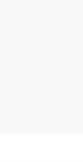


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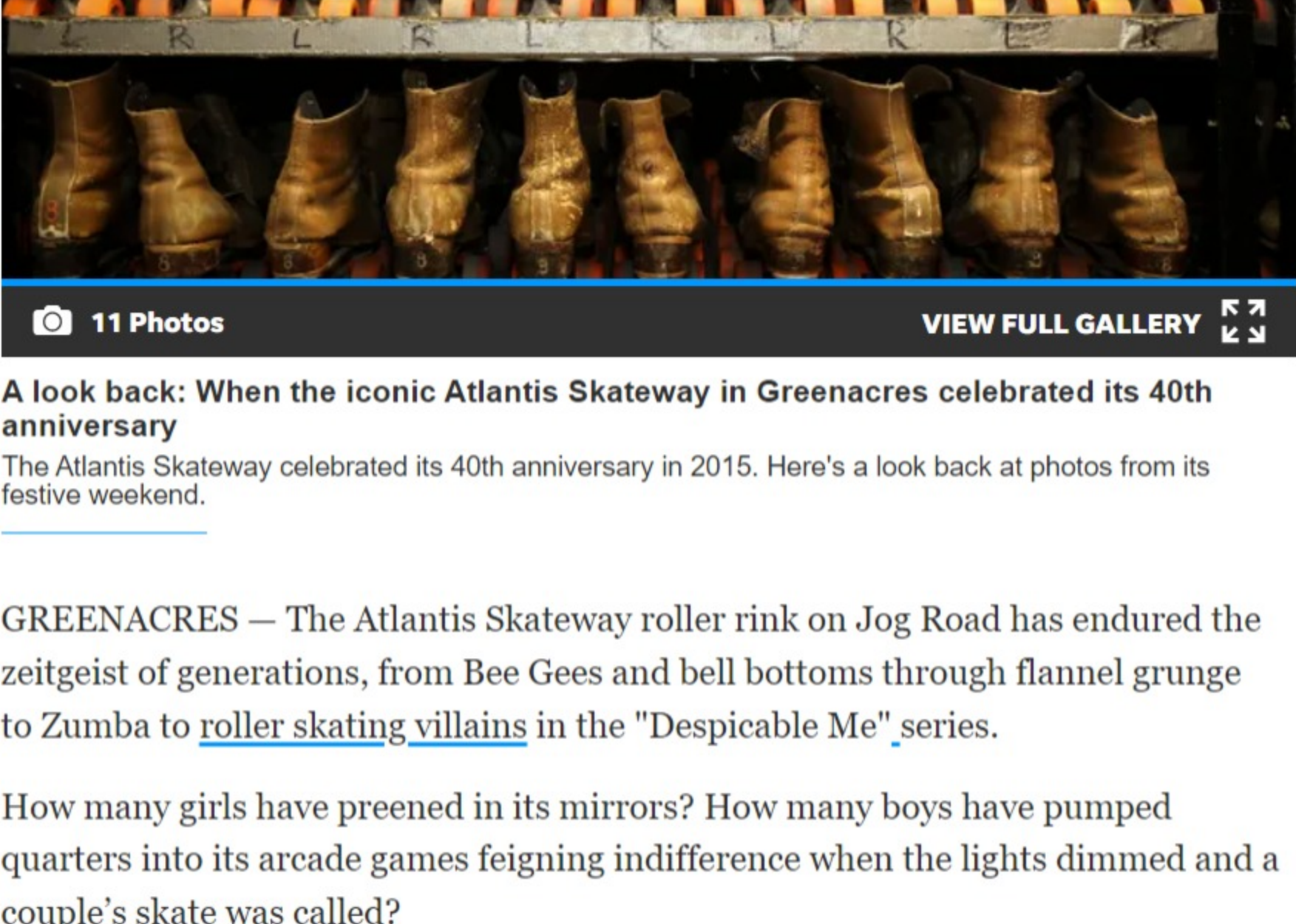
BUSINESS

Palm Beach County's last roller skating rink closing its doors, with years of memories

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Palm Beach Post

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A look back: When the iconic Atlantis Skateway in Greenacres celebrated its 40th anniversary
The Atlantis Skateway celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2015. Here's a look back at photos from its festive weekend.

GREENACRES — The Atlantis Skateway roller rink on Jog Road has endured the zeitgeist of generations, from Bee Gees and bell bottoms through flannel grunge to Zumba to roller skating villains in the "Despicable Me" series.

How many girls have preened in its mirrors? How many boys have pumped quarters into its arcade games feigning indifference when the lights dimmed and a couple's skate was called?

