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Spectator

February 2025



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See article on page 3.

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City of Parkland Community Page

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Custom Care for Every Heart

Heart disease is a leading cause of death in the U.S. and in Florida, where it accounts for approximately two out of every 10 deaths. As we mark American Heart Month this February, it's important to manage the risk factors you can control, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and smoking, and to be aware of the options available for cardiac care today.

With two advanced cardiac catheterization labs, Broward Health Coral Springs provides high-quality cardiac and vascular care conveniently close to home for people living in Northwest Broward.

The hospital's experienced team of cardiologists, interventional cardiologists and electrophysiologists can provide a broad range of services. These include diagnostic tests such as lab work, stress tests, echocardiograms and diagnostic catheterizations, as well as treatments designed to meet each person's unique needs, from optimizing medical management to the most advanced, state-of-the-art invasive cardiac procedures.

For more information on Broward Health's cardiovascular services, visit BrowardHealth.org/CardiacCare.

Knowing the signs of a heart attack can save a life

Last summer, Coral Springs resident Patty Ramsaroop, 47, experienced two simultaneous medical emergencies, underscoring the need to prioritize her health.

The busy wife, mother of three and business owner began experiencing persistent symptoms including difficulty sleeping, back pain, nausea and alternating feelings of hot and cold. She went to urgent care and was told to monitor her low blood pressure. Fortunately, her eldest daughter was a medical student who rushed her to the Emergency Department (ED) at Broward Health Coral Springs when her blood pressure continued to drop.

"As most moms do, I put myself last," Patty said. "I made sure everyone in my household was up to date on their doctor's appointments and didn't do the same for myself."

Following a battery of tests, the ED team diagnosed

her with a potentially life-threatening complication from diabetes called diabetic ketoacidosis. While being treated for this condition, it was discovered that she was also experiencing a heart attack.

Fortunately, Mohamed Osman, M.D., performed an emergency cardiac catheterization and found a 99% blockage in one of her arteries. He performed a procedure to open and stent the artery.

"Patty's blockage was in a very important artery and had the potential to be fatal," said Dr. Osman. "Fortunately, our team didn't stop at her first diagnosis, and we were able to treat her heart condition."

Patty really appreciated Dr. Osman's compassionate and collaborative approach to care.

Today, Patty encourages other women to be diligent in caring for their own health. "It's important if we want to be around for our families."

Broward Health Coral Springs Cardiology Team. On the cover: (Back row) **Electrophysiologists** Jose Baez-Escudero, M.D., FACC, FHRS, and Jonathan P. Nieves, M.D.; **Cardiologists** Craig Hostig, M.D., FACC, and Jose R. Soler, M.D., FACC; and **Interventional Cardiologist** Mohamed Osman, M.D., FACC. (Front row) Cardiologist Lucia Blanchard, D.O., FACC. Not pictured: M. Hosny El-Sayed, M.D. FACC



It's All About

Let's Focus on Love!

February is a special time. On the facing page, we see how a variety of love stories have influenced American culture.

This issue is full of inspiration. We are so happy to focus on people who are making inspiring, positive differences for everyone. Please read through and note the amazing folks that make our corner of Broward so fantastic.

Businesses in our community are thriving! Broward Health in Coral Springs is making monumental changes to ensure the best care is available to all of us (see page 3). Meet a fun local family that was, not only born here, but raises their three children and have a successful business (see pg 6), learn how to protect your family from unexpected loss (pg 10), and don't miss a minute of fun at the Florida Renaissance Fair! We are so thrilled to celebrate our corner of Paradise with the amazing families who call it home. Enjoy February by offering love and service to friends and neighbors in our community.

Thank you for your time and support of our advertisers.

God bless you and our troops,

Shellie & Scott

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On the cover:

Broward Health Coral Springs Cardiology Team.

See Page 3.

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Community!

Timeless Love Stories That Shaped America

By Ashley Ferraro

Love has always been at the heart of America's story. From politics to music, some famous couples have captured the nation's attention not just for their romantic connections but for the cultural impact they made during their time together. These relationships highlight how love and partnership have shaped not only personal lives but the broader cultural fabric of America.

