



Turtle Times

Volume 7 • Number 5

July 2026

Surf & Print Location

8871 SE Bridge Road
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
772-245-8940

Store Location

9045 B SE Bridge Road
Hobe Sound, FL, 33455
772-245-8131

Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Forty-Two *By Jan Otten*






Throughout the year, there are many warning signs and signals we receive from various sources regarding a potential weather incident or local hazardous conditions. Some are pretty much self-explanatory, while others require a little clarification.

My idea for this issue of *Turtle Times* is to try to sort through a few of the various signs and symbols and make them a little easier to understand; also for this to be a handy guide for times when you scratch your head in wonder, confused by all the bells and whistles, flags and colors, announcements and alerts.

To begin, since this is Florida, and Florida is all about going to the beach, we should be totally aware of what the various color flags posted at beach entrances mean. Most importantly, even before learning about the flags, it is strongly advised to swim where there are lifeguards. Most often the lifeguard stations are where you will see the warning flags letting you know if it's safe to go into the ocean.

Florida public beaches use a standardized warning-flag system to communicate ocean conditions. The colors range from calm to hazardous. It is highly recommended that you always check and heed the colored flags posted at beach entrances before entering the water.

Florida Beach Flag Colors

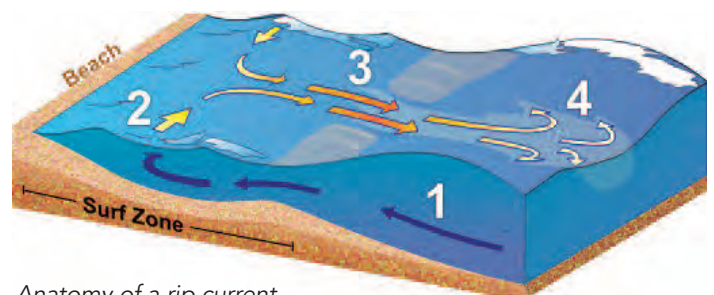
-  **Green:** Low hazard. Calm conditions, but you should still exercise caution.
-  **Yellow:** Medium hazard. Moderate surf and/or currents are present.
-  **Red:** High hazard. Rough conditions, such as high surf and strong currents. Swim only if you are an experienced and strong swimmer.
-  **Double Red:** Water is closed to the public. Conditions are dangerously unsafe for everyone. Entering the water under double red flags can result in fines or arrest.
-  **Purple:** Dangerous marine life is present (e.g., jellyfish, stingrays, sea lice, etc.). This flag flies alongside another color flag.

- Note that rip currents can occur on any beach, regardless of flag color. The absence of flags does not guarantee safe waters. I reiterate, it is best to swim at beaches with lifeguards!
- The colored flags posted on surf beaches are posted by local beach patrol, lifeguards, or local law enforcement officials.'

What is some of the terminology we hear during news and weather reports?

Let's begin with the most often reported: RIP CURRENTS

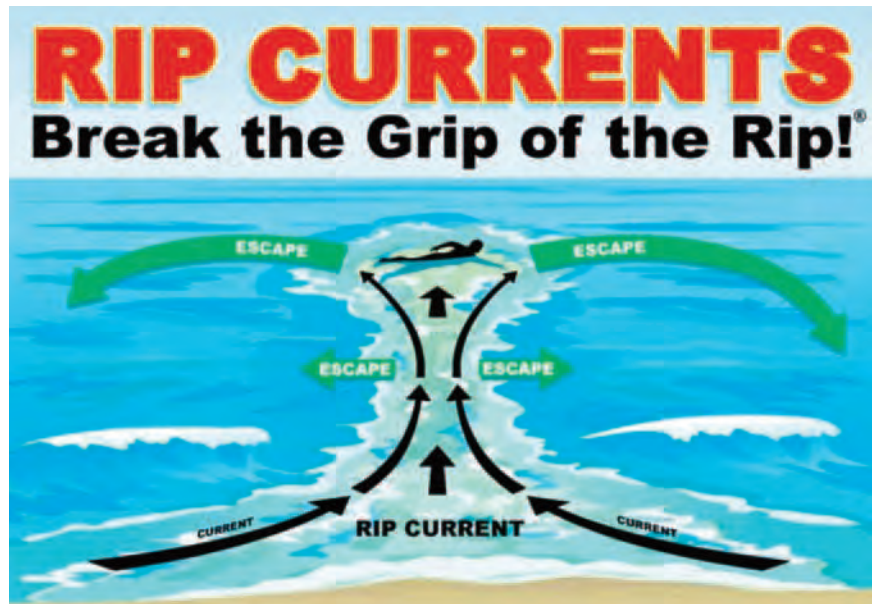
According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): *Rip currents are often referred to by lifeguards as drowning machines and are the leading cause of rescues for people in the surf. They are particularly dangerous for weak or non-swimmers, but a strong rip current is a hazard for even experienced swimmers. Rip current speeds are typically 1-2 feet per second, but speeds as high as 8 feet per second have been measured. That is faster than an Olympic swimmer! Drowning deaths occur when people, pulled away from the shoreline, are unable to keep themselves afloat and swim to shore. This may be due to any combination of fear, panic, exhaustion, or lack of swimming skills. Once people become tired, they can easily go under without flotation to hold onto. The United States Lifesaving Association estimates that the annual number of deaths due to rip currents on our nation's beaches exceeds 100. Rip currents account for over 80% of rescues performed by surf beach lifeguards.*



