Take a dive off the coasts of The Palm Beaches and you enter an entire new world! What lies beneath the waters offers a look at nature that is unfamiliar to many. **ScubaNation**, a brand new 30-minute original episode, showcases the incredible underwater experiences of The Palm Beaches. Join host Billy Cattagio as he dives under to explore incredible sights that offer just the right amount of relaxation, adventure and excitement. The new show features the scuba thrills at Phil Foster Park, Ocean Reef Park, and snorkeling near the Palm Beach Inlet coined as the “Pumphouse.”

Back on the surface, Billy explores the local area. He grabs a bite at E.R. Bradley’s Saloon and then takes his family on an excursion at Lion Country Safari, the only drive-through safari park which was named one of the best in the country by USA Today’s 10 Best Reader’s Choice contest. The 320-acre grounds are home to more than 1,000 animals, including the largest herd of zebra in the western hemisphere, one of the largest herds of giraffe in the U.S. and a large herd of rhinos. Their latest addition is a 10,000 square foot water feature! Tune in to watch ScubaNation on Fox Sports Sun September 14, 16 and 20 with repeats throughout the month of October. It will also air on NBC Sports Boston in early 2020. This new episode and previous ones that feature Palm Beach County will also be available via on demand on ThePalmBeaches.TV. For more info visit scubanation.com.

**A Turtle’s Tale**

South Florida’s WLRN presents, *Troubled Waters: A Turtle’s Tale* which explores the impact of human behavior on our environment—as seen through the lens of the beloved and fragile underwater creatures—the sea turtle. Featuring Ted Danson and narrated by Peter Coyote, this one-hour film takes a critical look at the effects of global warming, water pollution and our “throw-away” plastic lifestyle on this keystone species...and inevitably ourselves. Leanne Welch, Nature Center Manager at Gumbo Limo Nature Center shared, “Our team has been working with the filmmakers since March of 2018 to help tell this important story. Having this message told in an impactful and wide-reaching manner, like this documentary, is the best way to get the story out to a big audience and we are so proud to be a part of it.” Please visit turtletale.org for more information.

**Sharks Strike Big Ratings**

Shark diving is no longer just a popular horror movie staple – it is a $314 million dollar tourism industry. The allure of danger and mystery inspires content for production, and this year, shows for Discovery Channel’s ever popular *Shark Week*, BBC’s *Blue Planet Live*, Nat Geo’s *Cannibal Sharks* and more have come to The Palm Beaches to capture some of the most unique shark stories on the planet. The coast of Palm Beach County is the ideal location to capture gulfstream and seasonal migration activity, including predation behavior during the annual mullet run and natural phenomena like the blacktip shark migration. Local experts and multiple certified shark diving operations make the once rare occurrence a safe opportunity for any visitor. For more info visit thepalmbeaches.com/blogs/palm-beaches-diver’s-paradise.
The Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Social Media Unit produced a documentary that helped revive a 35-year-old cold case surrounding the disappearance of 8-year-old Marjorie “Christy” Luna from her Greenacres neighborhood. With the help of PBSO’s social media followers, The Lead: Finding Christy Luna was shared nearly 1,000 times. Shortly thereafter, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw announced that the Sheriff’s Office would partner with anthropologists from Florida Gulf Coast University, crediting the documentary for spawning “probably one of the best and most credible leads.”

If you have any information about what happened to Christy, call Crime Stoppers at 1.800.458.TIPS. To watch this documentary, and “to get behind the scenes of the largest Law Enforcement Agency in Palm Beach County,” visit youtube.com/pbcountysheriff.

Atlantic Community High School in Delray Beach is featured in a documentary produced by The Sturdy Group that highlights the successful football team. The team record was 10-0 during the regular season last year. They also garnered victories off the field, as 98% of the team players met or surpassed the NCAA’s SAT or ACT requirements, 85% were on the honor roll, and 20 of last year’s 32 graduating seniors earned academic or athletic scholarships. “Football is important, but education is more important” Atlantic coach TJ Jackson says in the documentary. “We try to really focus on education.”