Among these celebs are John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, often seen as America's version of royalty. Married in 1953, they became known for their elegance, charm, and public appeal. Jackie was admired for her style and grace, as well as the strength she displayed as First Lady during pivotal moments in American history. Meanwhile, JFK's leadership brought hope to the nation.

Following his assassination, Jackie famously likened their time in the White House to the musical Camelot, symbolizing their legacy as a golden era of hope and inspiration. Though their time together was tragically cut short, their relationship undoubtedly played a critical role in progressing our country's culture into one of unwavering optimism.

Meanwhile, in the world of country music, Johnny Cash and June Carter were a celebrated duo whose connection began years before their marriage in 1968. Johnny famously proposed to June on stage, and from then on, their love became a central theme in their music. June's song "Ring of Fire" captured the passion of their bond, and their performances together were electric. Their love story is remembered as one of America's most iconic music collaborations.

Another couple who expressed love through music and creativity was John Lennon and Yoko Ono. Married in 1969, their relationship captivated Americans by being both elusive and relatable. They used their connection to promote peace and inspire art, with events like their famous "Bed-Ins for Peace" becoming a topic of conversation around the world. Their collaborations symbolized how love can become a force for change. Together, they became a lasting symbol of unity and creativity.

Long before the age of modern celebrities, Abigail and John Adams embodied what today we would call a "power couple." Married in 1764, their partnership thrived during the Revolutionary War and John's presidency. Their letters reveal a relationship built on mutual respect, affection, and shared goals. Abigail's role extended far beyond that of a supportive wife; she was a trusted advisor and a key figure in shaping early American ideals, including advocacy for women's rights. Two and a half centuries later, Abigail and John Adams' love story is still deeply studied and admired.

Love, in its many forms, has always mirrored the broader cultural and social movements of America. Whether expressed through art, leadership, or activism, it has been a force for unity and inspiration. From U.S. politics to the sweet stage of country music stars, these timeless love stories demonstrate how everyone's favorite historical couples have influenced the collective American experience.



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Meet The

Puya Family



Both Michael and Kirsten were born, raised, and enjoy growing their family in the city of Coral Springs. Angelina, 11, Otto, 10, and Apollo, 6 are all busy with their individual and family activities. Two basset hounds, three cats and one snake round out the family circle.

Michael owns a pool service company called Puya Pools. In business for more than 10 years, he services all Coral Springs and Parkland neighborhoods. Quick and personal customer service is top priority for his company, while always updating his knowledge with the best quality pool chemicals and treatments on the market. He also provides repairs, heaters, salt systems, and more. Kirsten is a stay at home mom to her three children and is always working on providing a clean, healthy household, with home cooked meals everyday.

Angelina plays volleyball for her school, Parkridge Christian Academy, and volunteers in the kids ministry at Coastal Community Church.

Otto is on the track team at Parkridge Christian Academy and Apollo plays baseball on the Coral Springs City League.

Michael volunteers as a baseball coach for Apollo's baseball team and also serves at their church, Coastal Community Church, as a security team member. Kirsten volunteers and serves at the church as well in the Kids Ministry as a teacher for the kindergarten room. Mom and Dad are passionate about fitness and commit to a weight lifting program at Crunch Fitness. Michael is a big surfer.

When it comes to family time, some of their favorite activities are swimming in the pool, and going to the beach to swim and surf. Kirsten tells us, "We like to play family games such as Yahtzee and Clue. We enjoy going to parks to play baseball, football, and volleyball. We like to take family walks with our dogs, and enjoy going to church together every Sunday. Our family is a blessing from God."

All three of their children attend Parkridge Christian Academy. Angelina is in 6th grade where her preferred subject is Bible. Otto likes Math in his 5th grade classroom. Apollo enjoys Reading in Kindergarten.

Kirsten shares, "We have lived here our whole lives, and we love that all our favorite restaurants, such as Big Bear and El Mariachi, are so close and that we loved going to them as kids and now we love going to them with our kids. Because of this city, Michael's business has flourished and we are so grateful to live in a city with so much potential." Obviously excited about their flourishing, family and business, she continues, "Our kids' school is incredible and we are so happy to have it so close to us. We love our church and the community it provides to this city."

