



HOW WEIRD IS THAT!
SEAN MCCARTHY

Spend any time surfing the Web and you are bound to find stories that are just too bizarre to be true. Here's a sampling, edited for length. And remember, just because it's online doesn't mean it's true!

From newsherald.com: Man lies about robbery over fear of wife

A Panama City Beach man reportedly admitted to deputies that he lied about being robbed so he wouldn't have to tell his wife he spent the money. The Bay County Sheriff's Office reported a 30-year-old man was arrested and charged with making a false report. According to a report, the man called 911 from a Panama City Beach store and claimed he was getting into his car when a man dressed in black hit him and took \$100 in cash.

But the store's surveillance video showed the man walk out of the store, sit in his car for a short time and then go back inside to use the phone. After deputies showed the man the video, he acknowledged he hadn't actually been robbed. He was released from jail on \$750 bail.

From **lancasteronline.com: Police arrest man in buggy for DUI**

Police in central Pennsylvania arrested an Amish man on drunk driving charges after he was found asleep in his moving buggy. Police said a 22-year-old man was slumped over and asleep in a slow-moving buggy. An off-duty officer reported seeing the horse pulling the buggy at

See **WEIRD, A8**

ENTERTAINMENT B1

PET PORTRAITS



Vero Beach artist Sherry Haaland is known for her pet portraits

HEALTH A6

USEFUL NEWS



A round-up of useful health tips from around the nation

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday: Showers; high: 74; low: 60; high tide: 9:24 a.m.; low tide: 3:22 p.m.
Saturday: Showers; high: 75; low: 55; high tide: 10:01 a.m.; low tide: 4:01 p.m.
Sunday: Cloudy; high: 72; low: 49; high tide: 10:38 a.m.; low tide: 4:41 p.m.
Weather courtesy of www.weather.com

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Improvements coming to Treasure Coast stretch of interstate next year

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — The Florida Department of Transportation hopes to improve traffic flow along the Treasure Coast section of Interstate 95 next year.

Plans call for installation of 12 dynamic message signs along the 71-mile stretch, eight on-duty Road Rangers, 60 closed-circuit cameras and 98 vehicle detector systems by the end of 2010, officials said.

"The goal is to detect, respond and remove traffic incidents as quickly as possible," said Chuck McGinness, traffic incident management coordinator.

The closed-circuit cameras do not record videos of traffic, like red-light cameras do, instead, the cameras allow traffic management staff to watch live feeds of roadways and see where problems occur, he said.

"The cameras are never used for enforcement," Mr. McGinness said.

The dynamic message signs will alert drivers of accidents and potential delays in the road and lets drivers decide if a route change is necessary.

The message signs will also be used to spread the word about Amber and Silver alerts, Mr. McGinness said, which are for

missing youngsters and seniors.

Safety for both drivers and emer- See **INTERSTATE, A4**



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

For the past 11-years or so, Vero Beach resident George Bachmann, 93, has helped the Salvation Army raise money with his bell and his red kettle.

Veteran supports 'Red Kettle' campaign as volunteer

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Ring-a-ling, ring-a-ling. It's one of the most iconic sounds of the

Christmas season in the U.S. The bells filter into the consciousness of shoppers right before Thanksgiving, reminding them to stop and think of others during the holiday season.

The Salvation Army has helped millions all over the world and one Vero Beach man is so grateful, he gives back as a volunteer during the charity's annual Christmas, or Red Kettle campaign.

George Bachmann, 93, has been a volunteer bell ringer for the Salvation Army for at least the past 10 years, and loves every minute of it.

See **VOLUNTEER, A2**

Hydrant debate headed to court

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

FELLSMERE — Though a special magistrate ruled that Indian River County government was a regular customer and should pay the remaining fire hydrant fees owed to Fellsmere, county staff are pursuing an appeal.

Special Master John Banks ruled in favor of Fellsmere and ordered the county to pay about \$13,000 in maintenance fees for fire hydrants.

County attorney Will Collins said county commissioners have given him the go-ahead to file an appeal to the special magistrate's decision.

"The special magistrate declined to look at our principal argument," said Mr. Collins.

The county attorney said the county is basing its refusal to pay the fees to Fellsmere on a state law

See **DEBATE, A2**

Bioenergy company considers IRC for plant location

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — A recent announcement from the U.S. Department of Energy is good news for an advanced bioenergy company that wants to build a facility in Indian River County.

The DOE announced a joint venture between INEOS Bio and New Planet Energy was awarded a \$50 million grant to build a commercial-scale facility dedicated to producing biofuels and renewable power.

Helene Caseltine, director of economic development with the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, said the company had been looking in Indian

River County for a plant location for a little more than a year, and the grant will make it one step closer to reality.

INEOS New Planet BioEnergy joint venture project would involve building a facility to produce 8 million gallons of third-generation bioethanol per year, from various carbon-based items, including garbage, plant and yard waste, according to a press release.

"This breakthrough technology will substantially reduce net greenhouse gas emissions from cars and energy generation," said INEOS Bio CEO Peter Williams in a press release.

"Not only does it reduce the amount of

See **LOCATION, A4**

Sheriff's volunteers log 37K hours of service

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Civilian volunteers from around the county contributed a little more than 37,000 hours of service with the Indian River County Sheriff's Department over the past 12 months, officials said.

The number of hours volunteered increased by about 1,000 hours from 2008, officials said.

The national hourly value of the volunteers, or the civilian auxiliary patrol, as calculated by the Volunteers in Police

See **SERVICE, A4**



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Soon after unlocking this Nissan pickup in the Indian River Mall parking lot, Sgt. Dennis Farace, left, and Paul Sinram, were headed to Gifford Middle School for school crossing duty last Friday.

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Volunteer

From page A1

The World War II army veteran, who served with the Calvary Reconnaissance Squadron in France, tells the story of being wounded in the war and visited by a member of the Salvation Army.

"It was the Salvation Army that came around and gave me soap and shaving things when I was there in the hospital," said Mr. Bachmann.

Spending weeks on the front lines was not conducive to regular bathing

or shaving, so the gift meant a lot to the soldier.

"It had a little packet with a toothbrush and other things and I was able to clean up and shave and look nice. It's the little things, you know, that you take for granted a lot of the time," Mr. Bachmann said.

Though he can't quite remember the exact year he began volunteering, he knows his desire to serve then and now is exactly the same.

"In a small way, it's my way of giving back for what they did for me in the hospital," Mr. Bachmann said.

He spends 10 hours a week ringing a little red

bell in front of the traditional red kettle at the grocery entrance of Wal-Mart in Vero Beach, to remind others of the needy all over Indian River County.

The pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar bills are collected and used to purchase clothing, toys, and Christmas dinners for needy families, seniors and homeless in the Indian River County community.

Social services and disaster response services are also funded through kettle contributions.

The people who pass by his station are usually very friendly and thank him for both his service in the mili-

tary and his willingness to volunteer, Mr. Bachmann said.

