

VETERAN VOICE

The Voice of Experience

35 cents

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Friday, December 21, 2012

Fallen SEAL remembered

By Shelley Koppel
Staff writer

STUART -- When Aaron Vaughn died on Aug. 11, 2011, he left behind family, friends and a community devastated by the loss.

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron Vaughn, a member of the elite SEAL Team Six, was killed with 37 others when the helicopter in which they were riding was shot down over Afghanistan. He was 30.

Now, 16 months after his death, people are coming together to give tangible voice to the impact he made on those who knew him and those who learned of him after his death.

Palm City, the new American Legion Post 399 will

See SEAL page 3



Photo courtesy of the family of Aaron Vaughn

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron Vaughn of Stuart, a member of the elite SEAL Team Six, was killed in Afghanistan on Aug. 6, 2011, when the helicopter in which he was riding was shot down. Friends and family are raising funds to start Operation 300, a camp in Martin County for boys whose fathers have been killed in military action.

The tale of 'Snake' and 'Too Tall'

By Col. Terry Yon
For Veteran Voice

Pilots, as in all wars, bore a unique burden and helicopter pilots in particular. The UH-1 "Huey" helicopter become emblematic of the Vietnam War and this is just one story that illustrates the many uncommon acts performed daily by common soldiers, sailors, marines and air force personnel during that time.

You're an 18- or 19-year-old kid. You're critically wounded and dying in the jungle in Vietnam. Your infantry unit is outnumbered 8-1. The enemy fire is so intense, from 100 or 200 yards away, that your own infantry commander has ordered the Medivac helicopters to stop coming in. You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns and you know you're not getting out. Your family is halfway around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you'll never see them again.

Then, over the noise of gunfire and explosions, you faintly hear the sound of a helicopter and you look up to see a Huey — "Snake" and "Too Tall" are coming for you. They are not medical evacuation pilots, so it's not their job, but they are flying their Hueys down into the intense enemy fire anyway. One by one, they drop in and sit there in the withering machine gun fire, as they load you and others on board.

After what seems like an

See HUEYS page 5

Fort Pierce Coast Guard station welcomes new commander

By Hank Cushard
Public Affairs Specialist 1
U. S. Coast Guard
Auxiliary/Flotilla 59
For Veteran Voice

FORT PIERCE — "A professional well trained boat force to respond to the nation's security with dedicated professionals that are available 24/7 to answer all calls," said the new commanding officer for Coast Guard Station Fort Pierce, Chief Warrant Officer Randy Ryan, during a recent interview.

When asked about his goals for the Fort Pierce station, he said,

"We will continue to promote boating safety with an active public education program in cooperation with the community and the Coast Guard Auxiliary to insure the public is safe." "These are our goals and we will train hard and work hard to achieve them."

Mr. Ryan, a Florida native, from St. Petersburg, enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard 26 years ago. He received his commission as Chief Warrant Officer in June of 2004. Over the next few years,



See RYAN page 2 Chief Warrant Officer Randy Ryan

The winner is ...



Photo courtesy of John Darling

Dmitry Staroduftsen, left, the November winner of the \$100 Simon Mall gift card, with John Darling, president of the Victory Center Military Store at Indian River Mall. As an in-store promotion to generate traffic, the Victory Center Military Store is giving away one gift card a month in the months of November, December and January. No purchase is necessary, Darling said, and the card is good for any store in the mall. The Victory Center Military Store is a nonprofit retail store that helps support local veterans. The store is stocked with military items from camouflage clothing to flags and patches, and is operated entirely by volunteers. The store is located near the Macy's entrance to the mall. It is open from Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, call (772) 226-5316.

RYAN from page 1

from Cape May, N.J., he was assigned to Station Fort Myers Beach, the Coast Guard Cutter DRUMMOND home-ported in Cape Canaveral, and then to CGC COURAGEOUS in Panama City. On board the COURAGEOUS, he participated in multiple foreign training events, drug seizures, and Alien Migrant Interdiction Operations in the Caribbean waters. Soon after his assignment to the CGC AXE in Mobile, Ala., Ryan was the Officer in Charge of the Aids to Navigation, Search and Rescue, and Environmental Protection Teams in Dulac, La., which covered the busiest waterway in the Gulf of Mexico.

From June 2004 to June 2006, he was assigned to and commissioned Maritime Safety and Security Team, New Orleans, where he was responsible for the training and supervision of tactical boat operations and the Anti-terrorism/Force Protection program. He and his 40 boat detachment provided Presidential Security details and led team forces back into New Orleans as first responders following Hurricane Katrina. In June 2006, he assumed command of his hometown unit at Station Sand Key in Clearwater.

While at Station Sand Key, his unit won the prestigious Sumner Readiness I. Kimball Award for his unit's performance.

Prior to his command at Fort Pierce, he reported to District Seven's Tactical Law Enforcement Team, where he served as unit supervisor and District 7's Non-Compliant Vessel Program coordinator.

