

Tuesday



Weather news from The Post's Kim Miller:
myPalmBeachPost.com/weatherplus
LIVE RADAR: PALMBEACHPOST.COM
WEATHER ON THE BACK PAGE OF SPORTS

The Palm Beach Post

July 25, 2017

1916 **100** YEARS 2016

Final Edition | \$2.00

LOCAL, B1

INJURED OFFICER IS BACK AT WORK

LOCAL, B1

STATE ROAD 7 EXTENSION RECEIVES APPROVAL



ACCENT, D1

IN ROYAL FASHION

The Royals, and Trump women, know how to dress the part

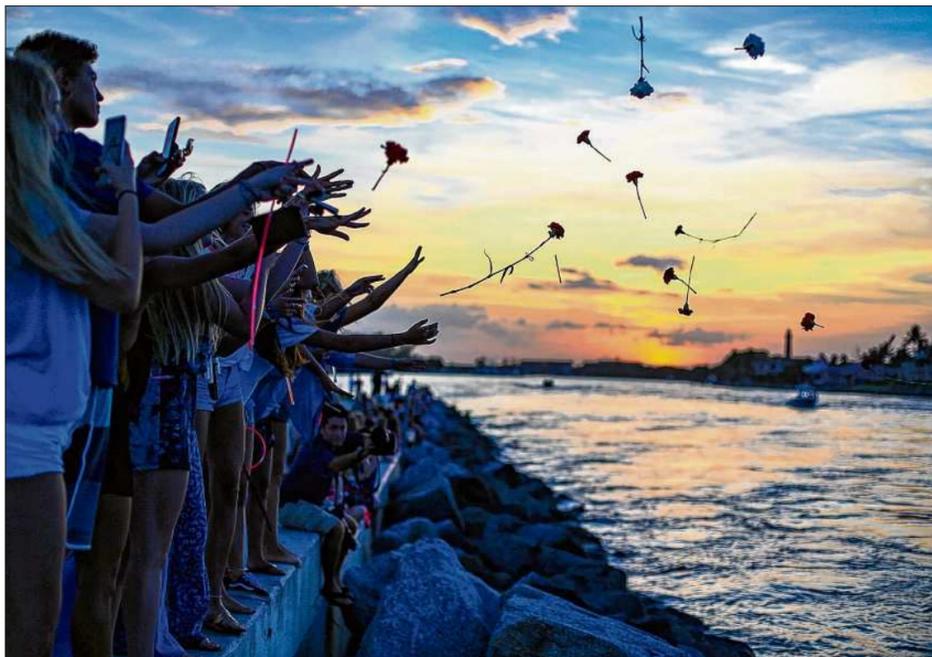
BUSINESS, B6

GANDER MOUNTAIN IN GARDENS TO CLOSE

POST COVERAGE MISSING TEQUESTA TEENS

200 gather to recall teens missing at sea

Memorial comes two years to the day boys left Jupiter Inlet.



Friends and supporters along the Jupiter Inlet throw flowers into the ocean during the Light the Coast event Monday night for missing teen boaters Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen. The gathering at the inlet was the third time a large group collected to remember the boys. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST

By Bill DiPaolo

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

JUPITER — About 200 people met under a fiery sunset Monday at the Jupiter Inlet to mark two years that “the boys” vanished into the Atlantic Ocean.

“It could have happened to anyone. You can’t blame them or the families. We are all daredevils at some point in our lives,” said Lauren Zaremski, a Palm Beach Gardens resident and former 5th-grade teacher at Franklin Academy.

Memorials for Austin Stephanos



Stephanos



Cohen

and Perry Cohen also were held in other Palm Beach County communities and around the state.

The memorial comes two years to the day the two 14-year-old boys motored out of the often-unforgiving Jupiter Inlet in a 19-foot-

MORE ONLINE

To see a video of the event, go to myPalmBeachPost.com.

boat on a Friday afternoon and into a powerful offshore storm. The boys were not found despite a massive search of more than 50,000 square miles of sea by the U.S. Coast Guard and the families.

Dozens of people, mostly teenagers, stopped by the handmade memorial to the boys on the south

Teens continued on A5

POST IN-DEPTH SOLAR ECLIPSE

Towns hoping for eclipse economic boon

With big event less than a month away, locales in path of totality getting prepared.

By Kimberly Miller

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

The tiny town of Herculaneum, Mo., canceled the Fourth of July this year.

It’s saving its celebrations for the Super Bowl of celestial events — a total

solar eclipse that will turn the Mississippi River-hugging burg of 4,000 dark for a full 2 minutes, 32 seconds on Aug. 21.