"I've never had a problem with anybody. Some days, people will empty all their pockets of change," he said.

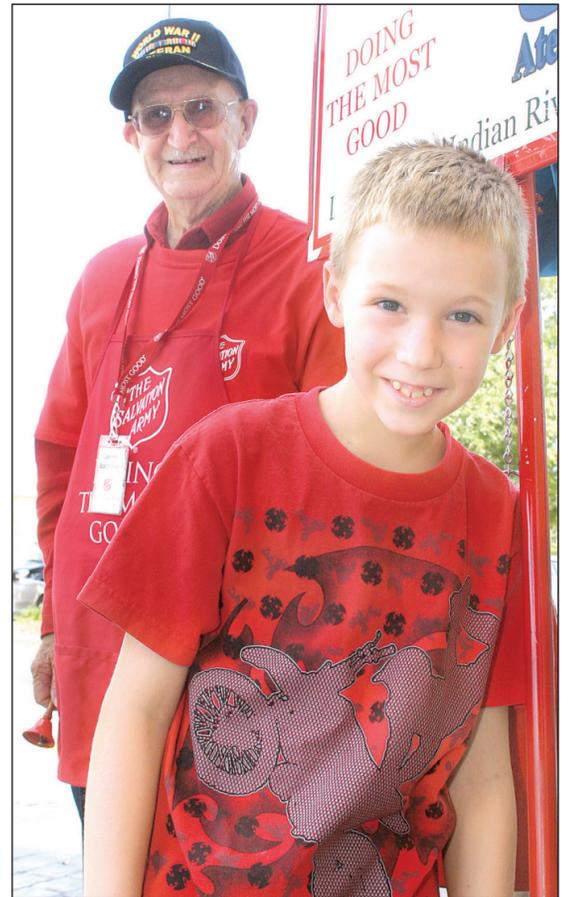
"One day there was a whole choir that came up to me and started singing Christmas carols and even let me hold the baton and direct them," he said with a smile.

Mr. Bachmann occasionally brings a bag of stuffed Santa's with him to his post and gives the toys to children who donate change to the kettle.

"I get them from the dollar stores and hand them out and the looks on those kids faces is so gratifying," said Mr. Bachmann, who is a great-grandfather six times over.

"As long as I am able, I will keep on volunteering with them," Mr. Bachmann said.

More than 29 million people are impacted by the money collected in the U.S. during the red kettle campaign, according to the Salvation Army Web site.



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer Matthew Oostdyk, 8, thought it was cool to donate money to George Bachmann's Salvation Army red kettle outside WalMart last Friday. He and his 6-year-old brother, Micah, did their part to help make Christmas a little better for someone else this year.

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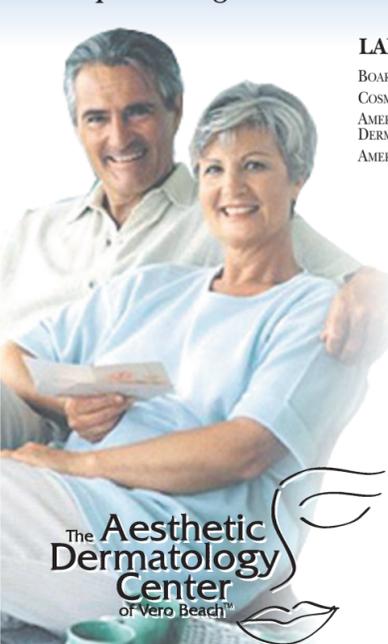
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Law enforcement officers seek answers

By Jay Meisel
Meisel@hometownnewsol.com
In this first of a series, Treasure Coast law enforcement officials are seeking the public's help in solving unsolved crimes. This week features a cold case from the Vero Beach area. If you have any information regarding this case, please contact Crime Stoppers at (800) 273-8477. See related story page A7.

VERO BEACH — Some-time in early July 2006, 86-year-old Helen Regene McPherson noticed the screen was off the window of her Florida room.

She reported to family members "she had thought she heard a noise one night," recalled Wanda McPherson, her daughter-in-law.

But no one found anything else ajar at the time, Wanda McPherson said in a recent interview.

"We really didn't think anything more about it," she said.

It was only after someone brutally murdered Helen McPherson about 10 days later that the incident regarding the screen was mentioned to detectives at the Indian River County Sheriff's Office.

Detectives who have yet to make an arrest in connection with the murder of Helen McPherson say they don't know whether the prior incident was connected.

Mrs. McPherson's murder is one of dozens of unsolved homicide cases on the Web site of Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers.

Ken Wilson, executive director of Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers, hopes that renewed publicity regarding these cases may lead to arrests.

It also shows law enforcement hasn't forgotten those cases, he said.

In the case of Helen McPherson, family members found her body on July 15,

2006. Authorities believe she was murdered either July 14 or July 15.

Lt. Daren Jones, head of major crimes for the criminal investigation division of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office, said someone had beaten Mrs. McPherson to death.

The case has been examined by Eddie Swan, a member of the Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers' board of directors. He also was an assistant U.S. attorney and held what is now the position of a U.S. magistrate.

He said that "the crime scene photos of the murder scene of Helen McPherson were the worst" in terms of violence and brutality of hundreds of such photos he's seen.

A puzzling aspect of the investigation is that no clear motive has arisen, Lt. Jones said.

Although he wouldn't say whether something was taken from the house, he indicated authorities do not believe theft was the motive behind the crime. Nor was there any evidence to suggest that anyone sexually assaulted Mrs. McPherson, he said.

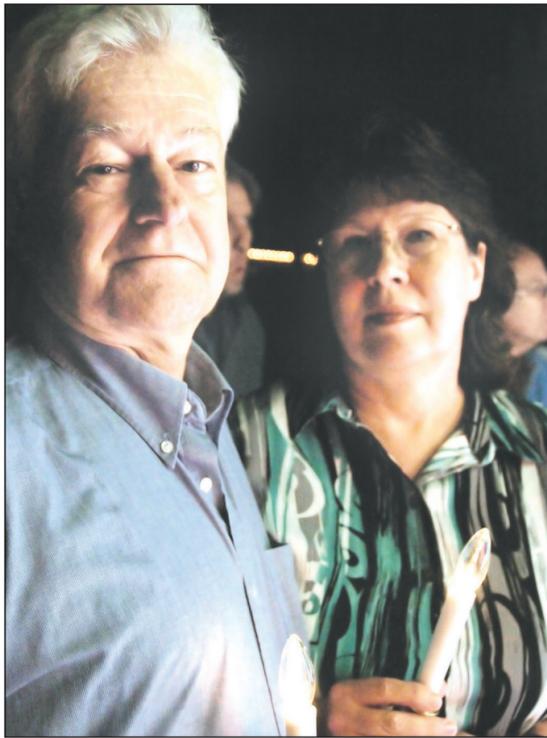
During the years following the murder, detectives have searched for similar crimes in other jurisdictions that may have been committed by the same perpetrator.