Since 1975, the building at 3100 Jog Road has been a steadfast part of the community.

But it ends Saturday.

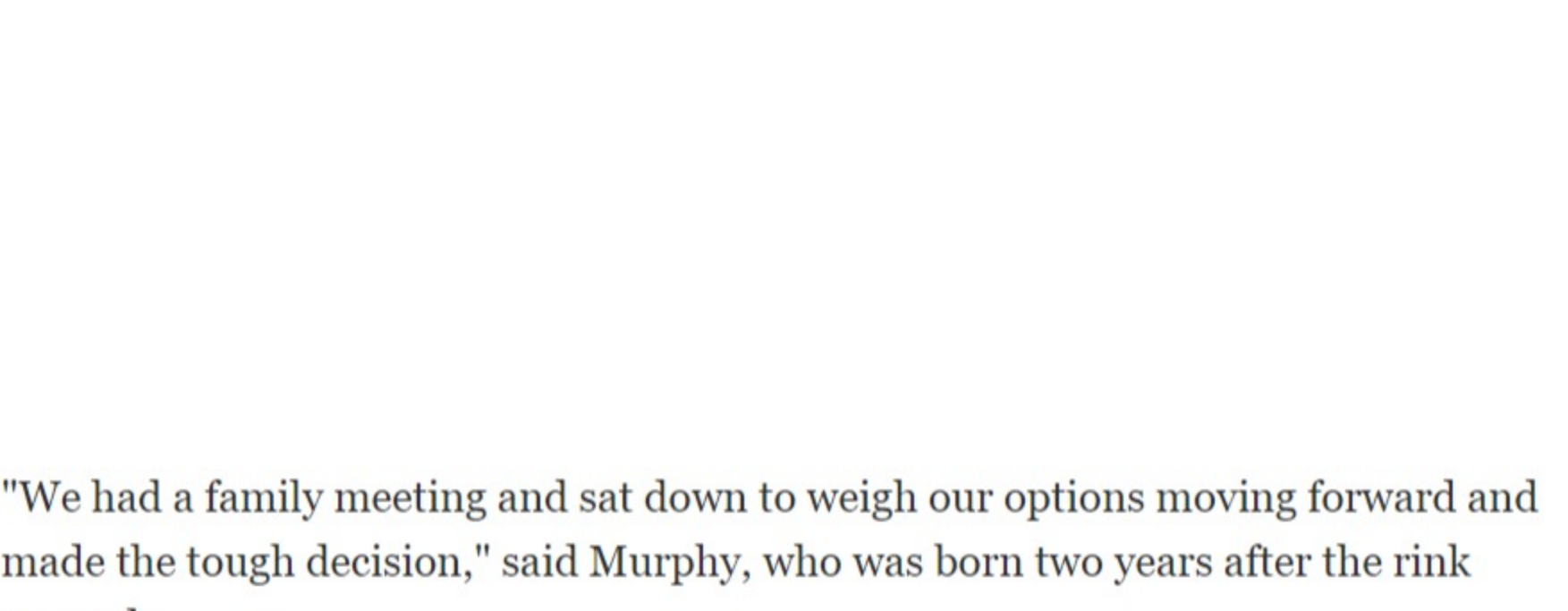
A California-based limited liability corporation linked to a couple originally from Ukraine paid \$3.6 million for the rink in June, buying it from the Camell family. Atlantis will hold its final "reunion" skate on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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"I think I've lost 20 pounds in water weight this month in tears," said Britni Murphy, whose grandfather built the Atlantis Skateway, which she now manages. "I was an only child, but not really, because I grew up in the rink."

Murphy said liability insurance was getting too expensive to operate the business and keep rates reasonable for families. Pandemic closures didn't help.

