



Full-service care for happy, healthy pets at Aventura Animal Hospital

BY LYNN CARROLL

Whether your best friend is a dog or a cat, a python or a ferret, you can expect top-of-the-line pet care at Aventura Animal Hospital, 19101 Biscayne Boulevard. If your pet requires preventative or emergency care, temporary boarding or grooming, you'll find quality and compassion are more than just words at the full-service, state-of-the-art facility.

Equipment at Aventura Animal Hospital includes a modern surgical suite that incorporates two wet tables for any surgical or dental procedures that may require them.

"Just as in a human hospital," says Practice Manager Christine Menendez, "we monitor our patients, provide I.V. fluids, and anesthetize the animal as recommended. Our equipment is the most modern available. Using digital radiology, we can take radiographs and have results within seconds."

Since the staff of four doctors is committed to continuing education, clients can be confident that Aventura Animal Hospital incorporates the latest recommended procedures into every treatment.

There's an exotic veterinarian on staff experienced in the treatment of unusual pets. If the way Aventura Animal Hospital cares for sick or injured

animals evokes images of the care you'd find at a private hospital, the grooming and boarding facilities are what you'd expect from a spa resort.

"We have very progressive wellness packages," Menendez says - as well as nutritional counseling, acupuncture and herbal treatment options.

"Our highly qualified kennel attendants do the same things you would do when you can't be there," she says. "We provide tender loving care that includes brushing and cuddling -- and supervise outdoor playtime to keep the pets happy and active. Our primary goal is the health and comfort of the pets in our care."

The animal hospital is offering VIP cards to Aventura Marketing Council members that give them a 10% discount. VIP cards can be picked up at the AMC's Table Top Expo on June 25th at Gulfstream Park. "If a client refers a new client," adds Menendez, "their pet gets a complementary bath."

Aventura Animal Hospital is one of eight Pet Medical Centers in Florida. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. A doctor is on-staff during operating hours. Appointments are preferred. For more information, (305) 933-2287 or visit aventura.vetsuite.com



Christine Menendez, manager, Aventura Animal Hospital with Patsy who frequents the pet resort while mom is at work

BankUnited provides hurricane preparation tips for safeguarding personal finances

Hurricane preparations for most Floridians begin long before the start of storm season. While protecting one's home and family is the focus of most advance planning, many people forget the importance of safeguarding their personal finances.

BankUnited Aventura VP and Branch Manager Max Vazquez, has prepared the following storm season preparation tips:

Open a safe-deposit box at your local bank, where you can store original copies of important documents. Banks often offer free safe-deposit boxes for account holders, or they may charge a nominal fee. In the event your bank branch sustains storm damage, the safe-deposit boxes will remain unharmed and may be moved to another branch location, if needed.

Items to include in the safety-deposit box include: Personal items such as birth certificates, Social Security cards, passports, marriage certificates, children's immunization records, irreplaceable photographs; legal documents such as wills, living wills, powers of attorney, property deeds, titles to vehicles and boats, divorce records and child-custody papers; and financial documents such as tax returns; stock and bond certificates; bank account information; insurance policies, including health and life, homeowners, vehicles and boats; photographs and appraisal value of precious or expensive items.

Keep photocopies of important documents, along with your most recent bank account statements and insurance information, in a fire-proof box in your home. Take the box with you if you evacuate.

Keep with you account numbers and the names and contact information for your bank, mortgage lender and insurance agents.

Withdraw ample cash from your bank account at the first sign of a storm warning to enable you and



Max Vazquez, VP and branch manager, BankUnited Aventura

your immediate family to live comfortably for one week. In the event of power outages after a storm, many ATMs will not be operational.

Consider having your paychecks direct deposited to your bank account. With direct deposit, your benefits are safely and reliably sent to your bank account, where you have access to the funds.

Establish on-line banking services and set up automatic bill payments for recurring monthly bills. This will ensure bills continue to be paid on time, even if the post office is unable to deliver monthly statements.

If you own a home, establish a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) prior to storm season. A HELOC will ensure that you have funds immediately available to pay for needed repairs, which may not be covered by insurance or can be reimbursed by late-arriving insurance checks.

