HOBE SOUND BEACH SHOP

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

A HODGE PODGE of some interesting SNIPPETS!

A HODGEPODGE according to Merriam Webster refers to *a chaotic gathering of things that don't quite fit together.* Some synonyms might be: Mishmash (A confused or disordered mixture of things); Jumble (A disorganized or confused collection); Mélange (A varied mixture or assortment)

And what is a SNIPPET? It is a noun essentially meaning a small part, piece or thing, especially a brief quotable passage. Some synonyms would be: bit, speck, morsel or smidgen, scrap, patch, or even a sliver.

By way of explanation: when I do research for the chapters of "Our History is a Treasure", whether it's from personal interviews, or from the many books I've accumulated, or maybe even online through the numerous available and extremely helpful and informative online sources, I wind up with a lot of information that just doesn't fit into the particular chapter I'm working on. I save those tidbits and snippets and think it would be fun to create a "hodgepodge" of data for the *Turtle Times.*

With all that said, I am offering here some snippets I found really interesting and thought it would be worth sharing some of them with *Turtle Times* readers. A kind of "trivia" or perhaps "hodgepodge" of a mixture of topics all brought together. Some of what I've gathered are amazing, and eye-opening, and some are just plain fun!

Snippet #1

What is the nearby body of water that flows north and south, and notably in our area, is flanked by Hobe Sound on its western edge and Jupiter Island on its eastern edge? It is the INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY– NOT the INTERCOASTAL WATERWAY.

Because the two terms sound almost identical, "intercoastal" is routinely used as a mistaken name for the U.S. Intracoastal Waterway (ICW). The prefix inter is used to refer to something "between" two, or more than two, groups or places, for example, "international" refers to relationships between countries. Whereas intra is used to indicate that something is happening "within" the same group, system or place, or relationships that stay internal. For example, "intranet" refers to a network used within an organization.

To put it more simply: **Inter** is between different groups (across boundaries), while **Intra** is within one group (an internal activity).

Essentially the Intracoastal Waterway is a 3,000-mile (4,800 km) inland waterway along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts **within** the United States, running from Massachusetts southward along the Atlantic Seaboard and around the southern tip of Florida, then following the Gulf Coast to Brownsville, Texas. Some sections of the waterway consist of natural inlets, saltwater rivers, bays, and sounds, while others are artificial canals. The ICW is maintained, improved, and extensively dredged where necessary by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide a navigable route along its length without many of the hazards of travel on the open seas thus providing a tide water **inland route (intra)**, secure from storms and enemies.



Sign located at the Deep Creek Lock on the Dismal Swamp Canal, a segment of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Chesapeake, Virginia.

It serves as a mileage guide for boaters, displaying distances to various cities relative to the lock.

Snippet #2

While we're talking about waterways, let's learn a little bit about the **Gulf Stream!**

In *Turtle Times* Chapter Twenty-three Our History is a Treasure, we learned about the critical role the Gulf Stream played in the history and naming of the "Treasure Coast". In particular, the twelve-vessel armada known as the Spanish Fleet of 1715, was traveling north from Havana, Cuba back to Spain following along the Gulf Stream as the treasure-laden ships of that time did. They were loaded with extraordinary riches from the New World and were subsequently shipwrecked along the coast of La Florida in an unexpected and horrendous hurricane on

July 31st of that year resulting in millions of gold and silver coins, gold bars, precious gems and many other valuables being deposited on the sea floor along the coast.

What exactly is the Gulf Stream and how much does the average person know about it? It is an important part of our environment and as mentioned, certainly a major part of our history, particularly on the east coast of Florida.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), *"The Gulf Stream is a swift, warm ocean current that originates in the Gulf of Mexico, flows up the U.S. East Coast, and crosses the Atlantic toward Europe as the North Atlantic Current. It is crucial for global climate, transporting massive amounts of tropical heat that moderate winters in Western Europe."* ScienceDirect.com further describes the Gulf Stream as *"significantly influencing the climate of Northern Europe and impacting marine ecosystems by transporting plankton, which are essential to the food chain."*

Worthy of note, the Gulf Stream is one of the world's strongest currents flowing up to 5.6 miles per hour and moves nearly 4 billion cubic feet of water every second from Florida to Europe. At FAU's Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center, researchers are harnessing this powerful force of nature into energy solutions for Florida's coastal communities.

