

April 27, 2022



After a two-year hiatus, SunFest ready to return

LOCAL, 1B



The Palm Beach Post

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Luxury condo plans revealed

Site once home to Panama Hattie's Seafood House

Kimberly Miller Palm Beach Post | USA TODAY NETWORK

A coveted stretch of waterfront property will soon sprout three ultra-luxury condominiums...

About 12 acres along the Intracoastal Waterway at PGA Boulevard that was once home to Panama Hattie's Seafood House...

See CONDO, Page 14A



A rendering of the Landing at PGA Waterway, a new luxury waterfront community on the Intracoastal Waterway at PGA Boulevard by Catalfumo Companies. Residences start at \$3.9 million. PROVIDED BY CATALFUMO COMPANIES



A man drops off a ballot at a drop box at the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office in an unincorporated part of the county on March 9, 2021. THOMAS COOPER/PALE BEACH POST

'Secure ballot intake stations': Change will cost taxpayers more

All promotional material will have to be reworked

Mike Diamond Palm Beach Post | USA TODAY NETWORK

Don't call them drop boxes. Call them "secure ballot intake stations." That is right. Those boxes where you deposit election ballots have a new name...

because all voter educational material that refer to drop boxes will need to be discarded. The same applies to videos; they will have to be redone. Drop boxes became popular when COVID-19 was prominent and the popularity of voting by mail surged...

tion personnel. Previously, the boxes could be unmanned but cameras were used to record all activity. SB 524, signed into law this week, contains the requirement calling for the name change to drop boxes. Board of Election Supervisor Wendy Sartory Link said the language change will be costly to county taxpayers...

See CHANGE, Page 10A

Issues plague loggerhead center

Water quality, staffing are some of the problems

Katherine Kokal Palm Beach Post | USA TODAY NETWORK

JUNO BEACH -- The only sea turtles that visitors to Loggerhead MarineLife Center will see right now are those whose images are printed on T-shirts in the gift shop. The big turtle tanks at the center on U.S. 1 in Juno Beach have been empty since early April because Loggerhead is facing issues with its water quality...

See ISSUES, Page 10A



Visitors watch as Howard, an adult male loggerhead, is released by members of the Loggerhead MarineLife Center in Juno Beach. PALM BEACH POST FILE

Doctors blast Fla. guidance not to support trans youth

Douglas Ray Gainesville Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Physicians across the state who provide care for transgender and gender diverse youth are pushing back in opposition to guidance released last week from the Florida Department of Health that recommends against providing support for transgender transition.

lege of Medicine, signed a letter objecting to the department's statement on "Treatment of Gender Dysphoria for Children and Adolescents." Gender dysphoria related to a strong desire to be of another gender. It occurs in only one in 30,000 boys and one in 100,000 girls, according to Black's Medical Dictionary. Recent

surveys, however, show the number of people in the United States who identify as transgender is rising. The letter says that while "we need research to further improve care for transgender and gender diverse youth, taking away social support and medical care is not the answer." DOJH advised against treatment options that support gender transition for children and adolescents. The one-page statement says that due to a lack of con-

clusive evidence supporting treatments, and their long-term impacts, people younger than 18 should not receive support for social transition, hormone therapy, or gender reassignment surgery. Dr. Kristin Dayton, director of UF Health's Youth Gender Program, said Monday that no one from the DOJH reached out to experts in the state to

See LADAPO, Page 2A

Eat THIS way Popular Delrey taqueria El Camino coming to West Palm and Boca. 1D

NFL draft Dolphins don't have a first-round pick, but there's no reason to fret. 1C

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A rendering of the Landing at PGA Waterway. Amenities include an infinity-edge pool, spa, fitness center, waterfront clubhouse, lounge and on-site concierge services. Residences start at \$3.9 million. PROVIDED BY CATALFUMO COMPANIES

Condo

Continued from Page 1A

Although the proposal, which includes a marina and 23 boat slips, still faces a final approval in May by Palm Beach County commissioners, Catalfumo is confident it will be endorsed.

