

LOCAL BUSINESS PEOPLE TO WATCH

Got a new job? Been promoted? Did your firm win an award?
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NEWSMAKERS

Banking

Five banking executives have joined J.P. Morgan's private banking office in Palm Beach. They are: **Michael Becker** and **Ginny Neal** as senior private bankers from BNY Mellon Wealth Management and GenSpring Family offices, respectively; **Alyssa Feder** has been promoted to wealth adviser; and **Brad Jankowski** and **Gavin McNally** have been hired as associates.



Benz **DiSilvestro** **Mussary** **Horvath**



Stearns **Clancy** **Downing** **Shoaf**

Miscellaneous

Carl Stearns has been hired by **Massage & Fitness Professionals for the Treasure Coast** in Stuart. Stearns has 19 years of experience, specializing in deep tissue, sports and Shiatsu massage.

secretary is **Arthur J. Menor** of **Shutts & Bowen LLP**; treasurer is **James B. Hutchison** of **Caler, Donten, Levine, Porter & Veil PA**; general counsel is **Hugh William Perry, Gunster** law firm; and immediate past chair is **Laurie S. Silvers** of **Hollywood Media Corp.**

Construction

Tom Benz has been hired by **Kaufman Lynn Construction** as director of business development. Benz will be responsible for business development opportunities with private development clients.

Legal

Broad and Cassel in West Palm Beach has received recognition from **Chambers USA: A Guide to America's Leading Business Lawyers** 2010 edition. Attorneys **Kathleen Deutsch, Clifford Hertz** and **Patricia Lebow** have been recognized by the directory as well.

Medical

Boca Raton Regional Hospital announced the appointment of the following physicians to the hospital's medical staff: **Clarice M. Staves** is board certified in pediatrics and neonatology; **John A. DiSilvestro**, who is a cardiovascular disease physician; **Jordan Mussary**, who is also board certified in pediatrics; and **Edward Horvath**, who is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology.

Nonprofit

The members of the 2010-2011 **Leadership Palm Beach County's Executive Committee**: **Ron Harbison, Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra**, is president; **Thomas Jensen, ARCADIS**, is first vice president; **Monte Resnick, Neuberger Berman LLC**, is second vice president; **David Green** of **Fox Rothschild LLP** is treasurer; and **Laura Deck Cunningham** of **Charlotte Pelton & Associates** is past president.

The **Economic Council of Palm Beach County Inc.** in West Palm Beach announced the following new officers elected to the board of directors: **Nathaniel Roberts** of **Managed Citrus Inc.**, is chairman; chair-elect is **Jonathan R. Satter** of **WGCompass Realty Companies**;

Retail

Mark Zisk has joined the sales department of **Johnson Honda** in Stuart. Zisk has over 10 years of automotive sales experience in South Florida.

The **Library Foundation of Martin County** named **Leo C. Clancy** as the board president and **Patty Downing** and **David C. Shoaf** as directors. Clancy is retired from **Booz Allen & Hamilton** and served as vice president of the board last year. Downing is the owner of **Patty Downing Interiors Inc.** and has been active on the board since 2001. Shoaf is president of the **Stuart-Sunrise Rotary Charitable Foundation** and serves as the assistant governor for **Rotary International**.

NOTES

Awards

Crane's BeachHouse Hotel & Tiki Bar in Delray Beach has received the **Donal A. Dermody White Glove Award** for housekeeping excellence from the **Florida Superior Small Lodging Association** for the second year in a row. **Cathy Balestriere** is the general manager.

Tara Biek Creative in Stuart has received the outstanding small business philanthropist award. The **historical Society of Martin County** and the **United Way** nominated the agency for their pro bono work for nonprofits.

Currie Sowards Aguila Architects in Delray Beach has received an honor award for excellence for the design of the **City of Delray Beach Fire Training Tower** from the Palm Beach Chapter of the **American**

Institute of Architects.

Seacoast National Bank in Stuart is a winner of the **Best Places to Work in Martin County** for excelling in the areas of employment attraction and retention.

Deals

Blue Frog Solutions in Pompano Beach has announced a strategic partnership with **CAPITAS Financial** to integrate Blue Frog's AFFIRM technology with the CAPITAS Quick Life solution to create AFFIRM for Quick Life, a life insurance platform.

Miscellaneous

Rosner's, an appliance and electronics store in West Palm Beach, has been in business for one hundred years and is in the fourth

generation of the Rosner family.

Green Century Capital Management announced that **Northern Trust Investments NA** has assumed the investment subadvisor role for their Equity Fund. Northern Trust will perform the day-to-day portfolio management for the Equity Fund.

Moved

MarcumRachlin, an independent public accounting and advisory service firm, has leased space in **CityPlace Office Tower** on Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach.

Openings

Deck 84 has opened on the waterfront at 840 E. Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach. **Burt Rapoport** is the owner.