Anatomy of a rip current.
Courtesy of NOAA.

Rip currents are sometimes mistakenly called an “undertow” and sometimes a “rip tide.” Both of these are dangerous. Rip currents and rip tides are fast-moving seaward currents. A rip current is a horizontal motion, similar to a treadmill that carries people away from the shoreline. Essentially it is not something that pulls you “under”. And a rip tide may have current strength and can be affected by the tide (intensity is enhanced during the hours around low tide), rip currents are not tides and can exist during any part of the tidal cycle. Both can carry swimmers far from shore, and experts advise swimming parallel to the beach to escape either.

Learn more at
ripcurrents.noaa.gov



Watch video showing aerial footage of a real rip current as it forms off of the coast. Learn the science behind how a rip current forms, and how to survive if you're caught in one.

oceantoday.noaa.gov/fullmoon-ripcurrentscience/welcome.html



As we enter hurricane season, we will begin to hear reports about weather conditions of which we need to be very aware. First of all, are you signed up for ALERT MARTIN? This is a very helpful system letting you know first-hand what to expect in your area and whether or not you are required to evacuate. ★See information at the end of this chapter about how to sign up for this critically important free service.

What is the difference between a WATCH and a WARNING?

It is important to know the meaning of each designation!

A Hurricane Watch means hurricane conditions, with sustained winds of at least 74mph are possible in the area within 48 hours. It is time to pull out your storm-ready emergency kit and make the preparations to secure your home and know where you will go in case you are required to evacuate. Be sure your vehicle's gas tank is full, that you have all necessary medications, and make a visit to the ATM. Another good idea is to fully charge all of your technical media equipment (phones, watches, laptops, etc.) And don't forget about the needs of your pets!

A Hurricane Warning means hurricane-force conditions of sustained winds of at least 74mph are expected in the area within 36 hours or less. All residents living in a manufactured/mobile home or sub-standard housing must evacuate in a hurricane warning. Tropical storm-force winds not just hurricanes can cause catastrophic damage to these types of homes. Residents in low-lying areas and on barrier islands may also be required to evacuate depending upon the storm's projected path and flooding potential. When a storm threatens, do what you can to secure your home, then go directly to take safe refuge with friends, relatives, or at an applicable shelter.

Prior to a Watch or a Warning, learn where the nearest shelter is located and when appropriate if pets are permitted!

STORM SURGE NOAA reports: *Powerful winds aren't the only deadly force during a hurricane. The greatest threat to life actually comes from the water – in the form of storm surge. Storm surge is water from the ocean that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around the hurricane. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides and can increase the water level by 30 feet or more.*

Storm surge is not a gradual rising of water; it is a dome of water pushed ashore by powerful hurricane wind. The surge of water rushes in and quickly rushes out, sweeping back out to sea anything that is not secured. **Sadly, this includes people.**

When a storm surge is predicted it is not safe to merely go to your roof top...storm surge is powerful! It can wash houses off

their foundations and carry them out to sea. Even if you live away from the coast, there is still a risk of water traveling hundreds of miles inland as a result of storm surge. A storm surge prediction for your area is definitely time to evacuate...no questions asked, just LEAVE. To leave is to survive! Remember this mantra: Run from water, hide from wind.