Michael concurs with his wife and adds, "Our family is always on the go, but we try to take time to rest and enjoy life. We work on teaching our children to be good people and to have a serving perspective on life for God and others. Jesus is first over everything! We always feel we can stretch ourselves further and love to add to our family, which is why we had 3 children quickly and a lot of pets!"

Michael's dream is to have his own airplane one day and to fly the family around the world to see all of its wonders. Kirsten loves to create art, books, and digital content for her family and others.

The Puyas attend Coastal Community Church



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ALLSTAR

HIGHLIGHT

Room to Grow

Big dreams require big commitments, and no one is more driven to achieve his goals than William Sohl. Born in Parkland and dribbling a basketball since he could walk, his days revolve around practice, practice, practice. When he's not practicing, he's eating cool ranch Doritos while watching and analyzing games, or playing hoops with an amazing team that he has grown to appreciate.

Just 14 years old, William has already achieved the height of 6'4", and his mother, Heather, tells us that the doctor has opined that he is not even close to his adult height. "The doctor says his growth plates are wide open and ready to get busy. We have no idea how tall this boy is going to get!" Having a father (local real estate agent with his own team, Bill Sohl) who is 6'8" may be a precursor to William's larger than expected height. No shrinking violet herself, Heather is 5'11", her daughter Brooke, 12, is 6'2", and William's twin, Logan, is 5'10."

Heather giggles as she describes going through airports or into restaurants when people realize how tall their entire family is. "We think it's funny, but it seems like people look at us like a circus sideshow. We were recently running through an airport and we could see people whispering, 'Look how tall that family is!'"

Home educated with a 4.0 GPA, William also attends classes at Cedar Church for a day and a half a week. Currently on the JV team for Parkridge Christian Academy, he also plays power forward or center for the KT Kings, an AAU travel team in Fort Lauderdale.

His coach, Steve Allen, makes sure to keep the boys on the team involved in community happenings. During this past holiday season, they got involved with food and toy drives, with an opportunity to spend time together off the court, making a difference for others.

William says that his strong points on the court are his communication with his teammates and defense. Mom says, "He's a very good communicator. He's great at reading the court and lets his teammates know where people are going. He's very good at directing."

William is excited to keep playing and studying his favorite game, with an end goal of obtaining a full ride scholarship to a D1 school and, afterward, having the opportunity at a professional career. At this time, his favorite players are Nikola Jokic and Kevin Durant because, he says, "They are both great at the positions they play."

William and his family attend chapel at Riverside Church.





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Maneuvering With Confidence After the Unexpected

By Isaac Allison,
*Advisor with Creative
Financial Network*



On February 3rd, 2019, at just 14 years old, I experienced a loss that would forever shape my life. My mother, only 42 years old, went to sleep that night and didn't wake up. There was no warning, no sign that anything was wrong, and no way to say that final goodbye. If only I had known, I would have hugged her one more time or told her how much I loved her.

Losing a loved one without financial preparedness leaves families vulnerable and struggling. For my family, this sudden loss meant we were thrust into a chaotic situation where money became one of the last things we could afford to think about. The strain of figuring out how to manage bills, where to cut costs, and simply keep things going became an additional hardship at a time when emotional healing should have been the focus.

While I can't change the past, I've made it my mission to ensure that no other family has to face what mine did—financial insecurity in the midst of overwhelming grief. The emotional pain of losing my mom was heart

wrenching enough, but the financial shifts that came with it were an added weight that no grieving family should have to bear. It's a reality that many families face when the unexpected happens and they are left scrambling to cover the costs of daily living, funerals, and other financial responsibilities without any plan in place.

I share this story to teach a lesson that sadly, me and my family were forced to learn. With a combination of my expertise in asset protection and life insurance planning, combined with my personal experiences, it is a blessing to have the privilege to protect other families out there from having to go through what my family did.

If you're reading this and feel that sense of urgency to protect your family from the financial strain that can accompany an unexpected loss, now is the time to act. Life insurance is a small step you can take to give your loved ones peace of mind when they need it most. Don't wait for the "what if" to become your reality. Reach out, and secure your family's future.