MOVING UP

Nancy LaVista's favorite quote:

'Nothing is ever lost, it is only misplaced.'

— Nancy LaVista

Nancy LaVista

Distinction: First female president of the local chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates

Place of business: West Palm Beach

Medical malpractice attorney Nancy LaVista enjoys making a difference in people's lives.

She's been tending to the needs of people in need for a long time, first as a critical care nurse, next as a lawyer.

"Most people who come to me have been catastrophically injured or have lost a loved one," she says.

Recently, she was named as a partner at the new firm of Clark, Fountain, LaVista, Prather, Keen & Littky-Rubin. Previously, the attorneys were partners with the law firm of Lytal, Reiter, Clark, Fountain & Williams.

"We wanted to practice law a little differently," LaVista said about starting the new firm. "It was time to move on."

LaVista is also the president — the first female one — of the local chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, an organization whose goal is elevating the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, furthering the education and training of trial lawyers and promoting efficient administration of justice.

Her chapter was just recognized as Chapter of the Year by the national organization.

Born and raised in East Quogue, NY., LaVista was 16 when her mother died from an aneurysm.



BRUCE R. BENNETT/Staff Photographer

Medical malpractice attorney Nancy LaVista is a partner at the new law firm of Clark, Fountain, LaVista, Prather, Keen & Littky-Rubin.

Biography

Age: Mid-50s

Education: Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of Michigan School of Nursing and a law degree from the University of Miami Law School.

Personal: Divorced; resides with her significant other since 1995 in Juno Beach.

Hobbies: 'Horseback riding and fishing.' She was a mate on a deep sea-fishing boat when she was a teen.

Career highlights: '1) \$35 million verdict on behalf of a brain-damaged child, which was one of the top verdicts in the country that year. 2) Making the legislature have a special session so the Guardian ad Litem program was not cut.'

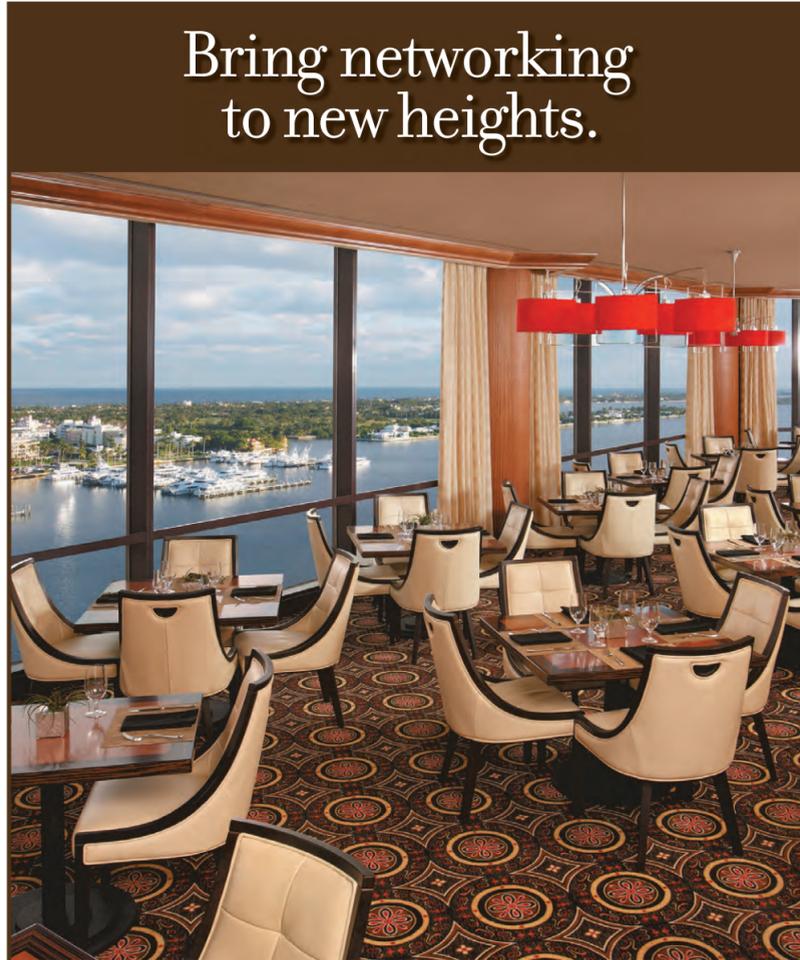
"I tried to save her with CPR," she said, adding that her mother, who had a degree in pharmacy, had always aspired to become a nurse. LaVista became one in her mother's honor.

After a divorce in 1987, LaVista decided to go back to school to become either a doctor or

a lawyer. She felt medical school would take too long, so she chose law.

"I wanted to defend doctors until I found out I would really be defending insurance companies," she said. She opted for medical malpractice law and has been successful at it since.

— Mary Thurwachter



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