Chief Warrant Officer Ryan's personal awards include five Coast Guard Commendation Medals, three Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon. He is a Coast Guard Cutterman and recipient of the Coast Guard's Gold and Pewter Boat Forces Operations Insignia.

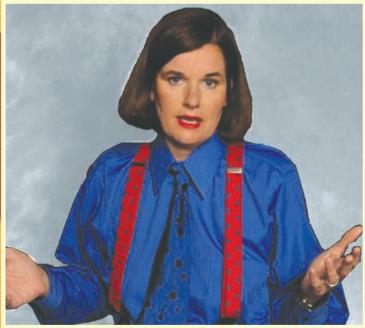
Coast Guard Station Fort Pierce provides Maritime Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue operations, fish and wildlife protection, illegal immigrant interdiction, and safety to the boating public for us on the Treasure Coast. From north of the Sebastian Inlet, down to the St. Lucie Inlet, the Indian and St. Lucie Rivers and Lake Okeechobee, we are protected by these dedicated and inspiring public servants, the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard Station Fort Pierce.

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SEAL from page 1

be named after Vaughn. Frank Maitland, the post's commander, said that the new post gives veterans in Palm City a local American Legion post. Naming it after Aaron Vaughn was an easy decision.

"It's an American Legion tradition that a post is named after a deceased service member," he said. "It's usually someone from the hometown. We contacted his mother and wife and they were thrilled. He was a Navy SEAL. You can't get any better than that."

Tara Vaughn Baldwin, Aaron Vaughn's sister, and a Stuart resident, said that the family was overwhelmed by the honor.

"This is not something we asked for," Baldwin said. "We are humbled by their generosity and thoughtfulness."

When Aaron Vaughn died, he left behind his wife, Kimberly, son Reagan, now three and daughter Chamberlyn, now 18 months. Tara Baldwin said that her sister-in-law was particularly worried about her son growing up without a father and male role model.

"Ever since he died, my sister-in-law has asked, 'Who will teach him to do what his daddy would have done?' She's broken-hearted not to have a good man in her son's life."

For Baldwin and the rest of her family, finding a way to help children of the fallen gave them purpose. They started a foundation, the nonprofit Operation 300, to create a camp in Martin County for boys whose fathers have died in military action. The name comes from Aaron Vaughn's favorite story about how 300 Spartans held off the much larger Persian army at the Battle of Thermopylae.

"There were 40 children whose dads died in that helicopter that night," Baldwin said. "Many were very young. 'There's got to be something good that comes out of it.'"

The group is seeking 100 acres of land with the ultimate goal of having 10 weeks of summer camp for boys 8-17. Each week, a different age group would participate so that activities could be tailored to that group. The goal is to take 30 kids at a time so that they can form close relationships with mentors and counselors, both male and female. Boys could come from outside the area, but the camp would be held here.

"I envision, in my heart, that someday, a mentor would go to the boy's hometown and watch

"Ever since he died, my sister-in-law has asked, 'Who will teach him to do what his daddy would have done?' She's broken-hearted not to have a good man in her son's life."

**Tara Baldwin
Aaron Vaughn's sister**

him play football," she said. "We hope to have them from all over and all expenses would be covered."

All of this is expensive. In addition to funds to purchase the land and transportation costs, the group needs camping and sporting equipment. They have an offer of land to use temporarily so that the camp can get up and running by next summer, but they would like a place of their own.

"We have to be a bit more creative in the beginning," Baldwin said. "We're outsourcing as much as possible. We'll probably have a weekend event with 15 kids to see how it works and try activities. By the summer, we hope to have two to three weeks of full-on camp. We've had generous offers, including a day of sailing and a day of waterskiing."

Baldwin hopes that people who have items to donate will contact her. They will find a place to keep them until camp begins.

For Tara Baldwin and her family, this is a way to make sense of a tragedy.

It's very fitting for him," she said. "I wish like anything we weren't doing this. Sometimes it takes something awful to take you beyond yourself. It's different when you see it first-hand."

For more information about Operation 300, visit the website www.operation300.com.

Donations can be sent to Operation 300, Inc., P.O. Box 3, Port Salerno, Florida 34992.

To contact Tara Baldwin, send an email to tara.op300@gmail.com.

The new American Legion Post 399, named after Aaron Vaughn, is seeking new members. It meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at different locations until they find a permanent home.

For December, the meeting will be on the 27th at 7 p.m. at Manero's Restaurant in Palm City.

For more information, call Frank Maitland at (772) 215-1329 or send him an email at americanlegionfl399@yahoo.com.

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Mental illness: The sometimes-invisible disability

The most moving piece of writing I've come across in a long time was published today (Dec. 17) in *The Huffington Post*, entitled "I Am Adam Lanza's Mother: When Parents Are Afraid of Their Children," by Liza Long, who describes her life with her own troubled son.