Jordan Reynolds Cohen – Empowering Careers in Financial Services - Interested?

As the son of Gil Cohen, founder of Creative Financial Network (CFN), I've dedicated my life to helping brokers succeed and thrive—continuing a legacy of leadership that has transformed careers. Isaac is one of the most remarkable individuals I know, and we are truly blessed to have him as a valuable part of the CFN family, where he, along with many others, got his start through my guidance. With over a decade of consecutive business experience and service as a Sergeant in the IDF Special Forces, I've had the privilege of shaping lives, opening doors to successful careers, and helping create millionaires through strategic recruitment and elite ongoing business development. As a lifelong Parkland community member and contributor to The Spectator, I take pride in seeing Isaac share his story and remain passionate about providing opportunities for entrepreneurs and career changers. **If you have the X factor but don't yet know where to invest your time, scan the QR code to explore how our firm can support your journey.**





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Hip Pain Got You Down?

By Dr. Brandon C. Maisel

Hip pain tends to be a reoccurring common complaint in Orthopaedic offices across the country. Here at Gelb Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center we aim to correctly diagnose the source of the pain, develop an appropriate treatment plan, and get you back to performing your favorite activities pain free.

"Doc, my hip started hurting out of the blue," is a common statement heard by Dr. Brandon Maisel in the office. What may be the underlying cause of such pain? The hip joint is a mobile ball and socket joint surrounded by strong musculature such as the quadriceps and glutes. In general, the source of pain is either intra-articular (inside the joint) or extra-articular (outside of the joint). When you come to our office, we will begin with x-ray imaging that allows us to gather more information about the hip joint. We can see if you are suffering from osteoarthritic changes inside the joint or potentially other ailments such as greater trochanteric bursitis or gluteal tendonitis outside of the joint. Next, Dr. Maisel will perform a thorough examination to further develop a cause of your pain.

"What can we do about it?" is the next question we get and depending on the condition we have several treatment options we may offer. In general treatment options may include, but not limited to, anti-inflammatory medications, physical therapy, corticosteroid injections and platelet rich plasma injections. Platelet rich plasma otherwise known as "PRP" is a type of orthobiologic treatment that allows the body to naturally heal itself. Dr. Maisel performs these injections under ultrasound guidance to ensure precision needle placement into the problem area. In addition, here in our office we offer top-notch physical therapy services led by Dr. Jay Itzkowitz, who may assist in your recovery.

Occasionally, certain injuries or hip "problems" will require further interventions. In order to further evaluate in these situations, Dr. Maisel will order magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to get a three-dimensional image of the hip joint, muscles, and soft tissues. This will allow us to create a more detailed treatment plan to heal your pain!

Ultimately, there are many causes of hip pain that will not require surgery! Book an appointment today at Gelb Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center to learn more about your non-surgical options for hip pain.

BRANDON C. MAISEL, D.O.

Board certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Dr. Maisel has a particular interest in treating acute and chronic musculoskeletal injuries including bone, joint, ligament, muscle, and tendon injuries. To further assist him in treatment and diagnosis, he utilizes musculoskeletal sonography and performs ultrasound-guided injections. Injections/aspiration include however, not limited to:

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Dr. Maisel trained at one of the top sports medicine programs in the country. His expertise using ultrasound guided injections, professionalism, and commitment to providing the best quality care makes him a great addition to our team.

-Dr. Howard J. Gelb



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Parks Field Conditions	(954)344-1187

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Parkland Connections

Parkland Little League

For more info., call (954) 604-2442 or visit www.parklandll.com.

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PARKLAND REC BASKETBALL
www.parklandbasketball.com or call the hotline (954) 227-0989.

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Cheer contact: 786-236-0948 or cheer@parklandrangers.com.
See ad on opposite page.

Flag Football

PARKLAND FLAG FOOTBALL
For more info, see www.parklandflag.com
See ad below.

Lacrosse

PARKLAND REDHAWKS
For more info go to www.parklandlacrosse.com
BUZZARDS MEN'S LACROSSE CLUB
For more info contact Mike at 954-540-8970

Soccer

PARKLAND REC SOCCER
For more info, visit www.parklandsoccer.net

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For more info, see www.parklandtravelsoccer.com or emailinfo@parklandtravelsoccer.com.

