



Volume 6 • Number 6

Turtle Times

December 2025

Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Thirty-Seven *By Jan Otten*

HISTORY – we have a tendency to think of HISTORY as something that happened a long time ago. Something we learned about in our school years. But history is not just something that happened 12,000 years ago when the indigenous peoples first started settling in this peninsula. Nor was it just in the 1500s when the Europeans began exploring and naming it “La Florida.” And it was not just in 1696 when Jonathan Dickinson’s barkentine, The Reformation, shipwrecked on the shores where the Jobé tribe resided. It wasn’t even just in the 1920s when the Olympia Company made an effort to create a “Picture City” to rival Hollywood. Nor was it just the 1930s and 1940s as families settled in, starting businesses and establishing this community – think about Parmelia Reed who was instrumental in creating our iconic Ficus Tree “Allee” on Bridge Road.

Yes, of course, all of this is history, but we need to realize that each and every day that we live here, we too are creating history. History is what happens every day leaving a legacy that brings a continuity of a community from its beginnings to its present and on into its future. There are the recognized family names like Pettway, Diamond, MacArthur, Algozzini, and many more, who through the years have made Hobe Sound the amazing community that it is. And then there are

more recent names and families who continue to create a pathway into the future.

That brings me to a little bit of Hobe Sound history that is more recent and is still a part of making this community a notable place and experience. We understand that it is the families who come here and become part of the fiber of this little town. A tapestry that endures and creates and contributes to its present day-to-day activities and will at some point be looked at as part of its past, its history.

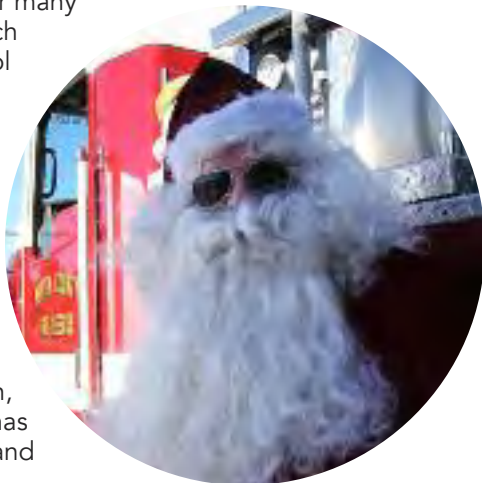
For the purpose of this article, I’m going to talk about the families very much a part of Hobe Sound and the creation of the Hobe Sound Beach Shop and Hobe Sound Beach Shop Too...

First, the Kleine family that morphed into Janet Kleine Otten and Barbara Kleine McLaughlin as well as their brother, George Kleine.

These three siblings were born and for the most part raised on Staten Island, New York. Jan graduated from Curtis High School on Staten Island and is an alumnus of Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Manhattan. The family moved to Huntington, New York where George and Barb graduated from Harborfields High School in Greenlawn. George did a short stint at Wagner College on Staten Island before joining the Navy, and Barb graduated Magna Cum Laude from SUNY in



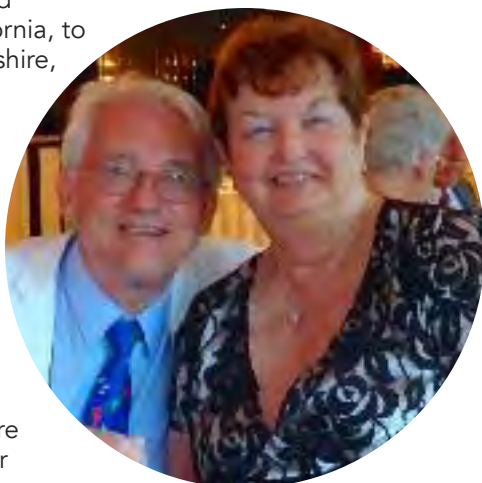
Brockport, New York. From there the three siblings went in different directions for many years. Jan married Rich Otten, her high school sweetheart and ballroom dance partner and together they raised four children. Rich's career gave them the opportunity to move around a bit, before settling in Florida in 1995. They lived in East Hampton, Long Island; St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands; and Montpelier, Vermont.



Santa Clause aka George Kleine, Hobe Sound Christmas Parade 2020

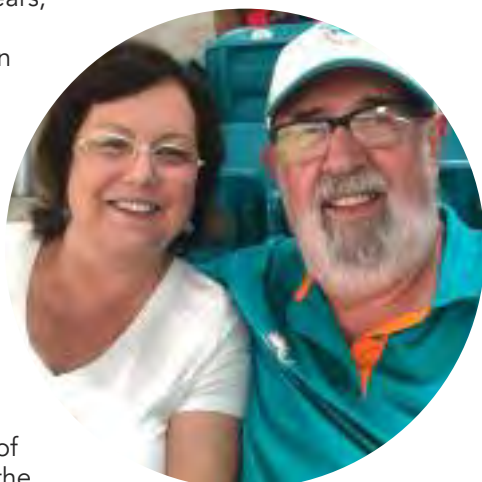
George's Navy years took him to the Philippines after which he shuffled from Virginia to California, to Vermont, New Hampshire, and then Massachusetts.