They've also thoroughly canvassed the neighborhood in which Mrs. McPherson lived, one that they say doesn't have a significant crime problem.

"We've talked to everyone on that street numerous times," said Anthony Sevitto, an Indian River County



Helen McPherson



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Doug and Wanda McPherson of Vero Beach hold a candle for Doug's mother, Helen Regene McPherson, during the Indian River County Victim's Rights Coalition candlelight vigil at the Tree of Remembrance Thursday, Dec. 10. Mrs. McPherson was murdered in July 2006.

detective assigned to cold cases.

Wanda McPherson said her mother-in-law never had any problems in the neighborhood and knew all her neighbors.

Helen McPherson had lived in the neighborhood on 49th Avenue since 1962.

She was born in Rector, Ark., and her family moved to Melbourne. After high school, she worked in the Brevard County Courthouse in Titusville. She married Thomas McPherson Jr. on Oct. 1, 1939.

Not long after that, they moved to Michigan where they worked at an airplane assembly plant. Mr. McPherson then served in the military during World War II.

They had three sons and for most of her adult life, she was a homemaker, Wanda McPherson said.

Her husband died in 2001. Helen McPherson was a member of First Baptist Church and was involved in activities there, her daughter-in-law said.

She collected Depression-era glassware and was interested in current events.

"She loved to talk to people," Wanda McPherson said.

Family members say they have no idea why someone would have wanted to murder Mrs. McPherson.

Detectives are continuing trying to find out.

As part of that effort they are "doing everything we can to have evidence analyzed in every way," Lt. Jones said.

At the time of the crime, he said, the most obvious evidence was analyzed.

Now that analysis is being taken to the next level, with more minute analysis being

See ANSWERS, A7

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Service

From page A1

Service program, is \$17.78 in Florida.

With that figure, the CAP unit helped the Indian River County Sheriff's Department save approximately \$657,800, according to a press release.

Subtracting a liberal overhead of about \$165,000, to account for car maintenance, gas, uni-

forms etc., the department was able to save close to half a million because of the hard work of the volunteers, the sheriff said.

"They free up sworn officers to other things, such as dealing with crime in the county," Sheriff Deryl Loar said.

Without the CAP's help, some of the services offered by the sheriff's department, including guarding school crossings and daily check-ups on homebound seniors,

would mean pulling one or more deputies off the road or reducing services.

Some of the regular duties of the CAP units include unlocking vehicles for residents who left their keys in the car, carry out driving under the influence impoundments and issuing illegal parking tickets and warnings.

In 2009, CAP units patrolled the streets in the county and logged more than 33,000 house, area and business checks, the

press release said.

"Volunteers are not replacing deputies, they're assisting deputies," he said.

"The volunteers do it because they want to, and it's a passion in their lives. I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure that the public is served the best we can and the 37,000 hours by the volunteers is a testament to our dedication to protect and serve," Sheriff Loar said.

Location

From page A1

waste going to landfills, but it also breaks the link between food crops and bioethanol production. The ability to make fuel from agricultural waste and municipal solid waste opens up a whole new avenue to achieving sus-

tainable energy independence," he continued.

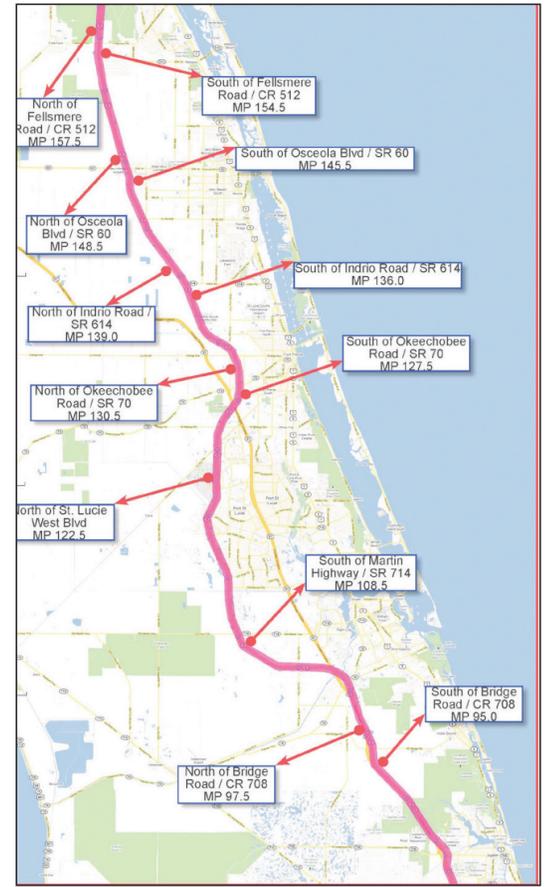
Traditional methods of producing ethanol usually mean using corn to produce gas, but this new technology changes that, said New Planet Energy president Tex Carter.

"We've been planning this project for probably a year now, and getting this grant is a major step in getting this moved forward," Mr. Carter said.

The location of the plant is still being negotiated, but company officials expect to start construction in the second quarter of 2010, Ms. Caseltine said.

Bringing the facility to Indian River County and the Treasure Coast is expected to have an impact on the economy in the form of approximately 120 construction jobs in the next two years and 40 to 50 full-time jobs at the plant, the press release said.

"We're thrilled and very excited at the prospects this will bring to our area," said Ms. Caseltine.



Map provided by the Florida Department of Transportation. Twelve dynamic message signs will be installed along the 71-mile stretch of Interstate-95 in the Treasure Coast in 2010. The signs will be used to warn motorists about accidents in the roadways and missing person alerts.

Interstate

From page A1

gency personnel is the main reason for improving traffic flow and emergency response time, he said.

"Fifteen to 20 percent of accidents are secondary accidents, usually caused by people rubbernecking and having their eyes off the road," Mr. McGinness said.

"If the police officers and fire rescue are out there less time, it means they're not exposed to the danger," he said.

The main goal of Road

Rangers is to assist motorists with tire changes, minor repairs and occasionally, gas, but they also help direct traffic around an accident, Mr. McGinness said.

The vehicle detector systems are to monitor potential trouble spots by measuring the speeds of vehicles.

"If we find that at noon traffic has slowed down to 40 mph in a 70 mph zone, we know to zoom in on that area and check out and see if there's a problem," he said.

All of the improvements are expected to be completed by the end of 2010.

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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.

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

• Douglas Lee Lockhart, 44, homeless, was charged with failure to register as a sex offender in Florida.

• Kim Armand, 46, P.O. Box 664, Grand Isle, La., was charged with third-degree grand theft and being a fugitive from justice.

• Jaime Brown, 23, 746 Fourth Place Southwest, Vero Beach, was charged with aggravated battery, domestic violence.

• David Michael Miller, 26, 8125 103rd Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with dealing in stolen property.

• Floyd Sears Hoffman, 22, 4084 46th St., Vero Beach, was charged with burglary of a dwelling and a misdemeanor charge of battery.

