

# CULTURAL CALENDAR

## SPONSORED CONTENT



### FREE

#### Pulitzer Prize winner's work in West Palm Beach

How often do you get to see the work of a Pulitzer Prize winner — at no cost? As Palm Beach Photographic Centre celebrates 25 years of its FOTOfusion festival this week, the organization presents an exhibition featuring the work of four-time Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Carol Guzy, titled “Odyssey of Hope: Stories That Need to Be Told.” Guzy’s photos

on display are incredibly poignant portraits of the human spirit throughout recent history and include snapshots from Puerto Rico during Hurricane Maria, the Gulf Coast during Hurricane Katrina and war-time photos of Chechnya and Mosul. Don’t miss it!

“**Odyssey of Hope: Stories That Need to Be Told**”: On display now through April 25. Palm Beach Photographic Centre, 415 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. Info: 561-253-2600 or [www.workshop.org](http://www.workshop.org).



See the work of four-time Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Carol Guzy at Palm Beach Photographic Centre’s “Odyssey of Hope: Stories That Need to Be Told,” on display now through April 25. The exhibition will feature Guzy’s work, including “Maria’s Toll,” pictured here.

[CONTRIBUTED BY ©CAROL GUZY/ZUMA PRESS]

### Schedule your season — with our help

There’s always something to do in the Palm Beaches! That’s why every week, the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County helps you with three ideas — one that’s free, one that’s affordable and one that’s a splurge. Your events curator is the Cultural Concierge, a free service that provides customized cultural recommendations and more at [palmbeachculture.com/concierge](http://palmbeachculture.com/concierge).



Get your tickets for **The Great Mr. Swindle’s Pecularium** this weekend at Mizner Park Amphitheater in Boca Raton. [CONTRIBUTED]

### DEAL

#### A night of entertainment in Boca Raton

Come one, come all! It’s time for a night under the big top in downtown Boca Raton, as **The Great Mr. Swindle’s Pecularium** makes its way to Mizner Park Amphitheater. The 90-minute show invites guests to enjoy classic acts of amusement, including ‘death-defying’ acrobatics, hilarious comedy, magnificent music and more. Admission also includes access to Dr.

Elixir’s Drink-ory Garden, where guests may partake in vintage cocktails and other brews for one hour before the shows starts. A perfect night of fun for a date!

**The Great Mr. Swindle’s Pecularium**: Runs Thursday, February 13 at 7 p.m. and Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (February 14–16) at 4 and 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$40. Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Info: 941-445-7309 or [www.mrswindles.com](http://www.mrswindles.com).

### SPLURGE

#### ‘Skylight’ at Palm Beach Dramaworks

Ready to experience a tale of romance and drama? Take your seat at Palm Beach Dramaworks’ production of “Skylight” by David Hare this weekend to see a full suite of emotions explored onstage by a talented cast. Set on a cold London night, this award-winning play tells the story of two former

lovers, Kyra and Tom, who are reunited and discuss their relationship and different viewpoints. This performance runs through March 1, so don’t miss the opportunity to see it!

“**Skylight**”: Runs through March 1. Tickets are \$77 each. Palm Beach Dramaworks, 201 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. Info: 561-514-4042 or [www.palmbeachdramaworks.org](http://www.palmbeachdramaworks.org).



**Sarah Street (from left) and Peter Simon Hilton star, respectively, as Kyra and Tom in Palm Beach Dramaworks’ production of “Skylight” by David Hare.**

[CONTRIBUTED BY TIM STEPIEN]

## TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH

# Kidney function expected to wane with age



Dr. Keith Roach

**Dear Dr. Roach:** I am a 75-year-old male, 5 feet, 3 inches tall, weighing 123 pounds with a blood pressure of 119/60. The only known ailment I have is hypothyroidism, which is being treated. I recently began seeing a new primary care physician who ordered a series of bloodwork. The bloodwork came back showing a glomerular flow rate of 55, which is the same value it was in 2016.

The new PCP is telling me I have stage 3 renal failure. She has ordered an ultrasound of my kidneys, which will be done this week. Every other test that she has ordered to evaluate kidney function has been negative as far as any value being out of the normal range. She has not suggested that I see a specialist, but is basing all this on her own knowledge and tests. I have decided I will not do any other tests or begin any treatment until I see a kidney specialist. I might add that the reason I saw this physician in the first place was because of extreme fatigue and anxiety. How concerned should I be with this diagnosis? — **M.L.N.**

**Answer:** Your kidney

function (measured by the glomerular filtration rate) has not changed; what has changed is the way the numbers are reported. GFR reliably goes down as we age. A GFR level of 55 is within the expected range for a man in his 70s. Since yours hasn’t changed in three years, you are unlikely to develop end-stage renal failure (where you would need dialysis), even if you lived to 110.