Barb's very successful profession took her and her family from Rochester to Albany, New York and a few different locations in Massachusetts where her two daughters grew up.



Rich and Janet Otten

The three siblings were all very busy with their diverse careers and young families. When it came to retirement years, Jan and Rich chose Florida and leaning on their ballroom dance years started a DJ business entertaining at all manner of parties including many weddings. That led to becoming members of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce and later Jan being employed there as the Director of Member Services. In the meantime, George decided to join the



Barb and Barry McLaughlin

Ottens in Florida and made the move south. Not to be left alone in the cold north, Barb and her husband, Barry McLaughlin soon followed. Once again living in the same location, birthdays and holidays became wonderful family occasions.

Now how did all of this lead to contributing to the history of Hobe Sound?

Interestingly, George and Barb were

attending a trade show and saw a "press" that made creating custom tee shirts easy and they made the decision to buy one and try their hand at providing tee shirts for the many local businesses that needed them for their employees or, and very importantly, just one shirt if someone wanted a souvenir from Hobe Sound or a gift for someone. First try was to do it out of George's garage but just wasn't practical and they decided to rent a small, very small, space on Mars Street. It was so small it didn't have running water or a bathroom. For that purpose, they had to run across the street to the Taste Restaurant to use their facility (they kindly allowed them access.) They opened on March 17, 2018. Within a few short months it became evident that the little storefront known as Tees Please was much too small!!! As people inquired about various items they were looking for in our little town, and Barb and George would order new items for sale, they began to fill every inch of the available space. In the meantime, Barry McLaughlin came upon a much larger space available for rent on Bridge Road and they signed a lease. Much work was needed to bring the long-empty storefront to be appropriate for a pleasant shopping experience. Tile floors that were painted black were stripped and polished, walls were painted, slatwall and shelves were built, office space was created and finally staff was hired to help. And the shop's new location opened in early 2019.

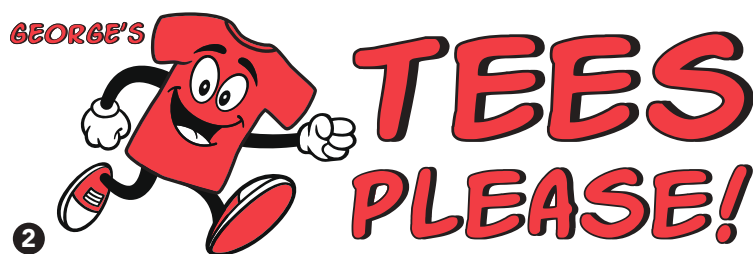
The next big change came when an employee suggested a name change because in addition to the custom printing of tee shirts, ball caps, mugs and more, they now featured resort wear like Cabana Life and Tommy Bahama as well as items for the beach such as towels, beach chairs and umbrellas, sunscreen, sunglasses and lots more. And the new name became The Hobe Sound Beach Shop. Soon after, Barb made the decision to buy the building that housed the Beach Shop and Island Beverage. She asked artist Nadia Serenyi to refresh the two original murals that Nadia had created on that building. On the



2018, original storefront known as George's Tees Please.



HSBS West Side Mural by Nadia Serenyi



east-facing wall was the very first mural painted in Hobe Sound in 2009, and on the west-facing wall was the third mural. Barb then asked Nadia to paint a new mural on the front north-facing wall which by that time became mural number twenty-five.

A couple of things happened right at the beginning of Barb's opening of the Beach Shop and ownership of the building — the county began a major project to revitalize Bridge Road and upgrade the aging underground systems so for eighteen months the road running right in front of the shop was dug up. In addition, closing on the purchase of the building occurred on a Friday evening and on Monday morning the nation went into lockdown mode due to COVID. But the little shop persevered. Like the Energizer Bunny, it kept on going. And through the years and transitions, Barb continued with her other job in the print and patient communications health care industry. Essentially carrying two full time careers all the while.

During those crucial months of lockdown, after fourteen years Jan's position with the Hobe Sound

Chamber was eliminated and Barb asked her to join with her and with George at the Beach Shop — thus the Seaside Siblings team was complete.

Jan brought a few ideas that Barb and George quickly adopted — creation of a newsletter entitled *The Hobe Sound*

Beach Shop's Turtle Times and a program to reward faithful customers by giving them a "Booty Coin" for every \$10 purchase. When twenty-five coins were accumulated the customer could turn them in and choose from a special set of four custom-printed mugs or six custom shot glasses. Each year a new design was used thus making their gift a "collectible." They were not for sale, only acquired with the Booty coins.