• Jose Luis Barriga Chagolla, 27, 6733 Dunway Indianapolis, Ind., was charged with grand theft of a motor vehicle and third-degree grand theft.

• Eric Dean Sisson, 25, 312 S. Sycamore St., Floral, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for grand theft, forgery of bank bills or a promissory note and uttering a forged bill, check or draft.

• Jonnie Sharp, 58, homeless, was charged with aggravated battery.

• Nicholas Garreston Sloan, 26, 4245 70th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with third-degree grand theft and dealing in stolen property.

• Rodney Hale Vannoy, 33, 2313 Third Ave. S.E., Vero Beach, was charged with third-degree grand

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theft and burglary of a dwelling.

• Leviticus U. Taylor, 23, 4385 23 Court, Vero Beach, was charged with burglary of a structure with assault or battery.

• Aaron Thomas Koehn, 20, 126 22nd St., Vero Beach, was charged with child abuse.

• Robert Alexander Guterman, 58, 345 30th St., West Palm Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for second-degree grand theft and misapplication of construction funds.

• Anthony Teague, 38, 2176 16th Ave. Southwest, Vero Beach, was charged with sexual activity with a minor.

• Candice Dandrea Jefferson, 26, 2651 12th Square Southwest, Vero Beach, was charged with grand theft.

• Cody Adam Curtis, 22, 2916 22nd St., Vero Beach, was charged with three counts of violation of probation. He was on probation for two counts of forgery, fraudulent use of a credit card and organized fraud.

• Rene Morales, 19, 186 S. Oleander St., Fellsmere, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for criminal mischief.

• Norman Leroy Dennis, 42, 5416 Karen Court, Orlando, was charged with

violation of probation. He was on probation for three counts of uttering a forged instrument and three counts of grand theft.

• Jayton Raymond Knowles, 36, 208 Carlow Lane, Columbus, S.C., was charged with resisting arrest with violence, two counts of battery on a law enforcement officer, tampering with evidence and a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana.

• Bryant Patrick Skinner, 21, 6395 S. Esmeralda Terrace, Homosassa, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for grand theft, trafficking in stolen property, giving false information to a pawn broker and burglary of an occupied structure.

• Larry Chambliss, 36, 4790 38th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of cocaine with intent to deliver within 1,000 feet of a public school, tampering with evidence and a misdemeanor charge of resisting arrest without violence.

• Rocky Lavel Bishop, 30, 555 13th Place, Vero beach, was charged with attempting to escape and resisting on officer without violence.

• Oliver Daniel McEnderfer, 25, 715 Surrery Terrace, Sebastian, was charged with possession of oxycodone.

All aboard!



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Despite the cool and wet weather, many area model train enthusiasts stopped by Riverview Park last Saturday to see Jim 'Sunny' Calb's exhibit make its way around the Christmas tree. Three-year-old Kai Couture of Palm Bay came with his grandpa to see the three G-scale trains play music and train sounds as they circled the tree.



Two-year-old Ella Shuster and her grandmother, Sandy Davis, watch in amazement as the three G-scale model trains owned by Jim 'Sunny' Calb, play holiday tunes and circle the Christmas tree at Riverview Park last Saturday.

Cliff Partlow staff photographer

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VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009 • HOMETOWN NEWS • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM



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or e-mail news@hometownnewsol.com.

Callers are asked to refrain from making slanderous statements. Statements of fact will be checked for accuracy.

Squatter situation

The current foreclosure crisis has hit home with me in a couple ways. But especially last weekend when I realized that the foreclosed home behind me had a squatter. He was taking his bike in and out of the screen porch. I called the police department, and they came on a Sunday morning and apprehended the suspect. They acted in a very responsible manner. They didn't arrest him, but gave him a trespassing notice.

Good job to the police department. He was there without permission of the homeowners. It could have been a dangerous situation.

What happened to the energy promises?

After a national election last year, in which candidate Obama put forth elaborate schemes for energy independence, his administration has failed totally to do anything to increase domestic energy production.

Passing the buck

Democrats who have been lobbying for a government-run health care system have been claiming that they will not raise our taxes to pay for it. However, they have started to retreat from these claims and now have started to admit reluctantly that it is not possible to accomplish their goals without raising taxes on individuals, small businesses and insurance companies.

The dirty little secret about tax increases on employers is that in order to stay in business, they are often forced to pass on their higher costs, which are then paid for by all of us consumers, in the form of higher prices.

A push for mandatory sentences

So often we hear that "X has a rap sheet a mile long going back many years," but instead of appropriately punishing him and taking him off the streets so that he could do no further harm, some empathetic judge unrestrained by minimum-sentence guidelines has permitted the perpetrator free with a ludicrously brief sentence, of even no time at all.

Those who like the current system, and are more concerned with the rights of criminals than they are with innocent victims, want to maintain the status quo. However, increasingly, the common-sense, man on the street appreciates the value of a system of mandatory sentences.

Listen to the people

It would be nice if we could judge people by their words, but the real test of folks is their actions.

President Obama has many times said he wants to hear the views of others ("I believe deeply that we cannot solve the challenges of our time unless we solve them together") but if anyone offers an opinion he dislikes, the discussion turns into a barroom brawl.

Happy holidays?

Christmas is coming soon and already Scrooge is on the prowl throughout the land. He is trying to convince all of us to say "happy holidays" rather than "merry Christmas."

Unwelcome guests

I don't understand what's going on in this country. We are always having issues pertaining to national security.

We just had two guests at a dinner with the president that weren't invited. We can't take a lackadaisical attitude toward security. Other people in other countries are going to see that this is a weakness in our government and country.

Waiting for waves



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

From left, Austin Bowlby, Stephen Calhoun, Kyle Campbell, Marshall Polvere and others, kill some time waiting for waves at Wabasso Beach Park last Friday with a good, old-fashioned game of stickball.

Health news you can use

Those newsletters have been piling up again. I am busy packing and I want to share most interesting news from them before they go to the recycling pile.

Foods may lower risk of eye disease

From the Duke University Health Newsletter, October 2009:

A recent study, published in the May 2009 issue of "Ophthalmology" suggests older folks who eat citrus fruits, leafy vegetables and fish oil may lower the risk of developing age-related macular degeneration. The nutrients that are believed to affect AMD are omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins C and E, lutein and zeaxanthin, an antioxidant.

The nutrients are found in fish, citrus, green vegetables such as broccoli and spinach, and egg yolks. Low glycemic index foods, such as lentils, soybeans, yogurt and high-fiber grains, also seemed to be protective, as they result in gradual increases in blood sugar, instead of the rapid increases caused by food such as white bread and



ALIVE & WELL
SHELLEY KOPPEL

potatoes.

The study only tested food and not supplements, and a varied diet containing these foods has other health benefits, as well.

Flu does like the cold

From the Harvard Health Letter, October 2009:

It is not your imagination that there is more flu in the winter. It may be that people are in closer contact indoors in the winter, but the flu likes the cold weather. Flu viruses are more contagious and more capable of causing severe illness when the air is cool and dry.