Footage for the documentary has been teased on local CBS and ESPN affiliates, and the producers plan to complete the film this year. “It’s a moving, inspirational story that we cannot wait to share with the world,” said Producer Jane Swanko. Check out CBS12’s coverage at facebook.com/JohnEvensonCBS12/videos.

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The Palm Beaches TV is now easier to find at the PGA National Resort and Spa! A recent equipment upgrade allowed for a move from channel 72 to channel 4 in all rooms on the property. Additionally, the channel was recently installed on Bahamas Paradise Cruise’s Grand Celebration ship. With these additional 700 cabins, the channel is now available in nearly 4,000 guestrooms throughout the County, along with such public spaces as the Palm Beach County Convention Center, the Palm Beach International Airport in the baggage claim area, and the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County. The channel is also available via Roku and as a mobile app (download at the Apple store & Google Play). For More info visit ThePalmBeaches.TV online.
Sobriety and recovery are the central themes of The Art of Recovery Film Festival. What began at a coffee shop 2014 by Manny Mendez and Vic James (both recovering addicts) has expanded into a three-day event of films, lectures, poetry and art exhibits. Mendez, a seasoned painter and James, a photographer, believes that artistic expression could inspire hope and be an important part of the healing and recovery process. “One day I had a moment and said to [Vic] how cool would it be to do an art exhibit of people struggling with all types of disorders, including addiction,” explained Mendez in a previous interview.

The event was held in Lake Worth Beach August 2-4 and raised $2,500 for local charities. While next year’s dates have not yet been announced, it’s a safe bet attendance will grow. For info about the festival visit theartofrecoveryfilmfestival.com.

A FILM FESTIVAL ABOUT RECOVERY

COCO ON THE RISE

Cori “Coco” Gauff, a 15-year-old rising star, has taken the tennis world by storm and since returning stateside after her impressive showing at Wimbledon this year, several productions have followed her home to Delray Beach.

ABC’s Good Morning America filmed a segment at the Delray Beach Tennis Center, where Coco told show host Robin Roberts that she hopes “to be the greatest of all time” and outlined her training regiment for the US Open. As one of the faces of New Balance, Coco was filmed again at the Delray Beach Tennis Center for a series of web videos and commercials, as well as for Hypebeast.com footwear and fashion. The sky’s the limit for this Palm Beach County’s latest celebrity resident as she starts out on an impressive career in her teens. Check out New Balance’s Call Me Coco at youtube.com/watch?v=xVPsuN1za24.

FROM PBC TO LA SCREENINGS

Filmmaker Jeff Kallet, who filmed his short film Forum in Palm Beach County last year with the help of local production company Ko-Mar Productions, screened his film in L.A. last month during a special seven-night event. Forum follows a mild-mannered family man who, haunted by the suicide of his sister as a result of online hate, is aided by a mysterious group and confronts one of the men whose words drove his sister over the edge. When asked about his experience working in The Palm Beaches, Kallet commented that “Working with Todd and the guys from Ko-Mar productions was an absolute pleasure. From the D.P. Paul Piasecki, to my first A.D. DJ Amerson, their expertise was essential in executing the vision I had on time and within a reasonable budget.” For more info visit jeffmichaelkallet.com.

A PLACE IN THE DARK

A new dramatic feature titled A Place in the Dark recently filmed at several locations across the County. The project is helmed by Ifé Creative Works, and was written, produced, and co-directed by Mellody Duckie with Orrett A. Duckie executive producing and Robert O. Peters co-directing.

The story revolves around a civil engineer who blames himself for the death of his wife and unborn child in a tragic accident. Following him through drug and alcohol addiction and the consequences as he tries to cope with the loss. Mellody described the film saying, “It's a compelling story that takes you on an emotional journey through the lives of interesting, and complex characters with layers that peel back as the movie progresses to a climactic turning point. We filmed in Boca Raton, Delray Beach, and West Palm Beach, and enjoyed every minute of it!” For updates on the films progress from post-production to release, please visit ifecreativeworks.com.