Private Schools & Camp

NORTH BROWARD PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Is an accredited, college-preparatory, independent, non-sectarian school serving families of the pre-kindergarten through high school age groups. For more info. call (954) 247-0011 or www.NBPS.org See page 9.

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Parkland P-Rec

PICKLEBALL
Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. Players use solid paddles to hit a whiffle ball over a net. 10559 Trails End (located inside Pine Trails Park) For more info please call 954-757-4105.

Special Needs

PARKLAND BUDDY SPORTS
Find out about league offerings and activities. www.ParklandBuddySports.com See page 19.

CHALLENGER BASEBALL LEAGUE
Open to all special needs kids and their families at no cost. For more info, call (954) 345-9329.

THE FRIENDSHIP JOURNEY
Provides programs & facilities for children and young adults with special needs, while creating awareness and sensitivity. For more info, contact hello@thefriendshipjourney.org or www.thefriendshipjourney.org

Adult Softball

For more info. contact Parkland Parks & Rec. Manager Bruno Battel at 954-757-4103

Scouting

Scouting offers Year Round Activities for Boys and Girls in K to 12th Grade
Find a local unit at www.beascout.org

SOFLO Dad's Group

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Important Numbers

Leisure Services	(954)757-4105
Field Conditions	(954)757-4110
Park Ranger	(954)575-1007
Youth, Teen, & Senior Programs	(954)757-4129
City Hall	(954)753-5040
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As Valentine's Day approaches, chocolate is a popular gift exchanged between loved ones, but for dog owners, it's a time to be especially cautious. While chocolate may be a treat for humans, it poses serious health risks to dogs. Many households will be gifting chocolates this season, and it's important to remember that a sweet gesture for people can be deadly for pets.

From a personal viewpoint, I will confess that we recently had a gift of dark chocolate cookies given to us that we thought had been "put out of reach" from our 9 pound dog. Someone inadvertently pulled a chair out from the dining room table, so she was able to jump up and get the chocolate. The remainder of the day was really scary!

Why Is Chocolate Toxic to Dogs?

The main culprit in chocolate toxicity is theobromine, a stimulant found in cacao. Theobromine is similar to caffeine and is metabolized much more slowly in dogs than in humans. While humans can process it relatively quickly, dogs are much more sensitive. Even small amounts of chocolate can cause adverse effects in dogs, and the severity depends on the type of chocolate, the size of the dog, and how much the dog has consumed.

Various Toxicities

Not all chocolates are created equal when it comes to danger. Some varieties contain higher concentrations of theobromine, which makes them even more harmful to dogs:

- 1. Dark Chocolate:** Dark chocolate contains the highest levels of theobromine. Just a small amount can be lethal to a small dog.
- 2. Baking Chocolate:** This type is particularly dangerous because it is very concentrated, with high levels of theobromine. Even tiny amounts can cause severe toxicity.
- 3. Milk Chocolate:** While less toxic than dark chocolate, milk chocolate can still cause harmful effects if consumed in larger quantities.
- 4. White Chocolate:** Although it contains minimal theobromine, it still poses risks due to its high fat and sugar content, which can cause pancreatitis in dogs.

Symptoms of Poisoning

The symptoms of poisoning can vary depending on the amount ingested and the type of chocolate. Some common signs of chocolate toxicity include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Rapid breathing or panting
- Increased heart rate
- Restlessness or hyperactivity
- Muscle tremors or seizures
- Increased thirst or urination
- Elevated body temperature

In severe cases, chocolate toxicity can lead to coma or death, particularly in small dogs or if large amounts of highly concentrated chocolate are consumed.

What Now?

If you suspect your dog has eaten chocolate, it's important to act quickly. Contact your veterinarian or an emergency animal clinic immediately. The faster the dog receives treatment, the better the chance of recovery. Your vet may induce vomiting (ours told us to orally administer hydrogen peroxide), administer activated charcoal to prevent further absorption of theobromine, or provide other treatments to manage symptoms.