Friday's mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut sparked a renewed national discussion on a number of topics: gun control, school security, and, of course, mental illness. I attended an event just the night before the shooting where I met Josh Cohen, former talk radio host for local station WZZR.

I reminded him I'd written him a letter via email years ago in response to a discussion between him and his callers about another infamous, horrendous incident, in which a mentally ill Texas woman, Andrea Yates, drowned her five children in a bathtub.

We may never know exactly what was going on in Adam Lanza's young mind that sparked the shootings that took 27 lives, but those of us who have lived with mental illness know all too well the constant fear of what a mind that isn't wired "normally" is capable of carrying out. We as a nation aren't doing a great job of getting the mentally ill the help they need, but any movement usually starts with a frank discussion of the problem.

My mother, who suffered from schizophrenia most of my life and the majority of hers, died last year, God rest her soul. She was living when I wrote my letter to



Tammy Raits
Managing editor

Josh in 2006. I refrained from publishing anything about her then out of deference for her feelings. But in interest of keeping the discussion going, I think it's appropriate to resurrect my letter now:

July 28, 2006

Josh,

I'm warning you now – this is lengthy, so read it at your leisure, if you have time to read it at all.

I have never called your show, and you will probably understand why when you see my auto-signature at the end of this message.

Two days ago, however, I was going to call and didn't care who knew it was me. I have had a personal interest in the Andrea Yates case from the beginning. I once began an opinion piece for the newspaper that started "Ah,

Andrea Yates. If not for the grace of God, my mother could have been you ..."

My mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia when I was 11. I am the oldest of four children, and I vividly remember the year or so before she was diagnosed and medicated, when the illness began to manifest itself (as it does, like clockwork, in women, in their early to mid-30s. In men, it's usually in the late teens or early 20s.)

Schizophrenia is a strange illness, because the person stricken doesn't fit society's mental image of "crazy." Karate Man of Fort Pierce was "crazy;" nothing but gibberish spilled from his mouth.

My mother, much like Andrea Yates, speaks very intelligently. You have to listen to the actual words coming out of her mouth to ascertain there's something wrong. Indeed, schizophrenics are some of the most intelligent people on Earth.

I had hoped the debut of the movie "A Beautiful Mind" would shed some light on the subject for some of my relatives, some of whom are not very charitable about my mother's inability to control her actions – much like many of your callers. When I saw the movie, I saw the parallels immediately. My brother said, "Yeah, good movie. But that's not like Mom's case. Hers is entirely different."

Having been in the news business as long as I have been, I have learned most people are uncomfortable with the truth. Most people lie to themselves just to get through the day. Obviously, these are all coping mechanisms. I understand why people need to retreat to their black-and-white beliefs, at times.

And that's just what I heard on your program two days ago, people doing just that. I'm just sorry I didn't get a chance to call. I think the public forum is important, and you're performing a great service by making people think, and challenging them to step out of their black-and-white safe havens.

I wanted to weigh in on your very insightful side, and speak from my experience. These people who have this "off with her head" mentality have no idea what they're talking about, and you're right, their opinions stem from a need for vengeance rather than any

attempt to fix the problem.

My first clue, at 11, was when my mother told us our dog was a robot/spy that was recording everything we (my brothers and sister) said to report back to the enemy (my father, from whom she was separated at the time).

I walked in one day from school to find the living room in our house in suburban San Diego hit by what appeared to be a blizzard. I waded through my mother's latest attempt to attack a perceived enemy: she had torn up, by hand, pages and pages of the encyclopedia set she and my father purchased shortly after I was born. I think she'd gotten to the "T-UV" volume by the time I got there.

By the time she got some help, I and my siblings had already been removed from the home by social services. As I understand it, when the authorities came for her, she was sitting in the middle of the living room, naked, the utilities turned off and all the furniture gone. She was talking to herself, in tongues.

Could my mother have drowned us all, one by one, in a shallow bathtub, thinking she was saving our souls from the devil? I have no doubt she could have. Thank God that notion didn't occur to her before the professionals intervened.

As a writer, I have taken the lessons of my experience and tried to translate them to something I hope contributes to the greater good. But from listening to the majority of the opinions aired on your show the other day, it's obvious there's still a lot of work to be done.

When incidents like Sandy Hook leave us as a nation plaintively crying out for answers, let's look inwardly first. Attitudes can't be changed if we don't examine our own thoughts when such a tragedy occurs. I stated earlier in this column that 27 people were killed by this young man, but every news report I've read says he killed 26 people "and his mother," as if somehow she is less of a victim than the others. Let's start with our own thought processes, and work our way up from there.

Tammy Raits is the managing editor of Your Voice News & Views and Veteran Voice.

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The Voice of Experience

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Deadline is seven days prior to publication date.

VFW Post 10066 (Jensen Beach) upcoming events

'Elvis' Returns on Lasagna Night - Dec. 29

Scott "Elvis" Norton will return for dinner and a show on Dec. 29, when the Men's Auxiliary will host Mike's Italian Lasagna night.