LIONS AND TIGERS AND TACOS, OH MY....

Celebrity Chef Ralph Pagano is back in The Palm Beaches! This time, he’s driving through Lion Country Safari for another edition of Ralph on the Road. Chef Ralph met with managing director Jennifer Berthiaumo, who took Pagano and his viewers on a quick tour of the stunning safari to meet some of the park’s exotic animals before dishing up a couple plates of “Roaring Cauliflower Tacos.” Ralph on the Road is a regularly featured segment on Lifetime’s daily morning show The Balancing Act, which reaches nearly 100 million homes nationwide. Additional segments of Chef Ralph’s show have recently shot at other locations throughout Palm Beach County, including Mizner Park in Boca Raton and the reconstructed Lake Worth Casino Building in Lake Worth Beach. To watch this segment and more, visit the-balancingact.com.
**LOCATION SPOTLIGHT**

**WILD LIFE LOCATIONS**

**Pine Glades Natural Area** is a fantastic tract of land overseen by PBC’s Environmental Resources Management (ERM) Team. With over 6500 acres of pine flatwoods and 35 acres of wetlands—a great spot to film wading birds and other wildlife in their natural environment. ERM does a great job at managing the underbrush and controlling non native species and the result is an area that reflects native Florida.

Winding Waters is another jewel in the crown of our friends at ERM. With nearly 5 miles of hiking trails and a shaded observation deck. Bring your kayak/canoe and enjoy the marshlands, wet prairie and dome swamp while watching for bald eagles, roseate spoonbills, wood storks, ducks and belted kingfishers. Don’t miss the rookery and nesting island as the location is part of Florida’s Greenways and Trails System.

Lion Country Safari (LCS) continues to grow their credit list appearing as the backdrop for many exciting shows on National Geographic, Fox, Animal Planet and Lifetime to name just a few. It’s no exaggeration to say that the staff know how to motivate the animals whether you want a herd moving or a single subject in the frame. When it comes to capturing wildlife for motion or still photography the team at LCS can help you get the shots you need for your production.

Some interesting marine life can be viewed in their natural habitat at Phil Foster Park. The 800 foot Snorkel Trail in Lake Worth Lagoon offers crystal clear water with each incoming tide, where fish, squid, octopus, turtles, starfish and spotted rays are ready for their closeup. The area is easily accessible and you won’t even need a boat to capture the underwater wildlife that lives under the Blue Heron Bridge.

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**EDUCATION CORNER**

**CENTER FOR CREATIVE EDUCATION**

The skills film students acquire at the Center for Creative Education (CCE) on 24th Street in West Palm Beach are much more than just a means of creative expression, they strive to break down barriers and pave the way to a bright future. “In our community, especially in the black community, there aren’t many positive role models,” said Dwayne Taylor, Manager of Technology Services and Instruction. “They don’t see an end, this program gives them a digital way out.”

CCE sends artists into Palm Beach County schools to teach standard curriculum through the arts; with community art classes; summer arts programs for youth; and after-school arts programs throughout the county. The after-school programs focus on media arts, where 14 middle and high school students produced Florida: Where I’m From, the center’s first course in documentary filmmaking. Each student made a five-minute video that Taylor edited into a 10-minute documentary.

Their skill levels at the start of the eight-week class, held weekly over the summer, varied from veterans of the center’s media arts and technology classes to newbies who had never picked up a camera before. The summer documentary filmmaking class laid the groundwork for a longer documentary the CCE’s advanced students are making about homeless children in Palm Beach County. This film is scheduled to premiere at the center in November.

“There are some kids with means and some without,” Taylor added. “I wanted to see how that played out, what we discovered is that when they’re in class they’re all equal, but when they go home it’s different.” This month CCE will showcase other students’ summer projects as well as opening Florida: Faces & Places, an exhibition featuring work by local photographers. For more visit cceflorida.org.

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To be included in this newsletter please email candreoni@pbfilm.com or call 561.233.1000

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