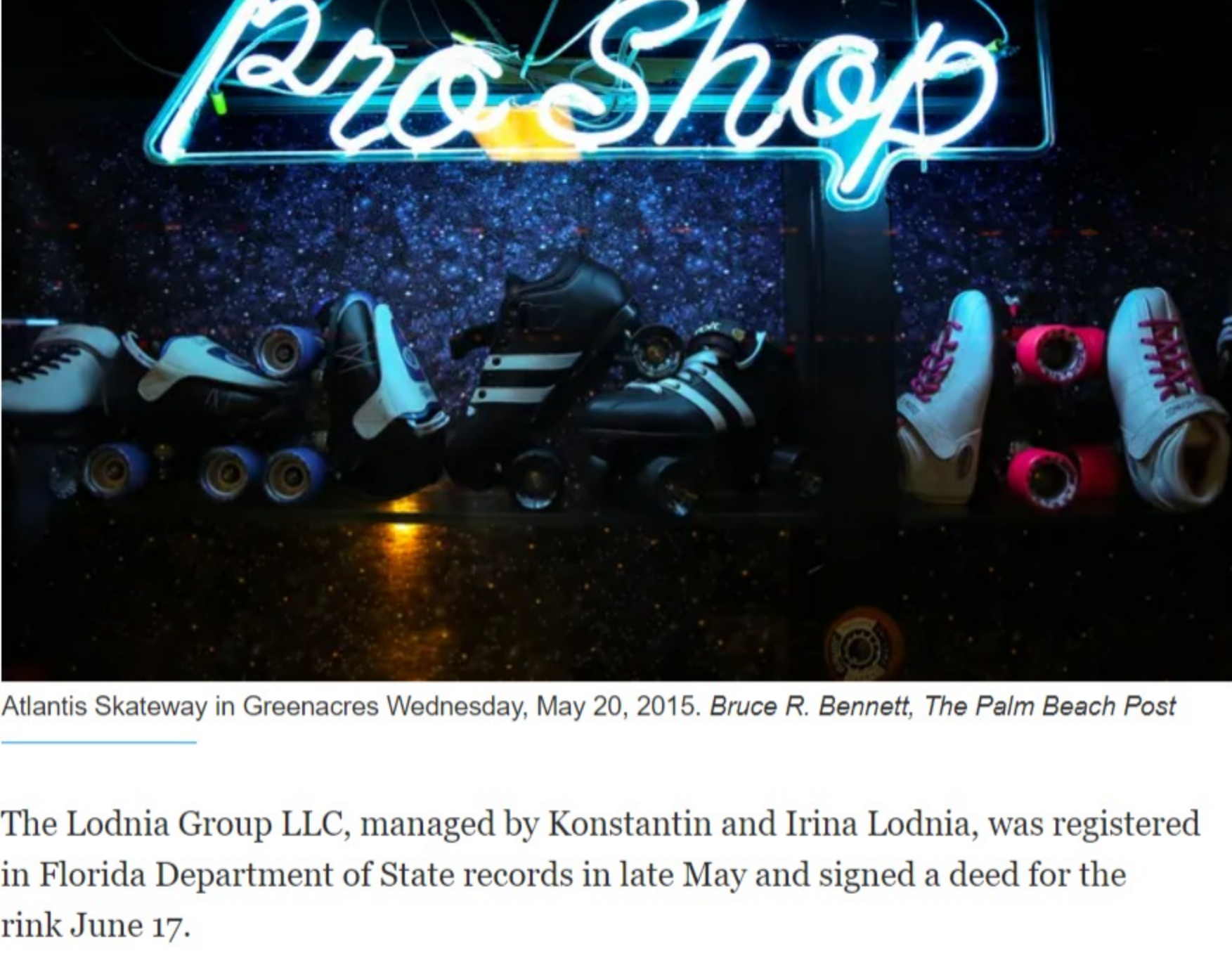


"We had a family meeting and sat down to weigh our options moving forward and made the tough decision," said Murphy, who was born two years after the rink opened.

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Atlantis Skateway in Greenacres Wednesday, May 20, 2015. *Bruce R. Bennett, The Palm Beach Post*

The Lodnia Group LLC, managed by Konstantin and Irina Lodnia, was registered in Florida Department of State records in late May and signed a deed for the rink June 17.

A man who answered the phone Monday at a number listed for Irina Lodnia said there was no decision yet on what to do with the property. But the Lodnia family has a long history in the ice hockey business.

Murphy said her family hasn't met the Lodnias but had heard they wanted to relocate from California to Florida. She's not sure what the plans are for the rink.

Morris Hankey, Murphy's grandfather, opened Atlantis Skateway after building a series of roller, rinks and bowling alleys along the East Coast. He chose Greenacres because he felt there weren't enough activities in the area for children and teens.

"You are going to see a lot of tears on Saturday," said Bonnie Carnell, Hankey's daughter and Murphy's mother. "Everyone you talk to that's been around here knows were Atlantis is. We are in our fourth generation. It's bittersweet."