The current is swiftest near Florida and slows to roughly 1 mph (1.6km/h) as it widens and moves north. Moving north near the eastern coast of the United States, it carries a volume of water greater than all the world's rivers combined. It acts like a "conveyer belt." As the warm water moves north, it cools and evaporates, increasing its density. The heavy water sinks into the deep ocean and flows southward, forming a continuous global loop. Its impact on climate in coastal regions of the southeast U.S. remain humid, while places like the UK and Norway experience vastly milder winters than their northern latitudes would otherwise dictate.



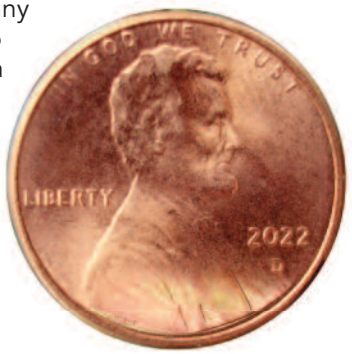
Credit: NOAA/JPL-Caltech

Snippet #3

Do you know when it is appropriate to use the word "fewer" or the word "less"? This is another pair of words, like intra and inter, that are often misused. There is a simple way to remember which word to use for which circumstance. Generally, the word "fewer" refers to items that are countable and "less" is for noncountable items. In other words, you can count how many cookies are in the jar, thus, "There are fewer cookies in the jar than there were yesterday." But you might have "less" milk in the glass. You can count the cookies, but you can't count the milk in the glass. Simply, if you can put a number in front of it, "ten cookies in the jar" you would use the word "fewer", but you wouldn't put a number in front of the amount of milk left in the glass so "less" applies. "Fewer" is countable while "less" is abstract.

Snippet #4

In a recent *Turtle Times* issue I did an article about the discontinuation of producing penny coins. And now it is interesting to note that the House has passed a bill by voice vote that is called "the Common Cents Act", setting national rules for rounding cash transactions to the nearest nickel and legally ending penny production in the U.S.



Confusing? But logical!

The last cent digit is: **1, 2, 6, or 7**

round **down** to the nearest nickel

EXAMPLES
If the total is:

$1.11
$1.12
= $1.10

$1.16
$1.17
= $1.15

The last cent digit is: **3, 4, 8, or 9**

round **up** to the nearest nickel

EXAMPLES
If the total is:

$1.13
$1.14
= 1.15

$1.18
$1.19
= $1.20

The legislation also authorizes the Treasury to test a redesigned, lower-cost nickel made with zinc instead of the current copper-heavy alloy. Currently, every 5-cent nickel costs nearly 14 cents to produce, and the U.S. Mint lost roughly $18 million on nickel production last year.

Snippet #5

Another item lately before the House and Senate could possibly indicate that we might be one step closer to no more turning the clock twice a year—no more falling back and no more springing ahead. This Florida-led legislation could possibly make Daylight Saving Time a permanent solution to this old controversial problem that has for the most part been in effect since World Wars I and II. Nineteen states have followed Florida's lead that began in 2018, with sponsors from both chambers of Congress and including the support of the President, with a vote of 308 to 117. Reportedly a strong bipartisan message was that *"Americans are done with the twice-a-year clock shuffle that disrupts sleep, schedules, and our kids' routines for no good reason."* Apparently, many would like to "lock the clock"!

All that being said, there is a strong opposition to the bill in the Senate who warn that a later sunrise would endanger children who could be forced to commute to school in the dark. Other opponents of the bill feel that the shift wouldn't just endanger school kids, but also workers such as construction crews, farmers, and factory hands, who would have to report to their jobs in the dark. One Senator reportedly said, *"I can see where Florida likes it for tee times at certain times of the year, but it doesn't work so well for moms and dads putting kids on buses when the sunrise in Western Montana wouldn't be 'till 9:30 in the morning."* Another Senator indicated that, *"Personally, I'm irritated every time I change my clock."*



Poster issued by the United Cigar Stores Company during WWI promoting daylight saving time.