Keep it Out of Reach

The best way to protect your dog from chocolate toxicity is to keep chocolate away from pets during Valentine's Day and beyond:

- 1. Store chocolate safely:** Ensure that chocolates are kept in areas where dogs can't reach them, such as high shelves or sealed containers.
- 2. Educate others:** If you're hosting a Valentine's Day gathering, inform guests not to share chocolate with your pets, as even a small piece can be harmful.
- 3. Use dog-safe alternatives:** If you want to include your dog in the festivities, there are plenty of dog-safe treats available that can mimic the flavors of chocolate without posing a risk to your pet's health.

While Valentine's Day is a time of love and celebration, it's important to remember that chocolate is a dangerous treat for dogs. Always be vigilant about keeping chocolate away from your pets. By staying informed and taking precautions, you can ensure that both your human loved ones and your furry friends stay safe and happy this Valentine's Day. We thank goodness for our excellent veterinarian, and the happy ending we had after a scary day of our dog's feast on chocolate.





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The 5 Love Languages

By Andrea Goff

My husband and I are polar opposites. High school sweethearts who have been married for 42 years, and together for 46, we beat to a different drum, and yet, with a few tools learned over the years, our relationship works.

Learning about love languages was like a person with myopia putting on prescription glasses and suddenly having 20/20 vision. Taking the test at www.The5lovelanguages.com we discovered that while he thrived on physical touch my greatest need was for words of affirmation. I even went so far as to tape to the bathroom mirror a list of things my verbally challenged husband could say to make me feel loved; and I have kept just about every card he has ever given me.

Three children later we learned that one daughter loved to receive gifts, while the other needed quality time. It wasn't hard to guess the love language of our son, a mirror image of his Daddy, whose favorite thing to do is hug and be hugged.

Interestingly, my closest friends have always been go-getters like my husband, but their love languages are diverse. Often people give to others what they themselves like to receive, so my friend whose love language is acts of service will sometimes surprise me with a mop in hand. Another enjoys the quality time that comes with long leisurely lunches and invites me frequently to join her. Of course, we may have several love languages but there is usually one that is stronger, our primary love language, and makes us feel particularly loved and appreciated. Gift giving is one of my weakest areas but my husband's secondary love language. Thankfully my techie brother-in-law can always be called on for unique gift ideas.

Love is a word that has been greatly misused. We talk about loving our job, a bar of chocolate, the latest movie. Love is not just an emotion it is a decision that often requires unselfish deliberation and action. Love can be described as not only a strong liking but a unique attachment, the carrier of the highest emotion inherent in man.

Each of us is designed with a love tank that yearns to be filled. A child whose love tank is full will be well adjusted and able to easily give love as well as receive it. Conversely a child whose love tank is constantly on empty will have many internal struggles. Life can be tough, taking a few minutes to discover the particular love languages of our spouse and children can help a family have more understanding and effectively give love, while truly feeling loved in return.

You can read more in Dr Gary Chapman's book "The Five Love Languages" or have your family take the test at www.The5LoveLanguages.com.

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**BLACK
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Broward County is the Place to Be!

By Michael Udine, County Commissioner for District 3

February is here, and the cooler temperatures feel great! Broward County will be lit up bright on

February 14th-23rd for the IGNITE Broward 2025 festival. The FREE art festival hosted by the Broward County Cultural Division, features art, light sculptures, and fully immersive experiences from local and national artists. The best part is that three displays will be available to the community! Visit the festival at Esplanade Park in Fort Lauderdale, Mad Arts in Dania Beach, or Arts Park at Young Circle in Hollywood. You won't want to miss it!

Black History Month is February, and Broward Libraries are putting together events and displays for the community to understand and learn about our local and national history. At the center of this, is Broward County's African American Research Library. Throughout Black History Month, enjoy interactive displays, special movie nights, and literature discussions. Check out all the great events at Broward.org/library.

Are you ready to get out there and get some sunshine? Broward Parks has many events that you should check out. From the Tour of South Florida Bike Race Event to nature hikes, and the dog event Wienerfest, they have plenty of fun for the whole

family! Check out the calendar at Broward.org/parks and find a relaxing event in the beautiful weather.

