

MARTIN COUNTY Hometown News

WATCHING LEAVES WILT?

Use mulch and coverings to protect plants against brief cold spells.
Page B6



Vol. 12, No. 32 Your Local News and Information Source • www.HometownNewsOL.com Friday, Jan. 10, 2014

Need to know

Historic preservation board vacancies

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners is seeking applications from individuals interested in being considered for appointment to fill vacancies on the Historic Preservation Board.

All individuals serve without compensation and are requested to submit an Application for Appointment to Martin County Administration by Friday, Jan. 24.

For an application, call (772) 288-5756.

'Winning the Science Fair' at Hoke library Jan. 14

Deanna Pick's presentation of "Winning the Science Fair" will take place Jan. 14, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Hoke Library, 1150 N.W. Jack Williams Way, Jensen Beach.

This will be an informative presentation for parents and students who want to learn the ins-and-outs of competing in science fairs at the regional and state levels, or if they simply want to learn about the exciting, and highly competitive, world of science fairs.

Registration required, call (772) 463-2870

To learn more about the Martin County Library System, pick up a Library Connection at any Martin County library location, call (772) 221-1403, or visit www.library.martin.fl.us.

Register for dog obedience and other humane society classes

Start off the New Year by registering for one of the Canine Connection classes being offered by and at the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, 4100 S.W. Leighton Farm Ave., Palm City.

GOLFING B5

GOLF PROMISES



Getting you on track to have your best golfing year ever

WEEKEND WEATHER



Friday: Mostly cloudy; high: 77; low: 68; high tide: 3:54 a.m.; low tide: 9:55 a.m.
Saturday: Partly cloudy; high: 82; low: 70; high tide: 4:52 a.m.; low tide: 10:50 a.m.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, chance of storms; high: 82; low: 66; high tide: 5:45 a.m.; low tide: 11:40 a.m.
Weather courtesy of www.weather.com

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Charter school ranked number one on Treasure Coast

By Alisha McDarris
For Hometown News

MARTIN COUNTY — An overwhelming sense of pride is what faculty and staff at Clark Advanced Learning Center felt last month when they found out that the school was ranked the number one high school on the Treasure Coast by the Florida Department of Education.

Clark, a charter school that operates at the Chastain campus of Indian River State College in Stuart, is a dual-enrollment school that allows students to simultaneously earn high school and college credits.

Clark, along with all the other high schools in the district, was scored on student achievement on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, graduation rate, participation and performance in accelerated curriculum, and college readiness.

While all Martin County high schools excelled, Clark topped the list with 1,442 points and an "A" grade for the sixth year in a row. Their score also placed them in the top 10 high schools in the state.

"We are very proud of the hard work of our teachers and students," said Maria Mosley, executive direc-

tor of Clark Advanced Learning Center.

She said that it is that hard work, combined with the atmosphere of togetherness at the school that earned them their high score.

Ms. Mosley said teachers and students work as one to succeed, making a deliberate effort to excel in all they do.

"It's a team effort," Ms. Mosley said. "It's not just one factor that got us here."

Ms. Mosley cited the convenience of being on a college campus to receive college credits, smaller classes and a great internship pro-

See CHARTER, A5

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Happy New Year!

The New Year's Celebration was held at the Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast in Jensen Beach, on Saturday, Jan. 4. The ball dropped and confetti flew at noon for the celebration.

Sevin Bullwinkle
staff photographer



Right: Charlotte Roker, 7, of Stuart, and Charlotte Bohn, 6, of Hobe Sound, at the Town Wellness Center's operation station trying to figure out where the organs belong. **Left:** After the dropping of the ball Trysta Carney, 6, of Port St. Lucie plays with the confetti.

Sevin Bullwinkle
staff photographer

Agencies helping pregnant women maintain good health

By Alisha McDarris
For Hometown News

MARTIN COUNTY — Martin County Healthy Start Coalition believes that every baby deserves a healthy start in life.

The statewide organization does so by offering free services like health screenings, childbirth education and counseling to pregnant women to ensure their babies have the best chance of being born happy and healthy.

But the nonprofit organization noticed a gap in their services when they conducted research and analyzed data regarding low weight and pre-term births and infant mortality rates.

What they found was that 47 percent of pregnant women in the area are overweight by their first prenatal appointment, which increases the risk of negative birth outcomes and gestational diabetes.

When Healthy Start discovered the statistics, executive director Scott Berry knew they had to do something to eliminate what he referred

to as the last unaddressed significant risk factor.

"It made sense to us that we needed to develop some programming to address this," Mr. Berry said. "It's associated in a significant way with negative birth factors."

The new program will utilize its network of service providers to offer access to registered dietitians to women who score high on a risk screening and have a body mass index of 25 or more, signifying that they are overweight.

The dietician will provide the guidance, education and skills expectant mothers need to maintain a healthy weight during their pregnancy and will help ensure a full-term, healthy baby at birth.

Martin County currently has some of the lowest numbers in the state for infant mortality and low birth weight, but Mr. Berry hopes the new services for overweight and obese expectant mothers do even more for residents.

"I would love to eliminate pre-term birth, low birth weight and

See HEALTH, A5

Local students celebrate literacy

By Alisha McDarris
For Hometown News

MARTIN COUNTY — Martin County Schools know that reading skills are vital to lifelong success. That's why educators are pointing their students to the moon, stars and all the space in between with this year's Celebrate Literacy Week.

"Reading Accelerates Success" is this year's theme as Just Read, Florida! aims to show students how literacy skills connect with all kinds of careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

"Reading is an important skill that that our students need not only to be successful in school but in life," said Shannon Blount, coordinator of reading and language arts for Martin County Schools.

In December, Indiantown Middle School and Pinewood Elementary School got a glimpse of what the week would hold when Just Read, Florida! Sent their portable planetarium to the schools.

The excitement will continue on Jan. 13 as all of Martin County Schools bring literacy to the forefront with fun activities and challenges to promote reading and writing.

There will be read-alouds, "book tastings" and writing exercises. Some of the elementary schools will have fun space-themed activities like "Reading rocks so wear cool socks" and "Stars shine at night so dress really bright."

"It's bringing the fun back into reading," Ms. Blount said.

See LITERACY, A2



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Stamp prices to increase at the end of this month

By Jessica Creagan
jcreagan@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — The cost of sending a postcard or a letter to a pen pal will go up in this new year. The United States Postal Service will implement a

new pricing structure on stamps and other shipping service effective Jan. 26, a press release said. First-class stamps for letters weighing up to one ounce mailed domestically will see a 3-cent price increase, from 46 cents to

49 cents, and a one cent increase for the cost to mail additional ounces, from 20 cents to 21 cents. Customers that have already purchased “Forever” stamps will still be able to use them as full postage, regardless of how much was paid for them at the time of purchase, said Enola C. Rice, spokeswoman for the USPS.

Forever stamps are sold at the same price as a regular first-class mail stamp, meaning prior to Jan. 26, Forever Stamps will cost 46 cents each, but afterward, they would cost 49 cents each. “Customers may wish to purchase Forever stamps at the current rate, before rates change,” Ms. Rice said.

Under the new prices, mailing typical wedding invitations with multiple sheets of high-quality, thick paper and extra interior envelopes would increase in price from 66 cents per envelope to 70 cents. The cost to mail a post card will also increase, from 33 cents to 34 cents. The stamp prices have stayed consistent with the average annual rate of inflation of 4.2 percent since the postal service was formed in 1971, but in light of a the extreme revenue hit the service took between 2008 and 2011, the Postal Regulatory Commission allowed an increase this year of almost 6 percent overall, press release from the USPS said.

The postal service requested that the increase be made permanent, but the commission decided the duration of the rate increase above the normal rate of inflation would only be two years. “The Postal Service will be reimbursed for exigent losses that can be reason-

ably quantified,” said Ruth Y. Goldway, commission chairwoman in a press release. “We have determined that amount to be \$2.8 billion to cover the 25.3 billion pieces of volume lost between 2008 and 2011. The funds will come from a rate surcharge that will last just long enough to recover the loss,” she said.

First-class mail isn't the only service to see an increase Jan. 26, shipping rates for priority mail products will also change. Prices for the flat rate products vary by size, so pricing information can be found at the local post office.

Domestic priority mail users will have a new delivery option in 2014, Ms. Rice said. “The new delivery service option will allow customers to send domestic priority mail express packages to most locations in the U.S.

by 10:30 a.m. for an extra \$5 fee,” she said in an email. “Domestic priority mail express is a fast, reliable service which offers day-specific delivery information, up to \$100 free insurance and free package tracking,” Ms. Rice said.

The postal service relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund operations. Despite revenue growth in the fiscal 2012-13 year driven mainly by growth in shipping and packages, the postal service ended the year with a net loss of \$5 billion.

It was the seventh year in a row for the service to post a net loss.

The new 2014 prices are expected to generate \$2 billion in new revenue, a press release said.

For more information about the United State Postal Service, visit www.usps.com.



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Literacy

From page A1

Martin County author Mary Dawson will even be making video appearances to read portions of her locally based historical fiction, “The River Way

Home.” “We’ve got a lot of different things going on,” Ms. Blount said.

And she’s looking forward to seeing them all his year as she hops from school to school in her first year coordinating the event.