Dinner will be served from 5 – 7 p.m. and "Elvis" will play DJ and karaoke music with two shows included from 6 – 10 p.m. Watch for tickets to go on sale in the canteen.

New Year's Eve Party with Steppin' Up Band

The 5-member Steppin' Up Band will perform at the Post's New Year's Eve Party from 9 pm – 1 am, featuring hot & cold hors d'oeuvres, party favors and hats, raffles and a champagne toast to ring in the New Year.

Admission for this special party is \$15 or \$25 per couple. Tickets are now available at the Canteen.

Leighan's Steak Dinner – Dec. 21

Leighan will be cooking steaks on the grill on Dec. 21, so make plans now to attend this fun evening of great food, featuring karaoke by Gabe.

Watch for tickets to become available at the canteen.

Thanks to all who have been enjoying Leighan's lunches and dinners and Sunday breakfasts from the Stars & Stripes Café.

HUEYS from page 1

eternity, they lift off and fly you out through a hail of bullets, to the safety of a forward hospital. And, they keep coming back, 14 more times, taking about 70 of you and your buddies out, who would not have had a chance for survival otherwise. Sound like a Hollywood movie? It was real and actually happened!

On the morning of Nov. 14, 1965, Maj. Bruce Crandall's unit was transporting a battalion of soldiers by Hueys to a remote spot in the Ia Drang Valley to a landing zone called X-Ray. After several routine lifts into the area, the men on the ground came under a massive attack from the North Vietnamese Army. On Maj. "Snake" Crandall's next flight, three soldiers on his Huey were killed and three more were wounded.

But instead of lifting off to safety, Maj. Crandall kept his Huey on the ground — in the direct line of enemy fire — so that four wounded soldiers could be loaded aboard.

Maj. Crandall flew the men back to base, where their injuries could be treated. At that point, he had fulfilled his mission; but he knew that the soldiers on the ground were outnumbered and low on ammunition. So Maj. Crandall decided to fly back into LZ X-Ray. He asked for a volunteer to join him. Capt. Ed "Too Tall" Freeman stepped forward.

In their unarmed Hueys, they flew through a cloud of smoke and a wave of bullets. They delivered desperately needed water, ammunition and other supplies and then waited a "lifetime" as more wounded were loaded, even though medical evacuation was really not their mission. If "Snake" and "Too Tall" had stopped there, they would have been heroes,

but they didn't stop.

They flew back into LZ X-Ray again and again. Crandall flew a total of 22 flights and Freeman flew 14 flights into what they called the Valley of Death. They made those flights knowing that they faced what was later described as an "almost unbelievably extreme risk to their life."

Over the course of the day, Maj. Crandall had to fly three different Huey helicopters. Two were damaged so badly they could not stay in the air; yet, he kept flying until every wounded man had been evacuated. He and "Too Tall" retired from the battlefield only after every need of the battalion had been met.

When they touched down on their last flight, Maj. Crandall and Capt. Freeman had spent more than 14 hours in the air. They had evacuated some 70 wounded men and provided a lifeline that allowed the battalion to survive the day. Many years later, when told that they were both being considered for the Medal of Honor for their actions that day, Bruce Crandall took himself out of consideration, saying that his friend, Ed "Too Tall" Freeman, had volunteered to go back into LZ X-Ray and that, as company commander, he was just doing his duty. Freeman was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2001 — but the story does not end there. After considerable deliberation and strong lobbying efforts, Bruce "Snake" Crandall has finally accepted his long overdue and much deserved Medal of Honor in 2007. Sadly, his friend and comrade-in-arms Ed Freeman was snowed in and could not make the White House ceremony. Ed Freeman died in 2008. A total of 246 service members were awarded this ultimate honor during the Vietnam War; 154 of them posthumously.

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FDVA seeking \$90.2 million from Legislature for 2013

By Patrick McCallister
For Veteran Voice

The cabinet gave the first nod to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs 2013-2014 budget request. The budget will move to the Florida Legislature for approval during its 60-day session, March 5 to May 3. Governor Rick Scott abstained from voting, because he's responsible for crafting and submitting an independent

budget request to the legislature.

Steve Murray, communications director at the FDVA, said the department's proposed 2013-2014 budget is about \$90.2 million. This fiscal year, the state agency — which is not related to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs — is operating on an \$83.7 million budget with 1,088 full-time positions.

"It's a continuation budget," Murray said. "We've asked for an additional \$6.5 million."

The FDVA's primary operations are the State Veterans Homes Program and Agency for Benefits and Assistance. The department operates six nursing homes with 120 beds each, and an assisted living facility with 150. Murray said the nursing homes program is the largest budget item.

"It is more than 90 percent of our budget and 90 percent of our personnel," he said.

"All of that runs from trust funds. No general revenue goes to the homes."