Someone rightfully said, "Total daylight hours on any given date are fixed by the Earth's axial tilt and its position in orbit, not by what the clock says. Around the winter solstice (Dec 21), places at mid-to-high latitudes just get fewer daylight hours, period — often 9 hours or less depending on latitude. No number of clock-shifting changes that number. What DST actually does is shift where those daylight hours fall relative to the clock." And someone else made a similar point, "I've just never understood it. Sunrise and sunset will happen regardless of what "time" it is. Changing the time doesn't change how many hours of sunlight there are." Some have stated that they go to work in the dark and come home in the dark and that they wouldn't mind having a little more light in the evening when at home.

And to add to the controversy, there's the faction that believes it should be set at Standard Time and not Daylight Saving Time! To address that part of the equation, it has been suggested that perhaps we just split the difference and set a permanent time to be 30 minutes between the two?? What say you?

As the controversy continues note that currently, Daylight Saving Time (DST) in the USA starts on the second Sunday in March (spring ahead) and returns to Standard Time (fall back) on the first Sunday in November. The current schedule was introduced in 2007 and follows the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Though it sounds a little odd, Daylight Saving Time is the correct phrasing. Still, the variation Daylight Savings Time is so common, it's listed as an accepted variation in Merriam-Webster.

And who currently follows DST permanently? Arizona (except for the Navajo Nation), Hawaii, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Parts of Indiana didn't as well until it was adopted statewide in 2006. And in other parts of the world, only 70 countries actually observe it, according to CNN.

Snippet #6

I recently read about a study held in Australia regarding another controversial topic, the possibility of a four-day workweek. Apparently a 2023 experiment showed that a four-day workweek "created happier and more productive workplaces."

Researchers published the results of an Australian trial showing that a four-day workweek created happier and more productive workplaces. In the 2023 experiment, employees across a range of industries were asked to complete their normal workload in just eighty percent of the usual time. Only one company returned to a traditional five-day schedule, while six reported that workers became even more productive despite working fewer hours. All fifteen businesses said employee morale improved significantly without any decline in productivity.

Continued on page 6.

Vitamin A: Where California Luxury Meets Sustainable Style

There are few swimwear brands that have successfully blended timeless style, luxurious comfort, and environmental responsibility quite like Vitamin A. Since its founding in 2000 by California designer, Amahlia Stevens, the brand has become an industry leader in elevated resort wear, creating sophisticated collections that embody effortless coastal living while setting new standards for sustainable fashion. Stevens, whose background included designing for Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard, envisioned a swimwear company where beauty and environmental stewardship would always go hand in hand.



From the beginning, Vitamin A distinguished itself through innovation. In 2010, the company introduced EcoLux, recognized as the first premium swim fabric made from recycled nylon fibers—a milestone that helped transform the swimwear industry. Today, the brand continues to push boundaries with EcoRib, ReLux, and BioSculpt fabrics, all designed to reduce environmental impact without sacrificing performance or style.

One of the reasons women continue to fall in love with Vitamin A is the exceptional quality of its fabrics. Their signature swim textiles are remarkably soft, supportive, and designed to retain their shape and color season after season. The fabrics provide four-way stretch, excellent recovery, and a luxurious hand feel that flatters a wide variety of body types.



Equally impressive are the brand's sophisticated dye casts and color palettes. Rather than relying on harsh, overly saturated tones, Vitamin A is known for rich ocean blues, earthy neutrals, botanical greens, warm corals, and sun-washed hues inspired by the California coastline. Many of their printed fabrics utilize advanced digital printing technology, which not only produces crisp, vibrant colors but also conserves significant amounts of water compared to traditional dyeing methods. The result is swimwear and resort apparel with depth, elegance, and lasting color.