Students across the county will also be participating in the Million Minute Marathon on Monday, a state-wide challenge to get students to read a

collective 33 million minutes in one day.

Students will get extra time in class to read for pleasure instead of duty and their reading time will be tallied and sent to headquarters to be added up in hopes of achieving the goal.

One student from Anderson Middle School will even get to take a trip to the Kennedy Space Center on Jan. 16 to be recognized for her outstanding

public service announcement video encouraging her peers to read.

Ms. Blount prompts parents to take part in the week, too, by encouraging their children to read for fun and by picking up a book and reading with them.

More information on Celebrate Literacy Week, including tips for parents and photos of the week’s events, can be found at www.martinschools.org.

TREASURING LIFE



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— Rev. Roszon and Vivian
Robert’s son and daughter-in-law

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Hometown News
2013 READERS' CHOICE

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Business

Public relations, marketing firm marks 10 years

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

PALM CITY — The Firefly Group, a public relations and marketing firm, is celebrating 10 years in business by adding three new team members.

Stacy Ranieri, president, founder and chief illuminator announced that Wendy Puz, Allison Klempert and Jessica Waugaman have joined the firm.

"Ten years ago, my family encouraged me to start my own consulting firm and it's been an incredibly exciting and fulfilling journey," said Ms. Ranieri. "Firefly has grown steadily over the years, and much of our success is attributed to the outstanding work of our employees who we affectionately call 'fireflies.' We are delighted to mark our 10-year anniversary with the addition of Wendy, Allison and Jessica and look forward to integrating each of their unique skills and backgrounds to achieve even greater results for our clients and community."

New to the Treasure Coast, Wendy Puz is one of The Firefly Group's public relations and marketing executives.

Ms. Puz, also known as "Builder of Buzz," brings



Photo courtesy of The Firefly Group
Allison Klempert, Jessica Waugaman and Wendy Puz have joined The Firefly Group's public relations and marketing team.

more than 13 years of public relations experience working for Florida environmental agencies where she focused on outreach coordination, public affairs and media relations.

"It's exciting to join a firm that is so well-respected in the community and to be able to work with a team of creative, passionate professionals. Firefly provides such a fun and positive work environment - it makes it easy to pass on that enthusiasm to create the best buzz

for our clients," said Ms. Puz.

Allison Klempert, Stuart native, has returned to Firefly where she previously interned in 2012. A graduate of South Fork High School, Ms. Klempert earned her bachelor's degree in advertising at the University of Florida. She has joined the firm as Junior Account Executive.

"It's been wonderful being welcomed back to Firefly. I learned so much during my internship and now this is a

great opportunity to put everything into action while continuing to grow and glow," said Ms. Klempert. Ms. Klempert is responsible for a variety of client services with a focus on digital media, media relations and event logistics.

Jessica Waugaman, born in Pennsylvania and raised in Port St. Lucie and Stuart, joins the Firefly team as a Junior Account Executive.

Ms. Waugaman holds an

See FIRM, A5



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Local families benefit from housing program

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

MARTIN COUNTY — Martin County Housing announced that two local families have new homes in the New Year. Additionally, four low-income rental homes in Palm City are now available for qualified individuals.

The two families were able to purchase homes with down payment and

closing cost assistance from Martin County's Housing Program through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The NSP program also provided funds to purchase and rehabilitate a four-unit, two-story complex in Palm City. The Board of County Commissions approved transfer of the ownership and management of this

affordable rental complex to Indiantown Nonprofit Housing.

By using the NSP grant funds the rent will be far less than the local market rents. Rental preference will be given to U.S. Veterans and their families that meet the affordability guidelines.

In the last three years the Martin County NSP Housing Programs has helped turn 48 foreclosed housing units into occupied affordable

housing within the County. Some units are new single family homeowners and some are affordable rental housing.

Low-income rental homes at the multi-unit complex in Palm City are now available for qualified individuals.

For more information about these rental opportunities, call Indiantown Non-profit Housing at (772) 597-3667.

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A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352 toll-free within the state of Florida. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state of Florida. Visit www.ymcaeasterhouse.org or any YMCA of the Treasure Coast branch for full rules and regulations.

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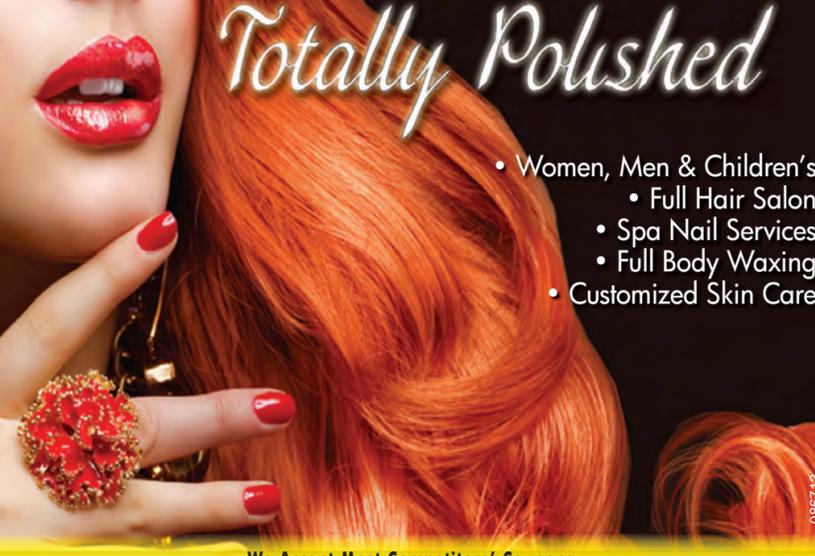
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Food Bank celebrates 25 years

For Hometown News
 NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — You may not realize that the meals we eat have a history as rich as their taste.

As the Treasure Coast Food Bank commemorates 25 years of providing sustenance, security and hope to people in need throughout the Treasure Coast, the organization is reflecting on its past while exploring the history of food and the people who have influenced what we eat.

To continue its long tradition of raising awareness of hunger in the community, TCFB is hosting two educational luncheons and presentations in February. The events, titled "An Uncommon History of American Cooks and Meals," feature Barbara Haber. Haber is a notable food historian, author, editor, James Beard Foundation Awards Board

Member and colleague of Julia Child.

Ms. Haber, one of America's most respected authorities on the history of food, will put this extraordinary subject on the table as she views food as a lens through which we can examine our country's history. She'll provide a historical perspective of the people who have taken charge of food in our country and made noble contributions to their communities, whether by collaborating to create community cookbooks for charity or by serving as volunteers in the Civil War to help nourish wounded soldiers.

"Having Barbara Haber educate us as we celebrate our 25 years of community service will set the tone for the years ahead as we move toward our collective vision of a hunger-free Treasure Coast," said Treasure Coast Food Bank CEO Judith Cruz. What began with a small

group of faith-based volunteers in 1988 has grown to become the region's only food bank and the largest hunger relief organization in the area. As TCFB marks a quarter century of service, it is preparing for the increased need in the future. The food bank took an important step in meeting this increased demand for services by completing the renovation of a new 35,000 square-foot food distribution center in Fort Pierce.

But, there is still more work to be done.

"With more than 100,000 people facing hunger each and every week in our area, it is essential that we combat hunger not only with food but with educational and other hunger assistance programs to help individuals and families gain long term food security," said Ms. Cruz.

"An Uncommon History of American Cooks and Meals" luncheon is one of many ways TCFB will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. The events are being held in Vero Beach at Holy Cross Catholic Church on Feb. 26 and in Stuart at the Blake Library on Feb. 27. Both luncheons will take place 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person with all proceeds to benefit the food bank. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

In addition to food distribution, Treasure Coast Food Bank provides numerous programs that not only solve the immediate problems of hunger, but help individuals and families gain long-term food security. As a member of the Feeding America network of food banks, the Treasure Coast Food Bank is leading the fight against hunger in our community and playing a vital role in solving the nation's problem of hunger.

For more information or to register for the luncheon, email rsvp@tcfdbank.org or call (772) 489-3034 or visit stophunger.org.



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Police report

Editor's note: This is a list of arrests, not convictions, and all arrestees are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in a court of law.

Arrests listed were made Dec 27 through Jan 3

Stuart Police Department

- Kendall Rydell Wiley, 43, of 5771 S.E. Wilsie Drive, Stuart, was charged with possession/sale/manufacture/delivery/traffic in drugs, with resisting officer with violence, and with possession of cannabis under 20 grams.
- Gregory Sean Lohrmann, 30, of 2560 N.E. Dixie Highway Apt. A210, Jensen Beach, was charged with two counts of possession of controlled substance.
- Joseph Edward Cannon, 26, of 1001 Sager Ave., Fort Pierce, was charged with possession of controlled substance with intent to sell or deliver, and with possession of cannabis under 20 grams.
- Brett Taylor Dobbins, 18, of 1231 Greasy Creek Road, Brasstown, N.C., was charged with burglary, with resisting arrest without violence, and with possession/use of drug paraphernalia.
- Christopher Robert Ernst, 19, of 5200 S.W. Grove Street, Palm City, was charged with burglary and

with resisting arrest without violence.