The homes program is financed through a mixture of VA, Medicare, Medicaid, insurance and private dollars. When Floridians purchase military-related specialty plates for their automobiles, they help fund the homes.

The plates range from an extra \$15 to \$20, which goes into the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund. For example, the Salute Veterans tag raised \$266,550 in fiscal year 2010-2011, a Florida Department of Revenue spokesperson said. Murray said last fiscal year, the tags raised about \$2 million for the nursing homes.

The Agency for Benefits and Assistance has about 100

See BUDGET page 10

Hearts for Heroes



Sarah Schumann of Port St. Lucie spoke about the love and loss of her husband, U.S. Army Spc. Jordan C. Schumann, during the inaugural fundraiser for the Hearts for Heroes Foundation, held Thursday, Dec. 13 at a private home in Palm City. The event collects funds to provide care packages for servicemen and women overseas. Spc. Schuman was killed in action July 5, 2011 in Afghanistan.

Mitch Kloorfain
chief photographer

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Heather Williams and hostess Laura Crawford of Palm City pose for a keepsake photo before Heather performed a series of Christmas songs to attendees at the inaugural Hearts for Heroes Foundation fundraiser held Thursday, Dec. 13. The event collects funds to provide care packages for servicemen and women currently serving overseas.

Mitch Kloorfain
chief photographer

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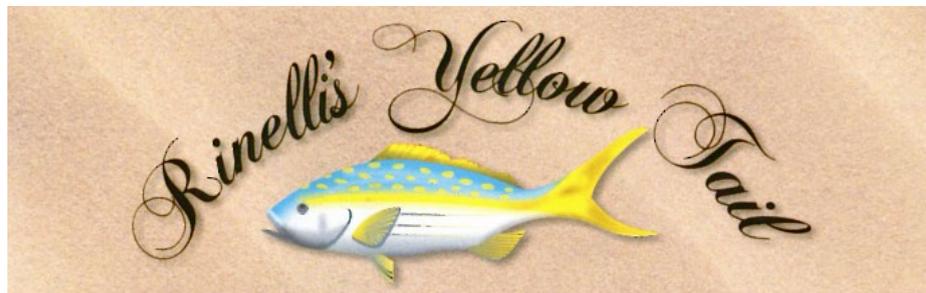
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Wreaths across White City



Photos courtesy of Wendy Dwyer

Above, Charles Vandegriff, 13, of Port St. Lucie lays a wreath on at the gravesite of Sergeant Jacob Kocis, who served in Korea with the U.S. Marines. Wreaths were placed on veterans' graves Saturday, Dec. 15 in White City Cemetery as part of 'Wreaths Across America' honoring veterans during the holiday season. At right, retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Vince LaValle of Port St. Lucie lays a wreath on the gravesite of World War II veteran Forrest Martin.



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Toy collection



Photo courtesy of Pete Sayles

Pete Sayles, assistant coordinator for Toys for Tots in Indian River County, far left, and Ben Humphries, coordinator, far right, made a toy pick up last week the Realtors Association of Indian River County. Ben was a U.S. Army staff sergeant and currently serves as president of the Florida State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America and is past president of Chapter 1038. At the right of Mr. Sayles is Michael Lafferty, 2013 president of the Realtors Association and Carol Hawk, CEO of the Realtors Association.

Publisher's note

To our subscribers and readers: You have probably noticed that this issue of *Veteran Voice* has been slimmed down to 12 pages from the previous issues' 16 pages. This has not reduced editorial space by even one column inch.

To this point, we have been publishing advertising below cost in establishing this publication as an important source of news and information to the residents of this area. With our subscription base increasing and more of the community now familiar with *Veteran Voice*, it is time to end this practice. With additional subscribers, we should be able to solidify our base of advertisers and return to a 16-page publication soon.

We thank you for your support and subscriptions, and look forward to continuing to provide you with even more pages of news and information as we continue to grow.

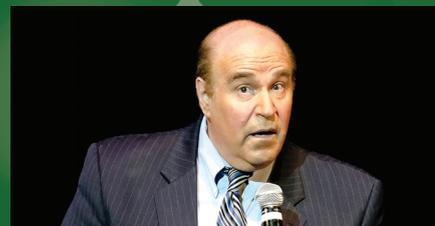
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Shrine on!

Above, Potentate Robert Headley rides in one of the Azan Shriners cars in the Cocoa Beach Christmas parade held earlier this month. At right, 'The Oriental Band' from left to right is Wes Allen, George Collins, Robert Palmer and Don Weber. The Azan Shriners of Melbourne have been participating in the holiday parades since 1979. The Shriners are always accepting toys for the children. They send toys to the Shriners Children Hospital in Tampa throughout the year. The organization also accepts donations for the Azan Shriners Transportation Fund. This money is used for gasoline and upkeep on the vehicles to transport children and their families to the hospital for doctor appointments, estimated to be the largest expense.



Indian River County's Toys for Tots collects as many as 16,000 this year

By Patrick McCallister
For Veteran Voice

Vic Diaz will spend his Christmas Eve with three very hurting families.