Vitamin A's commitment to sustainability extends beyond swimwear. Their beachwear collection features beautifully tailored linen shirts and shorts, breezy cover-ups, relaxed pants, and effortless separates crafted primarily from premium flax linen and organic cotton. Linen remains one of fashion's most environmentally responsible natural fibers, requiring substantially less water than conventional cotton while offering exceptional breathability and comfort in warm climates.

Whether you're planning a tropical getaway, relaxing poolside, or enjoying an afternoon by the coast, Vitamin A designs transition seamlessly from beach to brunch with understated sophistication. Their collections are timeless rather than trendy, making them investment pieces that remain stylish for years.

For those seeking the complete Vitamin A experience, Hobe Sound Beach Shop proudly carries an extensive selection of the brand's luxurious linen resort wear and designer swimwear. The boutique has curated one of the area's finest collections, allowing shoppers to experience the exceptional fit, premium fabrics, and elegant color stories in person. Whether you're searching for the perfect swimsuit, a breezy linen dress, or sophisticated beachwear for your next vacation, Hobe Sound Beach Shop offers the effortless luxury and sustainable style that have made Vitamin A one of the world's most admired resort fashion brands.



Nina Pucillo
Senior Buyer &
Creative Director



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Snippet #7

Q. What's your best guess on what a CRUCIVERBALIST is?

- Someone who speaks loudly
- Someone who speaks out of turn
- Someone who refuses to speak
- Someone who likes to do crossword puzzles

Q. What does PEDESTRIANIZATION refer to?

- Walking in the direction that traffic is flowing
- Walking against the direction of traffic
- Living in a non-traffic-oriented environment
- Always using public transportation

Q. What is the correct word for the fear of being without your phone?

- Cynophobia
- Acrophobia
- Nomophobia
- Glossophobia

Look for the answers at the end of the chapter.

Snippet #8

Way back in grammar school we learned that homophones are words that sound alike but have different meanings and are spelled differently. This has become a prevalent problem with the advent of emails and in particular composing documents on computers with our dependency on "spell check". Why? Because spell check most often won't catch these types of mistakes when the words are spelled correctly but they're being used in the wrong context.

One of the most common mix-ups that seems to pop up everywhere, is between "your" (a possessive adjective) and "you're" (a contraction of "you are"). Very often even experienced writers sometimes overlook this error.

Using the correct version of homophone pairs can make a big difference especially when it comes to professional correspondence. For instance, you might "happily accept" an invitation — you wouldn't "except" it. "Accept" means "to receive or agree to," while "except" means "excluding something," as in, "Everyone has responded to the invite except her sister."

Another commonly confused pair of homophones is "insure" ("to provide insurance coverage") and "ensure" ("to make sure, certain, or safe"). For instance, "We need to insure the package before shipping" means the writer needs to purchase insurance coverage for the package. Conversely, "ensure" has a wider scope: "Please ensure the attachment opens correctly" or "I want to ensure we're on the same page."

And of course, let's talk about what is probably the most often misused homophones of all – there, their, and they're. Sure enough, they all sound alike, but they mean different things and are spelled differently.

According to Merriam-Webster:

- **"there"** is a common English word used to show a place, point to something, or state that an item exists. Examples: Please put this over **there.** Or **There** are 3 cookies in the jar.
- **"their"** is a possessive word that shows ownership. It means something belongs to or relates to a specific group of people, animals, or things. It is also used as a singular, gender-neutral word when talking about a person whose identity or sex is unknown. Examples: They just moved into **their** new home. Or The students finished **their** homework.
- **"They're"** is a short way of saying **"they are"**, the apostrophe takes the place of the missing letter a. Example: **They're** going shopping today.

How about this: **They're** in a hurry to get **there** to see **their** new grandbaby!

When you hurry through creating your emails do you take a look at these types of errors prior to hitting the send button?

Snippet #9

What is a Worm Gruntin' Festival? And where is it held?

