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PICTURES OF PARADISE

SPRING CHICKS



A water turkey, or anhinga, seems to proudly spread a protective wing over its young in a nest at Wakodahatchee Wetlands near Delray Beach. JIM BERIAU / THE PALM BEACH POST

In South Florida, the calendar doesn't dictate the start of spring. Baby birds do.

It's been "chicks ahoy" since late February here in Palm Beach County as babies began hatching in our area's wetlands. Baby birds mean busy bird parents as they feed their hungry offspring. The adults' tag-team marathon of feeding continues until the young are fledged and out of their nests.

Jim Beriau — a senior graphic designer for Ideabar, a marketing consultancy of The Palm Beach Post — captured some special moments between bird parents and their chicks at Wakodahatchee Wetlands, west of Delray Beach, and in Peaceful Waters Sanctuary in Wellington, using a long lens and a big dose of patience.

Beriau, whose passion is travel and nature photography, says his favorite places to watch birds are Peaceful Waters, Wakodahatchee, Green Cay Wetlands in Boynton Beach and often, his own Wellington backyard, because, he says, "you never know what you'll see."

— BARBARA MARSHALL

To see more of Jim Beriau's photography, go to jberiau.smugmug.com/Nature/Florida-Wildlife

CHIRP! WHERE TO SEE A SPRING NATURE SHOW. F10

FILM

Plight and promise in the Glades

Palm Beach author James Patterson hopes documentary helps shine light on area's needs.

By Carlos Frias
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

James Patterson picks up a discarded gold slipper inside a Belle Glade crack house.

"This did not come from the Wizard of Oz," he says as he paces the interior of a garbage-filled, dilapidated squatters roost, tossing aside the shoe. "A lot of drugs done here, a lot of damage done here, especially to the kids in this town."

The camera works back. Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise" plays as a shirtless young man is led away in handcuffs.

"What the hell happened here?" Patterson asks. In a new 56-minute PBS documentary debuting Thursday, "Murder of a Small Town," Patterson tries to explain.

To those who know the

Patterson continued on F11



James Patterson

FILM FESTIVAL

Nat King Cole's twins awed by his lasting shadow

Daughters in Boca proud of new film, dad's push for social change.

By Leslie Gray Streeter
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Casey and Timolin Cole watched the screen as people, including celebrities, discussed the groundbreaking struggles of an entertainment legend, who confronted the ugliness of a society that saw his immense worth as a performer but often not as a black man.

For the casual viewer, "Nat King Cole: Afraid Of The Dark" is a fascinating, somewhat painful but hopeful story about the history of a country, and how far it's come.

But for the Cole twins, the documentary, playing at the Palm Beach International Film Festival starting Monday, shows indignities and triumphs that didn't just happen to a distant Hollywood celebrity.

They happened to their daddy.

"We are continuously touched, in such an incredible way, 50 years after his death. His music is still here. Our father really had a profound impact on people," says Casey Cole, daughter of the celebrated crooner, who lives in Boca Raton near her sister Timolin, both of whom



Timolin (left) and Casey Cole were only 3 years old when their father Nat King Cole died of cancer in 1965. CONTRIBUTED BY SHERRY FERANTE

appear in the documentary.

"He became an agent of social change, even though he hadn't meant to be."

"People loved this man, and loved his music, and to some people the color of his skin was neither here nor there," says English filmmaker Jon Brewer, a lifelong fan of Cole's who directed the film and will appear at the festival. "But on TV, they tried to literally paint him white to get sponsorship. It was such a dreadful thing. (It) opened my eyes to the terrible victimization of black people in the '50s, and how touring musicians suffered."

Brewer says that while the

twins' sister, singer Natalie, and mother Maria Cole, who passed away in 2012, were able to contribute their recollections, Timolin and Casey "were raised in the shadow of the shadow" of the legend, learning about their father's legendary fame along with everyone else.

They were only 3 years old when their father passed away from cancer in 1965, and so the experience of the movie is the surreal.

"We can't say it's a walk down memory lane because we never really lived it," says Casey, who with Timolin

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INSIDE ACCENT

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Leslie Gray Streeter sips this weekend at Mastino in Delray Beach. **PAGE F3**

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Muck, loam, gossip and goo are featured in the novel 'Soil.' **PAGE F7**

Travel
What to do on the west coast, from a baby boom at Busch Gardens to turtle walks in Naples. **PAGE F9**

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