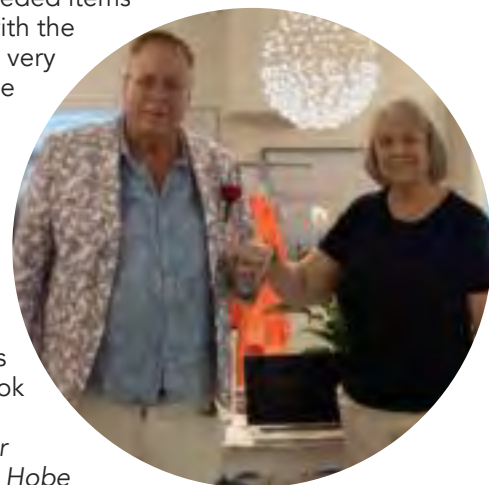
Along the way various employees came and left, but then arrived the dynamic team of Shareese and her husband TJ Grace who totally grasped the concept of what the shop is all about — they have become expert on the presses and Shareese has brought exceptional art skills with her and began creating new designs as well as fulfilling requests to recreate logos and even add photos to the various printable items available. Another long-time employee, on board from the early days on Bridge Road, Frankie Sanders, has continued to



add a friendly face to greet customers and help them find souvenirs, gifts or needed items for the beach. Yes, with the Seaside Siblings, the very talented staff, and the wide distribution of the very popular *Turtle Times*, the Shop has grown and prospered. Along the way, Jan enhanced each of the history chapters from the *Turtle Times* and a 30-chapter book was published and offered for sale — *Our History is a Treasure, Hobe Sound, Florida, a Jewel on the Treasure Coast*.

After seven years at the helm Barb made the difficult decision to sell the building and find a partner for the Beach Shop. She was successful on both fronts. The building was sold in April, 2025 and by September a General Superintendent, Richard O'Connell, stepped in to help Barb. Rich took the reins and grew the business from one medium-size store on Bridge Road adding Hobe Sound Beach Shop Too... a second much larger location on the same thoroughfare. And now the O'Connell family has begun adding chapters to the history of Hobe Sound.

In addition to the original shop, the space on Bridge Road that was formerly Nautical Nice has been completely renovated on the interior by Rich O'Connell with the help of his brother, Mark and a team of professional renovation specialists. The space has been painted, all new flooring installed, gorgeous chandeliers hung,



Rich O'Connell & Barb McLaughlin at the new Hobe Sound Beach Shop Too...



Hobe Sound Beach Shop Too...

Continued on page 6.



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Hobe Sound Historical Society Holds Open House

The 15th of November was a special day for Hobe Sounders interested in the history of our amazing hometown. The Historical Society held an open house to introduce the original railway depot to the community.

It was exciting to see the many local residents and out of town guests who came to learn about this fascinating historical treasure.

The open house was presented by the Historical Society to introduce the depot and its importance to the community. The day was filled with information about the building as it now stands and what it will take moving into the future to make it a true representation of one of the iconic pieces of architecture that played a major part in the development of Hobe Sound and Jupiter Island. On a beautiful sunny day Society members conducted tours of the building in its current state and explained what the plans are to bring it back to life. Ultimately it will be a small center for visitors to experience an important part of the development of this community.

Highlights of the day included presentations by two outstanding historians. "The Archaeology of Jupiter and Hobe Sound" by Robert S. Carr,

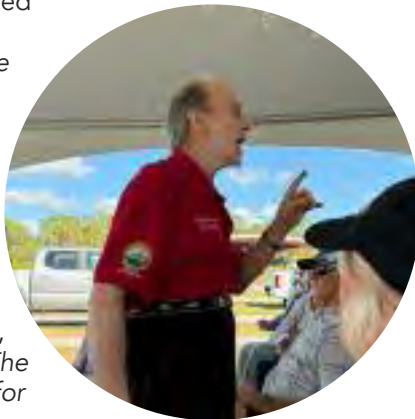
Archaeologist/Executive Director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy. Also presenting was FEC Railway Company Historian, Professor Seth Bramson, "The Florida East Coast Railway for more than 125 Years, America's Speedway to the Sunshine." Professor Bramson made it abundantly clear how fortunate we are to still have this depot intact and returned to us. We must keep in mind that most of these depots, though similarly built to ours, were destroyed when passenger trains no longer ran along the east coast of Florida. Only a very few remain.

In addition, during the day, there was an opportunity to bid on extraordinary silent auction items donated by many very generous local businesses. Guests were able to sign up to become members of the Historical Society and to make donations to be part of the ongoing renovations to this local treasure.

Another important and very exciting event was also hosted by the Historical Society in the evening of the same day as darkness set in and the 1920's lamp posts along A1A were lit for the first time in over 100 years. Members gathered on the corner of A1A and Anstis Place as the lights began to flicker to life.



Archaeologist Robert S. Carr.
Photo by Rich Otten.