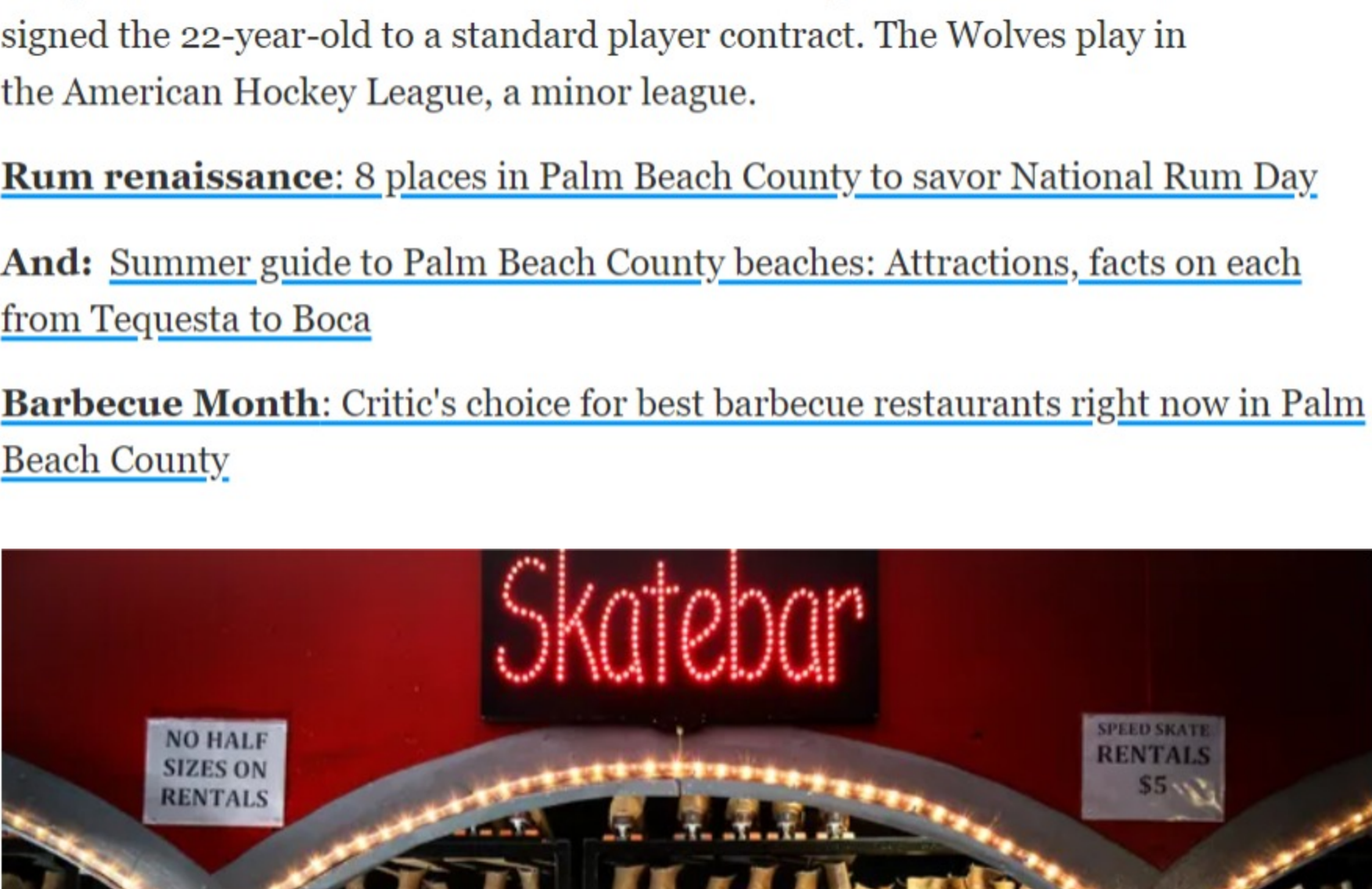
Trends come and go but it was always about skating at Atlantis Skateway

A charm of the Atlantis Skateway is its sense of being in a time capsule. Vintage video games line one wall. The skates are the four-wheel kind. The currency is cash only.

Murphy said they tried different entertainments through the years, including hockey, indoor soccer, Zumba classes and roller derby.

"Whatever the changing times pointed to," she said. "But everything pointed right back to skating and everyone just enjoying the skating with the disco balls and lights."

The rink still does a couple's skate and the Hokey Pokey and the chicken dance and races.



Norman and Bonnie Carnell and their daughter, Britni Murphy, are shown at the Atlantis Skateway in Greenacres on May 20, 2015. The rink will close Saturday. *Bruce R. Bennett, THE PALM BEACH POST*

Murphy said the rink will celebrate its 40th anniversary this weekend. (Bruce R. Bennett / The Palm Beach Post) *Bruce R. Bennett, The Palm Beach Post*



Atlantis Skateway in Greenacres Wednesday, May 20, 2015. The skating rink will celebrate its 40th anniversary this weekend. (Bruce R. Bennett / The Palm Beach Post) *Bruce R. Bennett, The Palm Beach Post*

Angela Tanner, assistant executive director of the Indianapolis-based Roller Skating Rink Association, was surprised to hear about the Atlantis Skateway closing. She said a spike in interest has spurred more rink openings nationally, noting several current pop-culture shows or social media venues that feature it.