Something I found exceptionally helpful was at www.martin.fl.us. Click on Martin County/Your County/Your Community. In the search bar that pops up type in Storm Surge Evacuation Zones. There you will find a link directly under "Know Your Zone" to a YouTube Video produced by Martin County Emergency Management.

Hobe Sound Beach Shop: Elevated Coastal Style for Life by the Water

Nestled in the charming coastal town of Hobe Sound, the Hobe Sound Beach Shop has become a destination for effortless resort style, elevated swimwear, and relaxed luxury for both men and women.

More than simply a boutique, the Hobe Sound Beach Shop embodies the essence of coastal living — where fashion meets sunshine, salt air, and an easy sophistication that feels both timeless and approachable. Whether you are dressing for a beachside lunch, a tropical getaway, a day on the boat, or an elegant evening by the water, the shop offers curated collections designed for life well lived.

At the heart of the store is a passionate and welcoming team dedicated to helping customers feel confident, stylish, and comfortable. At the flagship location at 9045 S.E. Bridge Road, Liz O'Connell and her husband Sean O'Connell bring warmth, hospitality, and a refined eye for fashion to the shopping experience. Their commitment to personalized service has helped create a loyal following among locals and visitors alike.

Just down the road at the second location, 8871 S.E. Bridge Road, customers are welcomed by husband & wife team Shareese & TJ, as well as Shawn, whose friendly energy and product knowledge continue the store's signature blend of elevated style and relaxed coastal charm. In addition to fashion and resort wear, this location also specializes in custom printing services, offering unique personalized solutions for businesses, events, and local organizations.

The Hobe Sound Beach Shop proudly carries a carefully selected mix of premium brands known for quality, fit, and sophisticated coastal design. Shoppers will find sought-after



Models Sean O'Connell and Liz O'Connell

Find the best marine-grade outdoor furniture at:

Hobe Sound Beach Shop Outdoor Furniture

Upgrade your outdoor living space with high-quality, durable, and stylish outdoor furniture from Hobe Sound Beach Shop:

- Adirondack Chairs
- Patio Sets
- Tables
- Chaise Lounges
- Umbrellas & More

labels including Vitamin A, Helen Jon, Steve Madden swimwear, Tommy Bahama, Swims, Maui Jim and Pelagic — each chosen to reflect the store's blend of modern elegance and laid-back coastal living.

From luxurious swimwear silhouettes and breezy resort pieces to polished menswear and vacation-ready accessories, the collections are designed to transition seamlessly from beach to dinner, from casual afternoons to sophisticated evenings.

In a world increasingly dominated by fast fashion and impersonal shopping, the Hobe Sound Beach Shop offers something refreshingly different: authentic service, beautifully curated collections, and a true sense of community. It is not simply about what you wear — it is about how you live, how you feel, and embracing the beauty of coastal life with confidence and style.

Whether you are a longtime local, seasonal resident, or simply passing through Florida's beautiful Treasure Coast, the Hobe Sound Beach Shop invites you to discover elevated coastal fashion designed for men and women who appreciate quality, elegance, and effortless style.

Nina Pucillo
R. Buyer &
Creative Director



Pamela Gallina: A Hobe Sound Renaissance Woman Who Turns Challenges into Masterpieces

Nestled along the sun-kissed shores of Hobe Sound, where the Atlantic beaches to the palms and quiet tree-lined neighborhoods hum with the rhythm of coastal life, there's a quiet force shaping the community's spirit. Meet Pamela Gallina: local artist, aviator, and self-proclaimed "challenge convert" whose life story reads like a Florida-sized adventure.

Ms. Gallina is a local artist and aviator who really has a knack for taking on a challenge. Whether it is choosing to make her art in fused glass, a highly demanding process which requires the use of 2 kilns and row after row of powdered glass in myriad colors, or choosing to focus on helicopters over winged aircraft in her professional career, it seems there is no challenge this Hobe Sound resident can't make into a passion rather than an obstacle.

From Memphis to Fort Lauderdale to Hobe Sound: A Journey of Resilience

Pamela's tale begins in Memphis, where her love affair with flight began. A blonde-haired horseback riding enthusiast as a young lady with a knack for defying expectations, she once rode horses with the grace of a seasoned rider. But fate had other plans. A tragic horseback accident left her partially paralyzed, a setback that could have ended her ambitions.