We will never forget the tragedy and those that were lost February 14th, 2018, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. If you or someone you know is in need during these weeks, please reach out to the 211 helplines for support, or one of the many local resources available like Eagles Haven that provide resources and support daily. Even though years may pass we will never forget those lost, and those who continue their legacy.

Finally, February is American Heart Month. I would like to encourage everyone to make sure that you get a checkup if you haven't been in a while. Broward County continues to support heart health by offering heart screenings through its heart program. Visit Broward.org/takehearttest for more information.

The top priority in my office is that we stay in contact with the residents of District 3 and Broward County. We are available by phone, email, and social media. Reach me at MUdine@Broward.org or at my office at (954) 357-7003. On social media you can find me at [Facebook.com/CommissionerMichaelUdine](https://www.facebook.com/CommissionerMichaelUdine) and [@MichaelUdine](https://twitter.com/MichaelUdine) on Twitter or Instagram to receive important updates and see what is happening in our community. Let's connect!



The Florida Renaissance Festival Brings Patrons Back in Time Again at Quiet Waters Park for its 33rd Anniversary

All Younglings Shall Enter FREE on Opening Weekend (Ages 11 and Under)

Revel in Eight Weekends of Historical Fun and Magical Discovery

All kings, queens, court ladies, knights, squires, jesters, and villagers are invited to the 33rd annual Florida Renaissance Festival with eight thrilling themed weekends beginning Feb. 1 and running through Mar. 23, 2025 at Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach. Enter the gates of the kingdom as an elegant courtier, rebellious outlaw, or valiant knight, and dress the part with period attire such as tunics, broad-brimmed hats, puffy-sleeved shirts, lacy gowns, petticoats, cloaks, or aprons. Costumes are not required—but thousands wear historical clothing each year to immerse themselves into the true spirit of the Renaissance period where imaginations run wild and there's fun for the entire family.

The Florida Renaissance Festival is produced by nationally acclaimed Bobby Rodriguez Productions, a creator of entertaining and cultural experiences for adults and children alike. "For more than 30 years this festival has been a very unique event," said Rodriguez. "It is one of the most anticipated happenings in South Florida, and each year it gets better with new and different activities and entertainment." Guests can explore artisan markets, savor delicious foods, and immerse themselves into a world of merriment, shock, and surprise in any of the eight themed memorable weekends.

Themed Weekends are as follows:

Weekend One: Feb. 1-2

Jester's Jamboree – A Gagggle of Giggles

FREE Entrance for Kids THIS WEEKEND ONLY

Weekend Two: Feb. 8-9

Valhalla's Call: A Saga of Fire and Ice!

Weekend Three: Feb. 15-16

Heartstrings and Heraldry: A Valentine's Weekend

Weekend Four: Feb. 22-23

Peg Legs and Polly's – Part of the Ship, Part of the Crew

Weekend Five: March 1-2

Marketplace Mayhem – Shopeth 'till you Dropeth!

Weekend Six: March 8-9

Gears and Gadgets – The Lost Inventions of DaVinci

Weekend Seven: March 15-16

Gaelic Legends: Tales of the Blarney Stone

Weekend Eight: March 22-23

Enchanted Extravaganza: Characters on the Loose

Admission to the festival is \$37 for adults, and \$15 for children (kids under 5 years old are free). Kids 11 and under get in free of charge for the first weekend only but still must pay the county park fee of \$1.50. Purchase a 2025 Season Pass Perk online and save 50% off a single day admission ticket. Season pass perks include a special commemorative pin in celebration of the 33rd annual festival, \$12 VIP parking, express lane for entrance and express lanes at all major pubs, VIP seating for at the joust arena, access to an exclusive VIP rest area, special gifts and discount food coupons that can be picked up at the box office – plus much more!

VIP parking will be available for purchase Online and In-Person. Guests MUST show their Season Pass purchase. Separately, we offer a \$3 active military and senior discount, they cannot be combined.

For tickets and more information visit:
www.ren-fest.com; Find us on Facebook or follow @FlaRenFest on Twitter and Instagram.
 Or call 954-776-1642. See ad on back cover.





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