

# SOUTH FLORIDA SunSentinel



Winner of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service

## Our own YouTube stars still sparkle

By JOHNNY DIAZ  
Staff writer

You've probably seen the video by now: A thin woman, wearing a pink top and tight pants, shows off her fitness moves as she prances and gallops and trots through a park in the Coral Springs area.

That's South Florida's own Joanna Rohrback, 60, who became a fitness phenomenon thanks to the power of YouTube.

Her "Prancercise" exercise video took off in May and its viral power has landed her in newspapers, NBC's "Today" show and, more recently, in a sequel video where she prances to John Mayer's new single "Paper Doll."

But Rohrback is just our latest YouTube sensation. What about the others that came before her? We tracked down some of South Florida's homegrown video stars to see what they're up to now. See if you recognize them.

See STARS, 8A



JOANNA ROHRBACK/COURTESY

Joanna Rohrback has become an Internet sensation with her Prancercise video.

### How it all began

See clips of the videos that made them famous. [SunSentinel.com/youtubestars](http://SunSentinel.com/youtubestars)

1945  
FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVES  
Destruction of aircraft and hangars at Richmond Naval Air Station near Homestead.

1992  
STAFF FILE PHOTO  
Residents of a housing development cover a roof with tarps after Hurricane Andrew.

Statistics about two hurricanes that hit Homestead have been revised:

**1945 hurricane**  
Initial top winds: 125 mph, Category 3

Revised top winds: 135 mph, Category 4

**Andrew (1992)**  
Initial top winds: 145 mph, Category 4

Revised top winds: 165 mph, Category 5

SOURCES: National Hurricane Center; Weather Underground

DAVID SCHUTZ/  
STAFF ARTIST

## UNCOVERING HURRICANES

### Storm sleuths uncover hundreds of surprises about tropical systems in ships' records and old maps

By KEN KAYE  
Staff writer

It's a bit like digging for dinosaur bones.

Only in this archaeological excavation, researchers have so far uncovered 327 new tropical systems and revised the tracks or strengths of 453 more by poring through old ships reports and hand-drawn ocean maps.

This is the National Hurricane Center's project to reanalyze storm seasons from 1851 to 2000, to ensure tropical history is as accurate as possible. It's a Herculean task because new meteorological techniques must be applied to dusty, old data, said Chris Landsea, the center's science and operations officer.

### Stay informed, stay safe

Get the latest storm updates from Ken Kaye. [SunSentinel.com/stormcenter](http://SunSentinel.com/stormcenter)

"We continue to discover new tropical storms that occurred over open ocean but weren't recognized as tropical storms at the time," he said. "We've removed nine systems from the database, which we determined were not in reality tropical storms."

The job isn't even half complete. Since starting the reanalysis project in 2000, Landsea and a team of researchers, usually university students, have scrutinized 60 seasons, from 1886 to

See STORMS, 8A

## Carnival CEO to step down

Heat owner will remain as cruise line chairman

By ARLENE SATCHELL  
Staff writer

A day after riding in a victory parade with his NBA champion basketball team, Mickey Arison is stepping down from his job as CEO at Carnival Corp., a position he's held for 34 years.

Arison

His decision comes on the heels of a tough year for Carnival Cruise Lines after a series of high-profile incidents at sea that have hurt bookings and earnings. The company has struggled to repair its "Fun Ship" image and reputation.

Arison, 63 — who has owned the Miami Heat since 1995 — will remain as chairman of the world's largest cruise operator. Arnold Donald, a 12-year Carnival board member, succeeds him as CEO.

On Tuesday, Arison seemed to indicate he wasn't headed for retirement any time soon.

"I'm not going anywhere," he said. "I will remain chairman, and my plan is to continue in that role for the foreseeable future."

See CARNIVAL, 8A

## Change on way after vote ruling

By MARK K. MATTHEWS AND SCOTT POWERS  
Staff writers

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday nixed a key provision of the landmark Voting Rights Act, clearing the way for election officials in Florida and 14 other states to change their voting rules without automatic review by federal authorities.

In ruling for the 5-4 majority, Chief Justice John Roberts argued that the law's

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

Furor over Ecuador

Line in the sand

Doing better



# STORMS

Continued from Page 1A

1945. They plan to reanalyze 90 more, including 35 before 1886 and 55 after 1945.

The team most recently examined the period from 1941 to 1945 and found four new tropical systems, including a hurricane. It also revised the intensity of three hurricanes.

Notable among them was a hurricane that slammed into Homestead in September 1945. It was upgraded from a Category 3 to Category 4 with sustained winds of 135 mph.

"It was amazing the similarities that hurricane had

with Hurricane Andrew," Landsea said. "Both were very small and both tracked right over Miami-Dade County."

Another similarity: 10 years after it struck, Andrew also was upgraded from Category 4 to 5.

However, while Andrew demolished whole communities, the one 68 years ago did little damage to homes because so few people lived there then. However, it destroyed 25 blimps, more than 360 planes, 150 cars and a giant blimp hangar at what was then the Richmond Naval Air Station, near what is now Zoo Miami.

The reanalysis team also

downgraded the 1944 Great Atlantic Hurricane from Category 3 to 2. That system struck New York and killed 390 along the East Coast.

And an October 1944 hurricane, which struck Cuba, killing 315 people, was upgraded from Category 3 to 4.

To study storms that popped up more than 60 years ago, before satellites and other sophisticated observation techniques, Landsea and his researchers largely resorted to a comprehensive ships report database, kept by the National Climatic Data Center, in Asheville, N.C.

The reports were filed by both commercial and military ships that either blun-

dered into storms or skirted around them, recording atmospheric measurements, such as barometric pressure, along the way. But the reports were usually crude: For instance, wind speeds were estimated by the amount of white froth on waves, Landsea said.

The team also found hand-drawn storm-track maps, dug into hurricane center microfilm files and perused old weather record books.

Additionally, for the 1945 Homestead hurricane, the researchers were able to draw on military aircraft reconnaissance reports. At that time, planes were just beginning to fly into storms

to get more accurate readings, said Chris Lockett, who took the lead role in studying that storm while interning at the hurricane center.

"Mainly from aircraft reconnaissance reports, we noticed the wind observations didn't really match," said Lockett, today a forecaster in Albuquerque, N.M. "We had to do a lot of research to find that information."

In all, the team scrutinized 52 storms in the early 1940s, which wasn't easy because it was during World War II, when few commercial ships took to the sea and many military ships destroyed their records.

Landsea said his research team is now in the process of reanalyzing storms from 1946 through 1959. He wants to make sure the entire hurricane database has been "homogenized" with modern-day techniques because emergency managers, insurance companies and other agencies count on it to be accurate.

But he noted the tropical record may never be complete.

"No way we can go back to 1943 and take a satellite image," he said. "So there are going to be storms that we missed."

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