- Joshua Joseph Grimes, 23, of 3971 Gaffney Loop, Tallahassee, was charged with felony battery – domestic battery by strangulation.
- Roxana Janice Pena, 32, of 2901 Hawthorne Street, Stuart, was charged with grand theft.

Tequesta Police Department

- Miles Anthony Hallas, 18, of 210 Reo Drive, Jupiter, was charged with flee/attempt to elude a police officer.

Martin County Sheriff's Office

- Tevielle Matrice Jones, 30, of 736 19th Place Building 10, Vero Beach, was charged with felony failure to appear.
- Catherine Laakkonen, 23, unlisted address, was charged with abuse, aggravated abuse and neglect of child, with battery - touch or strike, and with resisting arrest without violence.
- James Karl Langhann, 36, of 3660 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart, was charged with grand theft of firearm, and with grand theft - property valued \$300 to \$5,000.
- Jennifer Michele McClain, 44, of 8322 S.E. London Street, Hobe Sound,

was charged with delivery of methamphetamine and with possession of controlled substance.

- Ernest Lee McIntyre Jr., 26, of 14937 S.W. 171st Ave., Indiantown, was charged with grand theft – property valued \$300 to \$5,000, with two counts of utter false bank bill/note/check/draft, with attempt to solicit/conspire, and with petit theft.
- Jatorey Du'mar McIntyre, 25, of 17461 S.W. Lincoln Street, Indiantown, was charged with grand theft – property valued \$300 to \$5,000, with two counts of utter false bank bill/note/check/draft, and with petit theft.
- Christopher Edwin Norris, 18, of 11566 S.W. Meadowlark Circle, Stuart, was charged with possession of controlled substance.
- Ivrin Vernard Parks, 34, of 304 N.W. Kilpatrick Ave., Port St. Lucie, was charged with felony violation of probation.
- Shawn Joseph Spencer, 44, of 1256 N.E. Ocean View Circle, Jensen Beach, was charged with felony violation of probation.
- Chad Edward Starr, 19, of 8569 S.W. Sea Captain Drive, Stuart, was charged with felony violation of probation.
- Leo Joseph Wesley, 47, of

5277 S.E. Driftwood Ave., Stuart, was charged with utter false bank bill/note/check/draft, and with theft.

- Harry James Frew, 28, of 11090 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, was charged with grand theft - property valued \$300 to \$5,000, with six counts of burglary of conveyance, with two counts of petit theft, and with petit theft - first offense.
- Keith Allen Hurt, 26, of 3317 S.E. Iris Street, Stuart, was charged with possession of stolen property.
- Guilbert Guiljuan Jeune Jr., 21, of 1128 Boston Ave., Fort Pierce, was charged with possession/sale/manufacture/delivery of controlled substance, with possession of controlled substance, with possession of cannabis under 20 grams, and with driving while license suspended/cancelled/revoked.
- Gary Lee Reed, 55, of 2902 S.E. Malaleuca Blvd., Port St. Lucie, was charged with grand theft, and with failure to disclose identification - unauthorized wrecker at scene of wreck.
- Scott Dennis Alberts, 45, of 1234 S.W. Pinetree Trail, Stuart, was charged with assault or battery on law enforcement officer, firefighter or intake officer.

• Tyler Douglas Archibald, 36, of 6531 S.E. Federal Highway #H201, Stuart, was charged with felony violation of probation.

- Constance Delores Baker-Jackson, 48, of 3956 S.W. Wycoff Street, Port St. Lucie, was charged with obtaining goods/services in return for worthless check/draft - value \$150 or more.
- Kevin Seiver Crews, 19, of 713 N.W. Spruce Ridge Drive, Stuart, was charged with utter false bank bill/note/check/draft, and with possession of 10 or more false, altered, forged or counterfeit bank bill/check/draft/notes.
- Brandon Allen Dykes, 30, of unknown address, was charged with unarmed burglary of unoccupied dwelling - no assault or battery, with grand theft, with two counts of dealing in stolen property, and with two counts of giving false ownership information to a pawnbroker.
- Christobal Perez-Jimenez, 55, of 2753 S.E. Ellendale Street, Stuart, was charged with aggravated battery using deadly weapon, and with aggravated assault with intent to commit a felony.
- Benjamin Louis Pfeffer, 18, of 2831 S.E. Brighton Way, Palm City, was charged with seven counts of obtaining goods through fraudulent use of credit cards.
- Murray Thomas Under-

wood II, 36, homeless, was arrested Dec 31 and charged with grand theft and with possession of controlled substance.

- Larry Joe Peebles, 47, of 2452 S.E. Janet Street, Stuart, was charged with grand theft and with scheme to defraud and obtain property.
- Kareem Marquis Brown, 18, of 14935 S.W. Seminole Drive, Indiantown, was charged with burglary of unoccupied dwelling – unarmed, no assault/battery.
- Chad Everald Fenn, 30, of 3199 S.E. Cypress Street, Stuart, was charged with driving while license suspended – habitual offender.
- Jarrard Maliak Johnson, 20, of 1617 S.E. Dixie Highway, Stuart, was charged with grand theft.
- Wayne Marlow, 35, homeless, was charged with two counts of felony violation of probation.
- Tiera Zanelle Pugh, 20, of 3416 Avenue S, Riviera Beach, was charged with grand theft - property valued \$300 to \$5,000.
- Jeffrey Ryan Rafferty, 35, of 2020 S.W. Woodside Way, Palm City, was charged with possession of controlled substance without valid prescription.
- Darren Lee Stewart, 34, of 19410 Gulfstream Drive, Tequesta, was charged with dealing in stolen property, with grand theft, and with burglary of conveyance.

If you have information about a crime, call Treasure Coast Crimestoppers at (800) 273-TIPS.

Charter

From page A1

gram for seniors as some of the components that have attracted their 240 students and helped them thrive. "As a small school we can truly help our students by supporting them not only inside the classroom, but outside," Ms. Mosley said. She said she felt blessed and thankful knowing the students' needs were being

met and they were being recognized for their efforts.

"I can assure you we are definitely going to celebrate the accomplishments and I'm proud of the students," Ms. Mosley said.

Clark is now accepting application for the 2014-15 school year for incoming sophomores, juniors and seniors.

For more information, call (772) 419-5750 or visit www.clarkadvancedlearningcenter.org.

Firm

From page A3

associate's degree from Indian River State College and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing. She has a real estate background, having worked for a local real estate broker for 10 years.

Ms. Waugaman also has extensive experience working with local non-profit organizations

including a decade as the administrative coordinator for a local environmental group.

"My interest in advocating for causes fuels the work I do for Firefly's clients. Helping organizations accomplish their goals is my passion," said Ms. Waugaman.

For more information about The Firefly Group visit www.fireflyforyou.com.

Health

From page A1

infant mortality in our community," Mr. Berry said. "I see the possibility of some really significant positive change here."

The new service is free and voluntary for any woman who is at risk and Mr. Berry hopes it creates a domino effect in the community, not only encouraging healthy eat-

ing habits in pregnant women, but in their families, too, reducing the epidemic of childhood obesity.

"I'm very excited about it," Mr. Berry said.

For more information about the program or to see how Healthy Start Coalition can benefit those at risk for undesirable birth outcomes, visit www.mchealthystart.org or call (772) 463-2888.

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VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, JAN. 10, 2014 • HOMETOWN NEWS • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM

Should you look at a desktop or laptop?

When someone is in the market for a new computer and they come to me looking for advice, sometimes they are surprised to find out that a laptop can be just as powerful as a desktop. I don't know if it's the size of the machine that throws people, but just because a laptop is a lot smaller than a desktop doesn't mean it's any less capable.

There are several reasons why I would recommend a laptop over a desktop and the power of the machine (to me anyways) has little to do with it. If you had two machines side by side, a desktop and a laptop, and they both had the same processor, memory and hard drive space I would choose the laptop every time and not just because a laptop is portable.

I know what most of the usual objections are, I hear them all the time. "I don't take my machine anywhere so I don't need a laptop" is one common objection, "I like to use my full size monitor" is another and "I'll need something much more powerful than that" is probably the most often heard reason for choosing a desktop that I hear.

One of the main reasons I choose the laptop is that everything that someone would need is already included without having to buy anything else. When you buy a laptop it's going to come standard with parts that often get forgotten when buying a similar machine in desktop form. Keyboard, mouse, monitor, Wi-Fi, webcam and battery are all standard parts in even the cheapest of today's laptops. Not so with a desktop. I don't know how many times I've gotten a call from someone with a new desktop and they are surprised when they cannot connect to their wireless service because they didn't get a wireless adapter. Same thing with the webcam - they get the desktop home and go to connect with Skype and have to run back out to get a webcam (or both webcam and network adapter). But probably my biggest reason for choosing the laptop over the desktop is the battery. You see a laptop, with its built in battery, already has its own UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply). I don't know of any desktop that comes with a



COMPUTE THIS
SEAN MCCARTHY

battery backup as standard equipment and a UPS is one of those parts that can really save the day when the power is dropping in and out as it often does here in Florida.