The Disney Channel's original series "Saturdays" is a coming-of-age story about a young girl and her competitive roller skating crew. The "Despicable Me" franchise has a roller-skating villain named Svengance. The hit series "Stranger Things" includes an ill-fated encounter at a roller rink in Season Four. And TikTok is overrun with roller skating videos.

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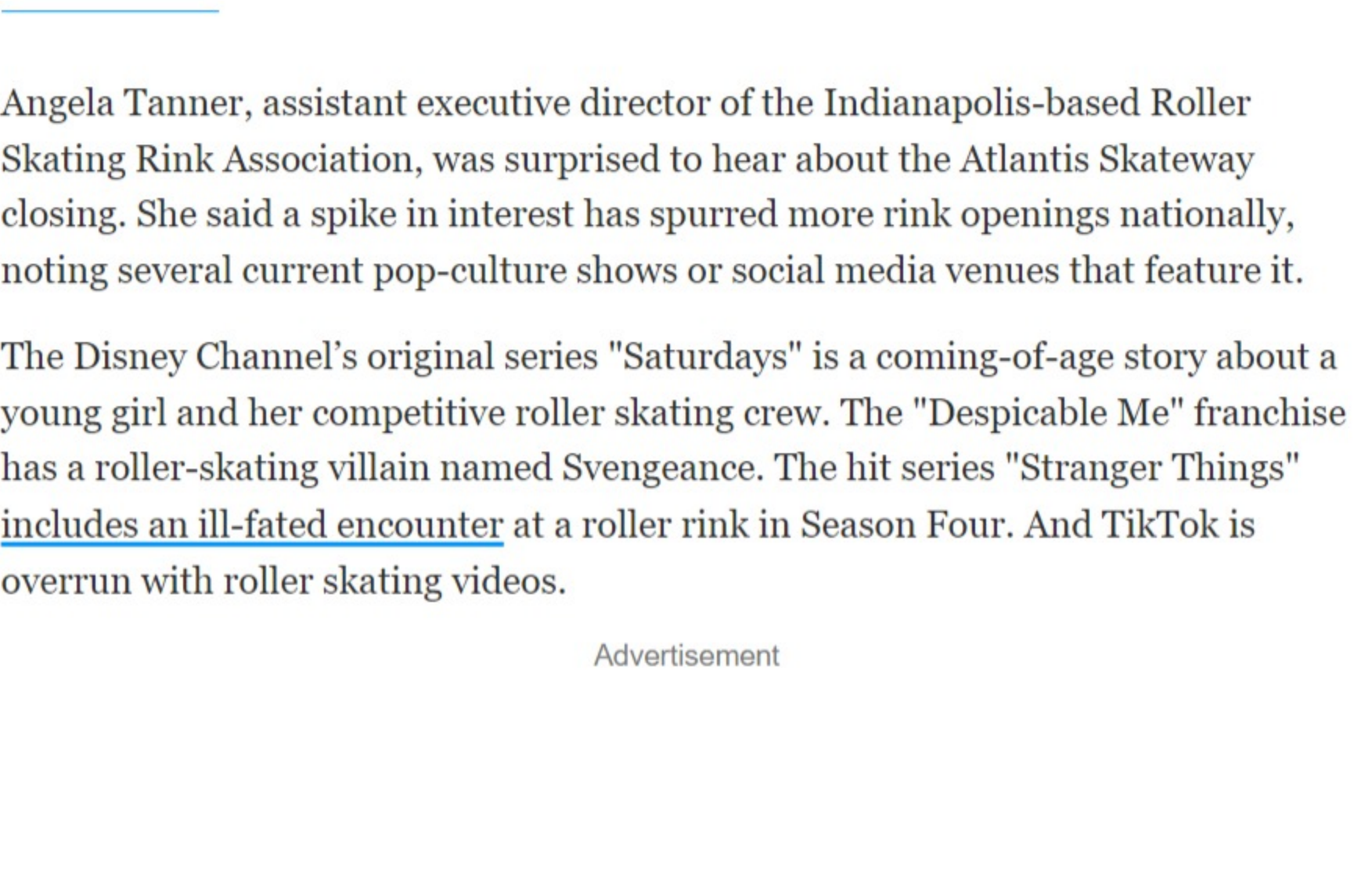
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