That's the reason why the flu season starts in the Northern Hemisphere in October or November, and ends in the spring. In Florida, it tends to start later because the weather is warmer.

The reason the H1N1 flu was relatively mild last spring was because it came

as the weather was getting warm. It remains to be seen what this winter will bring. Some experts think it has peaked, but others are not certain that the worst is over. Remember, too, that half of the cases occur after the peak. Remain vigilant.

Washing hands is key to disease prevention

From the Mayo Clinic HealthLetter, December 2009:

Following on the heels of the previous item about the flu, the Mayo Clinic reminds readers there is a right way to wash hands for good hygiene and disease prevention.

Hand sanitizers can be used throughout the day in places where water and soap are not available. Surprisingly, they are more effective than washing for killing germs on unsoiled hands. Use enough of an alcohol-based sanitizer to cover the hands, wrists, cuticles and between the finger and nails.

It is still important to wash hands with soap and water when they are soiled, before eating and after using the bathroom. You may think you know how, but here's a refresher:

Work up a lather using warm water and soap. Continue to lather for at least 15 seconds.

Focus on fingertips and around fingernails. It helps to press the fingertips of one hand into the cupped palm of the other and rotate the fingertip.

Try not to touch the faucet with clean hands. Use paper or hand towels and use the towel to turn off the water. They also suggest turning off the water with your elbow or top of your wrist, but I tried it and you'd have to be a contortionist.

Shelley Koppel is unable to endorse specific treatments for disease. Any protocols for treatment or testing she discusses are accepted standards of medical practice as recommended by agencies such as the American Academy of Pediatrics or the American Cancer Society.

When she draws from personal experience, those are her experiences and are not medical recommendations.

She is the former editor of "Today's HealthCare" magazine and a member of the National Association of Science Writers. E-mail questions to skoppel@bell-south.net.

How much RAM is enough?

One of the questions I am asked frequently by those looking to buy a new computer is whether the machine they are looking at has enough RAM.

Usually, I ask them what they are planning on using the machine for and how much memory the machine has. Then I usually can't help but to laugh inside when I hear the answer.

It's very common today to hear things such as, "well it only has 2 gigabytes of memory and all I'm planning on doing with it is e-mail and surfing the Web. Will 2 gigs be enough?"

Or, "I don't use the machine for much, I just mainly use it for e-mail and Quicken. Quicken is very important to me and I want to make sure my new machine is going to be able to run it OK. Are you sure that just 2 gigabytes is going to be able to do the job?"

And, "the ad says this machine can take up to 4 gigabytes. Maybe I should get four just to be safe. What do you think?"

It's at that point I usually have to stifle a chuckle because to me,



COMPUTE THIS
SEAN MCCARTHY

that's funny.

Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to be rude, cocky or arrogant, it's just that I've been doing this for a while and I can remember, not too long ago, when just the idea of having a gigabyte of memory in your home computer was the stuff of science fiction.

I can even remember writing a column in 1996 explaining to readers how they should be able to run their machines with just 16 megabytes of memory. (Just to put that in perspective, 1,000 megabytes equals 1 gigabyte).

Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not saying you can run one of today's machines with only 16 mb; you certainly do need considerably more than that to run 7, Vista (or even XP), but even with a fancy operating system such as Windows 7, the basic tasks haven't changed much and 2 gigs of memory should be just

fine to check e-mail, surf the Web and run Quicken.

Another way to put the whole memory question into perspective is to think of it in terms of money.

Back around 1996, when Windows still in its infancy, RAM was very expensive. At the time I wrote that previous column, saying 16 mb was enough, RAM was going for about \$50 per megabyte, meaning the 16 mb I was advocating cost about \$800. So, that means a gigabyte (1,000 megabytes) back then would have cost about \$50,000!

Another factor that I consider is the level of machine they are replacing. Very often, I will speak to someone who is replacing an old system (maybe an old Pentium with 128 mb of ram or something) and they wonder if 2 gigabytes will work for them on the new machine. Doesn't it stand to reason that if you were able to surf the Web, check your e-mail and run Quicken on the machine you are replacing, then a new machine, with more than 10 times the memory, shouldn't have a

problem handling those same tasks?

Today, the tasks haven't changed. It's still e-mail, the Web and yeah, maybe some critical program such as Quicken or something, but whenever I hear people pondering whether 2 gigabytes will do it for them, I can't help but hear that little "gram-pa voice" in the back of my head saying, "back in my day we couldn't afford a gigabyte. We got by with 16 megs and we liked it!"

Back in 1996, I don't think I could have ever imagined being able to get a gigabyte of RAM, let alone pay less than \$100 for it. The whole thing makes me wonder what things will be like a decade or so in the future.

In 10 years will we have people wondering if 1 terabyte (1,000 gigabytes) will be enough or if maybe they should spring for two? Regardless, I'm sure they will probably still only use their machine for checking e-mail, surfing the Web and running Quicken.

Sean McCarthy fixes computers. He can be reached at (772) 408-0680 or help@ComputeThisOnline.com (no hyphens).

Hometown News

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY



SEBASTIAN

Blood drive to be held at Hometown News

For Hometown News
News@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — *Hometown News* will hold a blood drive for Rachael Uber and the Florida Blood Center at the home office, 1102 South U.S. 1, in Fort Pierce on Dec. 23 at 2 pm.

Rachael, 13, is the daughter of Lora Uber, an employee of *Hometown News*. She is facing surgery in January and requires a rare blood type: AB negative.

Rachael has Vater's Syndrome and has faced more than 18 major surgeries in her short lifetime.

She is in the seventh grade at Samuel Gaines Academy in Fort Pierce, and has maintained an A average. In her spare time, she draws and does computer graphics. Her artwork is sold online through the children's Web site, Furry Paws.

The blood drive will not only help replenish a low blood supply at the Florida Blood Center, it will directly help Rachael with her need for 10 units of blood during upcoming surgery.

Members of the community are invited to participate and their donation will be greatly appreciated.

For more information, call (772) 465-5656.

Volunteers host birthday bash

For Hometown News
News@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Thirty volunteers helped 33 Youth Guidance kids celebrate birthdays at the birthday beach bash at Jaycee Park in Vero Beach.

They played games and ate special birthday treats. Each child received a birthday present.

Laurie and Brian Connelly are the Youth Guidance gold sponsors who made this celebration possible.

The Youth Guidance agency serves 700 K-12 at-risk children who live in low-income single-parent homes.

