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Town bumps deadline to see Palm House plans

Court-appointed manager gets council to approve 90 extra days

By William Kelly and Darrell Hofheinz
Daily News Staff Writers

The court-appointed manager of the beleaguered Palm House hotel-condominium project bought himself some time from the Town Council

as he works to close a deal to sell the property.

Cary Glickstein, a former Delray Beach mayor, asked officials Tuesday to extend a May 31 deadline for when the court-approved buyer of the property is due to present its development plans for council approval.

The deadline was part of a settlement in which the town agreed, with conditions, to abate about \$4 million in fines

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Prospective new owners hope to move quickly, Page A3

that have amassed against the property since early 2013, when a previous owner didn't complete construction on time.

The council agreed to

extend the May 31 deadline so the buyer will have 90 days beyond the date when the sale is finalized and when there are no appeals clouding the sale.

In exchange, the town will be paid \$200,000 beyond the \$250,000 it already has received through the settlement.

Town Manager Kirk Blouin said the \$200,000 is compensation for legal costs and staff time the town has devoted to

the troubled project. Half of the \$200,000 will be paid by the Palm House's ownership company and half by the buyer, once the sale is final.

A bankruptcy judge earlier this month approved the sale of the property at 160 Royal Palm Way to the North American affiliate of a London-based real estate

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Trump claims 'complete exoneration'

President speaks before leaving Palm Beach County, says Mueller probe itself should be investigated

By Hannah Morse and Christine Stapleton
Daily News Staff Writers

President Donald Trump returned to Washington Sunday afternoon claiming "complete and total exoneration" following what turned out to be a historic weekend in Palm Beach that ended with the potential dissipation of a cloud that hung over his presidency for nearly two years.

Speaking to reporters from the tarmac at Palm Beach International Airport, the president said special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation "found no collusion with Russia, the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard." He called for an investigation into the factors that led to the probe in the first place.

"There was no collusion with Russia. There was no obstruction, and none whatsoever," Trump said. "It was a complete and total exoneration. It's a shame that our country had to go through this. To be honest, it's a shame that your president has had to go through this for ... before I even got elected it began."

Trump added that he hoped "somebody is going to be looking at the other side" and that the investigation "was an illegal takedown that failed."

Then, from Air Force One, he tweeted: "No Collusion, No Obstruction, Complete and Total EXONERATION. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!"

While Trump spent Saturday and Sunday

See TRUMP, A5

No escaping the Madness



March Madness is everywhere, even Sunday in the serenity of The Society of Four Arts Botanical Gardens. Alan Waxenberg relaxes in the sun as his wife, Suzanne, follows along on her cellphone as her team, the Iowa Hawkeyes, battles the Tennessee Volunteers in the NCAA basketball tournament. The Waxenbergs, from Scarsdale, New York, are spending the month of March in Palm Beach County and spent the day celebrating their 60th anniversary and Suzanne's birthday with their daughter, Robin, touring their favorite sites in Palm Beach. Sadly, for Suzanne, her Hawkeyes lost in overtime, 83-77.

[MELANIE BELL/PALMBEACHDAILYNEWS.COM]

Say ciao to Italian Week



Nancy Leonard, of Maryland, plays the accordion Saturday during Italian Week Palm Beach on Worth Avenue. The event included live opera in addition to the accordion music, and there was complimentary gelato from Piccolo Gelato. [MEGHAN MCCARTHY/PALMBEACHDAILYNEWS.COM]

Dramaworks stages August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize winner 'Fences'

By Jan Sjostrom
Daily News Staff Writer

Some consider August Wilson the American Shakespeare because of the poetry, power and universal themes of his plays. His crowning achievement is his 10-play Pittsburgh or Century Cycle spanning the black American experience in the 20th century. Each play is set in a different decade.

The most famous play in the cycle is "Fences," which William Hayes, Palm Beach Dramaworks' producing artistic director, calls "one of the top five American

plays."

He will direct his company's production of the show, which opens Friday at the theater in West Palm Beach.

In 1987, "Fences" won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a Tony award for best play. When it returned to Broadway in 2010, it nabbed a best revival Tony. A film version was released in 2016.

Like all but one of the cycle, the play is set in Pittsburgh's Hill District, where Wilson, who lived from 1945 to 2005, grew up the son of a largely absent white father and a black mother.

"Fences," which is set in

the 1950s, tells the story of Troy, a middle-aged man who was a star in the Negro Baseball League but now works as a trash collector. Banned from the Major League because of his race, Troy can't let go of his bitterness and disappointment. His frustration leads him to commit acts that fracture his marriage, injure his brain-damaged brother and drive his younger son away.

Lester Purry, who plays Troy, had just finished portraying him at the Portland Playhouse in Oregon when he was contacted about

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