My own patients, as well as many readers, have been alarmed by hearing they have stage 3 kidney failure. Physicians need to explain the results better to avoid worrying our older patients, in whom a degree of reduced kidney function is common and expected.

The kidney function is not likely to be responsible for fatigue, but I fear the anxiety might be worse after getting these results. I trust your kidney specialist will be able to explain your results. The kidney specialists I spoke to have been seeing many people with concerns similar to yours.

**Dear Dr. Roach:** How much do doctors get for prescribing certain brand name drugs? — **D.B.**

**Answer:** It is a serious breach of professional ethics and of federal law to receive any kind of payment to “induce or reward patient referrals or the generation of business involving any item or service payable by the federal health care programs

(e.g., drugs, supplies or health care services) for Medicare or Medicaid patients. Remuneration includes anything of value and can take many forms besides cash, such as free rent, expensive hotel stays and meals, and excessive compensation for medical directorships or consultancies” (quotes are from the office of the Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services). If you have evidence that a physician is breaking these laws, you should report him or her to the inspector general at <https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/index.asp>.

Physicians may still receive money from drug companies and medical device manufacturers, and not be illegal or fraudulent, so long as the payments are not to reward or induce illegal or unethical behavior. However, these payments are part of the public record and can be searched at [openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/search/](https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/search/). It might be worthwhile knowing whether your physician is accepting money (such as for travel or meals) from pharmaceutical companies. In 2018, \$9.35 billion was provided to physicians and hospitals from such companies, mostly to support research, but also for education.

**Write to Dr. Keith Roach at King Features, 300 W. 57 Street, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10019-5238**

## ASK THE VET

# Vet’s attitude regarding rescued cat frightening



Dr. Michael Fox

**Dear Dr. Fox:** I rescued a stray cat this December. I took it to the vet hospital with the understanding that it would stay overnight and be neutered, after first checking for a microchip and for FVL and FIV.

They said he was a 2- or 3-year-old cat, and gave him anti-parasite medication, but then said I must take him home because the hospital would be closed the next two days. They said I could bring him back for neutering later. I said it would be stressful on him to have to bring him back in again, and that my other two animals would be stressed having an un-neutered tomcat in a large cage in our living area. Plus, if he started spraying, it would stink up my home.

So the veterinarian said, “Why not let him out and trap him again later and then bring him in for surgery?” She had no idea about animal behavior. Any intelligent animal, once caught in a humane box trap, is not likely to go near it again. And it is freezing cold

and snowy outdoors!

I argued more, and after she spoke to one of the clinic owners, she decided to “make an exception” because he seemed to be healthy. They held the cat over the New Year’s holiday and scheduled surgery the next day. I just wanted to share this with you. — **J.Z., St. Paul, Minnesota**

**Dear J.Z.:** Many veterinary hospitals are cautious about taking in stray cats and keeping them on the premises if they do not have any quarantine area, because of the risk of spreading infection to other cats being treated for illness or recovering from surgery.

They were very accommodating of you, but I agree: The veterinarian who saw your cat needs to broaden her animal behavior knowledge, and common sense, when it comes to trying to retrap an animal who has recently been trapped. The suggestion was also insensitive with regard to the stress on the poor animal.

I wish you all the best in resocializing this cat. In my experience with all the stray cats we have trapped, they soon adjust to life indoors and make wonderful companions.

**Dear Readers:** Thanks to the efforts of Project Coyote and other nonprofit

wildlife-protection organizations, coyote-killing contests are being banned in many communities.

The good news: In January, the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, approved a resolution that condemns wildlife-killing contests. Hopefully the state of Minnesota will soon join California, Vermont, New Mexico, Arizona, Massachusetts, Maryland and Colorado, which either prohibit or restrict these hunts.

The bad news: Wildlife-killing contests continue, including the recent Buffalo Ridge Coyote Hunting Tournament in Marshall, Minnesota. At this event, contestants compete for cash for the most, largest and smallest coyotes killed.

**Write to Dr. Michael Fox in care of Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106, or email him at [animal-docfox@gmail.com](mailto:animal-docfox@gmail.com)**

**Now more than ever, the source matters.**

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