Serving customers in 13 Florida counties through 86 branches, BankUnited provides a full spectrum of consumer and commercial banking services, mortgage and loan products, and investment and financial planning services. The company's online banking products can be accessed through bankunited.com. For additional information, call (305) 933-8228.

Win a 2008 Volkswagen Beetle at Gulfstream Park



There's still time to enter a prize drawing to win a 2008 Volkswagen Beetle convertible. At 9 p.m., Sunday, June 29th, members of the Casino's Good Luck Player's Club will have a chance to win a 2008 Volkswagen convertible. Members will receive one free entry daily and can earn additional entries with casino play.

Player's Club members also are eligible to take part in the following daily promotions:

Monday Bonus Bucks: Check your mailbox to see if you qualify for bonus bucks.

Seniors Day Tuesdays: On Senior Day Tuesdays, Player's Club members over 55 can receive \$10. In addition, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, members have a chance to win \$55 in free casino play every 20 minutes.

Scratch & Win Gulfstream Gold on Wednesday: Cash in your Gulfstream Gold tickets for cash or free play every Wednesday this month. Visit the Player's Club for details.

25 \$500 winners every Thursday: Every Thursday during the month of June, Gulfstream Park will award \$500 in cash giveaways every 20 minutes from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. The drawings are for Good Luck Player's Club members only.

Spin & Win Friday: Every hour from noon to 8 p.m., on Spin & Win Friday, one player will spin the wheel for cash and prizes.

This Saturday: Gulfstream Park will be giving away shopping sprees June 28th as part of the Fashion Fever promotion. Player's Club members who are playing with their card inserted will be randomly selected every 20 minutes between 2 p.m. and 10 p.m. to win a \$300 gift card valid for Aventura Mall.

There is plenty of free parking in the north and south lots. Valet parking is also available at a cost of \$3 every day. For more information, call 954-454-7000 or visit gulfstreampark.com

New IRS Commissioner committed to enforcement



BY STEVEN N. KLITZNER

Here's some bad news for taxpayers who thought the IRS's increasingly aggressive enforcement tactics would end in the near future: Those tactics won't end any time soon.

The reason is simple. The Internal Revenue Service now has proof that tough-as-nails enforcement is increasing tax revenues.

According to recently released statistics, the total U.S. income tax in 2006 increased 10.6 percent to \$1 trillion, and total tax liability rose 10.3 percent to \$1.1 trillion, compared to 2005 numbers.

What's more, in a recent speech to the American Bar Association, IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman didn't mince words.

"One thing I want to make clear is that during my tenure at the IRS, I will continue to support a strong enforcement program," he said.

Shulman plans to stay aggressive in areas where the IRS has already flexed its enforcement muscle.

Abusive tax shelters

Crackdown on corporate noncompliance

Audits of nation's high-income taxpayers

Movement of money across borders

A lot of talk, right? Maybe.

But given that aggressive enforcement by the IRS helped boost tax revenues by 10 percent in just one year, don't be too certain Shulman is boasting.

He's likely saber-rattling.

Steven N. Klitzner is a Certified Tax Resolution Specialist, a member of the American Society of IRS Problem Solvers, a consulting member of the Tax Freedom Institute, and an Aventura attorney. You can contact him at 305-682-1118 to obtain a free subscription to his newsletter titled The IRS Times & Inquirer or visit his website at www.FloridaTaxSolvers.com.

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Elite BEAT:

Marketing Rep Patrick Harris guides WLRN to new cultural heights

BY LYNN CARROLL

PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS FOR PROVOCATIVE PEOPLE



LC: WLRN Public Radio and Television has changed its programming dramatically over the past several years. What's its underlying mission?

PH: Our mission is to provide information, entertainment and learning services to South Florida with a commitment to excellence in servicing local, national and international

communities. We see our programming as appealing to educated and affluent professionals. A large percentage of people in Aventura have been very supportive of WLRN, on both corporate and individual membership levels.

LC: What's the format now for WLRN 91.3 FM?

PH: 91.3 WLRN is the National Public Radio (NPR) member station for South Florida. Our main format is "news and information" programming from NPR and other public radio distributors as well as our own producers and hosts. We also air locally-hosted jazz from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. weeknights and 8 p.m. to midnight on weekends. From 1 a.m. to 5 a.m., WLRN features local Caribbean music programming.