FEC Railway Company Historian,
Professor Seth Bramson. Photo
by Rich Otten

A lot of time and work over several years went into making this occur. Studies were made by Society members on what type of globe to use, and how to retrofit all posts to make them appropriate for solar lights. Pat Martin of Diamond's Garage was very instrumental in the whole process and in placing all the special-made collars on the lamp posts and Bingman's Painting cleaned and helped protect each post with appropriate sealant. All of which was made possible by monetary donations from community members. At last this long-held dream came true as those 100-year-old unlit lamps came to life. Make sure to take an evening ride along A1A heading north from Bridge Road to see this very special illumination of our iconic "Picture City" lamp posts!!! (As a side note, each post displays a plaque with the names of families or businesses who donated to help make each post light up.)

A brief background on the Hobe Sound Railway Depot:

Originally opened in 1894 to become a stop on Henry Flagler's railroad corridor along the east coast of Florida, this depot has had an interesting life cycle.

When first constructed it was located on the east side of the tracks a little north of where A-1 Auto is situated today. The depot was an important part in the life and development of Hobe Sound and Jupiter Island. Vacationers would ride the train to this little town, get off for a little stay, and often made a decision to come here to start businesses and to raise their families. Incoming mail would be tossed onto the platform in front of the depot and outgoing would be grabbed by a hook from an apparatus hanging over the tracks as the train passed through. During the heyday of pineapple plantations and carnation farms it was critical to moving the delicate cargo quickly to ports for transportation to further destinations. Very importantly, during WWII military soldiers were dropped off and picked up for assignment to Camp Murphy for radar



1920's lamp posts lit for the first time in
100 years. Photo by Rich Otten.

training. This little depot was a hub for social life as well as a stop for transportation along the east coast.

By 1967 when passenger trains no longer fulfilled their need the depot lay dormant. Interestingly, at one point someone actually tried to steal the building but was not successful. However, fortunately for us, it was moved to a place out on Bridge Road west of Federal Highway where Hobe Groves Ltd. used it for an office, later to become a sales showroom for a proposed polo community, and now finally, and gratefully it has been generously donated by the Becker Companies and the Discovery Land Company to the people of Hobe Sound. In cooperation with Martin County and the Hobe Sound Historical Society the building was moved to its new home on county property, now known as "Railway Park" and renovations have begun to bring it back to its original appearance. This process will take a few more years and donations to help its progress are much appreciated.

If you would like to make a donation or become involved with the Hobe Sound Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization please visit the website at hobesoundhistoricalsociety.org.



Hobe Sound Holiday Happenings

Hobe Sound Ministries Singing Christmas Tree **December 4-7 at 7:00 pm**

Hobe Sound Bible College • 11295 SE Gomez Avenue

Doors open 6:00 pm, • Program begins 7:00 pm

An unforgettable celebration of the Christmas season through powerful music, inspiring stories, and the timeless message of hope. No entry fee, donations appreciated.

12th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting **Friday, December 5 at 6:00 pm**

Apollo School • 9141 SE Apollo Street

Join your neighbors and friends as we welcome the Christmas season with music and refreshments!. Free event, donations appreciated.

Hobe Sound Christmas Parade **Saturday, December 6 at 1:00 pm**

Dixie Highway & Bridge Road


Santa will be at the Hobe Sound Beach Shop **Sunday, December 7 at 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm**

Come enjoy cookies with Santa and commemorate Christmas with pictures that will last a lifetime.

We are so excited to celebrate the Holidays with you, your family, and Santa Claus!



HOBE SOUND MINISTRIES PRESENTS
2025 SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE
BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM
Dec. 4-7 7 pm



ON THE CAMPUS OF HOBE SOUND BIBLE CHURCH
11295 SE Gomez Ave. | Hobe Sound, FL 33455

No tickets required. Doors open at 6 PM.
Groups of 25 or more may call the church office (772-546-5696) for reservations.



Join us to celebrate our 12th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
Friday, December 5, 2025 – 6 p.m.



Thank you for helping us keep the doors open for 100 years!

Join your neighbors and friends as we welcome the Christmas season with music and refreshments!

Event is free (donations are always appreciated) and will be held at the Historic Apollo School
9141 S.E. Apollo Street, Hobe Sound

apolloschoolfoundation@aol.com
www.apolloschool.org

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slatwall for new merchandise mounted, and eight fitting rooms built in. Even creating a "man cave" space complete with TV for watching football.

Besides continuing to retain Shareese and TJ Grace and Frankie Sanders, Rich has brought onboard other members of his family to keep all things running smoothly. And has added several other specialists to the staff. Among them, Nina Pucillo, as Buyer; Jamie Smith, General Manager;

Maria Lopez, CPA; and Jan Otten will continue to write for and produce this publication, *The Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Turtle Times*.

As a new family becomes part of Hobe Sound's history let's learn a little bit about them:

Principal player, Richard O'Connell was born in Boston, Massachusetts, the 4th of six children. After graduating from Weston High School, he attended the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island. Later he graduated from Northeastern University in Boston, MA, as a civil engineer and began work in the construction industry. Ultimately, in 2000 Rich started his own business, Primus Builders, Inc., based in Woodstock, GA. After 25 years leading Primus, he retired and moved to Jupiter Island in April, 2025. Rich has four sons and when not working enjoys playing golf, deep sea fishing and scuba diving.