Scores of cities from Oregon to South Carolina are planted in the 70-mile-wide path of totality for the historic eclipse. With less than a month to go, they are watching with wary excitement, bracing for an onslaught of eclipse chasers

Eclipse continued on A6

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

Follow Palm Beach Post weather reporter Kimberly Miller and multimedia journalist Thomas Cordy as they cover eclipse events live from Carbondale, Ill., where full darkness will descend for two minutes, 39 seconds on Aug. 21.

POST ON WEATHER SUMMER HEAT

With ‘feels like’ temperature at 108, heat advisory possible

By Kimberly Miller

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

A combination punch of high pressure and moist ocean air has the National Weather Service on alert today, watching for sizzling temperatures that might trigger a heat advisory.

Coastal areas of Palm Beach County could climb to 93 degrees with temperatures inland closer to the mid-90s.

But it’s the soggy air carried ashore by the sea breeze that’s going to hike the “feels like” temperature closer to 108.

“The real kicker will be the dew points combined with the

GET THE APP

Check local conditions, see live radar and keep up with Kimberly Miller’s weather updates. The free PBPost Weather app is available on iTunes and at Google Play. Search for Palm Beach Post WeatherPlus.

humidity,” said James Thomas, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Miami. “I definitely don’t recommend doing any outdoor activity Tuesday afternoon.”

Dew point is a measure of the

Heat continued on A6

LOCAL, B1

Boynton’s Alta project now will be apartments

A proposal for 643 condos at Congress and Old Boynton Road has been changed to 324 luxury apartments; the city approved it.

INDEX

Classifieds	C8	Horoscopes	D7
Crossword	D7	Lottery	B2
Dear Abby	D7	Movie Listings	D6
Deaths	B4	Scoreboard	C7

To subscribe: Call 561-820-4663

© 2017 The Palm Beach Post

Vol. 109, Number 124, 4 sections



7 28041 10000 7

POST ON ECONOMY HOME PRICES

County home prices reach 10-year high

Median price rises to \$345,000, raising fresh affordability worries.

By Jeff Ostrowski

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Palm Beach County home prices reached their highest level in nearly a decade in June, when the median price of houses sold by Realtors rose to \$345,000.

The typical sale price jumped nearly 8 percent from a year ago, a robust level of appreciation that’s renewing boomtime concerns about housing affordability in Palm Beach County.

The county’s median home price last topped \$345,000 in late 2007. Back then, prices had been inflated by loose lending standards and a speculative frenzy. Today’s price rise is driven by economic fundamentals.

“It’s a supply-and-demand factor, and there’s still a lack of inventory,” said Jeffrey Levine, first vice president of the Realtors of

the Palm Beaches and Greater Fort Lauderdale and a broker at Continental Properties in West Palm Beach.

The inventory of houses for sale fell slightly to just more than 7,000 listings, the Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches and Greater Fort Lauderdale said Monday. That’s just a 4.7-month supply of homes.

While declining inventories would seem to reflect a raging seller’s market, there are signs that buyers are pushing back. Houses are taking longer to sell, as reflected by an increase in the median time to contract of 46 days, up from 43 days in June 2016. And homes sold for just 94.7 percent of their list price, down from 94.9 percent a year ago.

“Buyers are picky,” Levine said. “Buyers will pay for property if it has all the amenities and features.”

However, many buyers avoid properties that need significant

Homes continued on A6

HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

Trump scolds GOP on health care bill

Senate’s McConnell plans critical vote on measure today.

By Alan Fram

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A peeved President Donald Trump browbeat Republican opponents of his party’s reeling health care bill Monday, asserting that his predecessor’s signature overhaul has meant “death” and saying the Senate’s planned face-off vote is their chance to keep their pledge to repeal it.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he’d call a vote today on beginning debate on the legislation. While a victory on that initial but crucial roll call seemed an uphill climb, some Republicans expressed a new optimism that it would prevail — though the measure’s ultimate fate still seemed gloomy.

McConnell, R-Ky., said he’s



President Donald Trump speaks about the Republican health care bill Monday at the White House. A Senate vote on beginning debate on the measure is set for today.

ALEX BRANDON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

“made a commitment to the people I represent” to undo President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul, in what seemed a pointed

Trump continued on A5

rolex
OVERHAUL

CLEAN, ADJUST,
LUBRICATE, WATER
TEST, REPLACE
GASKETS, REFINISH
CASE & BAND,
ONE YEAR WARRANTY

\$245

WE OVERHAUL
ALL MAJOR
BRANDS

BERGMAN JEWELERS

2000 PGA BLVD. | 561-627-0900
NORTH PALM BEACH

WWW.BERGMANJEWELERS.NET

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

N.Y. dig may settle mystery over mass grave

Famed soldiers' remains may lie beneath concrete.