"I can't type on that tiny keyboard" or "I hate using that touchpad, I need a regular mouse" and "I want to use my full size monitor" are three pretty reasonable objections and often people are surprised to learn that a laptop can easily be plugged into your existing keyboard, mouse and monitor effectively turning it into a desktop machine and eliminating the need to rely on a smaller screen, finicky touch pad or tiny keyboard. Just plug your monitor into the back, plug your mouse and keyboard into ports on the side and you can't even tell that you're using a laptop instead of a desktop. It really is that easy and now, if you do need to go somewhere, you can quickly unplug four wires and be on your way.

Perhaps the most common complaint that I hear about laptops is the touchpad at the bottom of the keyboard. If you're switching from a mouse to a laptop's touch pad it can be a pain to get the hang of it. And to make matters worse when typing on a laptop's keyboard sometimes the mouse will jump all over the place as you type causing you to quickly lose track of where you're typing. What's happening is the touch pad is sensing your hand as you type and it thinks you want to move the cursor when you actually don't want to move the mouse at all. Add a regular "normal" mouse to the system and it gets even more confusing because you're not even using the touchpad! Why is it jumping all over the place? Well the answer to that one is easy but most people don't realize you can turn the touchpad off when typing and sometimes that's all it takes to cure the "wandering mouse" syndrome.

Sean McCarthy fixes computers. He can be reached at (888) 752-9049 or help@ComputeThisOnline.com (no hyphens).

Starting up the bridge



The 31st annual Bridge Buster 5k Run and Walk takes participants across and back on the South Bridge ending at the River Walk Center in Fort Pierce on Saturday, Jan. 4. Seventy-year-old Fort Pierce resident Ed Ruby finished second in his division with a time of 28:06.609. See more photos, B1.

Sevin Bullwinkle staff photographer

Letter to the editor

How lucky we are to be in Martin County

To the editor:
As a resident of Martin County for the last 42 years, I have been a patient at Martin Health System multiple times.

After my recent visit to the Martin Hospital South in July 2013, I felt it necessary to remind this community of how proud we should be to have Martin Health caring for us and our families. This health system is nationally recognized for the services it provides, and I can offer you a first-hand account for one of the main reasons why: its people.

From the minute I entered the Emergency Department, until my discharge, I felt the caring and compassion of everyone who cared for me. In the Emergency Department, I immediately recognized a familiar

face, which provided me great comfort from the start. A nurse named Liz cared for me and I remembered her distinctly because she had taken such excellent care of others in my family before. She has such a natural ease to her care, making it so easy to talk with her. I was raised to always say "Thank you", and I wanted her to know that I truly feel she was born to be a nurse.

My hospital stay was positive, although I was very sick and needed constant attention. During my stay, I visited many of the different nursing units that Martin South holds, including the Intensive Care Unit and various other nursing departments. My night nurse in the ICU was named Cheryl. She related to me on a personal level in attempts to provide me comfort. She shared with me that her family was struggling with a similar diagnosis. I was just awed by her strength and compassion she

demonstrated as she cared for me. Once I transitioned to another department, my nurse, Greg, got me through one of my worst nights. He was a great listener, was always there for me during the night, showing me great empathy and compassion. He even checked in on me days after, when I was no longer under his direct care. The excellent care was handed off one shift to another without any interruption. There was never a lapse of communication, everything just flowed.

The entire staff at Martin Hospital South delivers personal care, with all private rooms and a family-centered atmosphere. The environment and staff truly build important relationships with their patients. The moral of the story is, if you have to be in the hospital, this is the place to be."

Joel Pearl
Stuart



Got something to say?

Call the Hometown Rants & Raves line at
(772) 465-5504

or e-mail newsfp@hometownnewsol.com.
Callers are asked to refrain from making slanderous statements. Statements of fact will be checked for accuracy.

Shorten the time on death row

Time on death row should be much shorter. I know some lives have been saved by DNA reports and such, but the others should not have the right to take away the rights of their victims. The predators of children should not be allowed to roam the streets. They can never be cured of some depraved need for children. Keep them in prison. That would solve a lot of problems. The money spent on their imprisonment can be saved by putting to death the inmates who are condemned to death anyway, just make the time shorter. Much shorter. This makes common sense. A lot of liberals who are so called do-gooders may be insulted in some way, but that is just too bad. Maybe the deputy that was shot to death by a man stopped for a traffic violation would have been saved also. This country is being run by people who never use good sense. Of course, I could be wrong. God didn't wait too long to punish the sinners, why should we?

Raising morons

I have been reading so much about the young people learning to live off of my tax dollars in the way of government assistance and they don't even think it is wrong. Case in point: My 20 year old granddaughter has gotten government money to attend college because she can't afford to go, even though she is capable of working and has worked before. So the government sends her money. She takes two or three courses in a city college.

One weekend I find out that she went to Disney for a couple days and I ask her where she got the money and she tells me that whatever is left over from the college money is hers to spend as she wants to. I could not believe my ears. I questioned her on this and she saw absolutely nothing wrong. She is a very smart young lady, yet she

truly felt in her heart that it was OK to do this. There were no second thoughts. I told her that it was wrong and she quickly disagreed with me that there was nothing wrong with what she did. All her friends seem to do the same thing. Our government is training a group of morons to run this country someday, and it is a sad state. These kids have no sense of responsibility, or ethics or sense of morality or faith in anything except what they want to do.

Another thing that bothers me is unemployment checks. When my husband was laid off work in the 70s we received a total of 90 days of unemployment or less. After that we had to either get a job, go to family for help or go to our local church for assistance. There was no more extension after extension after free money after more free money... which is not really free... it's my tax dollars from all the working I did before I retired and others are doing now!!! Oh God, help us!

Regarding Seven50

I'm not sure if the Seven50 plan is either good or bad; I am not a participant. I do know that poor long-range planning or lack thereof makes for poor results. I also know that the Seven50 plan presents only a suggested strategy and not a plan whose adoption would have been required by its participants. The premise of the plan was for its participants to arrive at a smarter path forward in urban development and avoid future congestion from future population growth. It certainly isn't a tool for Big Brother to usurp local governments.

I know that some of the anti-Seven50 groups used a situation in Westchester County, N.Y., as an example of a Federal Government takeover attempt. In this instance HUD actually came to the aid of Westchester County after it was sued by the Anti-Discrimination Center for its failures to comply with a residential desegregation court order. When any branch of the Federal Government misspends taxpayer's money we should demand proper accounting and repayment. Should we expect any less when local municipalities misspend federal funding? I think not. The reason various Counties dropped out of the Seven50 planning process was not its content, but because of the anti-Seven50 groups made the process so painful for the commissioners.

It is a shame that the atmosphere of distrust created by the White House has made it possible for fringe groups to use fear, to derail this attempt at providing a better future residents.

Keep criminals where they belong

How many times have we heard similar stories before? A man wearing an electronic ankle bracelet fatally shoots a neighbor and then walks outside and shoots and kills a

See RANTS, A7

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MARTIN

The owner of the car dealership is accountable

Earl Stewart is the owner and general manager of Earl Stewart Toyota in North Palm Beach. The dealership is located at 1215 N. Federal Highway in Lake Park. Contact him at www.earlstewarttoyota.com, call (561) 358-1474, fax (561) 658-0746 or email earl@estoyota.com.

ON CARS
EARL STEWART



service advisors or assistant service managers), parts sales people, and the mechanical technicians who work on your car are mostly all paid on commission. This method of pay tilts the relationship between the customer and employee in somewhat of an adversarial manner. The employee wants the profit to be as high as possible but the customer wants it to be low. In a car dealership that has talented, fully engaged, and ethical management, this potentially adversarial relationship is kept in a fair balance. Without the oversight of upper and middle management and careful hiring practices, some employees will exploit a customer to increase his commission.

What brought the subject of this column to mind was a call I received yesterday from a 78-year old widow from Fort Pierce. She called to thank me for writing my column and to tell me that she wished she had read some of my columns before she bought her 2005 used Mazda. This was the first car she had bought on her own.

Her husband had always taken on this responsibility. She paid the dealership a huge profit on her purchase. She was sold a maintenance package that she believed cost only \$25 but it really was \$2,500.

She was rushed to sign the papers at night because the dealership was closing. In the morning, when she realized the mistake, she drove back to the dealership and asked to back out of the sale but was told it was too late. She was told she had signed all the papers and that they had already sold her trade-in even though she had not given them the title. When she asked to speak to the general manager, three different employees identified themselves as the general manager. I get a lot of sad calls like this.

The owner of that dealership should know what's going on. I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt by saying that he doesn't know because if he does know it's even worse. The owner should look at the big picture and the long term view of his business. You can take advantage of customers and benefit in the short run, but you eventually "pay the piper" when your bad reputation spreads far enough. Most of the bad things I hear about car dealers from their customers are not illegal things.

They are simply unethical and not the way one human being should treat another. Refusing to refund the money of an elderly widow after she realized that she had been taken advantage of is not illegal, but it sure "stinks." Jim Press is the top executive for Toyota over all of North America and he is also the only non-Japanese to occupy a place on Toyota's board of directors. He was quoted in the book, *The Toyota Way* by Jeffrey Liker, as saying "It's what you do for a customer when you don't owe him anything that is the true measure of character. It's like sticking up for somebody who can't defend himself". I really like this quote and I have it engraved on a plaque which I give out each month to the employee who wins the "Above and Beyond Award." This award goes to our employee who does something for her customer above and beyond what the customer would have expected.