Each spring, in Florida's panhandle, on the second Saturday in April, the small town of Sopchoppy in Wakulla County, south of Tallahassee, a Worm Gruntin' Festival is celebrated. It is a quirky tradition that grew out of the practice of what was once used to gather fishing bait and helped support local families back in the day. Worm Gruntin' has now become one of Florida's (and I'd venture to say the country's) most unusual annual festivals.



Ever heard of Worm Gruntin'?

Thousands of visitors attend this free, one-day most unusual event to enjoy local food, craft vendors, live entertainment, including worm-grunting contests and a 5K run, all culminating in a "Grunter's Ball".

In the main attraction, participants drive a wooden stake, called a stob, into the ground and rub it with a metal rod to create vibrations that send earthworms scurrying to the surface. The friction of rubbing a flat piece of iron or steel on the stob creates a vibration in the soil that mimics the sound and feel of the earthworm's natural predators, digging moles. In response, the worms flee from the danger by rushing to the surface, where they are subsequently collected.

Apparently worm grunting became popular at the end of the 19th century, when the railroad moved through Sopchoppy. Railroad workers began buying and selling Sopchoppy worms, which are a native species known as Diplocardia mississippiensis.

What was once a way of life began to decline in the 1970s when plastic lures instead of live bait were being used by fishermen. And so social media to the rescue. According to an article in *Smithsonian Magazine*, April 2026, by Stephanie Castellano, some years ago Corey Benedict, a local musician with family roots going back several generations in Sopchoppy, posted videos of his family and friends worm grunting – apparently the videos went viral, with millions of views from all over the world. In 2026 the Worm Gruntin' Festival was in its 25th year where on the grounds of the Depot Museum folks gathered to watch the Worm Gruntin'.

There's a wonderful story in that Smithsonian article about Lossie Mae Rosier, who in 2003 at age 76 was crowned Sopchoppy's "Worm Queen." The article states that she raised 11 children on the money she earned from worm-grunting, going out into the forest at first light in the morning and again at dusk. Lossie Mae Rosier passed away in 2011. It is reported that amazingly, Lossie's oldest daughter paid her tuition for Florida A & M University with her earnings from worm grunting. A couple of other legendary families in Sopchoppy include the

Watch worm gruntin' in action at the Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin' Festival where thousands gathered to participate in this unusual annual event in Florida's panhandle.

youtube.com/watch?v=2bafl9nY-D8

Revell family and Sanders family with Worm Gruntin' stories of their own to tell.

Ah yes, and the Worm Grunter's Ball -- it is the lively evening finale of the festival. The ball features live music, dancing and local food and the crowning of the "Worm Gruntin' King". If you plan to attend: the daytime event takes place from 9am to about 6:30pm at Sopchoppy Depot Park, 34 Railroad Avenue, Sopchoppy, FL and the ball generally kicks off around 7pm at various local venues. It is recommended that before you go to check dates, lodging, and band lineups for the next scheduled festival, by visiting the Worm Gruntin' Festival Official Website, wormgruntinvestival.com, or the Wakulla Event Calendar.

I note that the next Worm Gruntin' Festival is scheduled to be held on April 10, 2027.

And now, after all of my research on the subject...I'm still left dangling with the question: How did someone ever figure out that the process, with a wooden stake and a metal rod, would bring worms to the surface? Do you have any thoughts on that?

Well, now you have it! A few of the snippets that I've found very interesting and have set aside to share. And this is only the tip of the iceberg!! I have tons more. The more I research a topic, the more I learn about the specific topic as well as other things that totally pique my interest and make me read more, search more, and wonder more. I'm thinking that maybe the next issue I will share some more interesting and fun facts with you. Watch for it.

Be sure to pop into the Hobe Sound Beach Shop, either location on Bridge Road in Hobe Sound, to pick up extra copies for your friends and family. And you can always find the *Turtle Times* online at www.hobesoundbeachshop.com

And here are the answers to the little quiz in Snippet #7

A. D: A cruciverbalist is one who builds, writes, or solves crossword puzzles. Are you a cruciverbalist? Have you done the crossword puzzles in past issues of the *Turtle Times*?