WLRN Radio also broadcasts in HD Radio digital format with two programming streams. 91.3-1 simulcasts our main channel programming. 91.3-2, called "WLRN XTRA HD", features "alternative news and talk" programming. Both streams are available online at our website, wlrn.org

LC: What about WLRN-TV 17? What's the format there?

PH: WLRN-TV 17 has crafted a program schedule reflecting the interests, attitudes, and lifestyles of South Floridians

through a wide variety of local and national PBS productions. We present the best of the PBS nationally recognized series to complement locally produced specials. Our prime time programming features an array of cultural, informational, arts, science and documentary specials to address the curiosity and interests of our local community such as NOVA, The American Experience, and Nature. WLRN-TV 17 airs more children's programs than any other local broadcast station with more than 80 hours featured each week.

LC: What kinds of community-based initiatives is WLRN currently involved in?

PH: The WLRN Radio Reading Service broadcasts the reading of newspapers, books and magazines to individuals who are visually impaired 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It provides users with a special radio that tunes in to a sub-channel of 91.3. There are approximately 14,000 visually impaired persons in South Florida taking advantage of this much needed service, which we couldn't run without our dedicated volunteers.

Through our relationship with Miami Dade County Public Schools we are able to directly tap into the classroom through a system called Instructional Television (ITV). The ITV department provides educational media services and support to the students, teachers, administrators through the Video and Film

Library, Teacher's Choice (a Video-On-Demand service), and Distance Learning (Professional Development and Training) opportunities.

WLRN Ready To Learn (RTL) is an early childhood education program that provides parents and children's caregivers, the training and resources they need to help children in their care acquire basic skills and be ready to learn when they enter school. RTL combines television presentations of award winning PBS children's programming with the distribution of program guides, newsletters, and free children's books, of which WLRN distributed over 25,000 in 2007.

LC: What is your personal involvement in the community?

PH: I'm Chair Elect for Leadership Fort Lauderdale, a new member of the Junior Orange Bowl Committee, past chair of the Trustee Program and Board Member at the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and music superintendent at the Miami Dade County Fair. I also enjoy volunteering at The Center for Great Apes, a sanctuary in Central Florida providing lifelong care for chimpanzees and orangutans that cannot go to zoos or be returned back to nature.

For more information, contact Patrick Harris at 305-995-2508.

The Continental Group awards educational scholarships

The Continental Group, a locally-based property management company, recently announced the recipients of the company's scholarship fund for employees' children. Brian Contreras, Desiree M. Hale, Jesse Mocha and Adam Nicoll each received \$4,000 commitments from the Hollywood-based company to help pay for their higher education.

For the second consecutive year, The Continental Group Scholarship Fund awarded four-year scholarships of \$1,000 per year to four graduating seniors who will attend an accredited college or university.

The scholarships were presented to the four winners by Continental President Tom Roses at a recent employee recognition event in Hollywood.

Brian Contreras is a graduate of Fort Myers Sr. High. Brian has

aspirations to become a doctor like his grandparents. He will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology at either the University of Florida or Florida State University before continuing his graduate studies in the areas of health science and biomedical research. Brian is the son of Jennyfer Contreras, a property manager at Coral Coves Apartments in Cape Coral.

Desiree M. Hale is a graduate of the School for Advanced Studies in Miami. Inspired by significant personal events, Desiree plans to dedicate her life to finding a cure for cancer. After earning her bachelor of science in biology she plans on attending medical school to become a radiation oncologist. Desiree is the daughter of Miriam M. Hale, a member of the front desk division at One Miami, located in downtown Miami.

Jesse Mocha, a graduate of

Miami Beach Sr. High, has her dreams set on obtaining a business management degree from Florida State University. An entrepreneur at heart, she hopes to one day own her own business. Jesse is the daughter of Marcos Mocha, a beach attendant at the Blue and Green Diamond Condominium located on Miami Beach.

Adam Nicoll, a graduate of South Plantation Sr. High, was inspired by his father to pursue an accounting career. He plans to pursue his bachelor's degree at the University of Florida. His long-term goals include becoming an attorney and one day being appointed as a Supreme Court justice. Adam is the son of Ira Nicoll from Continental's Hollywood Association accounting department.

