

Boca Raton Forum

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Panthers song could be a game changer

MARCI SHATZMAN MSHATZMAN@TRIBUNE.COM

Florida Panthers' vice president, Richard Adler, is in a Deerfield Beach music studio, listening to a new song that could become the hockey team's theme song.

The tune and lyrics were written by Boca's own country rock singer-songwriter J.D. Danner with the help of lead guitarist Joni Bottari and her brother, music publisher Steven Bottari.

"I think it's just perfect," Steven Bottari said. "I'm a huge hockey fan, and the vibe is consistent with what I hear at the arena."

Now they have a waiting game.

"We'll let everyone on our team listen to it, including our players and executives," Adler said. "It has to be catchy with the team and fans."

That would be the next step for Danner. She already has a track record with the Florida Panthers. Her J Street Revival is the house band and plays in the BB&T Center in Sunrise when the Panthers have a weekday hockey game.

Her following can track regular gigs there, at the Q Burger Bar & Blues on Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale, and Thursday night at the Bamboo Room in Lake Worth at jddanner.com

and on her and her band's Facebook pages.

"I come from a musical family, and everybody played something," the Brooklyn-born Danner said in her music room in central Boca, with her grandmother's ukuleles and a banjo on the walls with her guitars.

"We all moved here as an Italian family in 1982," she said, laughing. Her late father was an Italian opera tenor.

Danner had a red, white and blue guitar made when she started touring military bases, including Fort Hood and Fort Bragg in 2005. She wears pins gifted from the military on her guitar strap, and has that picture posted proudly on her website.

A military wife afraid to watch the news while her husband at the time was deployed in a war zone inspired Danner to write

"Thanks to the Brave" and more recently "Hometown Hero."

Both are posted with all her original music at reverbNation.com/jddanner. The website compares her sound to Melissa Etheridge and Sheryl Crow. She sang "Hometown Hero" in a sea of military on a Veterans Day weekend at a Colts game in Indianapolis and has that video.

Last year, her music publisher introduced her to his sister, a Jersey Shore girl playing since she was 9, which is how Joni Bottari came on board. "My brother said, 'I have an artist who's local. Check her out,'" she said. "I showed up at a gig, and I knew all the songs. I had only heard her on YouTube."

The pair played as a duo, and more play-

continues on 4

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PARADING THE STREETS



HOLIDAY BIRD The Mother Goose themed float makes its way down the holiday parade path during the Holiday Street Parade. PHOTO/LAURA KOKUS

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10

25 tons of snow ahead

MARCI SHATZMAN MSHATZMAN@TRIBUNE.COM

A sock skating rink? Add dry socks to the list of closed shoes and gloves when the fifth annual Piles of Smiles for children ages 4 to 12 returns to Sugar

Sand Park, 300 S. Military Trail, on Saturday.

"It's similar to an ice-skating rink; you just take your shoes off," said Stacey Lanz, special events

coordinator. "Make sure you have clean, dry socks."

This is an outdoor ticketed event from 10 a.m.

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MARCHING TO THE HOLIDAYS Top left, John Cornetta, with wife Ludmila and mother Patricia, pose with their children, Johnny, far left, and Sophia, before the start of the 45th annual Holiday Street Parade. They live in Boca Raton and have been attending the parade since 1977. Top right, the Boynton Beach High School Marching Tiger Band performs for parade-goers in downtown Boca Raton. Right, 14-year-old Idania Schittko, of Boca Raton High School, dons her elf hat before stepping off in the parade. Above, viewers packed the grandstand. Left, Jack Schwencke, of the Boca Raton High School ROTC, gets ready to march during the parade. PHOTOS/LAURA KOKUS