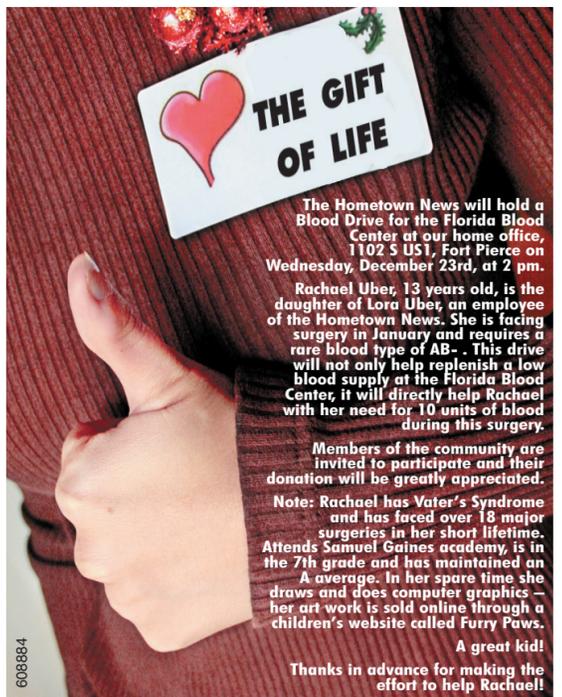
Opportunities abound for members of the com-

munity to volunteer with Youth Guidance as an ongoing mentor, as one-time companions of a child at special events, such as this one, that occur throughout the year, or helping in the office on a regular basis.

The monthly newsletter found at the Youth Guidance Qeb site, www.ircyouth.com, tells about upcoming activities.

Donations of any amount are welcome now and throughout the year to support Santa's toy shop, summer camp and other programs, including cultural, educational and recreational opportunities, tutoring services and college scholarships.

Give the Best Gift This Holiday Season



The Hometown News will hold a Blood Drive for the Florida Blood Center at our home office, 1102 S US1, Fort Pierce on Wednesday, December 23rd, at 2 pm.

Rachael Uber, 13 years old, is the daughter of Lora Uber, an employee of the Hometown News. She is facing surgery in January and requires a rare blood type of AB-. This drive will not only help replenish a low blood supply at the Florida Blood Center, it will directly help Rachael with her need for 10 units of blood during this surgery.

Members of the community are invited to participate and their donation will be greatly appreciated.

Note: Rachael has Vater's Syndrome and has faced over 18 major surgeries in her short lifetime. Attends Samuel Gaines academy, is in the 7th grade and has maintained an A average. In her spare time she draws and does computer graphics — her art work is sold online through a children's website called Furry Paws.

A great kid!
Thanks in advance for making the effort to help Rachael!

Students, families celebrate Thanksgiving

For Hometown News
News@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — More than 100 students, parents, volunteers and board members of Dasie Hope Center gathered on Nov. 24 to share meal.

Quail Valley's head chef, Joe Faria, organized, cooked and served a traditional Thanksgiving meal that includ-

ed a dozen turkeys donated by Quail Valley employees. Although it was his assistant, Charles Johnson's, first year helping with the meal, his daughter, 6-year old Sequoia, has been attending Dasie Hope since she was 3.

The evening started off with Verna Wright, director of Daise Hope, sharing accomplishments the students had completed in the previous months.

Gratitude was expressed for the

computer lab, which helped many students create science projects that merited As and Bs on report cards. Another highlight was the amount of Dasie Hope students on the school's honor roll increased to 76 percent.

Chef Faria was then honored with a certificate of appreciation, as well as a photo collage representing the five years of Thanksgiving meals he has donated to the center.

Restaurant seeks unwrapped toys

For Hometown News
News@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Pearl Restaurant's second annual bright and shining Christmas is now taking place.

Last holiday season, more than 400 area families were served by this community event. Recipients

are the families served by the Gifford Youth Activities Center, Habitat for Humanity, Youth Guidance, the Homeless Family Center and the Hibiscus Center.

Napa Auto Parts of Vero Beach and Jarvis Construction and Emergency Services kicked off the event with donations of bikes and toys.

Suggested gift donations are children's books and toys for boys and girls of all ages, as well as monetary donations and area merchant gift certificates.

To make a donation, drop off an unwrapped toy to Pearl Restaurant in the Portales de Vero at 2855 Ocean Drive, Vero Beach or call 231-4665.

Answers

From page A3

conducted.

Anyone with information about the crime can call Crime Stoppers at (800) 273-8477. Callers can be eligible for a reward of \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

For more information on cold cases on the Treasure Coast, go on the Web to www.tcwatch.org.

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Havert Fenn Center 2100 Virginia Ave Dec. 22, 28 at 10 am	St Lucie Community Center 2195 SE Airoso Blvd Dec. 23 at 10 am & 2 pm	Morningside Library 2410 SE Morningside Blvd Dec. 18, 22 at 2 pm, Dec. 21 at 10 am & 2 pm	Sebastian Elks Lodge 731 So Fleming Street Dec. 21 at 11 am & 2 pm, Dec. 28 at 2 pm	Indian River County Library 1600 21st Street Dec. 22, 29 at 11 am	

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Obituaries

Elaine Vincent Cook

Elaine Vincent Cook, 72, died Dec. 2, 2009. She was born in Brockton, Mass., and lived in Micco for 20 years.

She was a member of the Moose Lodge and the River of Life Church in Barefoot Bay.

She is survived by her son, David and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank.

Memorial contributions may be made to William Childs Hospice House, 381 Medplex Parkway Northeast, Palm Bay, FL 32907. Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Home and Crematory.

Walter Joseph 'Walt' Bartoszek

Walter Joseph "Walt" Bartoszek, 87, died Dec. 5, 2009. He was born in Adams, Mass., and lived in Barefoot Bay for 14 years.

He served in the Army during World War II. He was a member of St.

Luke's Catholic Church in Barefoot Bay.

He is survived by two sons, John and Joseph; his companion, Mary; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Madonna.

Memorial contributions may be made American Heart Association, 237 E. Marks St., Orlando, FL 32803. Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Home and Crematory.

Joseph P. Gallant

Joseph P. Gallant, 81, died Dec. 6, 2009.

He was born in Lawrence, Mass., and lived in Barefoot Bay for 15 years.

He was employed by Kenney & Company in Lawrence, Mass.

He served in the U.S. Army.

He is survived by two sons, Clifford and Glenn; two daughters, Cynthia and Lorraine; two sisters, Lorraine and Ruth; his companion, Dorothy and eight grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy.

Memorial contributions may be made to Viera Outpatient Clinic, c/o Karen Johnson, 2900 Veterans Way, Viera, FL 32940. Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Home and Crematory.

Weird

From page A1

a walking pace as it straddled the center line.

Police said a breathalyzer test showed the man's blood-alcohol content was 0.18, more than twice the 0.08 legal limit for drivers.

From altoonamirror.com: Police follow footprints in snow to suspect

Police in central Pennsylvania followed footprints in the snow to catch a man who allegedly tried to burglarize a convenience store by throwing a brick through a window.

Altoona Police said they followed the tracks to a home, where 28-year-old Joshua Phillips of Tennessee Ridge, Tenn., had been staying with relatives. Officers said Phillips claimed to be home asleep all night, even though his sneakers were wet and he had two pairs of wet pants with him.

Police said a brick found in the home was the same kind thrown through the store's window and that Phillips' shoes matched the snowy footprints.

Sean McCarthy can be reached at help@ComputeThisOnline.com (no hyphens).