Rich asked his brother, Mark to become part of his Hobe Sound enterprise. Mark, born in Monterey, CA, is the 5th born into the O'Connell family. He graduated from Westbridge in Lexington, MA and studied at

Northeastern University, and worked in finance until he joined Rich at Primus Builders, Inc. where he oversaw the Thermal Division. Mark is happily married to Teri O'Connell, together they have two dogs, "Bubbs" and "Bowser" and Mark is blessed with two daughters, a stepdaughter and a step-son, as well as 10 grandchildren.

As plans for the new shop exploded into a large and burgeoning business, Rich invited his son, Sean to join the team. Sean was born in Atlanta, GA, graduated from Holy Spirit Preparatory School and studied marketing at Georgia

State University. Before coming to Hobe Sound, Sean was employed for six years in software sales. He says he "couldn't resist the Hobe Sound lifestyle and the opportunity presented with the Hobe Sound Beach Shop."

Sean will be managing the social media accounts and revenue operations for the shops. With Sean and to be a part of helping to grow the business is his wife, Elizabeth O'Connell, affectionately known as "Liz" or "Beth". Liz also graduated from Holy Spirit Preparatory School and attended Loyola University

Sean and Liz O'Connell.

in New Orleans. With her background in sales, retail and event management her position with the Beach Shops will be managing events and community outreach. For Sean, Atlanta sports, golfing, and hanging with his golden doodle, Shadow, are leisure time activities he most enjoys.

There are many more families and establishments who are here creating and perpetuating the history of this little town. Though history is looked at as time gone by, in reality creating history is now! As each of us lives every day in Hobe Sound we, today, are the ones who are adding to the foundation upon which the annals of time are built. Each and every one of us who resides here can be the positive force that shines brightly among the palm trees, along the seaside, in the beautiful parks, and residential communities. You, we, us, can continue to CREATE HISTORY that will always be a proud marker of a very special place!!

Here is a brief list of family-owned and -run businesses contributing to the history of Hobe Sound!

- Eric Wesel and now daughter Bianca Wesel, of Jupiter Island Pools
- Harold Jenkins and daughter Erin Jenkins Banas, as well as son, Steven Jenkins, of Jenkins Landscape
- Blake Capps, daughter Loren Capps, and brother Mark Capps, of Capps Roofing
- Marc Gaylord, and son Jared Gaylord, of Law Office of Marc R. Gaylord
- Andy Andersen and son-in-law, John Peterson of Edward Jones
- JoAnn Wilson and son Darin Wilson, of Campbell-Wilson Insurance
- Ollie Copley and son Brian Copley and daughter, Michele Durbin, of Copley's RV Center
- Treva Chaplin and son, of Scooters Fun Food and Spirits

There are many, many more. We can't list all of them here. When these people started their businesses they didn't know they would become an integral part of Hobe Sound History. Any family, any individual, any business makes Hobe Sound what it is. Know that day-by-day you are a "History Maker!"



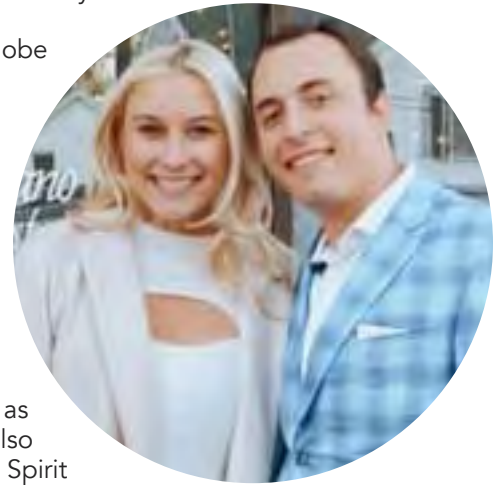
Rich O'Connell with the Banana Mobile in front of Hobe Sound Beach Shop Too...

Photo by Debbi Blain Photography.



Teri and Mark O'Connell.

Photo provided by Sean O'Connell.



Trivia Tips:

- A great way to keep track of your very own “history making” is to keep a journal of your day-to-day life here in Hobe Sound. Bear in mind that the reason we know about Jonathan Dickinson and his shipwreck on our shores is the journal he kept and later published. Surely, he never imagined the impact his experiences would have on this community.
- Encourage your children to keep a journal. They too are creating history day by day. Some day they will be glad they journaled.
- Pay attention to what is happening here and now — examples, the renovations to the Apollo School, the Railway Depot, the lighting of the 1920s lamp posts along Dixie Highway. All history making connecting the past with the present!
- Take notice of the 100th celebrations of Martin County, the Apollo School, the Hobe Sound Community Presbyterian Church. Celebrations in 2025 that will be looked back upon as years go by.
- Things to think about: What did you see the last time you spent some time on the beach? What activities do you enjoy when you have leisure time? How do you celebrate holidays in the warm sunshine (instead of snow and shivering cold)? Do you go to the annual car show at the Pine School or participate in the chili cook off at the Hobe Sound Early Learning Center? What high-profile celebrity did you spot here? Do you go to the Christmas Parade on Bridge Road or the Singing Christmas Tree at the Bible College? Do you visit Jonathan Dickinson State Park or the Nature Center? Keep track, you’re experiencing history, participating in life in Hobe Sound now that will forever be a part of its history!!