Instead, Pamela chose to soar—literally. She embarked on a successful career within aviation, becoming Courier for FedEx and then a Crew Scheduler, as well as flying both her own airplanes and helicopters.

With characteristic determination, she transitioned from stables to skies, earning her wings as a pilot instructor featured in radio and TV stations and later working with the FAA and Sikorsky.

Her career spanned decades, but it was her passion for helicopters that truly set her apart. "Helicopters are like puzzles," she says with a laugh. "They're tricky, but that's what makes them thrilling."

Yet Pamela's story is far from over. In 1999, she discovered another form of flight—art. Inspired by a friend's church, she crafted a sprawling rainbow glass sculpture to hang over the altar. What began as a hobby soon became a lifelong obsession.

Glass Art: A Labor of Love

Pamela's glasswork is a testament to her unyielding creativity. Her studio, cluttered with row after row of powdered glass in hues that rival the Florida sky, houses two kilns—each a workhorse in its own right. The heavier of the two, she admits, is "a beast to lift," but it's worth every strain.

Her process is as meticulous as it is magical. "I start with a vision, then let the glass tell me where to go," she explains. Her pieces often blend bold colors and intricate patterns, capturing the essence of Florida's natural beauty and her own resilience. Though she's only participated in one art festival, Pamela says her work is more than a hobby—it's a passion that could grow.

Feathers, Flight, and Faith

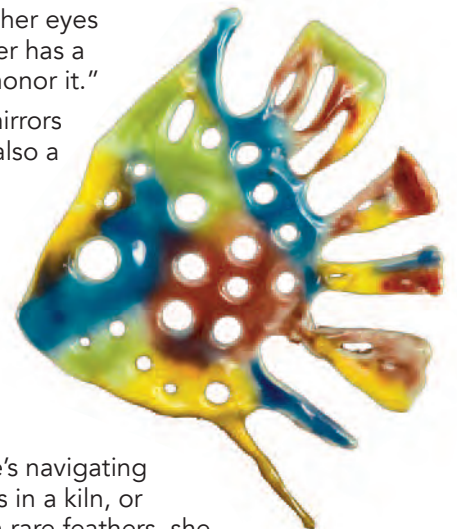
Beyond glass, Pamela's talents stretch into the realm of making hatbands. Her creations are adorned with rare bird feathers—peacock, in particular—a material now scarce due to conservation efforts. "I collect them like stories," she says, her eyes sparkling. "Each feather has a history, and I want to honor it."

Her spiritual journey mirrors her artistic one. She's also a mentor, teaching paraplegic students how to fly—proof that her aviation roots run deep.

Pamela's story is a microcosm of Florida's spirit: resilient, resourceful, and full of surprises. Whether she's navigating the skies, melting glass in a kiln, or crafting hatbands from rare feathers, she turns obstacles into opportunities.



Pamela Gallina proudly holds one of her feathered hatband creations.







A Purple Flower of Love

As the Hobe Sound Beach Shop's owner, Richard O'Connell, once said, "Florida isn't just a place—it's a mindset." Pamela embodies that mindset, proving that even life's most unexpected detours can lead to extraordinary destinations.

A Portrait of Perseverance

For Pamela, this portrait is more than a likeness—it's a celebration of a woman who turned tragedy into triumph, and passion into purpose. In a town where the sun always shines and the waves never stop, Pamela Gallina is a reminder that the greatest stories are written by those who dare to rise.

Pamela Galina can be found on  Facebook and  Instagram

[@glassygirlsart](#)

Follow her for in-person class offerings and Art Pieces available to purchase.

Alex Rheker

Contributing Writer, *Turtle Times*





SAGE ELECTRIC

— OF SOUTH FLORIDA LLC —

Proudly Serving the
TREASURE COAST
SINCE 2018

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL ELECTRICAL SERVICES

-  Service Calls
-  Panel Upgrades & Repairs
-  Remodels & New Construction
-  Lighting Installation & LED Upgrades
-  Generator & Transfer Switch Installation
-  EV Chargers
-  Landscape & Security Lighting
-  Home Automation, Audio/Video & Lighting Controls
-  Dock, Boat Lift & RV Power
-  Commercial Build-Outs & Maintenance

SCAN ME



10% OFF

ANY SERVICE CALL!

