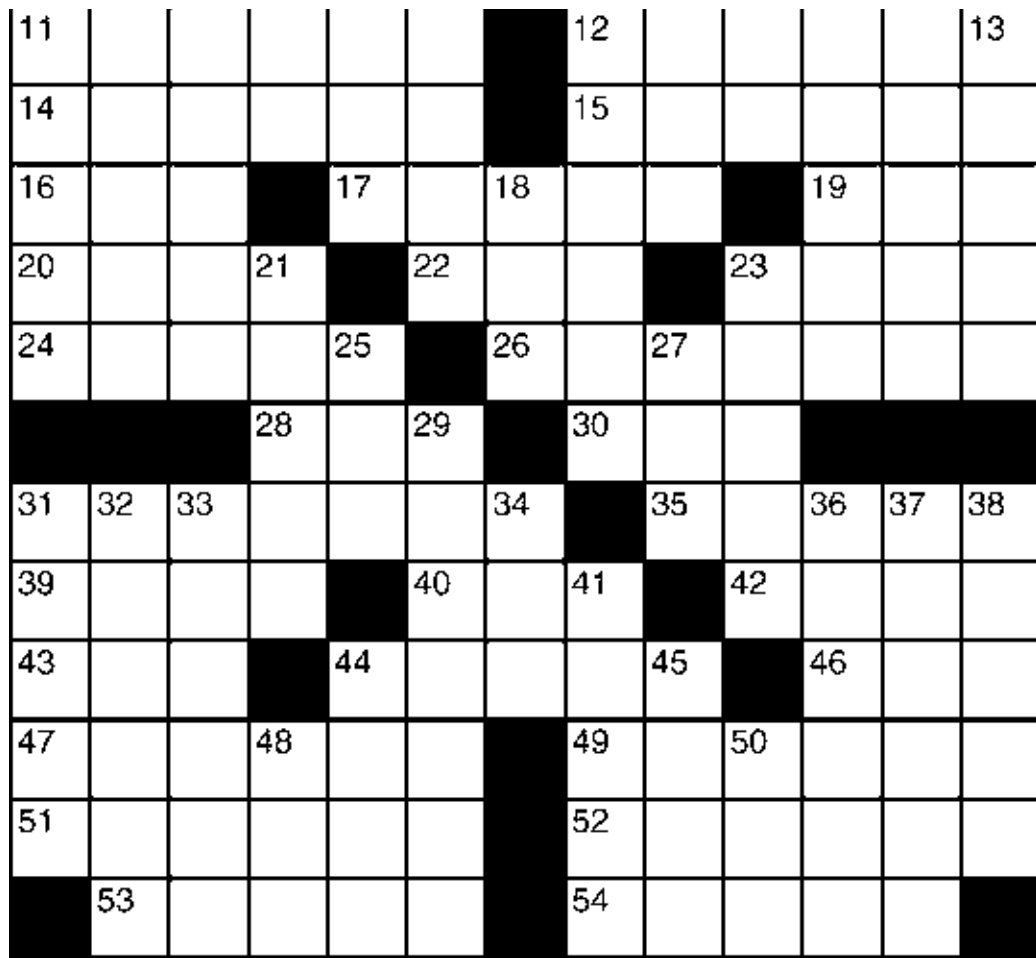
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Crossword



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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 grid with numbers 4, 8, 3, 9, 5, 1, 3, 7, 5, 8, 2, 7, 9, 1, 5, 8, 2, 7, 9, 1. Difficulty Level ★★★★★.

Answer to previous puzzle grid with numbers 6 3 5 2 1 4 8 9 7, 8 2 1 9 7 6 3 5 4, 7 4 9 3 5 8 6 2 1, 9 1 8 5 2 7 4 3 6, 4 5 2 8 6 3 1 7 9, 3 6 7 4 9 1 2 8 5, 2 7 4 6 8 9 5 1 3, 5 9 3 1 4 2 7 6 8, 1 8 6 7 3 5 9 4 2.

Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Feb. 4, 2007: You enter a banner year. Friendship plays a significant role in events that head in your direction, allowing you to make what you want happen. You will have the support of others, as well as their suggestions. Don't feel as if you are on your path alone. Work on a one-on-one level, and you'll gain. If you are single, a relationship will knock on your door. This bond might have elements of friendship mixed with romance. A unique intensity marks this bond. If you are attached, you need to let your sweetie have a greater say. Remember the nature of this partnership. VIRGO might be unusually insightful. 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 ★★★ Options will appear if you are willing to put in the extra effort. You could be overwhelmed by what heads your way. Discussions might be uncomfortable, especially with a friend. Recognize that you have changed a lot. Tonight: Early to bed. This Week: Others run the show. You can either go along or head in another direction. TAURUS April 20-May 20 ★★★★★ Emphasize the possibilities and tap into your innate resourcefulness. Sometimes you wonder why others cause themselves so many problems. Just observe, and the answers will arrive. Tonight: Act like it's the weekend. This Week: Focus on each task, one at a time. GEMINI May 21-June 20 ★★★ Basics count when working with others, especially family. Someone might be in the mood to be overly indulgent. Try to corral indulgences to a special relationship or situation. Know when to say "enough." Tonight: At home.

This Week: Your imagination adds that extra spice. CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ You give a very strong presentation. In making your case, you could get caught up in details or trivialities. Try to look at the big picture. New information will enlighten you. Perspectives and plans change. Tonight: At a favorite spot. This Week: You might prefer to stay close to home. Try your best. LEO July 23-Aug. 22 ★★★★★ Take a critical look at your investments and expenditures. What you think is going on might be very different from reality. You still have time to reverse directions. Avoid all risks. Others simply don't have the same priorities as you. Tonight: Gather your bills. This Week: You will say what you think, no matter what the results might be. VIRGO Aug. 23-Sept. 22 ★★★★★ You have a way that draws many. Also, your personal style has a way of making others want to come in closer. Be careful with people in general. If you act like you are in a whirlwind, they might assume you don't have time for them. Tonight: You pick! This Week: Put yourself on a budget, and stick to it! LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22 ★★ Knowing when to step back can make a big difference in the outcome of events. Others might expect more from you than you are willing to give. You can explain until you are blue in the face. Tonight: Get some extra R and R. This Week: The Moon energizes you. Go for what you want. SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 ★★★★★ Keep your focus, even if you find others rather distracting or full of themselves. Your ability to see the forest for the trees identifies you as a winner. Your imagination sparks

a special relationship. Tonight: Where the action is. SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 ★★★ You might feel that you are heading in the right direction. Surprise of surprises: Others find completely different paths to the same goal. Be willing to learn from others. Tonight: A must appearance. This Week: Meetings prove to be effective and dynamic. CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 ★★★★★ Let go of details and allow your mind to wander to new realms and different places. You could be surprised by what happens if you let go and relax. Suddenly, you might understand where someone else is coming from. Tonight: On the computer or listening to a favorite CD. This Week: No one can manage responsibility like you! AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 ★★★★★ Defer to a partner, and both of you will be a lot happier. You don't always have to exercise your will and opinions. Try walking in another's shoes. Don't overestimate a friendship, or you could be disappointed. Tonight: Special time with a special person. This Week: Do research. Ask questions. There is much more to learn. PISCES Feb. 19-March 20 ★★★ Others will disagree, perhaps only for the sake of argument. Don't get into this type of power play, and you will be much happier. Allow someone else to have his or her way. Let this person see the end results. Tonight: Be willing to head in another direction. This Week: Let someone else make the choices. BORN TODAY Singer Alice Cooper (1948), actor Brandon "Bug" Hall (1985), author Betty Friedan (1921)

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SPORTS



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Super Bowl XLI is a clash of styles

By **Mario Sarmiento**
SPORTS EDITOR

After two weeks of talking and hype, Super Bowl XLI is finally upon us. After this game, either Tony Dungy or Lovie Smith will knock down another historic wall, as one of them will become the first African-American coach to win a Super Bowl championship.

The other storyline that will be settled has been the main one since Championship weekend: Will Peyton Manning finally get his Super Bowl ring and join the likes of Brett Favre and celebrated peer Tom Brady as one of the greatest quarterbacks in NFL history?