"We have one family that the father lost his child to cancer," he

said. "They were only able to work sporadically. Emotionally, he's having a very tough time."

The family has a surviving daughter.

Diaz is secretary of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter

1038, Indian River County, and is also with the Marine Corps League, Detachment 58, also Indian River County. The two groups oversaw the Indian River U.S Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program this year.

He and a handful of other volunteers will make special Christmas Eve trips to help make area children's holidays more joyous. The

See TOYS page 10

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Afraid
7. Love grass
11. Hepburn/Grant movie
12. Opposite of good
13. Whale ship captain
14. A major U.S. political party
15. Rate of walking
16. A ceremonial procession
18. Unfolded

20. More pretentious
21. Ribbon belts
23. Himalayan wild goats
24. 100 = 1 kwanza
25. Japanese wrestling
26. ___asty: family of rulers
27. Luteinizing hormone
29. British Air Aces
30. Being a single unit
31. Opposite of gee

33. National Guard
34. A stratum of rock
35. Have a yen for
37. Cornell tennis center
39. Iranian monetary units
41. Settings in a play
43. Olfactory properties
44. AKA platyfish
46. Free from deceit
47. Ireland
48. 007's Flemming
51. & & &
52. Kidney, fava or broad

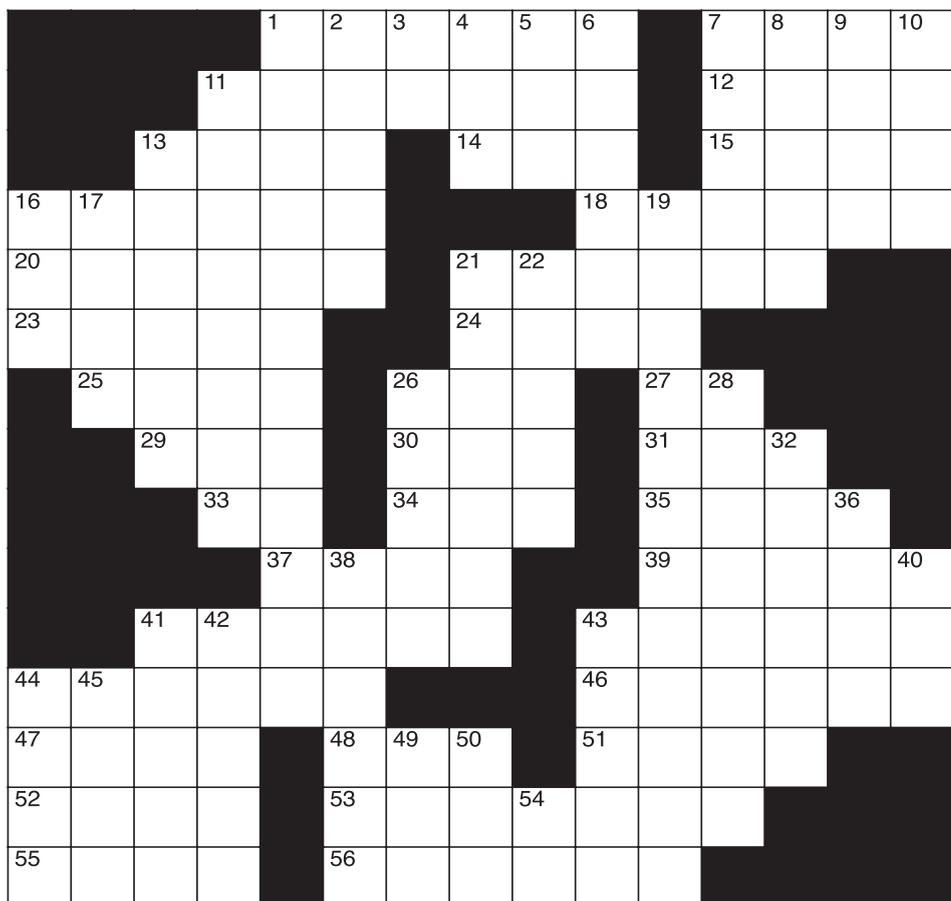
53. W. African country
55. ___ Frank's diary
56. Induces vomiting

CLUES DOWN

1. Jame's "Fifty ___"
2. Scottish game pole
3. Atomic #18
4. Tattered cloth
5. Tokyo
6. Force from office
7. Wigwam

8. Dynasty actress Linda
9. Small mongrel
10. Rapidly departed
11. A corporate leader
13. King of Camelot
16. Mrs. Nixon
17. Macaws
19. Symphony orchestra
21. Cunning
22. Wheatgrass adjective
26. U. of Texas residential center
28. Estate (Spanish)
32. Pilots and Blues