★ ★ ★

Thank you for supporting local!

FREE ESTIMATES!



LICENSED & INSURED
EC-13008935



772.600.7730

CALL TODAY!

**LOCAL.
RELIABLE.
TRUSTED.**



5

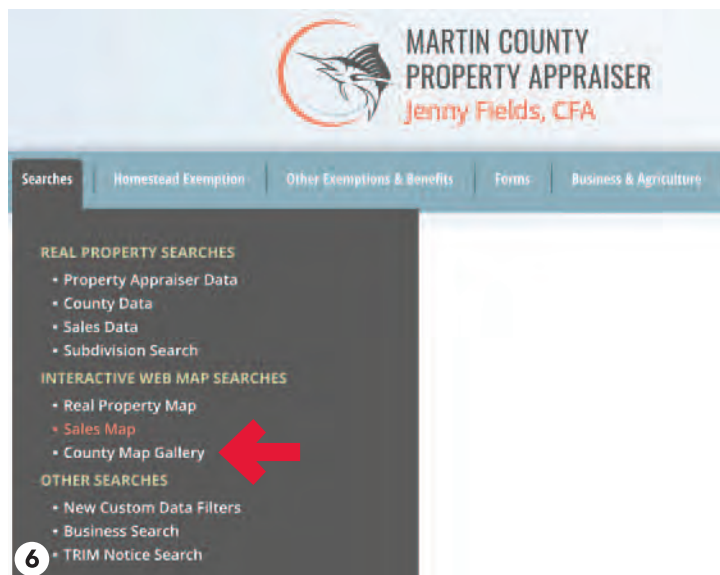
FLOOD ZONE is another risk factor to consider that comes from strong tropical storms. Meteorologists at the National Weather Service in Melbourne, Florida, remind us that, flooding does not just come from the ocean. If there is a heavy rain band during a hurricane, or other major rain episode, there could be flooding even in non-flood zones because the rain falls so quickly. Folks need to be prepared for flooding that can occur from heavy rain at any time there is a tropical storm.

Flood zones are defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as geographic areas of varying levels of flood risk. These zones are depicted on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and reflect the severity or type of flooding in the area. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), are used to determine flood insurance premium rates and some building code requirements.

The best way to find out if you are in a flood zone is to go to FEMA Flood Map Service Center at msc.fema.gov/portal/home and enter your exact address.



Another option is to use the local county's property appraiser website. In Martin County that is www.pamartinfl.gov. These two sites have a great deal of information regarding flood zones, evacuation routes, and location of local shelters. As an example, if you go to the Martin Property Appraiser site click on the "Searches" tab, then "County Map Gallery", then "Emergency" there you will see options for routes and shelters as well as additional helpful information. In both cases it takes a few steps, but both are full of enormously helpful information in much more detail than can be reported in this limited article. I highly recommend taking a look prior to an emergency situation to familiarize yourself with the sites so that if the need should arise you will know exactly where to look for the information to help you through a time of crisis.



For those who don't use computers your best option in Martin County is to call 772-287-1652. There you can enroll in the Emergency Shelter Program. It is most especially important if you have special needs and will require transportation to a shelter. You can enroll at any time prior to an emergency event and then should there be an urgent situation in your area you will have immediate assistance

More weather-related names we often hear during weather predictions are El Niño and La Niña. Once again, we refer to NOAA for clarification of the meaning and impacts of these two important weather trends.



El Niño (The Warm Phase): The Trade winds blowing east-to-west weaken, allowing warm surface water in the Pacific to "slosh" eastward toward the Americas. Upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich water off the South American coast slows or stops.



La Niña (The Cold Phase): Trade winds become even stronger than usual, pushing massive amounts of warm water toward Asia and allowing deep, cold, nutrient-rich water to upwell along the Americas.

Because these temperature and wind changes alter atmospheric pressure, they affect global weather patterns:

- **El Niño:** Often brings warmer winters to the northern United States/Canada and wetter, stormier conditions to the southern US and Gulf Coast. It causes drier conditions in Indonesia and Australia and can suppress Atlantic hurricane activity by increasing wind shear.
- **La Niña:** Typically leads to drier weather in the southern US, heavy rains and flooding in the Pacific Northwest and western Canada, and much colder winters in the northern US. It is often associated with more severe Atlantic hurricane seasons.

