

Celebrating our history



Addison Mizner's vision is pretty in pink on the original 1926 portion of the Boca Raton Resort & Club. Photo courtesy of the Boca Raton Resort & Club

Mizner's famed palace turns 85

By Deborah S. Hartz-Seeley

This year, the Boca Raton Resort & Club turns 85 years old. Looking back, the important role the hotel



OUR PRIVATE CLUBS
An occasional series

has played in the community is clear. It's safe to say that if the iconic hotel never existed, Boca Raton would be a very different place from today.

"This landmark is part of our past and present," says Susan Gillis, curator for the Boca Raton Historical

Society. "The hotel is still a very important part of Boca Raton."

In fact, people in Boca think of it as "their" hotel, Gillis says. And until World War II, the hotel and agriculture were the mainstays of the area's economy.

Natalie Warren, a BRHS docent who gives tours of the historic hotel, knows how important the property is to the community. She virtually grew up there.



A postcard shows the resort as it looked in the 1930s. Courtesy of the Boca Raton Historical Society

Her mother was a real estate agent with offices just off what was the hotel's original lobby.

Warren spent afternoons sitting on Addison Mizner's grand staircase reading books.

As a young woman, she held jobs at the resort, including working at the lobby chocolate shop and the hotel flower shop as well as waitressing at

the golf course restaurant.

"I loved coming here. It was like being part of history," she says.

Over the years, the hotel and its owners have done a lot to foster the community. Today, the city is home to about 85,000 residents. But in 1903, it was a farming village with about 18

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Highland Beach

Town manager suspended in flap on e-mailed jokes

By Steve Plunkett

Nestled among Highland Beach Town Manager Dale Sugerman's e-mail last July was a message he wasn't supposed to see: a collection of jokes Town Clerk Beverly Brown forwarded to him by mistake via the town's official e-mail.

Sugerman investigated and found more jokes, some "sexually-oriented or defamatory," that Brown had forwarded during work hours, including one alluding to President Obama and using the N-word. He decided a one-month suspension without pay was appropriate for the town's second in command.

But before he could suspend her, Sugerman himself was suspended—though with pay—amid strong indications the Town Commission will not renew his contract in June.

"Where are you coming from?" Commissioner John Sorrelli demanded during the commission's initial inquiry. "I am so upset, I am ready to blow my cork here."

The commission's Jan. 4 meeting began with an appeal from former Mayor Arlin Voress to intervene on Brown's behalf. Sugerman said it was inappropriate to discuss the case in public

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Boca Raton

City moves to zone Ocean Strand recreational

By Steve Plunkett

For land that's lain idle more than 17 years, Ocean Strand swirled into 2011 with a flurry of activity.

- Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District Commissioner Dirk Smith met with the Federation of Boca Raton Homeowner Associations to invite ideas on what kind of park Ocean Strand should be.

- Keep Your Boca Beaches Public submitted 1,522 signatures demanding that "development for private uses (including members-only beach clubs) ... be prohibited" at Ocean Strand and other public land on the barrier island. The grass-roots group paid \$152.20 to have the signatures verified.

- The Beach and Park District short-listed six firms to draw up plans for the parcel.

- Boca Raton's city attorney declared the grass-roots petition unconstitutional and told the city clerk not to process the signatures.

- The Boca Raton City Council ordered its

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Meet your neighbor

Beach Condo Association President Jack Fox has earned his angel's wings. **Page 17**

House of the Month

Luxury manse has water views, plus space for entertaining, relaxing. **Page 17**



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Join the club

Being properly fit for golf equipment can give you an edge on the fairway. **Pages 18-19**

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Love and chocolate

The sweet things local chefs are preparing for Valentine's Day.

PLUS: It's a wrap!

How to put the perfect touch on gifts for your Valentine,

Pages 14-15

Valentine's Day

Love & chocolate

By Jan Norris

Who knows when chocolate began to be associated with Saint Valentine's Day? The history of that marriage is vague. Suffice it to say that today it's the chocolatiers' biggest day of the year, and heart-shaped boxes and fancy red-beribboned packages of the dark sweet stuff will fly off the shelves.