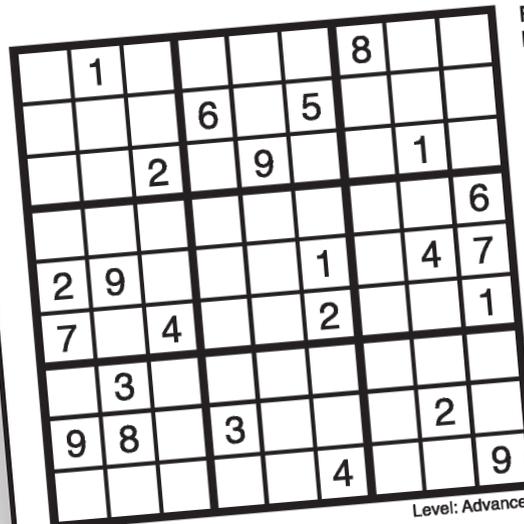
36. Right angle building wings
38. Store fodder
40. Supersonic transport
41. Brand of plastic wrap
42. Comb-plate
43. Puppeteer Lewis
44. Tatouhou
45. Security interest in a property
49. Direct a weapon
50. One point E of due N
54. Latin for "and"



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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

TOYS from page 9

local Toys for Tots has already distributed toys to several thousand families. But sometimes, folks want to do a little more for certain families.

"We have this happen every year," Diaz said. "We have families who are in special distress."

Diaz said that the Indian River Toys for Tots was successful this year when considering recent history. But, just as the well-known consumer confidence levels have remained low nationally for several years, so has what charities call "donor confidence."

"We're down, like most charities in Indian River," Diaz said.

Nonetheless, while the counting

isn't done, Diaz estimates that the county's Toys for Tots drive raised about 13,000 to 16,000 toys. Within annual averages, albeit on the low side.

"We do that on a regular basis," he said. "It looks like we're going to do that again this year."

The Indian River drive is one of about 700 nationally.

According to the national Toys for Tots website, Maj. Bill Hendricks and a group of Marine Corps reservists collected and gave out about 5,000 toys in 1947. It started when Hendricks' wife, Diane, made a doll and asked him to find an organization that would give it to a needy child.

He found none, so he created one. At the time, Hendricks was

the director of public relations at Warner Brothers Studios. He used the position to get some star power behind the novel project. Few remember that Walt Disney designed the Toys for Tots logo that's used to this day.

Marine Corps reservists used drill weekends to collect and distribute toys from 1948 to 1979. The Total Force Program introduced in the late '70s reduced the drill time the Marines could commit to toy collection and distribution.

By 1991, with the Secretary of Defense's blessing, the Marine Corps officially recognized the Toys for Tots Foundation to carry on the annual work.

As Marine reservists were called away in large numbers to operations Iraqi Freedom and Endur-

ing Freedom, the Marine Corps League and other veteran service organizations nationally took a greater role keeping Toys for Tots visible and viable.

Diaz said that donation bins will be back out next November. In the meantime, Indian River County businesses are welcomed to call ahead to request them, (772) 647-9300.

"We thank the community for their support once again," Diaz said. "They helped us give a Christmas to a lot of children in Indian River County."

There's one more need he hopes the community can help solve. The father who recently lost a son to cancer, he's looking for a job.

"They can call us," Diaz said. "This one gentleman, he needs work."

BUDGET from page 6

veteran service officers working at mostly at VA medical facilities. The FDVA is requesting more service officers to assist veterans filing federal VA claims.

"They help Florida veterans bring in additional federal benefits they earned to the state," Mr. Murray said. "We train and accredit annually all of the county veteran service officers out there. We meet with them twice a year and they go back to their coun-

Murray said the benefits-and-assistance agency's budget is from the state's general revenue, which is raised through sales taxes and services fees. This year, FDVA is getting about \$7.3 million from the general revenue. If approved by the legislature, the proposed budget would tap about \$900,000 more from the general revenue.

"It's a huge return on investment," Murray said.

It's impossible to calculate

See BUDGET page 11

	S	C	A	R	E	D		T	E	F	F			
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B	E	A	N		L	I	B	E	R	I	A			
A	N	N	E		E	M	E	T	I	C				

5	1	9	2	4	7	8	6	3
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3	5	1	4	7	8	2	9	6
2	9	8	5	6	1	3	4	7
7	6	4	9	3	2	5	8	1
4	3	6	1	2	9	7	5	8
9	8	7	3	5	6	1	2	4
1	2	5	7	8	4	6	3	9

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NEWS & VIEWS

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 59 installs new commander and vice commander for 2013

**By Hank Cushard
Public Affairs Specialist 1
U. S. Coast Guard
Auxiliary/Flotilla 59
For Veteran Voice**

STUART — U.S. Coast Guard Flotilla 59 located in Sandsprit Park, Stuart, held its annual election at their November membership meeting. A new flotilla commander and vice commander were elected for 2013.

Jim Stone, previously vice flotilla commander will serve as the new flotilla commander and Bob Kalinowski will serve as vice commander. Both men are certified vessel examiners and boat crew-qualified and have held several appointed positions in previous years.