By Tim Prudente
The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — Two centuries after the bloodiest battle of the American Revolution, archaeologists are digging up a concrete lot in Brooklyn, N.Y., to settle a mystery over the mass grave of famed Maryland soldiers.

Known as the "Maryland 400," the soldiers' stand on the battlefield in 1776 earned Maryland the distinction of the "Old Line State." The young men from Baltimore, Annapolis and beyond died while stopping the British from quashing America's rebellion just as it began.

New York City bought the vacant lot at Ninth Street and Third Avenue long presumed to conceal the Marylanders' bones. The city plans to build a pre-kindergarten school on the grounds. Preservationists requested an archaeological investigation before any construction begins.

"They played a major role in saving the American Revolution," said Bob Furman, an author and president of the Brooklyn Preservation Council. "They deserve better than what they have gotten."

What they have gotten, Furman says, is an undignified resting place. He spent years gathering historical records — deeds, maps, newspaper articles and letters — that suggest the Marylanders' remains may lie beneath the concrete lot beside an American Legion post in north-west Brooklyn.

Enclosed by a chain-link fence and tagged with graffiti, the vacant lot itself offers no sign of the bones presumed buried below. For years, the only hint of hallowed ground was a placard hanging next door: "Here lie buried 256 Maryland soldiers who fell



This painting by Alfred Wordsworth Thompson depicts "Smallwood's Departure From Annapolis." The soldiers' stand on the battlefield in 1776 earned Maryland the distinction of the "Old Line State." LLOYD FOX / BALTIMORE SUN

in the Battle of Brooklyn."

New York State officials acknowledged the site when they hung the placard in 1952. Half a century later, they installed a second sign that designates the lot "presumed" burial grounds.

The parking lot-as-graveyard theory gained celebrity support recently from English actor Patrick Stewart. The Brooklyn resident of "Star Trek" fame told GQ Magazine: "... all it is is a concreted-over car park, but underneath the concrete is the mass grave. It's worth making, I think, a bit of a fuss of." His publicist declined an interview request.

Attempts to exhume the lot have been mostly blocked by its private owners over the years. Historians have questioned whether a mass grave of the Marylanders actually exists. The theory remained largely untested until now.

New York's State Historic Preservation Office requested the archaeological survey, and crews began digging last month.

"It's underway and obvi-

ously gathered a lot of attention," said Fred Maley, spokesman for the New York City School Construction Authority.

An archaeological report is due after the dig. A New York schools spokesman couldn't say when the report will come, but historians from Maryland to New York await the findings.

"There are some people who are very certain that there is a mass grave to find. I don't know that there is ... simply because they would have been killed in different locations," said Owen Lourie, a historian with the Maryland State Archives. He runs the archives' Maryland 400 research project to chronicle the lives of the celebrated soldiers.

Four hundred may not represent their actual numbers, Lourie said. Researchers believe about 250 of the Marylanders were killed or captured. Soon after their heroic stand the regiment's legend spread.

Brooklyn was a swamp in 1776 and the Maryland-

ers actually fell in battle about six blocks northeast of the vacant lot, said Kimberly Maier, executive director of the Old Stone House & Washington Park historic site dedicated to revolutionary Brooklyn.

"I hate to disappoint you; there is no mass grave," she said. "The British and Dutch would have traditionally buried traitors where they fell."

But it's precisely the swampiness of the battlefield that causes some to speculate about the vacant lot. It was once a wooded island in the swamp and could have been the only dry ground suitable for burial. Some researchers believe the British dug 100-foot trenches to enter the Marylanders. Farmers wrote of finding bones while plowing in the 19th century.

An 1835 farm deed refers to a graveyard there, wrote William Parry, an anthropology professor at Hunter College in New York, in a 2013 study of the grounds.

Fearsome German mercenaries known as Hessians fought alongside the British.

suicidal odds, they charged again and again.

"It may be they didn't intend to make some grand heroic stand; they may have gotten stuck," Lourie said. "What does happen is certainly no less heroic."

Their stand held the British at bay while Washington's army escaped to fight again. The general reportedly watched from a hilltop and wrung his hands, telling an aide, "My God, what brave men I must this day lose."

Since that time Maryland's proud title of the "Old Line State" has been stamped on coins and painted on road signs.

"To be able to identify the final resting place of the Maryland heroes would be a tremendous find," said retired Maj. Gen. James Adkins, former commander of the Maryland National Guard and first vice president of the Maryland Society Sons of the American Revolution.