Chefs and others are getting creative with chocolate for Feb. 14 — it's not just the candy makers. Check out these ideas for chocolate treats.

At the restaurant 501 East in the Boca Raton Resort and Club, the pastry chefs have taken campfire favorites and combined them into a Chocolate S'mores Cake: two layers of chocolate fudge sandwiched between layers of chocolate cake, with a graham cracker crust — all topped with a thick layer of toasted marshmallow and sitting in a pool of chocolate sauce.

The bartenders at Zed451 in Boca Raton will be pouring the Chocolate Kiss — a drink worthy of any chocoholic. A mix of Godiva Chocolate vodka, Godiva Chocolate liqueur, Bailey's Irish Cream and a scoop of Chocolate Guinness Ice Cream, this is the ultimate fix for a chocolate craving in liquid form.

At the Top of the Bridge at the Bridge Hotel in Boca Raton, chef Dudley Rich is making a beautiful Bavarian Chocolate Torte: a creamy mousse of chocolate, set on a dark chocolate layer, surrounded by a pool of raspberry coulis and fresh berries. (Hint, hint, guys: It's a perfect dessert to have the chef bury a ring in.)

At the Four Seasons Palm Beach, pastry chef Jason Morale is making a chocolate torta with a sabayon mousse. Everyone dining leaves with a Valentine's treat from the chef. Also at the



Bartenders at Boca Raton's ZED451 will prepare the Chocolate Kiss for Valentine's. Photo provided

Four Seasons, they are offering a child's dine-in special on Saturdays — and during special events — in which the kids will be fed and entertained while the parents dine (until 9 p.m.) Cost per child is \$10 and available for kids ages 3-12.

A unique Chocolate and Red Wine Bar at the Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach Feb. 12-14 will present an ultimate decision conundrum for chocolate lovers. Which to choose? Chef Ryan Artim says to sample each: the raspberry white and dark chocolate fondue with dipping sticks of other treats such as tropical fruits, madeleines, marshmallows and meringues; fudgy cheesecake bites or cappuccino whoopie pies; chocolate pot de crème, chocolate raspberry tart, lollipops.

Now, what drink to pair with them? A sweet, fruit-forward Banyuls or Ruby Port, Syrah, Shiraz, Cabernet, Malbec, Grenache, Merlot — or spicy hot chocolate? Champagne? Ladies will leave with a special chocolate valentine.

At 32 East, Pastry chef Ana



Chocolate S'mores Cake from the Boca Raton Resort & Club has two layers of chocolate fudge between layers of chocolate cake, with a graham cracker crust and marshmallow topping. It sits in a pool of chocolate sauce. Photo by Tim Stepien



The Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach will offer a Chocolate and Red Wine Bar that will include fondue with dipping sticks of various treats. Photo provided

Pheterson has concocted a fudgy rich traditional Devil's Food Cake. Its layers of dark chocolate devil's food cake with a cocoa reduction and hazelnut croquand and served with fresh berries and micro greens.

Pick up warm, buttery chocolate croissants for a valentine's morning, or petits fours, or a rich Opera Cake from Tom Tchernia at the French bakery, Le Petit Pain, in Lantana.

(Order these in advance for pickup on Valentine's Day.)

You could order a special one-of-a-kind chocolate cake (white or dark chocolate, with a number of flavored fillings) or special cupcakes of your own design, from Maria Palavecino at Couture Cakes in Delray Beach. Once you win over your sweetheart, she'll bake your wedding cake, too.

At the hip Cupcake Couture



At the Top of the Bridge at the Bridge Hotel in Boca Raton, chef Dudley Rich is making a beautiful Bavarian Chocolate Torte: a creamy mousse of chocolate, set on a dark chocolate layer, surrounded by a pool of raspberry coulis and fresh berries. Photo provided

Sweet Boutique in Delray Beach, Pam Joyner and her staff will bake up fancy cupcakes decorated for Valentine's Day. Also here are dark chocolate whoopie pies — with decorative colored centers — pick a hot pick for your valentine.