Hobe Sound Beach Shop Tooo...

A grand opening and two ribbon cuttings were hosted by the new Hobe Sound Beach Shop Tooo... to introduce to the community the second location of the Hobe Sound Beach Shop.

A grand opening was held on November 1st, followed on November 20th with a huge turnout, a ribbon cutting ceremony by the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce, and on November 24th another well-attended ribbon cutting by the Stuart/Martin County Chamber.

The original shop is still open and thriving at 9128 SE Bridge Road and now there is even more great opportunity to shop located at 9045 SE Bridge Road, the space formerly occupied by Nautical But Nice. (And a bit of trivia, if you’ve lived in Hobe Sound for a long time, you would have known that storefront as Chuckles, a place to purchase used books and furniture.)

Within a few short weeks the entire area was completely renovated — new paint, new flooring, slatwall added, 8 fitting rooms built and exquisite chandeliers hung!! Lots of art added for a great ambience and amazing inventory displayed and available for sale.

An interesting historical note regarding the building now housing Beach Shop Tooo... is that the buildings were once part of Camp Murphy, a radar training facility during World War II located in what is now Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Many of the Camp Murphy Buildings were salvaged and moved to new locations. Several were placed on Bridge Road including The Hair Company building, part of Diamond Garage, as well as the ones now housing Beach Shop Tooo... It has been reported to us that this building was once the Officers’ Quarters and the Officers’ Mess Hall, moved to this location soon after the war,

and then added onto in order to make the building that now stands at 9045 SE Bridge Road. In the beginning it was a furniture store operated by the Steele family.

Make sure to put the Hobe Sound Beach Shop and Hobe Sound Beach Shop Tooo... on your list of places to visit to do your holiday shopping!! And don’t forget, the original shop still does custom printing – tee shirts, ball caps, coffee mugs, reusable water bottles, shot glasses, and more. Need one shirt for a gift or a few dozen shirts for your employees? The Hobe Sound Beach Shop can do that! And Beach Shop Tooo... will amaze you with the gorgeous inventory of resort wear. Stop into both stores, you’ll be glad you did!!



*Ribbon Cutting celebrated with the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce
Photo by Debi Blain Photography.*

The New Wave by Ryan Croteau

A storm is brewing in Hobe Sound and no, we're not talking hurricanes. This one's made of groms, and passion. A new generation of young surfers is hitting the waves hard and making their mark on the local contest scene.

Florida Surf Experience just wrapped up its first-ever Hobe Sound Surf Camp, and the impact is already showing. Kids are heading back to school telling classmates and teachers that they surfed all summer and many of them are still rushing to the beach right after class

Each week of camp crowned one "Surf Camp Champ," a title earned through skill, style, and creativity on the waves. For the final week, Coach Ryan Croteau went all out with a surf costume party and a grassroots championship surf contest. As the Rocky theme blared from the camp speaker, previous camp champs arrived in costume to battle it out for the ultimate summer title.

Nine Surf Camp Champs faced off against 30 past campers, all chasing one goal, the title of summer's ultimate surf camp champ. With Coach Ryan judging the rides dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow and perfect 2 ft summer waves rolling in, the stage was set. At stake? A brand new surfboard and a 5-foot tall gold trophy.

Every surfer gave it their all, but in the end, it was Tripp McLain who came out on top. Tripp started surfing with Florida Surf Experience in Spring 2025, attended multiple camps and coaching sessions, and showed unmatched consistency. On the final day of summer, he walked away with tears in his eyes, a gold chain, a Surf Camp Champ hat, a massive trophy and most importantly, a new surfboard to help take his surfing to the next level.



2025 Surf Camp Champ Tripp McLain.

Surf Camp Coaches Take the Win

Not long after, Florida Surf Experience coaches Ryan Croteau and Zach Bucolo teamed up with Justin Croteau and Zack Kleindfield to compete in the Florida Boardriders Treasure Coast event. This unique contest pits four person teams of local surf businesses against each other.



Happy surf campers.

The waves were big and stormy but FSE brought the heat and had the loudest fanbase by far, with dozens of surf camp groms and families on the sand cheering them on. Florida Surf Experience took the win with 37 points, just ahead of Team Sonic Surfboards with 34. Fort Pierce Surf and Skate placed third, and Ohana Surf Shop took fourth.

After the win, the crew brought the trophy back home to Hobe Sound and celebrated the only way that felt right at Scooters. The 1st place trophy will be on display there as a reminder of an epic community effort. You can catch more on Instagram at @treasurecoastboardriders.