Former Gov. Martin O'Malley invoked the Maryland 400 in his speech at the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

O'Malley visited the Brooklyn battlefield about four years ago and met with members of the American Legion beside the lot. Today, the members are watching closely the dig next door.

"Everybody's all hopped up and excited, and hoping they find the remains," said Peter DeAngelis, an 85-year-old Korean War veteran.

The veterans have quietly served as stewards over the presumed burial ground for decades. They wear patches with the Maryland flag and a citation from Gov. Larry Hogan hangs framed on the wall of their American Legion.

Even if the dig reveals nothing, the aging veterans say they will continue their small salute each year to the men of the Maryland 400, wherever they may rest.

Heat

continued from A1

amount of water vapor in the air. The higher the dew point, the higher the moisture. It feels hotter when the air is wet because sweat — the body's cooling mechanism — doesn't evaporate as quickly as when the air is drier.

The normal daytime high for late July at Palm Beach International Airport is 90 degrees. It reached a respectable 92 degrees Monday with a heat index of 100.

Besides a July 20 high temperature of 89 degrees, daytime peaks have reached 90 degrees or warmer since June 23, racking up 30 days of 90-plus scorches including Monday.

Timothy O'Connor, a spokesman for the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County, said hospitals have handled four heat-related emergencies since May 1.

"Not an inordinate number," O'Connor said. "But with the heat index going well above 100 degrees, it's a good time to remind everyone to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids and staying in air condition-

'Supervisors at the job site need to monitor their employees.'

Toni Burrows
Safety Council of PB County

ing as much as possible."

Thomas said a heat advisory is issued when the heat index is expected to stay at 108 for three consecutive hours.

Part of the blame for the string of warm days goes to the Bermuda High. Its push of east to southeasterly winds sends cooling afternoon thunderstorms into the interior of the state as opposed to allowing them erupt at the coast.

The high also means air is sinking. That sinking air warms by compression as it falls, working to evaporate clouds and allow for more sunshine.

"But the falling air doesn't dry out the surface," Thomas said. "If you get just a slight sea breeze, you'll get the moist air, and that's what will get the heat index up there."

It's unlikely today's high temperature will break the record of 98 set in 1912.

Still, Toni Burrows, executive vice president of the Safety Council of Palm Beach County, said she worries for people working construction outside or landscaping.

"Supervisors at the job site need to monitor their employees, watch for signs of disorientation and get them cool right away if they see anything," Burrows said.

Her other concern is pets and children being left in cars. She recommends parents take one of their shoes off and put it in the back seat with their child so they can't leave without fetching their shoe and seeing their child in the car.

"Anything that will force you to look in the back seat," Burrows said. "A lot of people have a hard time understanding that it can happen to any of us."

One-year-old Khayden Saint Saviour died July 15 after being trapped in a hot car in Delray Beach. Officials said they believe he climbed in the car and was unable to get out. A Florida Department of Children and Families report said his temperature was 107 degrees when he arrived at the hospital.

kmiller@pbpost.com
Twitter: @kmillerweather

Eclipse

continued from A1

and hoping for a solar system-sized economic boost.

"We're doing a two-day festival prior to the eclipse," said Herculaneum Mayor Bill Haggard, who is also overseeing the sales of city-stamped eclipse glasses, T-shirts and commemorative coins. "We've been working on this for a couple of years now trying to get the word out."

A total solar eclipse last touched the U.S. in 1979, turning day to night along a path of a moon shadow that crossed five states. The Aug. 21 eclipse is the first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse in 99 years.

For many, it will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, with hotels filling up more than a year in advance and reservations spilling over into university dorms eager to cash in on their location.

But economists doubt a significant economic boon will be felt in most areas.

Small towns are limited by how many people they can house, feed and entertain. At the same time, unlike a sporting event held in a specific city, the coast-to-coast eclipse spreads out spending with no one town as a focal point.

"Nashville is the largest city in the path, and it will see the largest impact because it has the biggest hotel capacity," said Jeff Humphreys, director of economic forecasting for the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business. "A lot of the smaller towns won't have the infrastructure to accommodate big crowds so people won't be spending a ton of money in them."

Because the eclipse is happening in August when many families still are vacationing, Humphreys said there might be some "displacement" spending — where non-eclipse vacationers with plans to visit areas under the eclipse path will have to reschedule to other times.

Still, he doesn't think anyone is adding significant dollars to their vacation budgets for the eclipse, mean-

ABOUT THE ECLIPSE

Florida is not in the direct path of the eclipse, but will see about 80 percent of the sun covered. In West Palm Beach, the eclipse will begin at 1:25 p.m. and peak at 2:57 p.m.

ing that money would have been spent on vacation-type expenses — hotels, gas, meals — anyway.