If you have a bad dealing with your car dealership, do your best to contact the owner. This is impossible with publicly held dealerships like AutoNation and United Auto Group, but you should be able to talk to their general managers. If it's privately owned dealership, don't give up until you see the owner.

Rants

From page A6

police officer arriving at the scene. Questions. Why was this criminal not in prison? Will the person or persons responsible for allowing him to be free be held accountable? And, does anyone care more about the victims of crime more than they do about the rights of the criminals?

About illegal immigration

When discussing the many problems associated with illegal immigration, liberals often use such deceptive terms

as "temporary guest-worker programs" and "pathway to citizenship" when they really advocate amnesty for people who have come here by breaking our laws. Despite what they say, there is no effective way for ensuring that law breakers will return to their native countries. Anyone who comes here "temporarily" is very likely to stay here permanently.

Racism or not?

I work with the public. I work behind the counter and use a register. It is absolutely appalling how rude, condescending and aggressive people are toward a person in my position.

Looking at those people, you would never guess it. They are clean, up-to-date and while perhaps not completely rich, no doubt not hurting. Okay, middle-class white. When I look at the anger in these peoples faces and in their voices (for offenses that come from their perceptions) I have to wonder how they treat people of other color and even more so, I have to wonder how their forefathers treated slaves. I believe we can't even imagine the depths of their cruelty. These are clearly (so called) Christian people. I have met so many white Christian people of this sort that I am beginning to wonder if our white people's Jesus Christ is really Satan in disguise?

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County fair returns in February

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

The 55th annual Martin County Fair returns to the fairgrounds Feb. 14 -22. Opening ceremonies and the Miss Martin County Fair Pageant begin at 4:30 p.m.

This year's event is filled with entertainment, rides, exhibits and fun for the whole family. There will be live wolves daily that are both interesting and enter-

taining. The livestock schedule includes: poultry, rabbit, swine, steer/heifer and goat/lamb shows.

The Itty Bitty Pretty Baby and Little Miss Martin County Fair pageants will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 1 p.m.

Live entertainment includes Fresh Catch on Saturday, Feb. 15; Gospel Music Night returns on Sunday, Feb. 16; Tyler Farr is the headliner on Monday evening, followed by Joey

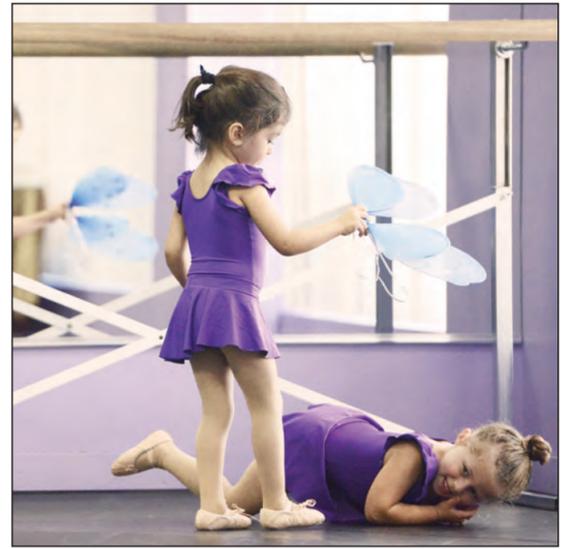
Dee & the Starlighters, Tuesday. Eric Paslay performs Thursday night, a Mystery Concert on Friday and Latin Music Night on the last Saturday.

Kids Day is Monday, Feb. 17. Kids get in for \$3 until 4:30pm with unlimited ride bands all day for only \$15. Senior Day is Tuesday, Feb. 18 with special hours for seniors only 11a.m. - 3 p.m.

Advanced tickets are on sale now at area Walgreens, Martin County Schools and the Fair Office.

For more information and concert times, contact the Martin County Fair Office at (772) 220-3247 or visit www.martincounty-fair.com

Mini recital time



Top: Three year olds Ashley Calvino and Lana Swartsenduker, of Stuart, Gia Morrello, 4, of Port St. Lucie, and Mia Miele, 3, of Stuart, perform basic ballet moves on the bar during the mini-recital put on by StarStruck Performing Art Center's creative movement class, on Wednesday Dec. 18.

Below: Three year old Mia Miele of Stuart performs the creative movement dance 'Waking up with Wings' as Ashley Calvino awaits her turn. For more information please visit starstruckfl.com

Sevin Bullwinkle
staff photographer

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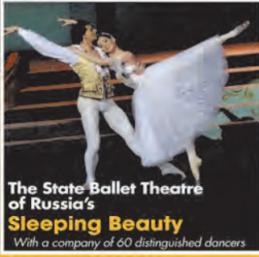
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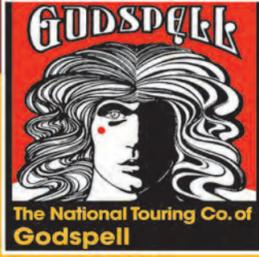
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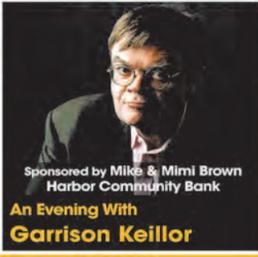
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An Evening With Garrison Keillor
January 15, 7PM

Stuart Boat Show celebrates 40th anniversary

By Alisha McDarris
For Hometown News

STUART — If it's a watercraft you desire, head to downtown Stuart this weekend for the 40th annual Stuart Boat Show by Marine Industry Association of the Treasure Coast.

Boats of all shapes, sizes and price tags will be exhibited in the water and on land at three marinas in Stuart. There will be yachts, speedboats, trawlers, fishing boats, even kayaks at Apex Marine,

Waterway Marina and Stuart Harbor Marina for the public to admire, tour, even purchase.

Janice Gruenwald Aponte, publicist for the Stuart Boat Show, looks forward to admiring the many different boats on display, but it's the luxury yachts, including one that costs upwards of \$4 million, that she really enjoys exploring.

There will also be a 77-foot Lazzara and boats from Venture Boat Company based in Stuart.

But the event offers much more than beautiful boats; there is also food, entertainment and plenty of vendors — more than 170 of them, in fact.

"It's one of the premier events in Stuart," Ms. Gruenwald said.

Visitors can enjoy the soft melodies of steel drums as they explore booth after booth of nautical-themed jewelry and clothing, art, marine accessories, even an entire tent filled with fishing gear and paraphernalia.

"The entire family will enjoy this event," Ms. Gruenwald said.

Plenty of freebies, including weekend stays in the Bahamas and a Carey Chen painting will be given away and the Miami Billfish Tournament will be selling raffle tickets for \$25 for a 25' T Contender boat.

It promises to be a laid-back event that will have visitors itching to get out on the water.

"Take a break from your hectic holiday schedule and

busy work life and come check out what the show has to offer," Ms. Gruenwald said.

The Stuart Boat Show will take place over a half-mile stretch of road between 56 and 260 North Dixie Hwy in Stuart and include Apex Marine, Waterway Marina and Stuart Harbor Marina.

The show runs on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and children under 10 are free.



Week of 1-10-2014

ARIES - March 21/April 20

Aries, your tendency to say what you feel can come across as being impolite. Many, however, appreciate your honesty and unwillingness to mince words.

TAURUS - April 21/May 21

A loved one needs some help, Taurus. This week you will have to figure out a way to assist this person and still tend to your own pressing affairs.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

Gemini, focus your energy on someone important. This may be a friend, family member or even a romantic partner. Brush up on your relationship skills in the meantime.

CANCER - June 22/July 22

You have a natural charm that immediately puts others at ease, Cancer. If you are wooing a client, they will be putty in your hands. Just open your mouth, and you will win them over.

LEO - July 23/Aug. 23

Leo, your stubbornness comes into play this week, and it could cause a rift with friends or colleagues. Try to see their point of view, and put off any serious disputes for another time.

VIRGO - Aug. 24/Sept. 22

Virgo, spend a little time this week plotting your next get-away. You tend to be happiest when you're on the move and exploring. Everyone needs an escape now and then.

LIBRA - Sept. 23/Oct. 23

Enjoy some local culture this week, Libra. Take in a concert, an art show or a theater performance. Just enjoy anything that will educate and entertain at the same time.

SCORPIO - Oct. 24/Nov. 22

Scorpio, you may find that

See SCOPES, B3

Ready to conquer the bridges



No. 771 Kevin Sapp, 19, of Fort Pierce leads the race at the start, finishing second with a time of 18:25.647.

Sevin Bullwinkle
staff photographer

Michelle Lawles of Vero Beach partnered with Ayla Leitenbauer, 6, of Fort Pierce, first in her age group, and twin brother Jordan placed first in his age group.

Their little brother Brandon, 4, came in second. Jordan and Brandon ran the last 100 yards of the race again to encourage their sister to finish the race.

Sevin Bullwinkle
staff photographer



No. 816 Addison Wier, 18, of Palm City finished second in his division with a time of 21:36.113.

Sevin Bullwinkle
staff photographer

Out & about

THROUGH JAN. 31

• **'Bird's Eye View' photography contest:** Hosted by Audubon of Martin County. Open to photographers of all ages and skill levels, with categories including birds, wilderness landscapes, flora & fauna, cell phone photography, and student entries. Entry fees are \$10 per entry for Audubon Chapter members and students; \$15 per entry for all others. *Entries may be submitted through Jan. 31 at www.birdhero.com.*

ted through Jan. 31 at
www.birdhero.com.