The victory was great but seeing the kids look up to their coaches and cheer them on was the real win. Leading by example is the best kind of coaching. Kids see, kids do and that's how the next generation is built in a positive way.

Local Groms Make Waves

Two local Hobe Sound shredders, Granger Gibson and Delilah Fretz, took on the South Florida ESA event in Jupiter on October 11. Granger snagged 2nd place in the 10 & Under division, while Delilah crushed it with 1st place in 11 & Under, and 4th in 10 & Under. Big congrats to both!

The Next Generation Is Here

Hobe Sound is quickly becoming a hub for young, passionate surfers. The community is growing, the talent is rising, and the stoke is off the charts. We're proud to be a part of it and even prouder to help lead the way.

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Real Estate Corner

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and are grateful for our many blessings, among them to be in a special place called Hobe Sound. My family and I have lived in many places, and I feel Hobe Sound is great to call home whether you have a young family or are retired. Here we have excellent retail stores, health care, and super recreational areas close by!

I do hope you feel the same way.

A common inquiry I receive is, "Should I consider selling or purchasing a home during the holiday season?"

I say "yes", as there are more people in Hobe Sound during this time of year. As I'm sure you know, unlike the cold north this is the prime time here to buy or sell.

More people = More opportunity

I feel another reason is that most people are just happier this time of year and that always makes the sale easier for everyone.

Our market is stable and almost a balanced market meaning the month's inventory is close to 6% (Actually 5.3% as of the end of October 2025).

That is an estimate of the number of months to deplete the current inventory of homes for sale given the recent rate of sales. Rather than sellers or buyers having an advantage it is almost an even playing field!

Mortgage rates have dropped some and that makes a great time to buy a new home. A 30 Year Mortgage Rate (Depending on many factors, as of 11/26/2025) is at 6.23%, compared to 6.26% last week and 6.84% last year. This is lower than the long-term average of 7.70%.

If you are considering selling or buying, why not start 2026 with fulfilling your longtime dream by writing a new chapter in your book of life, by making a change in your lifestyle at a new location?

Sell or buy today, the perfect time may never come!

Just sayin!

Merry Christmas

Rich Otten, PSA, C2EX

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5693 SE Crooked Oak Avenue
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
561-385-3715
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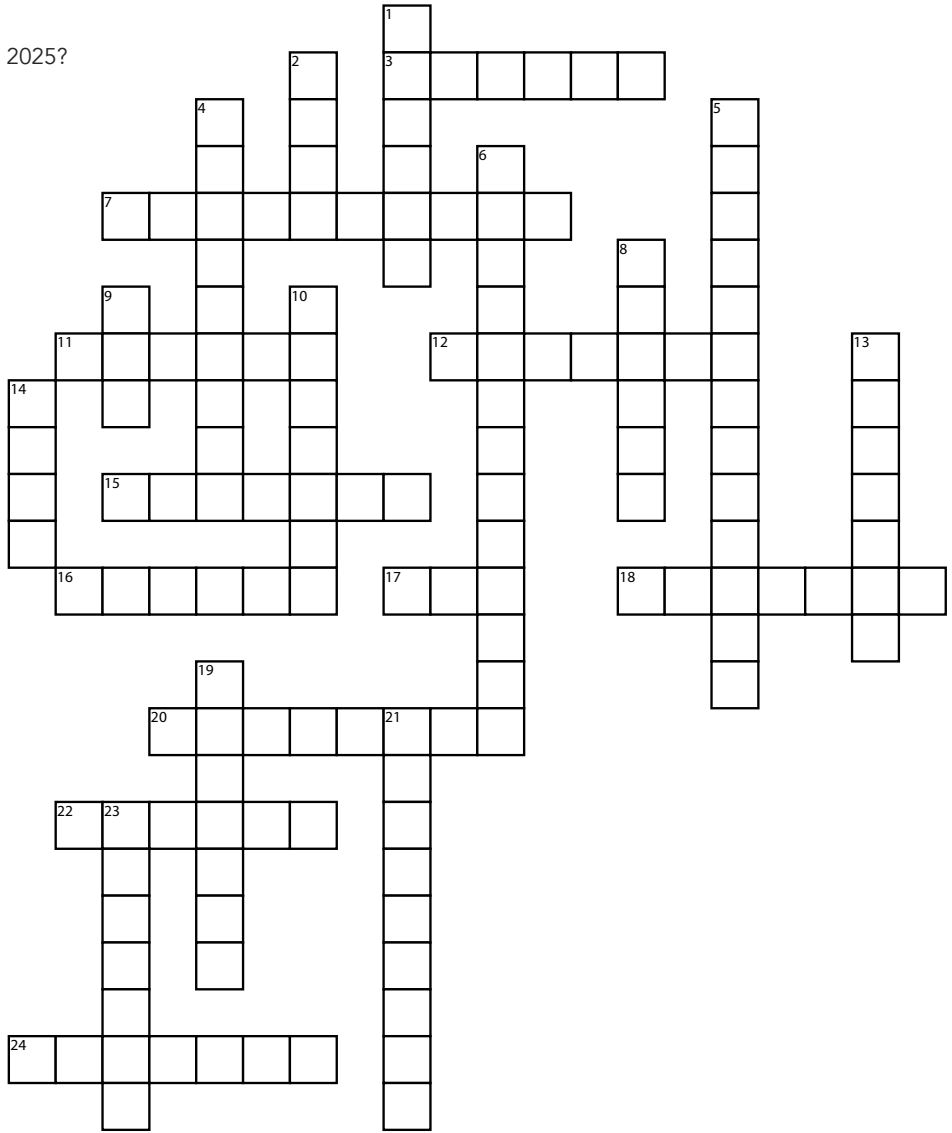
December 2025