In early June 2026 NOAA officially issued an El Niño Advisory, confirming its arrival. "Forecasters predict it will rapidly intensify, with a 63% chance of developing into a "very strong" event between November 2026 and January 2027, potentially ranking among the largest historical events recorded since 1950."

Indications are that anticipated impacts will affect global temperatures with El Niño supercharging weather patterns. 2026 is virtually certain to remain near historic record highs. Generally, the developing wind shear and atmospheric conditions will typically lead to a below-normal Atlantic hurricane season, a trend reflected in NOAA's official outlook. As for Florida, the effect can be "hurricane suppression" because historically, El Niño years produce fewer Atlantic storms due to elevated wind shear disrupting tropical development. Therefore, it is expected to reduce overall storm activity for the rest of the 2026 season. That being said, forecasters remind Floridians that it is not a reason to sit back and think it will not be a hurricane season to worry about. The truth of the matter is that Atlantic storms can still form and track toward Florida. Residents should absolutely stay alert and maintain the preparations made to assure safety in the event of a storm arriving on our shores.

NOAA further states that, "Stronger events heavily tilt the odds for expected weather outcomes, bringing wetter-than-average conditions to the southern United States (including Florida) and drier, warmer weather to the northern tier."

Columbia University Global climate models indicate that 2026 will be about as hot as 2025, rather than notably cooler. Both years rank among the warmest in recorded history.

The goal here is that the information offered will be helpful to each one who reads the *Turtle Times* and that the reader will share it with family and friends who can benefit from knowing

the meaning of communications and predictions that are part of everyday life for those living in South Florida.



★AlertMartin is a free service provided by Martin County that allows Emergency Management, Fire Rescue, Utilities, Martin County Sheriff's Office and municipal partners to send important public safety messages and other timely warnings by phone, text or email to those who have signed up for the alert notifications.

Emergency notifications will be issued when there are imminent threats to life, health and safety for residents and visitors of Martin County. This can include, but is not limited to, severe weather events, evacuation orders, flooding, boil water notices, gas leaks and more.

To receive alerts tailored to your location, you can sign up at martin.fl.us or simply Google AlertMartin. You need only to provide your address, preferred contact method, and the types of notifications you'd like to receive. You can update or delete your information at any time. The information you provide is protected and will not be used for any other purpose.

If you prefer to receive only county-wide weather alerts, you can easily sign up by texting ALERTMARTIN to 888777, or by signing up online.

Some trivia of interest:

- Frequency of rip currents are very common on sandy beaches daily, whereas "rip tide" is a more specific term often misused to describe a rip current.
- Appearance of both rip currents and rip tides can look like a calm, darker gap between breaking waves, often filled with churning, sandy water or debris moving away from the shore.
- For your safety, if you find yourself caught up in a rip current or tide, do not fight the current. Swim parallel to the shoreline, outside of the narrow current, and then head back to shore once you are no longer being carried by the current.
- If you cannot escape, just float or tread water, and wave your arms to signal for help.
- Reminder– Hurricane categories

5

157 mph or higher

Catastrophic damage will occur. A high percentage of homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

4

130-156 mph

Catastrophic damage will occur. Homes may sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

3

111-129 mph

Devastating damage will occur. Homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Trees will be snapped or uprooted. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.

2

96-110 mph

Extremely dangerous. Major roof and siding damage. Shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

1

74-95 mph

Very dangerous Damage to roof, shingles, siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages.

Turtle Times

We're Going Local & Digital!

The Turtle Times is moving to **LOCAL PICK-UP & DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY** to save trees, reduce waste, and protect the place we all love. ♥

 Pick up free local copies at select locations

 Read online anytime, anywhere

 Same great local stories, better for our coast


A POSITIVE CHANGE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

-  Fewer trees used
-  Less transportation
-  Less waste
-  More impact



♥ *Thank you for helping us keep Hobe Sound beautiful for future generations.*

Visit our website to read future issues:

 <https://hobesoundbeachshop.com/turtle-times/>

A little Trivia from Dictionary.com

admix: [ad-miks] verb. *to mingle with or add to something else*

Want to **admix** something exciting to your current summer wardrobe? Just pop into the Hobe Sound Beach Shop for a huge selection of men's and ladies' up-to-the minute styles. And to further **admix** your choices, you'll find accessories and beach must-haves for added tons of fun! Don't forget to pick up some Dom's steak tips, turkey tips or sausages for your sure-to-please everyone, 4th of July backyard barbecue!