"The good news is, it's an entire three-day weekend of spending," Humphreys said, noting the eclipse falls on a Monday. "If it was midweek, it would make for a much smaller impact."

In Rexburg, Idaho, officials are anticipating the town's 30,000-person population to triple for the eclipse, but aren't sure how much money that will bring to businesses.

Scott Johnson, Rexburg's director of economic development and community relations, said every hotel within 100 miles is booked, and he's heard of rentals going for as high as \$1,500 per night.

"It's amazing, the demand," Johnson said. "It's getting pretty crazy."

Johnson said earlier this month that there still were open campsites, but private dormitories at Brigham Young University-Idaho in Rexburg also are renting out rooms for eclipse tourists.

For a nightly fee of \$500, and a two-night minimum, people can stay in an apartment at the Park View Housing Complex at BYU-Idaho. There is also a house with 12 twin beds, a game room, pool table, vending machines and a fire pit. But that's going for \$2,500 a night.

"We say a two-night minimum, but if people are willing to pay \$4,000, we're letting them stay the whole week for that one," said Corey Sorensen, a Rexburg businessman and owner of the Park View apartments, about the home. "It gives us a good opportunity to show off Rexburg and BYU-Idaho."

But Mary Eschelbach Hansen, a professor of economics at American University, said she's pessimistic about long-term potential benefits for a town in the path of

the eclipse. The best thing for communities to do is to gather data on who is visiting and how much they spend so they can generate a formula to estimate the impact of hosting events such as a youth baseball tournament or small festival.

"In some places, there may be a bump in sales tax revenue, but these places have got to be thinking about how they are going to control the crowds," Eschelbach Hansen said. "They will need people to direct traffic, have cooling stations, and first responders on duty."

Those expenses could be more costly than the revenue that comes in, she said.

Johnson said Rexburg has limited the number of special events surrounding the eclipse because emergency officials were fearful they would be stretched too thin.

In Herculaneum, which is bisected by Interstate 55 south of St. Louis, Mayor Haggard is most concerned about traffic.

"The highway patrol is getting a little concerned," Haggard said. "They asked me the same question about how many people we are expecting and I just said 'I don't know.'"

If the sales of Herculaneum memorabilia are any indication, it will be a lot.

Haggard said online orders for solar eclipse glasses with the Herculaneum logo on them have been coming in from all over the country. He's already shipped 8,000 to places as far away as Oregon, Massachusetts and Arizona, and is ordering an additional 3,000.

He's not sure if the popularity is because Herculaneum is an official NASA eclipse viewing city, or that he's selling them for only \$1 each.

"We're not trying to make a killing off this stuff," Haggard said. "We want to make a little bit on stuff for our efforts, but we're just hoping people will come here and say, 'Hey, that's a nice place, we want to go back there.'"

kmiller@pbpost.com
Twitter: @kmillerweather

Homes

continued from A1

renovations, Levine said.

Meanwhile, rising prices have the unexpected side effect of locking many homeowners in their properties.

"People don't have a lot of motivation to sell and then buy, because what are they going to move up to?" Levine said.

Palm Beach County condos and townhouses also are appreciating quickly. The median price of condos and townhouses sold in June was \$172,500, up nearly 7 percent from June 2016.

Nationally, home prices hit a new record in June. The median price of houses and condos sold in June was \$263,800, up 6.5 percent from June 2016, the National

Association of Realtors said Monday.

In Palm Beach County, however, home prices still remain well below record levels. During the housing bubble, the county's median resale price peaked at \$421,500 in November 2005. Within a few years, the median price had crashed to less than \$200,000.

Palm Beach County's housing market has yet to return to pre-bubble patterns. For instance, construction of entry-level homes has ground to a near-halt during the past decade.

"The land prices are so expensive that builders just cannot build an affordable house," said Henry Kaplan, sales manager at Century 21 Tenace Realty in Boynton Beach.

But Palm Beach County's

Resale prices still shy of records.

housing engine is sputtering back to life. In the largest project, Minto Communities plans 4,500 homes at Westlake, a newly incorporated city on the site of the former Callery-Judge citrus grove. The builder has yet to divulge details about prices.

And in Riviera Beach, builder 13th Floor Homes is marketing 250 houses and 250 townhouses in a community known as Arbor Parc. Many of the houses are priced at less than \$300,000, a rarity in a market where new houses typically sell for \$500,000 or more.

jostrowski@pbpost.com
Twitter: @bio561