



BOCA RATON FORUM

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Music, meals, awards among MLK events

BY MARCI SHATZMAN
STAFF WRITER

The city of Boca Raton is having a free concert in Sanborn Square Jan. 14, adding a second day and a fifth event to the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Jan. 16.

The Valerie Tyson Band, the gospel recording artist T-D.O.G.G. and ReaXtion Band will entertain from 7 to 10 p.m. Jan. 14 in the square, on the corner of Federal Highway and Palmetto Park Road in downtown Boca, according to Mitch Smith, who arranges the music for the city. He's

also one of the evening's emcees with Earl Outlaw and Kenya Wheeler.

On Jan. 16, the federal holiday, there's a free community breakfast from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. in Ebenezer Baptist Church Hall, 200 NE 12th St. in Pearl City, according to Marjorie O'Sullivan, treasurer of Developing Interracial Social Change.

"Everyone is invited," she said. "It's an opportunity for people to meet together."

The city sets up a tent at the site of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial next to Ebenezer for the ceremony and

awards from 9:30 to 11 a.m. That's followed by a march to Sanborn Square for a celebration with slides, face painting and games for children from 11:30 to 2 p.m. A trolley will be available for people who want or need transportation to Sanborn, said Becky Self, the city's community events coordinator. All the activities are free, except for food vendors.

The speaker this year is Randy Nobles, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach County.

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New Year's yoga at Mizner Park



PEACEFUL POSES

Laura Reiss participates in the Something Big yoga event on New Year's Day in Boca Raton's Mizner Park. Yoga Journey and Something Big founder Leslie Glickman said more than 1,000 people registered in advance for what she billed as the largest free outdoor yoga class in South Florida. Nearly 2,000 people turned up.

MARCI SHATZMAN/STAFF

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Planning Organization talks non-car transit options

BY MARCI SHATZMAN
STAFF WRITER

How do you commute to work? How often do you walk or bike for recreation, and why don't you do it more often?

The Metropolitan Planning Organization handed out a transportation survey at the Federation of Boca Raton Homeowner Associations meeting to get feedback on why Boca Raton is so car-dependent.

"Seventy-eight percent drive alone," MPO Executive Director Nick Uhren said about commuting at the Jan. 3 meeting in the Boca Raton Community Center.

The countywide agency also handed out

BikePalmBeach.org, an brochure on bicycle safety and laws, and advice on handling hazards with a map showing lanes and roads from Tequesta south to Palmetto Park Road in Boca. Uhren talked about the biggest

impediment, the weather.

"Research on the heat index in Boca has the temperature at 85 degrees or lower six months of the year," he said.

He talked about the planned 7-mile shared bicycle and pedestrian path

will run along Palmetto Park Road from just east of State Road 7 in West Boca to close to Boca Raton City Hall. The federal government set aside \$2.9 million for the proj-

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Boca golfers mean business at Dixie Amateur

BY GARY CURRERI
SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

Two junior golfers from Boca Raton — Elle Nachmann, 13, and Katie Williamson, 20 — came through with commendable performances during the recent Dixie Amateur Women's Golf Tournament at Woodlands Country Club in Tamarac.

Nachmann, 13, and Williamson, 20, finished in a tie for sixth place with Florida State Golf Association Girls' Junior Co-Player of the Year Alexa Pano from Lake Worth.

Yujeong Son, 15, a South Korea native who now lives in Norman, Okla., shot a four-round total of 7-under 281 to win the title.

Nachmann found herself atop the leaderboard after the first two days, but fell to one stroke back entering the final round. She couldn't put anything together on the final day and closed with a 75 that did include a birdie. She placed 30th last year at the tournament, so her effort this time around marked a vast improvement.

"I am older and I think my game has improved in the last year," Nachmann said. "I have been playing with my [14-year-old]

brother Alec and that has helped a lot."

She loves the Dixie Amateur and looks forward to being a competitor. The event celebrated its 86th year.

"It's a great tournament, probably one of the biggest I have played in because there is a variety of ages — from people my age to people in college or about to turn pro."

Williamson, a freshman at Florida Gulf Coast University, was a 5-under-par going into the final two holes and settled for a 3-under 69.

The next top local finisher among the men was Boca Raton 16-year-old Luke Gifford, who shot a 288 total between the TPC Eagle Trace and Heron Bay golf courses in his Dixie Am debut. The final round was at Heron Bay.

"I am pretty happy with [my result]," said Gifford, whose two-under 70 on the final day got him back to even par for the week. "I thought top 10 was a good goal after I made the cut, and I ended up solo ninth, so I was pretty happy."

The junior at Spanish River High School, who is committed to the University of South Florida in Tampa for 2018, said it was a big tournament for



ON THE APPROACH Boca Raton's Luke Gifford follows his tee shot at the 17th hole while participating in the recent Dixie Amateur golf tournament at the Heron Bay Golf Club in Coral Springs. Gifford finished ninth in the event, which featured many of the nation's top amateur golfers. GARY CURRERI/CORRESPONDENT

him. Gifford recently switched back to an old putter, which he said contributed to his strong play.

"It is definitely top-three," Gifford said. "It is my first amateur event where I played all ages. Today was a pretty big round for me and I am happy that I did well.

There are 185 of the best amateurs in the country and I was around the top high-schoolers, and that was cool."

For Pano, the Dixie Amateur was yet another chance to prove that she is one of the top juniors in the state.

"I didn't expect to be

this high up because there were so many great players," Pano said. "They are all really good. It just depends on the week and I was really happy with the way I played that week."

Just 11 days after turning 12 in August, Pano continued her winning ways with a victory in the

American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) Philadelphia Junior Championship, becoming the second youngest AJGA champion in the association's long and storied history.

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the things I'm reflecting on is the role of civil society and the role of organizations formed for the common good, like Habitat," Sullivan said about the speech.

They'll honor a community leader, which is always kept secret until that day.

"Another key thing is the participation by Florida Atlantic University students, black profes-

sional men," O'Sullivan said. "Mario Lopez is a senior and president of student government and was our keynote speaker last year."

DISC president Allen Willis will acknowledge them in the ceremony.

"We're hoping for a lot of banners for the march to proclaim support for justice and human rights," O'Sullivan said.

In Sanborn Square Jan. 16, Developing Interracial Social Change will have a

booth and give out vouchers to children for a free hot dog and drink.

The organization started the observance in 1995 with Boca Raton Middle School.

"We decided the city should take the lead in celebrating MLK Day and we went to Mayor Bill Smith to have the city proclaim the day as a holiday," in 1996, O'Sullivan said. "The key is, the celebration should be public where everyone can see it

and participate in it."

Last year the city moved the celebration from Hughes Park to Sanborn Square.

"That made it more inclusive," she said.

"It's always an honor to be asked to perform for MLK Day," the band's Valerie Tyson said. "It's for everyone to come together. Unity and harmony and peace. I love it."

Palm Beach County Commissioner Mary Lou Berger, whose district cov-

ers West Boca, said she will attend the Martin Luther King Coordinating Committee's annual MLK Breakfast. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. and the program begins at 8 a.m. at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Blvd., in West Palm Beach. Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$25 for children through 12th grade at mlkcc-1444.org/ and parking is included.

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