"It's going through the process, but everyone loves it. It's zoned for 228 units — we're only doing 98," Catalfumo said. "I've had this vision to do something that hasn't been done before, and we're going full steam ahead."

The six-story buildings on the east side of the Intracoastal south of PGA Boulevard will have 850 feet of waterfront with boat slips available for vessels up to 75 feet long. Amenities include an infinity-edge pool, spa, fitness center, waterfront clubhouse, lounge and on-site concierge services. Plans call for 250 underground parking spaces.

With prices starting at nearly \$4 million, buyers can choose from eight floor plans ranging from 3,300 to 5,000 square feet. Units include 12-foot wrap-around balconies, open floor plans showcasing panoramic waterfront views, a smart-home control system and chef-worthy kitchens.

"We had a professional chef come in and look at the floor plans and he was really impressed," Catalfumo said. "I told him, 'I'm Italian — I cook every night.'"

Catalfumo said he finished assembling a handful of properties in October with a deed filed reflecting a purchase of seven parcels for \$33 million.

The project site has a tumultuous history.

Previous owner and Harbourside Place developer Nicholas Mastroianni III faced criticism for demolishing Panama Hattie's, which closed in 2014. Later, Palm Beach Gardens sued Palm Beach County over its approval for 70 condos originally submitted by Mastroianni for the site, which has remained vacant.

Catalfumo also traveled a bumpy road after the 2007 recession forced him to sell off properties and tussle with lenders to settle debts. But in 2019, he was back with plans for PGA Station at the southeast corner of PGA Boulevard and RCA Boulevard, where he's building 400 apartments and a new office building.

He said he wants the Landing at PGA Waterway to be upscale elegance beyond what anyone has seen in Palm Beach County — a tall order considering the posh homes of Tony Palm Beach, Jupiter Island and Manalapan.

"We truly said we want something

that can't be reproduced," Catalfumo said. "If you can dream it, we've got it. It's that simple."

Brad Hunter, president of Hunter Housing Economics, said there is a huge demand for new luxury waterfront development in Palm Beach County.

"The luxury condo market has been strong for decades, so that's not entirely new, but I will say also that the luxury market in Palm Beach County is absolutely on fire now because of the influx of people we've seen from New York and other points in the Northeast," Hunter said. "It's a continuation of a trend, but it's been thrown into high gear."

Hunter noted companies such as Goldman Sachs bringing well-paid workers to Palm Beach County as one reason for the uptick in demand for luxury housing. Other financial services and private equity firms including Point 72 and Elliott Management are putting down roots in West Palm Beach.

Last month, the leader of mortgage lender NowDay USA bought the entire 7-story Crystal condominium on the Intracoastal in West Palm Beach for \$16.92 million. NowDay USA is expected to bring 600 jobs to Palm Beach County. It was unclear last month what the new building, which had never been lived in, will be used for.

"The market is 100% there right now, especially in the luxury sector," said Talbot Sutter, president and broker of Sutter and Nugent real estate. "We just listed a \$4.5 million condo in The Bear's Club and have people seeing it from all over the world."

The Bear's Club is an upscale gated golf community in Jupiter.

In March, 148 condominiums or townhomes sold for \$1 million or more, according to a report from Florida Realtors. That's an 18% increase in that price range from March 2021. About 295 single-family homes sold for \$1 million or more last month, which is a 6.5% increase from the previous year.

Kevin Spina, director of The Spina Group at the Keyes Company, which is handling sales for the Landing at PGA Waterway, said the development's more than 800 feet of waterfront is "unheard of" in northern Palm Beach County.

"You cannot beat this location," Spina said.

The sales center for the Landing at PGA Waterway is scheduled to open in June, with the residences finished by late 2024.

Kimberly Miller is a veteran journalist for The Palm Beach Post, part of the USA TODAY Network of Florida. She covers real estate and home growth affects South Florida's environment. If you have any news tips, please send them to kmiller@palmbeachpost.com.

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A rendering of the Landing at PGA Waterway. Amenities include an infinity-edge pool, spa, fitness center, waterfront clubhouse, lounge and on-site concierge services. Residences start at \$3.9 million. PROVIDED BY CATALFUMO COMPANIES

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