THROUGH JAN. 10

• **Holiday Art Extravaganza at the Backus Museum:** The show features home and garden furnishings, photography, Florida-inspired pottery, handcrafted jewelry, fused glass, watercolors, collages, textiles, paintings, more. The museum,

located at 500 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce, is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. *For more information, call (772) 465-0630.*

FRIDAY, JAN. 10

• **Opening Night Master Works,** with the Atlantic Classical Orchestra: Lyric Theatre, 59 S.W. Flagler Ave., Stuart. Two performances. Matinee

begins at 4 p.m. (with pre-concert lecture at 3:10 p.m.). Twilight performance begins at 8 p.m. (with pre-concert lecture at 7:10 p.m.). *Call the ACO office at (772) 460-0850 or visit atlanticclassicalorchestra.com.*

FRIDAY, JAN. 10 – SUNDAY, JAN. 12

• **The 25th Annual Putnam County**
See OUT, B2

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DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy a night of laughter, comedy at Sunrise Theatre

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

FORT PIERCE — Ready for an evening of improv and non-stop laughter? See

Paula Poundstone at the Sunrise Theatre on Sunday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. Her ability to create humor on the spot is legendary; she is masterful at improvising with the

crowd through her casual air, impeccable timing and razor-sharp wit.

While there is no doubt that Ms. Poundstone is funny, the thing that proba-

bly separates her from the pack of c o m i c s w o r k i n g today and that has made her a l e g e n d a m o n g comics and audiences alike is her ability to be spontaneous with a crowd. She is a popular panelist on NPR's Wait Wait Don't Tell Me, has published her first book, 'There's Nothing In



Poundstone

This Book That I Meant To Say' and released her first comedy CD: 'HEART JOKES: Paula Tells Them In Maine in 2009'.

An Emmy Award winner, she is also the first woman to receive the CableACE for Best Standup Comedy Special. As one critic stated: "Poundstone has a rare talent. A refreshing anti-celebrity: warm, gracious, genuine. If you like intelligent, philosophical comedy you'll love Paula Poundstone."

The Sunrise Theatre for the Performing Arts is an

intimate venue, offering the best entertainment and state-of-the-art sound on the Treasure Coast. The Sunrise Theatre presents a diverse schedule of national touring Broadway shows, musical and comedy acts, ballet and opera companies with full orchestras, country stars and classic rock icons.

The Sunrise Theatre is located at 117 South Second Street, Fort Pierce, Florida.

Tickets are priced at \$39 and \$29 and are available at the Box Office at (772) 461-4775 or visit www.SunriseTheatre.com.

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Out

From page B1

'Spelling Bee' Curtain Call presents the jubilant musical

about a group of quirky overachievers in the spelling challenge of a lifetime.

Performances start at 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, at Flagler Place, 201 Flagler Ave., in historic downtown Stuart. Adult tickets are \$25; student tickets \$15. For tickets or more information, call (866) 811-4111 or visit www.curtaincallfl.com.

• **Stuart Boat Show:** 40th annual boat show and sale, with a vast array of boats on display on the land and in the water, plus engines, electronics and accessories from major marine manufacturers worldwide. Admission is \$10, and children under age 10 are admitted for free. For more information, visit www.all-sportsproductions.net.

• **Second annual Food Festival:** Hosted by St. James Orthodox Church, 2201 Airoso Blvd., Port St. Lucie (across the street from PSL City Hall). Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday; noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday. Featuring Greek, Russian and American cuisine, live music and dancing, carnival rides, bounce house, magic shows for children, imported souvenirs and food. Cash raffle - drawing will be held Sunday at 4 p.m.; tickets are \$1 or six tickets for \$5. Free admission and free parking.

For more information, contact Wren Underwood at (772) 971-5611.

• **Journey Stories Music Series:** 'The Barefoot Movement,' an Americana/folk quartet from Tennessee, will perform at 3 p.m., at Robert Morgade Library, 5851 S.E. Community Drive, Stuart. No ticket or reservations required. For more information, call (772) 221-1403 or visit www.library.martin.fl.us.

• **Treasure Coast Classical Guitar Society concert:** 3 p.m., Blake Library, 2351 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart. Featuring Dr. Zachary Johnson. Free, no tickets required. For more information on the guitar society, visit www.tccgs.org. For more information on the concert series, call (772) 221-1403 or visit www.library.martin.fl.us.

• **Hope for the Future Gala:** 6-11 p.m., Willoughby Golf Club, Stuart. House of Hope is celebrating the past and looking to the future with its first-ever gala fundraiser, to mark the agency's 30th anniversary. Guests will be encouraged to come dressed in the attire of their favorite era as they "travel through time" during the evening's festivities. Dinner, prize drawings and the creation of a time capsule are among the highlights. The band Private Stock will perform for guests' dancing and entertainment pleasure. Reservations will be \$250 per person, and sponsorships are sought. Visit www.hohmartin.org/gala.html.

• **The Fabulous Hubcaps** at the Lyric Theatre, 59 S.W. Flagler Ave., Stuart. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$38. The 40th year tour. Call the box office at (772) 286-7827 or visit lyrictheatre.com.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11 - SUNDAY, JAN. 12

• **Jensen Beach Fine Art & Craft Show:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., See OUT, B3

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DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Lecture series to begin Feb. 3

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

JENSEN BEACH — The Environmental Studies Council announced their 27th annual Environmental Lecture Series schedule for 2014.

The popular lecture series, presented by the Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County, kicks off on Feb. 3, and will take place on six Monday evenings at 7 p.m. through March 17, with no lecture scheduled for Feb. 17.

All lectures will take place at the Environmental Studies Center auditorium, located at 2900 N.E. Indian River Drive in Jensen Beach.

The Environmental Lecture Series is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

This year's speaker schedule features:

•Dr. Barry Hummel, The Environmental Impact of Tobacco, Feb. 3

•Evan Orellana, Invasion of the Jellyfish, Feb. 10

•Dr. Paul Gray, Everglades Restoration: Getting Lake Okeechobee Out of the Indian River Lagoon, Feb. 24.

•Dr. Dale Hipson, Animals of the DuPuis, March 3.

•Dr. Nancy Mettee, Turtle CSI: Investigating and Treating Injured Sea Turtles, March 10.

•Tim Brown, Come Meet the Natives, March 17.

All lectures are free and open to the public.

For more information, visit www.escmc.org or call (772) 334-4643.

Out

From page B2

Downtown Jensen Beach. Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce event. Call (772) 334-3444 or visit www.jensen-beach.biz.

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

• **Sunday Morning Beach Walks:** 8:30-10 a.m., Jan. 12, 19, and 26. Take a guided walk on the Stuart beachfront with Florida Oceanographic's education staff and volunteers to learn about beach dynamics, biology and oceanography. Stuart Beach, 889 N.E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart. Call (772) 225-0505 or visit FloridaOcean.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

• Kane Cabaret: 2 p.m.,

Kane Center, 900 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart. Theme is 'Just for Laughs - stand-up comedy' by Phil Tag. Tickets are available in October, and are \$20 for the public. For more information, call (772) 223-7800 or visit www.kanecenter.org.

• **Children's Program of Opera Arias:** 7 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 623 E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart. Featuring Amber Rose-Romero, Brian McNiff, PBAU Ballet, and Eileen Hebron, director. For more information, call (772) 287-3244 or visit www.StMarys-Stuart.org.

MONDAY, JAN. 13

• **'Behind the Baton:'** with Stewart Robertson, artistic director and conductor of the Atlantic Classical Orchestra, at the Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Indian River State College

Chastain Campus, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart. Call the ACO office at (772) 460-0850 or visit www.atlanticclassicalorchestra.com.

• **Coastal Lecture Series:** 6:30 p.m., Blake Library, Armstrong Wing, 2351 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart. Featuring Mark Perry, executive director, Florida Oceanographic Society, celebrating 50 years of environmental stewardship. Call (772) 225-0505 or visit FloridaOcean.org.

• **Earl Turner's Box of 45s** at the Lyric Theatre, 59 S.W. Flagler Ave., Stuart. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$38. For more information, call the box office at (772) 286-7827.

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

• **Special presentation:** 7:30 p.m., Hobe Sound Nature See **OUT, B4**

Scopes

From page B1

someone you thought was weak is much stronger than they appeared. This person may not need as much of your assistance as you initially thought.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov. 23/Dec. 21 Sagittarius, analyze any prob-

lems you may have by breaking them down into smaller tasks. Then you can tackle one thing at a time and come to a happy resolution.

CAPRICORN - Dec. 22/Jan. 20 Capricorn, your children or the youngsters in your life will be the center of your universe this week. Make the most of this time and enjoy kids' carefree natures.

AQUARIUS - Jan. 21/Feb. 18 This week may be a little boring, Aquarius. Make the most of your down time, as you could use a few slow days to recharge your batteries and plan your next move.

PISCES - Feb. 19/March 20 You are bubbling with energy, Pisces. Make the most of this energy by exercising, partying or taking a day trip.