A. C: What does PEDESTRIANIZATION refer to? Living in a non-traffic-oriented environment. Cambridge dictionary defines Pedestrianization: *to make an area into one where vehicles are not allowed to go. Hence, Pedestrianization is to convert (a street) into an area for the use of pedestrians only, by excluding all motor vehicles.*

A. C: The correct word for the fear of being without your phone?

- Cynophobia: Fear of dogs
- Acrophobia: Fear of heights
- Nomophobia: Fear of being without your phone
- Glossophobia: Fear of public speaking



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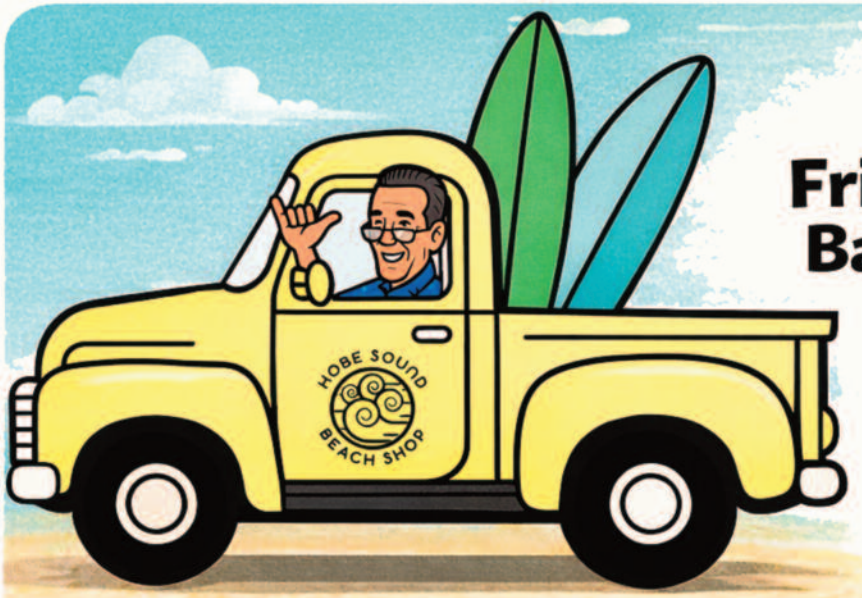
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Events are loading…

If you've driven down Bridge Road lately, you've probably noticed that there seems to be more and more awesome things to do. The Hobe Sound Beach Shop has run our Bubbles on Bridge Rd pop up event, ribbon cuttings, and beach volleyball on Friday's. What started as a local beach retailer has quickly become a gathering place for neighbors, families, and visitors looking for more than just shopping—they're looking for experiences. We are here to deliver unique, curated events for the community!

Over the next several weeks, the Beach Shop is rolling out a lineup of events designed to bring people together and celebrate everything that makes Hobe Sound special.

Every Friday evening, locals are invited to the Hobe Sound Beach for **Beach Volleyball from 6:00 p.m. until sunset.** Whether you've played for years or have never touched a volleyball, everyone is welcome. It's become one of the easiest ways to meet new friends, enjoy the ocean breeze, and kick off the weekend.

Later this summer, the Beach Shop will host its first **Locals Appreciation Night,** an evening dedicated to thanking the community that has supported local business throughout the year. Show your Florida ID for year round discounts. Guests can also expect music, refreshments, giveaways, raffle prizes, exclusive shopping opportunities, and a fun atmosphere that feels more like a neighborhood gathering than a retail event.

The Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce will also be joining the fun with an **After Hours Networking Event** at the Beach Shop at 8871 SE Bridge Rd. Chamber members and local professionals will have the opportunity to connect over food, drinks, live music, and conversation while experiencing one of Hobe Sound's newest community gathering spaces.

Then in September comes one of the most unique events of the year—**"Walk the Runway"** Rather than hiring professional models, the Beach Shop is inviting employees, families, customers, and community members to become the stars of the show. The evening will begin with Beach Shop staff walking the runway before opening it up to anyone who wants to participate. Guests who choose an outfit from the store and walk the runway will receive a special discount on their purchase with additional savings for posting on social media. Add in music, charcuterie, champagne, and plenty of laughs, and this event promises to be an unforgettable night.