AMERICA Happy Birthday America



This year marks the 250th anniversary of the United States—a historic milestone known as the Semiquincentennial, Sestercentennial, or Quarter Millennium. On July 4, 1776, the Second

Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, establishing the nation's independence and beginning a new chapter in history.

As we celebrate 250 years of the United States, we honor the people, ideals, and events that have shaped our country and look forward to the generations yet to come. Happy Independence Day!



Redeem this **Friends of Markie Bananas** coupon for

\$25 off

your next purchase* at the **Hobe Sound Beach Shop**

*On orders greater than \$100. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

The Tax Watchdog Report You Can't Ignore

Item	Amount	Notes
Administrative Costs	\$85,000	
County Salaries	\$15,250,000	
Public Supplies	\$120,000	
Consulting Fees	\$580,000	
New Facilities Project	\$3,750,000	
Repairs	\$4,200,000	

You can't fight what you can't see.

We track where your tax dollars go...budgets, spending, and decisions that hit your wallet, so you stay informed and prepared.



Stay Informed – Scan the QR code to sign up for our newsletter & invites to our "Insight Series," a community event where you can meet and speak with influential leaders & entrepreneurs.

MCTaxpayers.org

Available to Speak at Private Events



Martin County
Taxpayers Association



CUSTOM PRINTING

Sublimation. Embroidery. Screen Printing.

Location: 8871 SE Bridge Rd, Hobe Sound, FL, 33455

Phone: 772-245-8205

Email: shareese@hobesoundbeachshop.com

Sarah Chapman

REALTOR®
ILLUSTRATED

Luxury service,
local expertise,
proven results.

C. 561-758-4389

O. 561-746-0008

SarahChapman.Realtor@gmail.com

SChapman.IPRE.Com



Forbes

PALM & STONE

CONSTRUCTION

REFINED CONSTRUCTION FOR COASTAL HOMES

Contact us

website: palmandstone.build

email: contact@palmandstone.build

phone: 678-237-8526

The Midnight Ride of Dom Revere

Every great journey begins with a plan. Ours began with a plane ticket, a rental car reservation, and a mission that seemed simple enough: bring 700 pounds of Dom's famous steak tips from Malden, Massachusetts to the Hobe Sound Beach Shop.

What could possibly go wrong?

My Uncle Markie Bananas and I boarded an early flight to Boston with confidence. The moment we landed, we headed straight to the rental counter, secured our trusty chariot for the journey home, and pointed it towards Malden.

Waiting for us at headquarters was the man himself—Dom.

As we loaded box after box of steak tips into the vehicle, it became clear that this wasn't just a steak tip run. This was an odyssey. Seven hundred pounds of marinated perfection carefully packed and destined for a beach town nearly 1,500 miles away.

With the cargo secured, Markie B and I shook hands with Dom, climbed into the vehicle, and set off into the night.

Like Paul Revere before us, we had a message to deliver. Except instead of warning the colonies that the British were coming, we were bringing the hallowed steak tips to Southern Florida.

For 21.5 straight hours, we pushed south.

As darkness turned to sunrise and sunrise turned to another day, the anticipation grew. We weren't carrying just boxes of steak tips—we were transporting a little piece of Massachusetts to Hobe Sound.

Finally, exhausted but victorious, we rolled into the Hobe Sound Beach Shop parking lot.



Markie Bananas O'Connell, Dom Botticelli, and Sean O'Connell

Standing there waiting for us was Big John Thomas.

Like a welcoming committee for weary travelers returning from battle, Big John helped unload every last pound of cargo. Together we carried box after box into the shop, completing the final leg of what had become a legendary expedition.

When the last steak tips were safely inside, we stood back and admired the fruits of our labor.

Seven hundred pounds.

Twenty-one and a half hours.

Two determined O'Connells.

One Big John.

And enough steak tips to make a little corner of Florida feel like home.

The history books may never tell the tale, but those of us who lived it, know the truth.

Paul Revere had his midnight ride.

We had ours.

The Midnight Ride of Dom Revere.