If it's real chocolates you want, Kilwin's Chocolates in Delray Beach will offer cases, boxes and bags full of candies. To further tempt, they'll decor-

Putting sweet touches on the perfect present

By Paula Dettwiller

When Don Draper of the hit TV series *Mad Men* needed a Valentine's Day gift for his wife, his secretary would slip out of the office and into a nearby department store. She would return with a lovely box, wrapped in colorful paper and embellished with ribbons and lace — courtesy of the department store, of course.

Complimentary gift-wrapping is almost as rare today as Don Draper's fedora. But a few select retailers in the coastal area still offer it, for Valentine's Day and any other occasion when a gift-wrapped package can warm someone's heart.

It's a tradition appreciated by

shoppers at Lifestyles of Lynne in Boca Raton's Royal Palm Place. On a recent morning, Boca real estate agent Brian Jones stopped into Lynne's to buy a housewarming gift for a client. He was happy to learn that owner Lynne Reiss would wrap the gift in her signature gold box with leopard-print chiffon ribbon.

"I went shopping over the holidays at Macy's in Water Tower Place in Chicago," Jones told her. "You know — the upscale tower where Oprah lives? I was shocked to find that Macy's stopped gift-wrapping. How can you be Macy's and not do gift wrapping?"

Reiss just nodded and kept wrapping. "I've always felt that if someone comes into a gift

store, they want the entire experience, soup to nuts," Reiss says. She's been wrapping gifts complete with free gift card enclosures, since opening her store in 2002.

"In the beginning, it was a major bone of contention with my accountant, who was looking for the longevity of my business," Reiss says. "He suggested I get away with gift wrapping to back on expenses. I told him, 'Don't even go there, it's not to happen.'"

Natural Wrap

The Petite Connection is located at 1000 east Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach.

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Gifts from Lifestyles of Lynne in Boca Raton, like these Romero Britto salt and pepper shakers, are tucked into gold boxes and tied with Lynne's signature ribbon. Photo by Tim Stepien



Between layers of chocolate cake, a tepien



The Devil's Food Cake prepared by Ana Pheterson, pastry chef at 32 East. Photo by Tim Stepien

The chocolate connection

501 East Restaurant at the Boca Raton Resort and Club
501 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton
447-3000; www.bocaresort.com

Zed 451
201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton
393-3451; www.zed451.com

Top of the Bridge at the Bridge Hotel
999 E. Camino Real, Boca Raton
368-9500; www.bocaratonbridgehotel.com

The Four Seasons Palm Beach
2800 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach. Phone: 582-2800; www.fourseasons.com/palmbeach/

Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach
100 S. Ocean Blvd., Manalapan
533-6000; www.ritzcarlton.com/palmbeach

32 East
32 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach
276-7868; www.32east.com

Cupcake Couture Sweet Boutique
328 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach
276-2334; www.cupcakecoutureusa.com

Le Petit Pain French Bakery
123 S. Third St., Lantana
582-5844; www.lepetitpainfrenchbakery.com

Couture Cakes
142 SE Sixth Ave., Delray Beach
279-1828; www.couturecakeshop.com

Kilwin's Chocolates
402 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach
278-0808; www.kilwins.com/delraybeach



Bridge Hotel, chef Dudley Rich will Torte set on a bed of dark chocolate fresh berries. Photo provided

chocolate-dipped Oreos, chocolate-dipped pretzels and chocolate-covered Rice Krispie Treats with hearts and valentine motifs. For the kids, there are chocolate lollipops and their best-seller — chocolate fudge. At any of the shops, get in early or you may be disappointed in selections. For cakes and specialty baked goods, order by Feb. 7 to be sure of getting it by Valentine's Day. ★



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A palm tree husk tied with raffia cradles a hot-pink eyelet sundress from The Petite Connection in Delray Beach. Photo by Tim Stepien

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