Ultimately, our goal has never been to simply sell products, but rather create reasons for people to come together, meet their neighbors, support local businesses, and have fun.

As the Hobe Sound Beach Shop continues to grow, events like these help preserve what makes our town unique—a close-knit community where local businesses know their customers by name and where a trip to the beach can easily turn into an evening with friends.



Liz O'Connell holding it down for the beach shop at the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce's recent B2B Expo. *Be everywhere, always.*

Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the area, consider this your invitation. Stop by, bring your family, meet someone new, and experience everything happening at the Hobe Sound Beach Shop.

For the latest event announcements and updates, follow Hobe Sound Beach Shop on social media or visit one of our two locations— 8871 SE Bridge Rd or 9045 SE Bridge Rd.

There's never been a better time to shop local, support local, and enjoy everything Hobe Sound has to offer.



Sean O'Connell
Director of Operations
Hobe Sound Beach Shop





The Shadow Chronicles – Episode 4: The Hatchling Express

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

Last time, I made the difficult decision to leave my legendary sock behind after discovering it had become part of a protected sea turtle nesting area. I figured it was the right thing to do, even if it meant saying goodbye to one of the finest socks ever to grace my collection.

A few weeks later, Sean and Liz took me on another sunset walk at Jupiter Island Beach. As we passed the same stretch of sand, something caught my eye. Tiny tracks. Hundreds of them. They looked like little tire marks leading from the dunes toward the ocean.

Then I saw them.

Sea turtle hatchlings.

There must have been dozens of them, each one no bigger than the palm of Sean's hand, determined to make the long journey to the water. I sat quietly beside Liz, watching them paddle their little flippers across the sand. For once, I didn't feel like chasing anything. No birds. No lizards. Not even the ghost of my missing sock. I just watched as every tiny turtle took its first big adventure.

As the last hatchling disappeared into the waves, I glanced over toward the old nest. My sock was gone.

Maybe the wind finally carried it away. Maybe another beach dog discovered the greatest treasure of all time. Or maybe that legendary sock had one final job to do—keeping watch over the hatchlings until they safely reached the ocean.

I'd like to believe it was the last one.

As we headed home, Sean scratched behind my ears and told me I was a good boy. I already knew that, but it's still nice to hear.

On the way back to the truck, however, I caught the unmistakable scent of something new drifting through the evening breeze...