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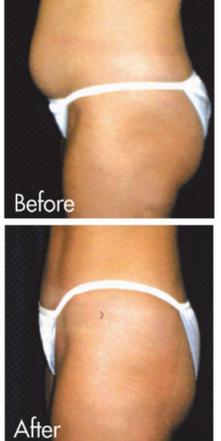
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Classified INSIDE

SECTION B • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009



VERO VIBE
BARBARA
YORESH

Scandals make good TV

Is it entertainment when the entire world is made aware of famous husbands' extracurricular activities through the media and in comic TV sketches?

I'll let you decide, but the latest in a seemingly unending list of rich, powerful and famous men who stray from their wives has hit another low with the did-we-really-need-to-know revelation that pro golfer extraordinaire Tiger Woods apparently took his Nike sponsor's slogan to heart and was more than willing to "just do it."

It would seem, according to a bevy of tell-all beauties and his own admission of "transgressions," that Woods, who is currently building a house on Jupiter Island in Martin County, was willing to "just do it" over and over again.

The news media immediately pounced and the sultans of satire at "Saturday Night Live" wasted no time in working up a parody skit featuring a look-a-like Tiger and his betrayed blonde wife, Elin.

On the heels of his own admission of sexual misconduct, David Letterman made jest of Woods' current problems.

For all the real news taking place in the world, our attention was drawn to the Woods affair, which began Thanksgiving weekend when the golf ace crashed his luxury SUV near his Orlando-area home and sustained injuries. In what became a torrent of increasingly sordid updates, we learned that this intensely private, clean-cut golf phenom was, perhaps, not the Mr. Goody Two-Shoes his image led us to believe.

His carefully cultivated and controlled "brand" was dissolving before our very eyes as one young and nubile woman after another came forth to reveal her "relationship" with the married golfer.

We were privy to watching a human train wreck yet

See **VIBE, B2**

Artist specializes in pet portraiture



By Barbara Yoresh
Entertainment writer

When an exquisitely rendered portrait of someone else's pet has the ability to bring an animal lover to tears, then it's likely the artist is possessed of a major gift.

Sherry Haaland of Vero Beach is such a talent. Her pastel renditions of pets, as well as human portraits, landscapes and still lifes are stunning in their almost photo-realistic detail, depth and richness of color using pastel.

I recently met Mrs. Haaland at the Vero Beach Museum of Art during a luncheon for media representatives and artists who were participating in the Vero Beach Art Club's Art Trail event, which was held Dec. 5. The annual outing enables art lovers to visit artists in their homes and studios to view first-hand

"It's the most rewarding for me and I love to see the customer's face when they see the portrait."

Sherry Haaland Artist

the creative process and purchase art directly from the artist.

While there, my eyes were especially drawn to a portrait featuring a yellow Labrador retriever zonked out on a couch with what appeared to be a long-haired Chihuahua. The two were enmeshed like a pair of young litter-mates and the realism of those faces and fur was such that one almost expected to see movement and other signs of life.

I must admit to being a dog lover all my life and a pet owner for much of it, although I am without such companionship

Artist Sherry Haaland stands in front of one of her works. She specializes in pet portraiture.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Yoresh

ing. Formerly from New York, Sherry and Charles Haaland moved to Vero Beach in 2006 to be close to Mrs. Haaland's father and sister. Prior to the move, she owned and operated a specialty commercial sign shop for 20 years.

Her interest in artistic endeavors came early and probably as the result of having the good fortune to be born into a creative family.

"My mother wrote and painted and my father painted. My grandmother was a pianist and church organist and my brother is a musician," Mrs. Haaland said.

As a youngster, her mother took her to a neighbor who gave art lessons and it was there, at an unusually young age, that she began to work in oils.

See **PET, B2**

Theater postpones 'Second Stage' season

By Barbara Yoresh
Entertainment writer

The recent announcement by Riverside Theatre officials to postpone the 2010 Second Stage season is a disappointment to theatergoers who love the intimate and thought-provoking experience the Waxlax Stage offers.

But those who crave the great scripts and masterful acting of those productions need not fret, according to Riverside Theatre officials.

"It's a postponement for now, but it will come back," assured Oscar Sales

Jr., director of marketing.

Although the decision to postpone the 2010 Second Stage season that was set to commence Jan. 19 with "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris" was a difficult one, the current economic climate necessitated a more conservative approach.

"It's a financial decision, unfortunately. What's going on is everyone is trying to save and be more vigilant with their money.

"People are still coming to see our shows, but maybe instead of seeing four or five they're seeing two or three," Mr. Sales

said.

In an effort to respond prudently and responsibly, Allen Cornell, Riverside Theatre producing artistic director/CEO and his team decided to assure the theater's continued financial strength by focusing the season on its MainStage productions.

Second Stage performances generally appeal to sophisticated audiences who appreciate a complete theatrical experience through plays and performances which are cutting-edge and more avant-garde than more mainstream theater.

According to Mr. Sales, many who attend those Second Stage productions are seasonal residents who have experienced that type of theatre in their home states.

The Second Stage shows were initially presented twice a season in the Riverside Children's Theatre next door.

Following recent Riverside Theatre renovations, the former "Riverside 2" productions were moved to the Waxlax Stage, where they became known as Second Stage shows.

See **SEASON, B3**



STAR SCOPES James Tucker Week of 12-18-2009

Aries-March 21-April 19
You are like a race car, revving up and wanting to run. As the year winds down, try to relax a little. Enjoy your other victories this year. Your greatest virtue is that you never quit until the race is run. You are a proven champion. Just be sure to keep life in balance so you don't burn out. Many more victories are on the way.

Taurus-April 20-May 20
Slow down a little, take a step back, get a second wind and then move forward again. Pacing yourself to prevent burnout is so important. No one expects you to go all out all the time. If they do, you are being used. Take the lighter touch in 2010. Sometimes less is more. Be good to yourself. If you don't, no one else can.

Gemini-May 21-June 21
Focus on what makes you happy. If your heart isn't in it don't do it. If you have to do distasteful things, learn to love them or don't do them. Like attracts like in the universe. What we sow we reap back multiplied. Don't forget this. For this to work you must be following your heart, not your head. Do this and be happy.

Cancer-June 22-July 22
You are so inspiring. It is your large heart. The universal presence within you constantly inspires you to do your best. You wake up each morning with so much love and joy in your soul. You wonder "How can I give it to those I love?" It's simple really. Focus on the greatest need, fill it and then move on to the next.

Leo-July 23-Aug. 22
One of the main keys to your success is that you know how to bring your inner fire, light and vision to the surface. This is because your heart is open and you are in touch with your spirit. You are a fire sign, you know. Be patient with others less intuitive as you. One of your missions in life is to inspire others to do well.