At the recent “Change of Watch” ceremony, both men were sworn in to these positions. A “Change of Watch” ceremony formally restates the continuity and authorities of the critical positions within the Auxiliary service’s command structure and is a time-honored tradition.

Established by an act of Con-



Photo courtesy of Bill Gelpke
New Flotilla 59 Commander Jim Stone (left) , and VFC Bob Kalinowski (right).

gress in 1939, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Auxiliary supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service’s missions.

Flotilla 59 has been in existence for more than 70 years and has been supporting recreational boating safety and other missions since that time. We invite anyone

that is interested in becoming part of the Coast Guard Auxiliary to visit us at our general membership meeting held on the second Tuesday of every month at our facility located at 3443 S.E. St. Lucie Blvd, Stuart, Sandsprit Park or visit our website at <http://cgaux59.org>.

Semper Paratus!

BUDGET from page 10

how many dollars the state’s services officers have helped veterans collect. However, Murray said that Florida’s estimated 1.6 million veterans give the state a substantial economic boost.

“During the last federal fiscal year, (veterans) brought in about \$13.7 billion federal dollars into Florida’s economy,” he said.

That’s just in retirement, pensions, healthcare and educational benefits. It doesn’t include ancillary dollars, such as construction of the new Orlando VA hospital, slated to be substantially completed sometime after July, 2013, and completed by early 2014. The 1.2 million-square-foot facility will cost the federal VA at least \$612 million. The FDVA isn’t involved in the hospital construction or operation.

Murray said county veteran services officers are usually familiar with local state senators and representatives, and can help those who wish to express support for the budget request. “Generally speaking, the Florida Legislature has been very supportive of our veterans and our agency,” he said.

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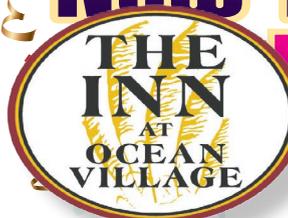
- Main display hangar (Approximately 250 people)
- Vietnam Display hangar (Approximately 250 people)
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- USO-type cafe (Approximately 25 people)
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OUR MISSION STATEMENT AND OUR OBJECTIVE

Veteran Voice is a weekly publication designed to provide information to and about veterans to veterans and to the broader community. Veterans are an integral part of their Florida communities, which currently have individual organizations of their own, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America and many other groups with a narrow focus, but no convenient way to connect to a wider population of veterans and to the community in general within a limited geographic area, their community.

The mission of Veteran Voice is to publish a weekly source of information that will provide, in one place, a listing of resources available to veterans, articles about changes in policies or organizations affecting veterans and events of interest to veterans as well as articles about veterans of interest to the general public.

Veteran Voice LLC is organized as a partnership of experienced newspaper executives with an interest in veterans and in the communities of Florida veterans and friends. VV is a start-up intended to address a perceived lack of information readily available to veterans on programs and policies affecting them and objective reporting of veteran affairs to the public.

To our knowledge, and based on comments from leaders of local veterans organizations, there was no media or website currently meeting this need until the launch of VeteranVoice.

We hope you agree, and will support this publication with your subscription. Without subscriptions there will be a limited number of people we can help, without which this mission will not be realized. As part of our commitment to supporting local veteran communities, we will donate 10 percent of our profits each quarter to qualified veteran charities recommended by you, our readers and subscribers. Please let us know what you think by emailing editor@veteranvoiceweekly.com or mailing your comments to us at **1919 S.W. South Macedo Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984.**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS ...

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St. Lucie County, Donna Carlsen
Phone: (772) 337-5670
Fax: (772) 337-5678
veterans@stlucieco.org

Dorothy J. Conrad Building

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1664 S.E. Walton Road, Suite 205
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Martin County

Tony Reese, Veterans Service Office Supervisor
Nick Ciotti, Veterans Service Officer
(772) 288-5448

Veterans Services Office

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435 S.E. Flagler Ave., Stuart, FL 34994
Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Important Telephone Numbers (from Martin website - need to check)

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VA Regional Office - 1-800-827-1000

VA Medical Ctr, W. Palm Beach - 1-800-972-8262

Pharmacy, VA Medical Center - 1-800-317-8387

Military Retired Pay Activities, Cleveland, OH - (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force ONLY)
1-800-321-1080

Military Retired Pay Activities, Topeka, KS - (Coast Guard ONLY)
1-800-772-8724

Survivor Benefits (SBP), Denver, CO - 1-800-435-3396

Stuart VA Clinic - (772) 288-0304
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Veterans Services office
(863) 763-6441, Ext 5. Fax: (863) 763-0118.

Orlando VA Medical Center
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Fax: (772) 595-6560

St Lucie Community Based Outpatient Clinic

128 S.W. Chamber Court, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986
Phone: (772) 344-9288

Stuart Community Based Outpatient Clinic

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Fax: (772) 288-1371

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