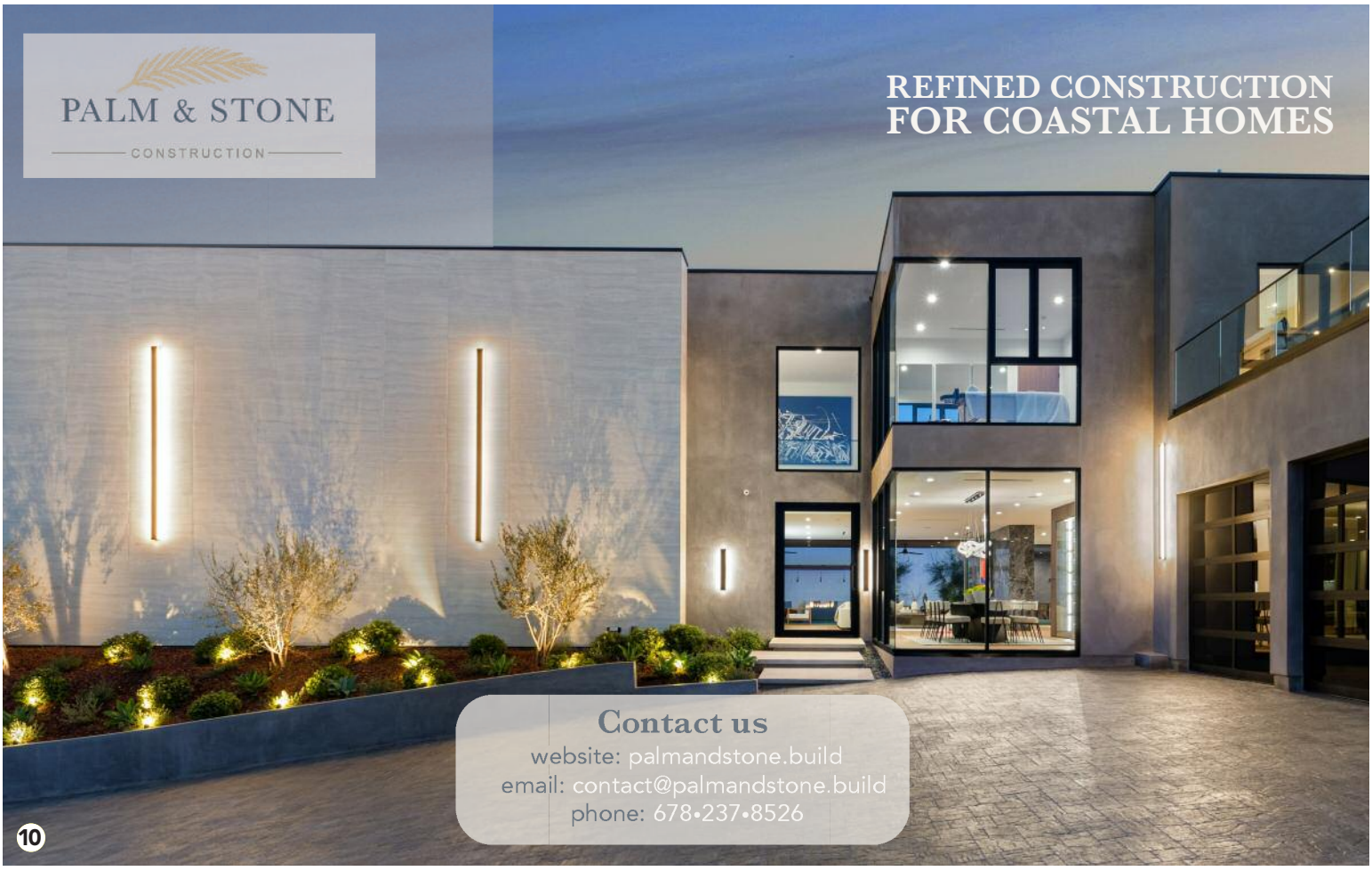
It smelled like sunscreen, popcorn... and a hot dog.

Next month in *The Shadow Chronicles*, I'll investigate what might be the greatest mystery of the summer: **Who keeps having picnics on *my* beach without inviting me?**

Stay tuned.

By Shadow O'Connell





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Protecting Hatchlings

We're proud of Shadow and how considerate he is about not interfering with the turtle hatchlings as they make their way from their nests to their new homes in the ocean.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has important hints on how to protect them as they begin life after hatching on our beaches. Not only are they endangered but they are protected by law. It is imperative we learn how to ensure their safety!

- Keep beaches dark after sundown—turn off lights. Use long wavelength amber LED lamps for lights that must stay lit and shield lights, so they are not visible from the beach; close shades/curtains.
- No flash photos on the beach at night, or use of bright cellphones or flashlights. The hatchlings can become disoriented and crawl away from the ocean.
- When leaving the beach, remove any obstacles—beach furniture, canopies, and toys. Left behind these can block the hatchlings from reaching the ocean. Fill in holes dug in the sand. Holes can trap turtles.
- Do not touch the hatchlings as they make their way to the ocean. Their struggle helps make them strong and remember the beach where they will return to make nests and lay their eggs.
- Before taking any action, report sea turtles that appear endangered to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline: 1-888-404-3922 or text tip@myfwc.com.

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Hobe Sound Beach Shops are open
Monday – Wednesday: 11am - 5pm
Thursday – Saturday: 10am - 6pm • Closed Sunday
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