The experts say yes. Chicago is already a 7-point underdog to the Colts, partly because of the supposed weaker competition in the NFC, partly because no one has any idea how good the inconsistent Bears really are.

The Colts are expected to win because it is believed that Manning will be able to exploit a Bears de-

fense that has struggled with injuries and isn't particularly strong in the secondary.

The Bears' best chance to win has been harped on for most of this week: Run the ball early and often to take pressure off of erratic quarterback Rex Grossman and at the same time keep Manning off the field.

The blueprint for a Chicago victory should come from The New York Giants' Super Bowl XXV win over the Buffalo Bills in 1990.

In that game, Coach Bill Parcells and then defensive coordinator Bill Belichick devised a scheme where the Giants often operated with a two-man defensive line, flooding the secondary with defenders to limit quarterback Jim Kelly's options.

They sacrificed a big game from Bills running back Thurman Thomas, who ran wild for 135

yards and a touchdown, but in the end they were able to keep Kelly & Co. off the field enough to emerge with a 20-19 victory.

But it was on offense where the Giants really did their jobs. New York wore down the Bills' undersized defensive line by pounding the ball, holding it for a still Super Bowl record 40 minutes and 33 seconds.

That's the kind of effort the Bears need to win on Sunday. But offensive coordinator Ron Turner hasn't shied away from throwing the ball all season, even when Grossman has struggled, as he did in the NFC Championship when he started 2-for-13.

Grossman will have his chances too, as the Colts' secondary can be beaten deep, and cornerback Nick Harper might not play in the contest.

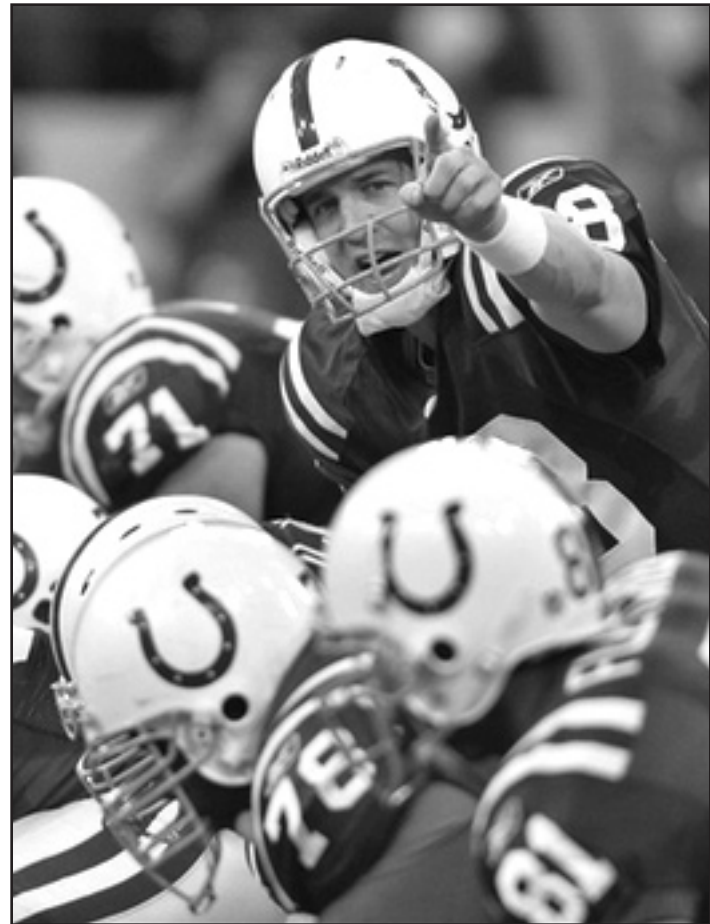
That means Bears deep threat Bernard Berrian will have to come up with big plays.

It is ironic that while having one of the worst postseasons of his career, Manning is so close now to the threshold.

He's managing the offensive game better than he ever has, and that newfound patience may be the key in this Super Bowl.

Chicago's big offensive line should be able to clear some holes for the running game against Indianapolis, but Grossman will be a target for Indy's speed pass rushers.