Across

3. What schoolhouse celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2025?
7. What Society held an open house on November 15th?
11. First name of the Kleine brother?
12. What is the space created in the new Beach Shop for watching football?
15. What kind of tree at the Bible College/Church is famous during the Christmas holiday season?
16. What special event occurs every year in Hobe Sound on the first Saturday of December?
17. What number mural is on the east-facing side of the Beach Shop building?
18. What kind of depot held an open house?
20. Name of a long-time used books and furniture establishment where the new Hobe Sound Beach Shop is located?
22. What is the name of the Road on which the two Hobe Sound Beach Shops are located?
24. First name of Hobe Sound Beach Shop Founder McLaughlin?

Down

1. What county celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2025?
2. What word comes at the end of the new Hobe Sound Beach Shop?
4. What special title does Professor Bramson hold for the FEC Railway Company??
5. Robert Carr holds what special title?
6. The O'Connell family grew up in what state?
8. On what Island did the Kleine siblings grow up on?
9. Is holiday time in Hobe Sound a good time to buy or sell a home?
10. Hobe Sound Beach Shop founding family were known as the what Siblings?
13. What is the best way to track your own path in history making?
14. What kind of camp occurred in Hobe Sound in 2025?
19. What is the name of Sean O'Connell's dog?
21. What icons existing in Hobe Sound from the 1920s are now operational?
23. First name of the O'Connell General Superintendent of the Hobe Sound Beach Shop?



A little Trivia from Dictionary.com

fantasticate [fan-tas-ti-keyt] verb. to make or render fantastic.

fantasticated, fantasticating

The object of the new Hobe Sound Beach Shop Too... is to fantasticate the shopping experience for those looking for something new and exciting right here in this community.



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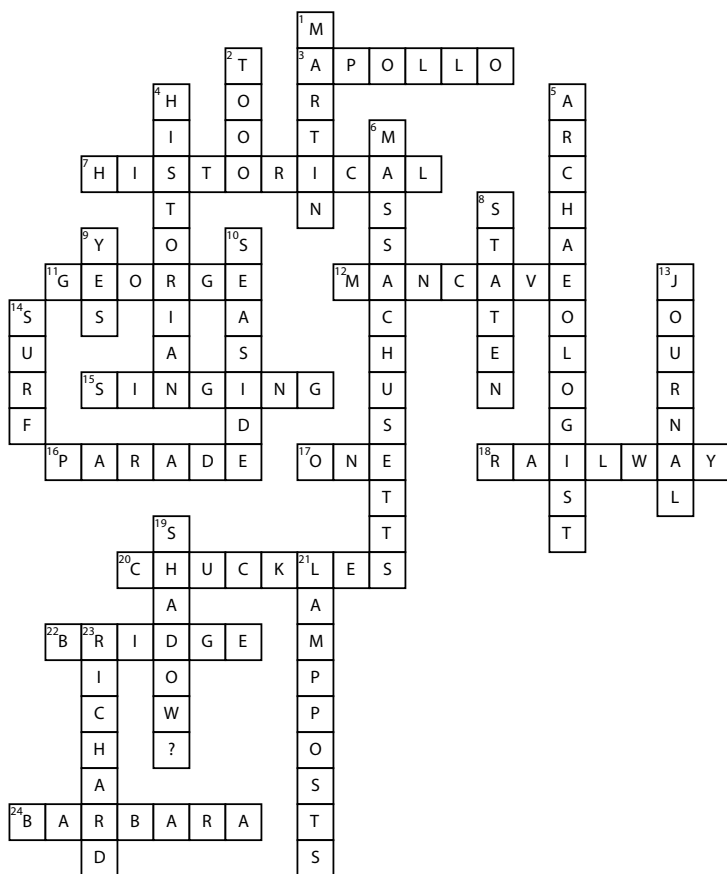
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December 2025 Answers



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This issue introduces a couple of Hobe Sound families who have contributed time and energy to making Hobe Sound the extraordinary community that it is!!



Read on to meet them and be encouraged to start your own "History Journal" as you live the good life in Hobe Sound.

Read **Turtle Times**, including all previous issues, online at hobesoundbeachshop.com

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Janet Kleine Otten *Turtle Times Managing Editor*

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Hobe Sound Beach Shop and Hobe Sound Beach Shop Too...

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