"Through The Continental Group Scholarship Fund, we seek to enhance opportunities for the



Seated (L-R) Scholarship recipients Desiree Hale, Brian Contreras and Adam Nicoll; Standing (L-R) Tom Roses, president, Continental Group; Miriam Hale, mother of Desiree Hale; Jerry Hale, father of Desiree Hale; Jennyfer Contreras, mother of Brian Contreras; Beth Nicoll, mother of Adam Nicoll; Ira Nicoll, father of Adam Nicoll; and Yra Saab-Tro, director of communications and community relations, Continental Group

children of our employees, demonstrating our company's firm commitment to education," said Roses. "Our goal is to encourage students to strive for academic excellence by alleviating some of the cost of a post-secondary education."

To learn more about The Continental Group, call (954) 925-8200, toll-free: (800) 927-4599 or visit thecontinentalgroupinc.com



Joined by her father Marcos Mocha, Jesse Mocha accepts Continental Group scholarship from Tom Roses



ASK DR. RUTH

BY DR. RUTH WESTHEIMER

Dreads her wedding night

Q: I recently broke up with a guy who had a fairly big penis. Now I'm going to marry my high-school sweetheart, who is on the smaller side of men. I have refused to have sex with him before marriage, and he respects that and does not pressure me. What I am dreading is my wedding night with this wonderful man because I have no doubt that he will float in me. I am sure there are a lot of other ways to satisfy one another, but I am sure my boyfriend will want it the traditional way the first time after waiting so long. I dread the day I get married, so please help me.

A: Have you ever really dreaded something, like going to the dentist, and afterward it turned out not to be so bad? The most important thing you can do to save not only your wedding day and night but also your marriage is to change your attitude. The key is whether you really love each other. If you do, you can work out the sexual aspects, which might not be as bad as you are making them out to be. But let's take the worst scenario, that the only way you can achieve sexual satisfaction is by having the feeling of a big penis inside you, which he doesn't have. If that happens, you go out and buy a rubber penis

enlarger that he places over his penis, so that you get the feelings you desire. If you can share your love and you can both get orgasms, then that is what is important. Doing it the so-called traditional way, which rarely satisfies both partners in any case, is not so important that you should allow this dread to spoil such a wonderful day and night.

Q: My question is this: I am 42 years old, married to a wonderful woman and have four kids. I have erection problems. Up until five years ago I could get one just thinking about it. Now, during foreplay I have one, but during intercourse it disappears, I can somewhat maintain it when my wife is performing oral sex or is masturbating me. They don't seem to be as firm as they used to. It just seems as if the blood flow has gone down. I do get erections while sleeping, but my wife says they aren't as firm as she remembers. My ejaculations aren't so strong as they used to be. I know this happens with age. I have also gained a little weight over the past few years, and my cholesterol level is kind of high. What should I do?

A: You are right that these symptoms do hit every man eventually, and while 42 is on the early side, it is not impossible that what is happening to you is just part of the normal aging process. But the extra weight and high cholesterol might also be playing a part, since circulation is a critical element to having an erection. And since it couldn't hurt to get yourself back into shape, I would also start an exercise program, after you've checked with your doctor about working out as well. Also, if you are on any medications, that might also have an effect, so ask your doctor that that too.

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PANGAEA Committee Members present check to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Dept. Standing (L-R) Deanne Graham, Welcome Publishing; Sydney Davis, Top Shelf Artists; Debbie Mezrahi, Indigo Events; Yamilla Garayzar, Turnberry Associates; Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Chief Alan Perry, Urban Search and Rescue Team; Chief Christine Rogers; Kneeling (L-R) Aaron Perry, Gulfstream Park; Elaine Adler, president, Aventura Marketing Council; Gladys Mezrahi, Indigo Events; Aventura Mayor Susan Gottlieb; Firefighter Hilda Wood; and K-9 "Mako"



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Dr. Arnold Sheir, Aventura Dental Team; Dr. Robert Sheir, Optometric Physician; Brad Elmowitz, Instant Health in America



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Gary Pyott, The Continental Group; Rita Regev, Coral Shores Realty



Zoe Masterson, Classic Residence by Hyatt receives sponsorship plaque from Dan Palmer, Aventura News



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