On offense, the Colts have too much firepower. With receiver Marvin Harrison relatively quiet so far this postseason, running mate Reggie Wayne has become the main offensive weapon. And don't forget Dallas Clark exploiting the middle when the outside receivers are covered. The Colts also have a competent running game led by the two-headed backfield of Joseph Addai and Dominic Rhodes.



Mario Sarmiento/Staff Photo
Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts seek a championship when they play the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI Sunday at 6:25 p.m. at Dolphin Stadium.

This is Manning's moment

By **Mario Sarmiento**
SPORTS EDITOR

After years of hearing he could never win the big one, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning finally has his opportunity.

If he wins Super Bowl XLI, Manning could be on the fast track to becoming arguably the greatest quarterback to ever play in the NFL.

Manning has already set NFL records for most consecutive 4,000 yard seasons (7), most seasons with 25 or more TD passes (9) and in 2004 he set a new record for TD passes with 49 and quarterback rating with 121.1.

Statistically, he is projected to break most of the NFL career passing records, currently held by former Miami Dolphins great Dan Marino and threatened by Green Bay Packers legend Brett Favre.

But like Marino, the greatest statistical quarterback of all time, Manning is missing one thing — the ring that supposedly validates greatness in the NFL.

He's never been closer than he will be Sunday night, a mere 60 minutes from hoisting the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

On Media Day Tuesday, Manning was his usual stoic self when an-



Mario Sarmiento/Staff Photo
Peyton Manning talks on Media Day.

swering questions about his chance to wipe away all the doubts and criticisms he's received in the past.

"All we have here is an opportunity, that's all we've earned," he said. "But I know how hard this team has worked to get this opportunity, and I feel I've just been part of the team and tried to do my part. Somebody said, does Sunday's win make up for all those losses you had to the (New England) Patriots, and it really doesn't because those were different teams and those were opportunities that we haven't taken advantage of."

Colts coach Tony Dungy said

Manning won't betray any signs of nervousness Sunday, and he expects him to play his normal game.

"Peyton treats every game like a Super Bowl," Dungy said.

"We have a scrimmage where it's the veteran guys in the blue and the rookies in the white. I coach the white and Peyton is the quarterback of the blue team. That's the Super Bowl to him. He treats it like he wants to win it, and that's why he's good because he does prepare, he works, and he's very driven."

Manning may have deflected the tough questions Tuesday, but he understands what this game means to his legacy.

"Certainly you feel a small window of opportunity, and I've really been playing this way for quite some time — with free agency, with injuries," he said. "If a guy like Edgerrin James — who's one of the best athletes I've ever seen — can get injured, you realize that with free agency the days of building for next year are long over with. And you'd better do it while you have the chance. And so, while we're here, we sure do want to go ahead and win it."



Special to the News
President & CEO Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce Troy McClellan, BRCGC Board Chairman-Retired Franklin Loh, President and CEO, Boca Raton Community Hospital Gary Strack, Mrs. Cavner and President, Pro Links Sports Hollis Cavner.

Reception sets stage for the Allianz Championship

NEWS STAFF REPORTS

As PGA Champions Tour's Allianz Championship that will benefit Boca Raton Community Hospital grows nearer, the tournament board, management and staff hosted a special "sponsors appreciation" reception sponsored by Boca Raton Magazine at Pranzo's at Mizner Park.

On hand to join in the pre-tournament festivities were Mike Arts and Bill Hager, Boca Raton City Council Members; Gary Strack-President and CEO, Boca Raton Community Hospital; Franklin Loh-BRCGC Board Chairman-Retired, Farrington Holding Corp; Troy M. McLellan-President & CEO Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce; Carey McKearnan, Georgette Evans, and Betsy Keteltas of Boca Raton Magazine; Ken Clark and Gary Huber of National Distributing, Jay and Ellie Tabatchnick and Charmaine Hills of 200 East, Jon and Bonnie Kaye of Kaye Communications, Brooke Auclair of Penn Florida, Heidi Fuchs and Summer Talber of Office Depot and Hollis Cavner-President, Pro Links Sports.

For more information on sponsorships, volunteer opportunities or to purchase tickets, call the tournament office at 561-241-GOLF, or for more information on the championship events, visit www.allianzchampionship.com.

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