

# LOCAL

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Friends, classmates and family members of Romen Phelps gather for a vigil on Saturday, across the street from where the 33-year-old was shot and killed by police a week earlier at Dreyfoos School of the Arts in West Palm Beach.

## Vigil honors Dreyfoos alum killed by police

### Phelps remembrance places focus on mental health

**Katherine Kokal**  
Palm Beach Post  
USA TODAY NETWORK

WEST PALM BEACH – A creator who would drop anything to help run sound production for a theater performance.

A son who would buy strangers lunch if they seemed down on their luck.

A friend who saw himself as a phoenix who would one day rise from the ashes.

That's how family and friends describe Romen Phelps, a 33-year-old man whom police shot and killed May 13 in the Dreyfoos School of the Arts theater.

Phelps crashed his van on campus shortly before in what those close to him have called a manic mental health episode.

But those who cared for Phelps didn't want to talk about the way he died.

Dozens of his friends, classmates and family members held a vigil for him Saturday afternoon and evening across the from the Dreyfoos campus where he had been happiest, and where he was killed. The vigil was full of messages about mental health awareness and how to get help. Friends shared songs and poetry and family members told stories about Phelps. It was not a protest aimed at police.

"No one's really here to get upset or start a fight, but really to honor his legacy so that he's remembered, not as somebody who scared kids or stormed a campus, but somebody who was having a mental health crisis," Stephanie Cimino, a Dreyfoos graduate and classmate, told The Palm Beach Post.

Phelps' mother Robbin Jackman, who has worked in social services, and his stepfather Tony attended



Lindsey Milles makes signs at a vigil for Phelps on Saturday in West Palm Beach. Milles was in school with Phelps at Dreyfoos School of the Arts and remembers him as someone who had "the ability to let people shine by using his skills."

PHOTOS BY KATHERINE KOKAL/PALM BEACH POST

the vigil. They met with their son's classmates and friends, and they want the world to know that Phelps' manner of death obscures what he was really like

"He was such a happy person and he was so genuine," Jackman said. "There are so many people surrounding us, and if Romen we're looking down, he'd be very happy."

Jackman would not comment on whether her family will bring a lawsuit against the West Palm Beach Police Department.

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## Officials investigate likely case of monkeypox in state

**Hannah Morse**  
Palm Beach Post  
USA TODAY NETWORK

FORT LAUDERDALE – Health officials are investigating the state's first presumptive positive case of monkeypox in South Florida.

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County announced Sunday that it and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are conducting epidemiological investigations to determine any possible exposures or offer post-exposure treatment.

The singular case is related to international travel and the person is isolated, a state health department spokesperson said. The CDC will test a specimen for confirmation. No other cases had been identified.

The risk of contracting monkeypox "remains very low to the overall community," a state health department spokesperson said. If a person has received the smallpox vaccine, the Broward health department said there is "likely cross-protection against monkeypox."

Monkeypox symptoms are milder than those of



This 1997 image provided by CDC shows the right arm and torso of a patient whose skin displayed a number of lesions due to what had been an active case of monkeypox. As more cases of monkeypox are detected in Europe and North America in 2022, some scientists who have monitored numerous outbreaks in Africa say they are baffled by the unusual disease's spread in developed countries.

AP

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## NEWSMAKERS & SHAKERS



**JILL LANIGAN**

Jill Lanigan is a principal of Song + Associates, an award-winning architecture, planning and interior design firm. The firm is best known locally for significant public projects such as the West Palm Beach City Hall and Public Library. With more than 30 years of experience in architecture, Lanigan leads the planning and design studies of public and private projects for the firm. She also serves as a client liaison throughout the project development. A native of South Florida, Lanigan studied architecture at the University of Miami and studied abroad in Italy. She has proudly dedicated her time to the local community and is committed to sensible urban planning and environmental sustainability. She is a member of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, the Executives Association of the Palm Beaches, and a Trustee of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches.



### BUSINESS PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

#### Charity



**Turner**



**Porter**



**McNamara**

Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches recently named **Kirstin Turner** as board chair, and named two new board members, **Nancy J. Kyle** and **Derek A. Porter**. Turner is senior managing director of The Siritogis Turner Group. Kyle is a retired investment manager. Porter is chief operating officer for Earthrise Energy PBC, which acquires and operates power generation facilities. Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches provides programs, services, and solutions to homeless and low-income Palm Beach County families experiencing a crisis.

Cancer Alliance of Help & Hope is pleased to announce that **Joseph McNamara** has joined its board of directors. McNamara is originally from Massachusetts and currently resides in West Palm Beach. He earned a bachelor's degree in hospital management and an MBA from Lynn University in Boca Raton.

#### Medical



**Pinckney**



**Andrews-Singh**

Sollis Health, a 24/7 members-only VIP medical service, has named third-generation Palm Beacher **Carling Cooney Boyles Pinckney** the membership director for its new state-of-the-art flagship location in Palm Beach. In her new role, Pinckney is responsible for helping launch and maintain membership revenue generation in the South Florida region, including Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties.

Pediatric Associates is proud to announce the promotion of **April Andrews-Singh** to general counsel and chief ethics and compliance officer. Pediatric Associates is the nation's largest privately-owned primary care pediatric practice, with more than 200 locations across the country. Headquartered in South Florida, Pediatric Associates' facilities offer families comprehensive services.

#### Insurance



**Crider**

The Florida Peninsula Insurance family of companies is proud to announce litigation manager **Paige Crider** has received the Emerging Leader Award at the inaugural Florida Women in Insurance Leadership Awards, presented by Gunster. Crider was honored in Tallahassee among an impressive list of more than 40 women who are paving a new era of female leadership in Florida's insurance industry.

#### Legal



**Baldinger**



**Hammel**

Baldinger Mediation, a new business-dispute resolution company in West Palm Beach, was recently started by attorney **James B. Baldinger**, a 30-year veteran litigator. Baldinger has stepped down as a longstanding senior partner at the Carlton Fields law firm.

Sachs Sax Caplan P.L., a Boca Raton-based law firm, recently announced that **Edward S. Hammel** has become an equity partner in the firm. Hammel, who has been with the firm for 21 years, is in the community associations practice group at the firm and is board-certified in condominium and planned development law.

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