Sean O'Connell
Director of Operations
Hobe Sound Beach Shop



The Shadow Chronicles – Episode 3: The Case of the Midnight Sock Bandit

Woof, friends! Shadow here, Hobe Sound Beach Shop's shop dog back at it again for Shadow Chronicles.

Last month, I discovered that my prized sock had vanished without a trace. After uncovering a suspicious trail of paw prints near the back door of the shop, I knew I was dealing with a professional. The question was: who?

For weeks, I worked the case. I conducted stakeouts on Fridays at beach volleyball, I interviewed several seagulls at Jupiter Island Beach (they were not helpful). I even questioned a suspicious squirrel behind our new shop location near Scooters and he was nuts!

Every lead went cold.

Then, one evening after the shop closed, I decided to go on a sunset walk with Sean and Liz.

Then, just as I was beginning to lose faith, I caught a whiff of something familiar yet a distant memory.

As I slowly lifted my head following the trail through the sand, nose to the ground, carefully tracking as my parents are chasing behind me. The scent grew stronger. Just beyond a sea oat patch, I spotted it.

My sock.

Partially buried in the sand. Poking out ever so slightly.

Nearby was a marked sea turtle nest.

I sat down and studied the scene. It looked like the wind had carried my sock across the beach and deposited it near the protected nesting area. Just Mother Nature playing a prank on me.

As much as I wanted my legendary sock back, I know it's important not to retrieve the sock. Sea turtles return to our beaches every year to lay their eggs, and those nests need

plenty of space and protection. Disturbing a nest—even accidentally—can put future hatchlings at risk.

So I did what any responsible beach dog would do and kept my distance.

After all, protecting our beach and the animals that call it home is more important than any sock, even one of Hall-of-Fame quality.

I carefully turned around and headed back to Sean and Liz to continue our sunset beach walk, feeling proud that our community works hard to protect these incredible visitors.

Of course, I'll still be keeping an eye out for a replacement sock.

But for now I'll enjoy admiring this sock safely and if I get lucky enough to see the hatchlings make their way to the ocean that would be a great story to tell.

Stay tuned.

By Shadow O'Connell 🐾



Even I know it's faster and smarter to hire the pros!

WHITE GLOVE
MOVING STORAGE & DELIVERY

No Deposits
No Hidden
Fees

MOVING MADE EASY!
772-778-4750
www.WhiteGloveUSA.com



SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

Semiquincentennial is the formal name for the 250th anniversary of the July 4, 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 2026 we will be celebrating this momentous occasion all around our country. It's not really hard to pronounce if you break it down into three parts -- semi quin centennial.

The word comes from Latin. Semi means half, and quincentennial refers to a 500-year anniversary thus, a 250-year anniversary. Another way of saying the same thing is sestercentennial referencing a quarter millennium.

Whether you prefer "America 250" or "USA 250" or "Semiquincentennial" it is still "Happy Birthday America"! However you decide to celebrate, family get togethers, a day at the beach, a yummy barbecue, watching fireworks, or whatever else would be fun, just stay safe, and enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime happening. The next big celebration will be in 2076 for the tricentennial (300th). How many remember the bicentennial in 1976?



For the latest Beach Shop happenings find us on Instagram

Read past **Turtle Times** issues online at hobesoundbeachshop.com

Richard O'Connell *General Superintendent*
 Barbara Kleine Mclaughlin *Founder*
 Janet Kleine Otten *Turtle Times Managing Editor*

Supporting Staff

Mark O'Connell *COO & Outside Sales*
 Sean O'Connell *Director of Operations*
 Liz O'Connell *Event Coordinator*
 Nina Pucillo *Buyer*

Sales Staff

Shareese Grace *General Manager of Custom Printing*
 TJ Grace *Printing Manager & Sales Associate*
 Frankie Sanders *Sales Associate*
 Shawn Leavitt *Printing and Sales Associate*

Contributing Writers

Janet Kleine Otten
 Sean O'Connell
 Shadow O'Connell
 Nina Pucillo
 Alex Rhenker

Turtle Times Distribution

Mark O'Connell

Turtle Times Design

Nancy Lee, Brown Bird Studio



**Hobe Sound Beach Shops are open
 Monday - Saturday: 10am-6pm • Closed Sunday
hobesoundbeachshop.com**