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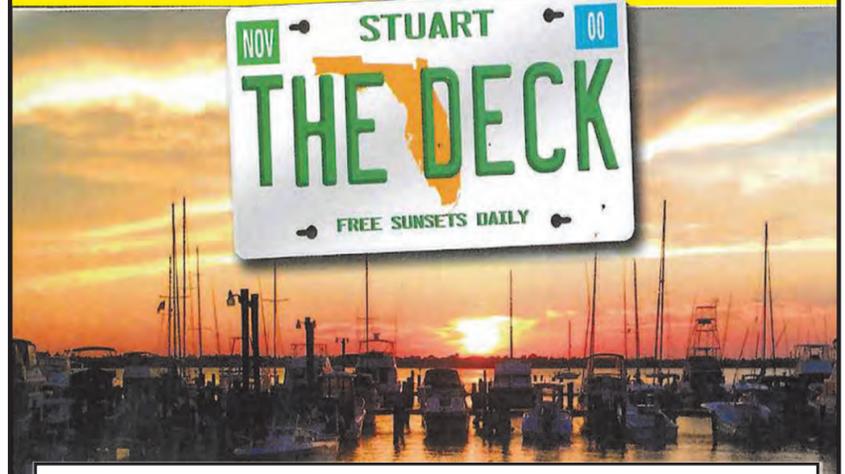


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Friday, Jan. 10 th Boat Show 12-4pm Andrew Scott 6-9pm Nouveaux Honkies	Saturday, Jan. 11 th Boat Show 12-4pm Josh Horton 6-10pm Big Coque Band	Sunday, Jan. 10 th Boat Show 12-4pm Dave Goodman 7-11pm Killbillies
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Colder temperatures are testing anglers

It has been a hard week with the cold air, wind and waves. But after watching the weather in other areas, I love this place. These 60 degree mornings will get the water to the temperatures that the Pompano anglers have been waiting for. Yes, there were pompano at the bridge and some at the surf, but not enough to set a pattern. They are in the Club Med area of the North Fork down to Hells Gate, across the Sail Fish Flats to the bridges at the causeway, not a lot but Pompano. Incoming tide and a little Jig were the best combination. It wasn't enough to set a pattern, but it was enough to



FISHING
HENRY CAIMATTO

make its presence known. They were bringing in three pound fish. But conditions ruled the day and not many anglers were out of there. Looking at the forecast for this week's fishing trip: check out the wind and find a spot where you will be away from it and yes, catch some pompano. There's a good trout bite in the river, just look to the deeper water, three-to-four feet and slow down. There's

not much on reds this week but plenty of trout. There's no shortage of mac's with a mix of blues to cut everything off, so be ready have some wire leader or long shank hooks with you. Yes, we had a report of pompano at the north end of Herman's Bay but again there weren't many anglers. The surf was heavy all week. The fish had no problem the bait. Anglers were finding three pound blues, plenty of macs and enough whiting to fill the bucket. There were pompano and the jacks and I heard there were Pompano. Sand fleas and clams work best for the poms, and cut bait for the

rest. With the over cast days, any time was a good time, just dress warm. Off shore conditions were calling for high waves but with the time between them it was more like big swells. These cooler temperatures and sporty seas will bring on the sails. The bite will start up close, about 60-feet is where I would start and yes, run down bait. Break out the teasers and use them. No matter the conditions, we do not have to shovel and yes I can still where my shorts and flip flops.

Henry Caimatto is the owner of the Snook Nook Bait and Tackle shop in Jensen Beach.

Out
From page B3
Center, 13640 S.E. Federal

Highway, Hobe Sound. Free program. Guest speaker will be Dr. David R. Klein, speaking about "Challenges at the Interface Between Protecting and Exploiting Alaska's Richly

Endowed Natural Environment." Will start promptly at 7:30 in the educational classroom in the nature center. No reservations required. For more information, call (772) 546-2067.

discussion group: 2-3:30 p.m. at the Cummings Library, 2551 S.W. Matheson Ave., Palm City. Monthly mystery discussion series returns, to be continued Feb. 11, March 11, and April 8. Each month a different author of mystery books will be featured. Participants are asked to read any title by the author and come prepared to discuss their choice including plot summary, main characters and favorite part of the book. January's author is Robert Parker. For more information, call (772) 221-1403 or visit www.library.martin.fl.us.

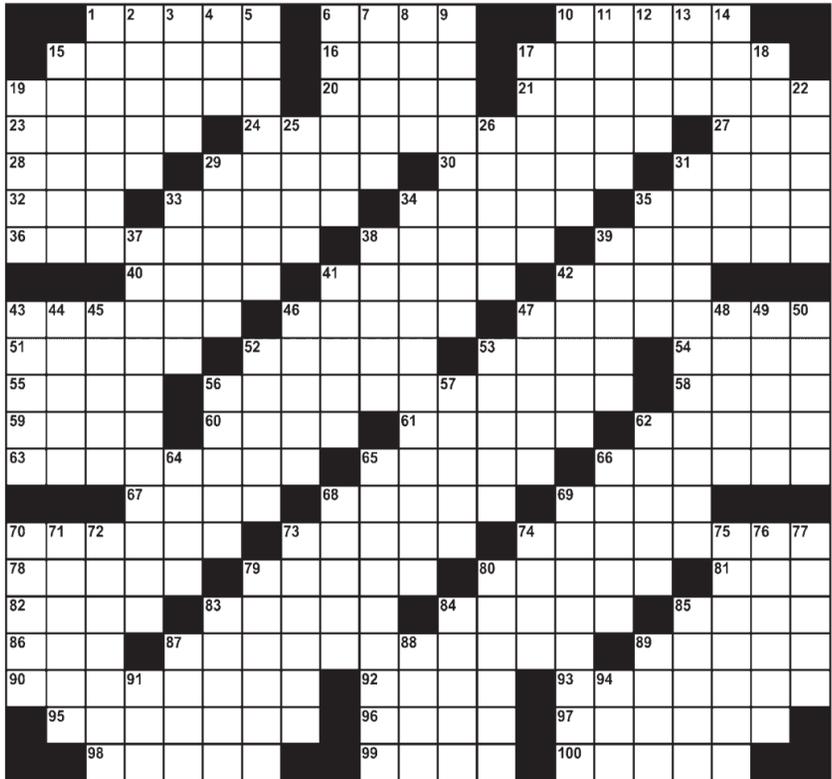
Understanding Florida Sales Tax: 6-7:30 p.m., Hobe Sound Library, 10595 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound. Free workshop offering information for anyone who needs a better understanding of the state's sales tax and collecting/filing as needed, to help consumers as well as business owners/operators. For more information, call (888) 283-1177 or visit www.treasurecoast.score.org.

'I Love a Mystery' book

For our full list of events, please visit myhometown-news.net - click 'calendar'.

Golden Games

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston



ACROSS

- Woodworker's device
- Departed in a hurry
- Identifier
- Straw hat
- Bathe
- "The _____ Hoffmann": Offenbach
- Unaffected
- Andy's buddy
- Daring
- Postures
- Purpose of 37 Down
- Architect I.M. _____
- Geraint's spouse
- Natives of ancient Persia
- Cameos, for example
- Steadfast
- Mormon rel. body
- Vertices
- More adorable
- The Cardinals' Coleman
- Roadside despoiler
- Nocturnal rodents
- Attacks
- _____me-down
- Angles
- Aircraft for small flds.
- Scornful sounds
- Grain, in Greece
- Common legume
- Philippine tribesmen
- Little pigs number
- Before meter or gram
- _____ Christian Andersen
- Wicked
- Olympic event
- Don't _____?
- Like a fine fabric
- Upset
- Rules out
- Implement
- Fellow player
- Window units
- Interrogating
- Rate of progress
- Curious character
- Debauchee
- Spite
- Mountain nymph
- Feel _____ (sympathize)
- "Nom de plume"
- Abrupt
- Way to go
- Labor initials.
- Wedding _____

DOWN

- _____ of (comprise)
- Tied an ice skate
- Sweetsop
- Sea, to Simone
- Led
- French composer Saint-_____
- Latin-American dance
- Leaf angle
- Scottish uncle
- New Olympic event in the 80's
- Work hard
- American gold diver
- Arrow poison
- Worldly goods
- Musical foot
- Internal spy
- Mountain spurs
- Facing a glacier's movement
- Building extensions
- You, in Madrid
- Sweethearts
- Bringers of light
- Reveler's cry of yore
- Obliterates
- American poet Sidney
- Choir members
- Capital on the Aar
- Language suffix
- Cutting
- American gold swimmer
- Duke and duchess
- Intimidating
- Relieve
- Marching coins?
- River to the Baltic
- Minuscule amounts
- Early times of day, to poets
- Goal oriented Olympic event
- Approaches
- Olympic events in the water
- String instrument
- Theme of this puzzle
- Watch brand _____ Philippe
- Spirited equine
- "Odyssey" sorceress
- Former soprano Beverly
- Small marine fish
- Variable bright stars
- Writer Jong
- Fissile rock
- Senses
- Segment of a serial
- Back to back
- "_____ to Remember"
- Unoriginal
- Masonic doorkeeper
- Vestige
- Penalized
- _____ thing (guaranteed)
- Lead-ins for Scots names
- Newspaper deadline
- Primary artery
- One-time plum
- Author of "Emile"
- Singer Mercer
- Los _____
- Rosters
- Threatening dictum
- Songs for one singer
- Mesmerized
- Oil source
- Crackling breathing sounds
- New citizens?
- Hindu queens
- Beaches
- Angler's leader
- Winglike
- Pueblo Indian
- Organic compound
- Let stand
- Obtained
- Grad. class members

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Obituaries

Virginia A. Barry
 Virginia A. Barry, 69, of Stuart, died Dec. 25, 2013. Arrangements by All County Funeral Home & Crematory.

