

POLITICS AND GOSSIP

OAS visiting South Florida this summer

The Organization of American States will hold its conference at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale this summer.

Boca Raton resident **Randy Schultz**, editorial page editor for the *Palm Beach Post*, dropped a bombshell in his column Sunday by suggesting building the Scripps Institute at an alternative site in Palm Beach County, west of Jupiter, nearer to the turnpike, to cut back on massive infrastructure costs to taxpayers for the huge project. Acreage residents are also opposed to the original site and his editorial could throw a monkey wrench into the big undertaking.

Boca Raton tennis star **Andy Roddick**, 21, has been named to People Magazine's top 50 bachelors list.

Republican U.S. Congressman **E. Clay Shaw**, who co-authored the \$8.4 billion Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, appeared at a board meeting of the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation in West Palm Beach to support Everglades restoration. The foundation is a non-profit group that works toward preserving the Florida Everglades.

"The Everglades is a priceless resource that must be preserved," said Shaw.

More than 60 guests attended a cocktail party for the Republican Jewish Coalition given Monday at the home of Boca lawyer **Ken Lipman** and his physician wife, **Madelyn**. Former HUD Secretary and U.S. Senate candidate **Mel Martinez** was the guest speaker.

Also attending were Florida Attorney General **Charlie Crist**, state Rep. **Adam Hasner**, Dade County State Attorney candidate **Leslie Rothenberg** and Republican Jewish Coalition national leader and Boca resident **Ned Siegel**.

The American Association of Retired Persons has announced it is joining forces with Attorney General **Charlie Crist** to block the proposed \$355 million telephone rate hike passed by lawmakers who are accused of selling out to the industry.

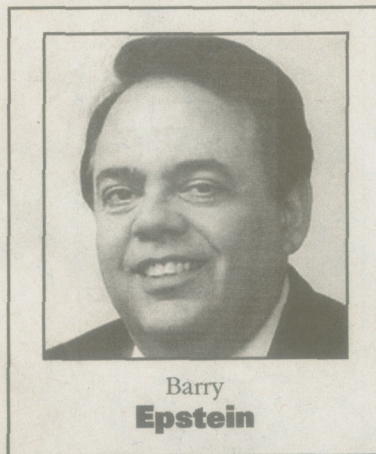
Boca Raton resident **Jeffrey Wagner** has filed to run in the District 5 School Board race against **Mark Hansen**.

Flick pick of the week: "Fahrenheit 911" by award-winning **Michael Moore**, opening tomorrow at the Sunrise Deerfield Cinema and Mizner Park. Visit www.michaelmoore.com for further information about the movie and background.

Olympic Gold medal winner **Bob Beamon** led the New York City portion of the Olympic Torch run.

Rumor has it that **Abe & Louie's**, an upscale Boston steakhouse, will be taking the space of the former Hooters and Moe's in Glades Plaza on Glades Road. Moe's will relocate to the former Shoe Bazaar location in the plaza.

A New Horizon, one of the good guys in the credit counseling business, is expanding from Deerfield Beach to the new Financial Solutions Tower (former Cleveland Clinic Building) on Cypress Creek Road in Fort



Barry
Epstein

Lauderdale. But AmeriDebt Inc., a company that counsels customers about managing their debt, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

"Take Me Out" is a winner, now at the Caldwell Theatre through July 18, but showgoers should beware, as it features full frontal male nudity. Call 241-7432 for further information and ticket reservations.

Onboard spending on cruise lines is booming, particularly gaming, offshore tours, photos and spa services.

Struggling Delta Airline's discount airline Song has hit a sour note and is cutting back on flights to reduce costs, as they are having difficulty competing with other discounters such as JetBlue, Spirit, and AirTran.

South Florida Cuban residents send \$800 million a year to Cuba and Mexican illegal aliens send an estimated \$300 million a year back home.

Florida Power & Light is joining

a business consortium to lower prescription drug costs for its employees.

Bankrupt Adelphia Cable, with more than 600,000 subscribers in Palm Beach, Broward and Martin counties, is pressuring homeowners and condominium associations to renegotiate their contracts and double the \$15 bulk rate price on contracts. Bankruptcy laws allow for renegotiations, but associations are balking and looking into alternative services. Residential customers should look for rate hikes soon.

A court-appointed receiver for Mutual Benefits, a South Florida viatical insurance firm, revealed the company was running a Ponzi scam by using new investor cash to pay off old customers. The company was accused of fraud by the Securities and Exchange Commission and state insurance regulators. A receiver was appointed to keep funds from being diverted, but company officials have denied any wrongdoing and are seeking to regain control.

Delray Beach Police Chief **Larry Schroeder** was invited to attend the 49th session of the Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, June 13-25.

Congratulations to civic/political activists, **Murray and Rosalyn Kalish**, celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on June 27 at the South County Civic Center in Delray Beach with friends and neighbors.

A free one-hour preview bus tour for West Boca residents, of the new South County Regional Park expansion, which will include a 27-hole state-of-the-art public golf course, water sports, picnic facilities and amphitheater will leave from Loggers Run Middle School on Palmetto Park Road in West Boca on Monday at 6 p.m. Call 451-9992.

Public input is being requested by the Delray Beach Parks & Recreation Department as the implementation of the special bond referendum, passed in January, is about to begin. This includes the establishment of a new western community center (west of I-95) and the expansion of the Pompey Park Recreation Center. Hearings are set for June 28 and July 8. For further information, call 243-7251.

U.S. Rep. **Alcee L. Hastings** hosts a Carver Square Town Hall Meeting on "The Investigation" at the Village Academy, 400 SW 12 Ave., Delray Beach, on Wednesday, June 30, at 7 p.m. with panelists from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Delray Beach.

Barry Epstein is the president of barry r. epstein associates, inc. a full service public relations, marketing and political consulting firm. Visit www.publicrelations.nu for further information. The South Florida Business Report furnished items for the column. Other items for the column may be emailed to: pr@publicrelations.nu or faxed to 451-0000. Previous columns may be accessed at www.bocanews.com.