31, 2013. Arrangements by All County Funeral Home & Crematory.

Patty Sue Poorbaugh
 Patty Sue Poorbaugh, 85, of Jensen Beach, died Dec.

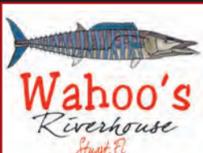
Ann Wear
 Ann Wear, 100, of Stuart, died Dec. 25, 2013. Arrangements by All County Funeral Home & Crematory.

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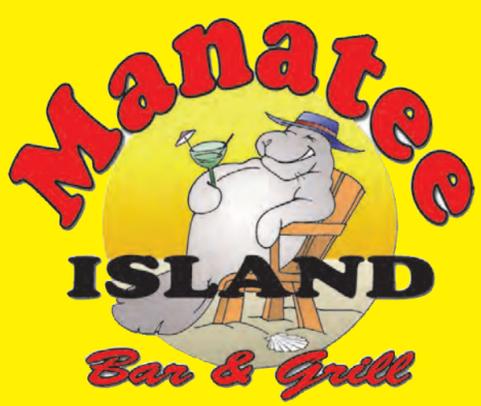
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Golf promises for the New Year

Finally, all the madness and mayhem of the holidays is over. Now all we have to look forward to is six-page credit card statements and those dreaded New Year's resolutions that so many of us never keep.

With that in mind, there is no moment like the present to spend a moment reflecting on the past and dreaming of a future with fewer shots and more enjoyment on the golf course.

I believe that we need to find ways to protect the spirit of our game and its traditions. We should reward players who use skill over those who use technology, but we should embrace the technology that makes the game easier and more enjoyable for those who aren't playing it for a living.

To make golf even better this New Year, we need to make a few promises to ourselves and to our beloved game. Now if you will please place your left hand on the Rules of Golf, raise your right hand and repeat after me, "In 2014, I promise to ...

"Arrive at the course early and on-time." Give yourself a



GOLF
JAMES
STAMMER

chance to stretch, hit a few balls and try out the practice green. By stretching and warming up, you reduce your risk of injury and your muscles are ready for action when you hit the first tee. Arriving early also puts your partners at ease. How often have you been on the range or on your way to the first tee and wondered if your playing partner was going to show or decided instead to sleep in?

"Always leave the course in better shape than I find it." It takes but a moment to repair that nasty ball mark that your ball left on the green, and doing so helps the green heal faster. When you take a divot, use your foot to push in the sides and then fill the hole with the sand provided. This action will make it more difficult for another ball to stop in the divot and helps the grass grow back sooner. "Play ready golf." If you

arrive at your ball first, grab a couple of clubs and send your cart partner to his or her ball. Save your socializing for when you're riding in the cart between shots or holes. I realize proper etiquette calls for letting the person farthest from the hole play first, but most of my friends and I ignore this if that person isn't ready to hit and someone else is. With just a little common sense we could cut down the time required to play considerably.

"Learn the rules." How often have you hit your ball into a hazard and not been sure where to drop your ball? Having an understanding of the rules is quite handy when you play in a tournament

and suddenly realize that you may cost yourself more shots by not knowing what the rules allow you to do.

"Play in a charity tournament." It's a great way to support a cause important to you. It's also a great way to play courses that you otherwise may need to be the guest of a member to get on.

"Play from the forward tees." When you're struggling with your game, playing on an unfamiliar course, or the rest of your group plays from the white tees, join them. Take the opportunity to hit a fairway wood or an iron off the tee. You'll swing easier, since distance is no longer a prerequisite, and probably

find your game again.

"Start an exercise regimen." This is the hardest one for me and probably for most recreational golfers. There are at least 32 major muscles involved in the golf swing. The better we learn to strengthen and properly stretch then, the better and longer our golf careers will be.

"Introduce someone new to golf." There are a lot of people who would love to try golf, but they either don't have clubs or anyone to play with. Invite one of those people, maybe even your spouse, to join you one day even if it's only to go to the practice range. You may find a new playing partner for life.

And finally and most importantly, "Play without keeping score." Play just for the pure love, relaxation and enjoyment of the game. Without the pressure and tension to make par or birdie to break 80, 90 or 100, you may be pleasantly surprised at how well you hit the ball. Golf is first and foremost a game and most of us do not play it for financial gain. Enjoy the fresh air, sunshine and a little time spent with family or friends.

James Stammer has been an avid golfer and golf enthusiast for nearly 40 years. He hosts the Thursday Night Golf Show on WSTU 1450-AM. Contact him at stammergolf@yahoo.com.

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<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">Wash & Wax Combo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand Wash • Vacuum Interior • Windows Inside & Out • Rims Cleaned • Tires Shined • Hand Waxed <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: large;">\$44</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">(\$64.99 Value) Exp. 7-31-14</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">Fuel Injection Cleaning</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Includes Injectors, Throttle Body and Mass Air Flow</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: large;">\$79</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">(\$109.99 Value) Exp. 7-31-14</p>

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Hometown News

Helping your plants through the cooler weather

With the heart of our Florida winter coming into play, cold snaps and possible freezing temperatures will be possible for the next several weeks, even though our temperatures have been above normal so far this season. Many of our Florida plants will withstand the cold temperatures with grace while others will struggle and wilt at the first sign of a chill. Since many of us do some serious planting during the cooler winter months, the cold weather may pose some

serious challenges for our precious plants. One of the best ways to offer protection for the root base of your plants is to use mulching material around the base of your plants. You can recycle many of the products you already have around your home. You can use bark from trees you might have cut down or bark that has come loose from your pine trees. If you live in a rural area straw may be available from some local farmers that are in your area. Sawdust can also be



GARDEN NOOK
JOE ZELENAK

used as mulching material, if you are a wood worker or do a lot of remodeling. Peat moss is also readily available at most lawn and garden centers. If you have oak trees or live in a heavily wooded area, you can use leaves as a protective barrier around the base of your plants. You can even use your old grass clippings as a mulching material around your plants. By using the mentioned materials for protecting your plants, you are helping to recycle our natural resources and you are saving cypress trees that are rapidly being depleted by the widespread use of commercial products such as cypress mulch. In addition, all the above named materials will

slowly degrade in the soil and add natural nutrients that will be beneficial to the plants. In order for the mulching material to be effective in the event of a low temperature or freeze scenario, the material should be at least 2-3 inches thick but you should keep a margin of about an inch from the main part of the plant trunk. There are some exceptions to this rule such as citrus trees. You should never mulch around citrus plants as this can actually cause harm to the tree. It is extremely important that your garden be moist prior to a cold snap. The combination of dry soil and cold temperatures can cause serious damage to tender plants. If our area should come under a freeze watch or warning, you will need to take some extra precautions to minimize the damage to your plants. Covering your plants will be the next step you need to take. Be sure to use cloth and not plastic when protecting your plants. Plastic can act

like a greenhouse and when the sun comes up, the drastic temperature change can be fatal to your plants. Even when using cloth, be sure to use stakes if possible so that the material does not come in direct contact with the plant. After the cold weather or freeze event is over, be sure to remove the covering material promptly. Fortunately, Florida enjoys seasonal temperature through most of the winter and mild freezes do not happen all that often. It is important to remember that many of our tropical plants can start to have cold damage with temperatures as low as 39 degrees. Hibiscus plants can wilt and shiver at around 35 as well as many flowering annuals. Orchids along with some other specialty plants do not like temperatures much below 45 or 50. Email Joe Zelenak at hometowngarden@gmail.com or visit his website at www.hometowngarden.com.

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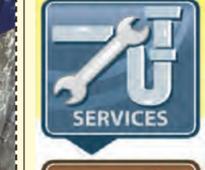
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5020 Notice to Creditors

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MARTIN COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: ESTATE OF JEFFREY S. MERRIT, Deceased. File No. 13-869CP

NOTICE OF CREDITORS
TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE:
The administration of the estate of Jeffrey S. Merrit, deceased, File Number: 13-869CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Martin County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 100 E. Ocean Blvd., Stuart, FL 34994. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this notice is served, must file their claims with his court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. The date of first publication of this Notice is January 10, 2014. Personal Representative: Janet I. Merrit Attorney for Personal Representative: Frederick G. Sundheim Jr., Oughterson, Sundheim & Associates, P.A., 612 SE Central Parkway, Stuart, Florida 34994 Telephone: (772) 287-0660 Florida Bar No.: 158670 Pubs: Jan. 10, & Jan. 17, 2014

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1260 SW 25th Ln
(Fox Run, off of Murphy)
Furniture, exercise equip, TV, linens, kitchenware, sewing machine, videos, books, art & more!

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