See **SCOPES, B3**

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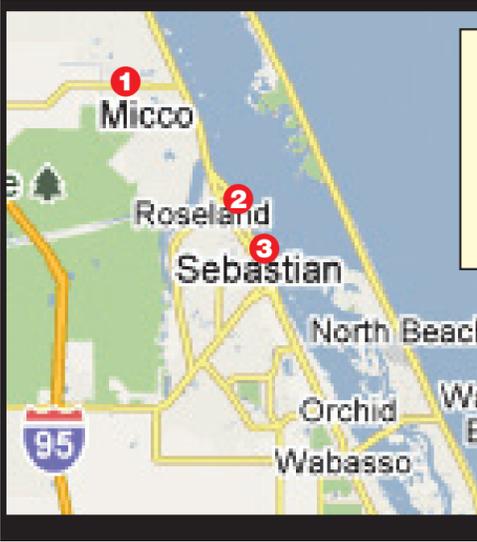
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Experience an evening of dance

By Barbara Yoresch
Entertainment writer

VERO BEACH — “Shall we dance?”

It was a question posed to the King of Siam by Anna in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical “The King and I.”

And while that romp around the floor had royal overtones, it would seem the entire world has put on their dancing shoes as evident by the popularity of TV’s “Dancing with the Stars.”

Area residents who want to give it a whirl will be glad to know that ballroom dancing for children and adults is alive and well at the Royal Ballroom Dance Studio in Vero Beach.

The full-time dance studio is owned by Oleg and Asya Dimitrov, formerly of Bulgaria, who are internationally acclaimed competitive dancers and instructors with more than 20 years of experience.

Royal Ballroom Dance Studio’s Big Bash Showcase is set for Sunday, Dec. 20 from 7-10:30 p.m. and will showcase students who perform competitive and high-level ballroom dance programs.

The special “evening of the year” also celebrates the holiday season with a dinner buffet and wine in a festive atmosphere at the dance studio located in the Indian River Plaza at 1533 U.S. 1 in Vero Beach.

The event is open to the public and designed to feature Royal Ballroom students and their progress as dancers.

Tickets are \$40 each and include dinner, wine and entertainment.

Each exhibition dance will be performed as a student/instructor pairing or as an amateur couple.

The event will conclude with a show by Royal Ballroom staff and a professional performance by the Dimitrovs.

Royal Ballroom offers private and group dance lessons, youth and teen programs and unique wedding, anniversary and lifestyle programs to enable a bride and groom or others to develop their dancing skills for their special occasion.

For more information about Royal Ballroom Dance Studio or the Big Holiday Bash Showcase evening, call (772) 299-5782.

Vibe

From page B1

once again, in the mode of South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer, former President Bill Clinton and so many others. It was painful to see, but like some horrific accident, we somehow couldn’t take our eyes off the spectacle.

It had become entertainment, even if it was heavily tinged with schadenfreude, a glee at someone else’s misfortune. And it’s easier to assume that unattractive character flaw when that someone else is fabulously rich, internationally famous and somewhat self-righteous.

Within the past week, I, like others, have been guilty of coming up with my own verbal jabs at

Woods.

“Put a Tiger in your tank” came to mind, a rather sick revisit of a successful 1964 ad campaign by Esso (now Exxon) Oil Company for its gas.

Erick “Tiger” Woods morphed into “Cheetah” Woods for his apparently busy and secret life off the links and away from his beautiful young wife.

But the laughter is of the snicker variety because I believe in the end, even those of us who have laughed over this latest self-destruction are nonetheless incredibly saddened by it.

Why do so many awesomely talented, brilliant and blessed men with power seem to feel the need to sexually conquer the world?

Here’s another slogan suggested by former First

Lady Nancy Reagan in the fight against drug abuse: “Just say no.”

But these men don’t say no. The predatory women who throw themselves at these guys for money, bragging rights or their own 15 minutes of fame are typically young and beautiful, if not too very bright.

Is it such a feather in the cap of public figures such as Woods to avail themselves of any offer that comes their way without regard to the commitment made to their wives?

Do all of us laughing about this latest tale of spousal betrayal truly think no one gets hurt? And if Elin Woods decides to divorce her husband, is a multi-million settlement payment in full for the humiliation and pain she has suffered? What about their children?

Does money buy everything? Some may think so. I

do not.

For all the titillation Woods may have experienced from his multiple dalliances, I think in the long run, he’ll come out a loser.

This “role model” of our hero-worshipping nation (which invariably chooses heroes with feet of clay) will be irrevocably different in our eyes now. Does it matter? He already has enough money to last 20 lifetimes and, before his golf career is finished, Woods will likely surpass Jack Nicklaus’ record to be dubbed the greatest golfer who ever played the game.

Lots of money. Lots of fame. Lots of trophies. Lots of trophy women. But at the very end, Woods’ obituary will include this current black mark for which he himself bears responsibility.

The greatest golfer in the world is a cheat.

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Pet

From page B1

By the time she reached high school, she “did everything.”

“I loved jewelry making and painting and when I went to college, I got a BS in art education (from the State University of New York at New Paltz),” Mrs. Haaland said.

She taught for a while and later did substitute teaching, which she still does for the Indian River County School District.

Back in her hometown of Mahopac, N.Y., her brother and father operated a sign shop. When her brother left to pursue his education, Mrs. Haaland joined her father and operated the shop until her move to Florida.

“I had put aside my oils after college, but I did have the urge to paint something now and then,” she said.

Her creative juices were doubly stimulated when she tried working with pastels.

“Once I got introduced to pastels it snowballed. A new box of pastels was like candy to me; so many, beautiful colors and it’s so

immediate a medium.

“You pick a color and use it; no mixing oils. It’s a very forgiving medium,” she said.

While her range of subject matter is wide, Mrs. Haaland especially enjoys pet portraits, often after people have lost their animal friends.

“It’s the most rewarding for me and I love to see the customer’s face when they see the portrait. It’s the power of love we have for our pets that drives my desire to bring that life and emotion to the artwork.

“With the animal subjects, I feel like I’m really giving something back,” Mrs. Haaland said.

She is a member of the Vero Beach Art Club and co-founder of the Patel Society of Eastern Florida.

Her work is gaining area attention and she sold 10 pieces during the Art Trail event.

Her pet portraits begin at \$250 and she works closely with her clients during the creative process.

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DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Scopes

From page B1

Virgo-Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You face life's challenges with courage and determination. You continue to grow spiritually and universally. You are to be applauded with you tenacity. You worry less. You are happier. When you are happy it makes others happy. You are fun to be around. Keep the lighter touch and next year will be great.

Libra-Sept. 23-Oct. 22
You make wise decisions. Why? Because you look at three possible solutions. Do I take the safe route? Do I go down the middle of the road? Do I take the risky route? The safe route says, "wait." The middle says, "please everybody." The risky brings the highest rewards. You have much

risk-taking in your heart.

Scorpio-Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Emotional, spiritual and universal growth comes when the conscious mind is surrendered to the higher will and you begin to follow your heart, not your head. It's time to take your life to a higher level. Go inside and listen to and trust your gut instincts. They speak the truth first. Get out of your own way, relax and prosper.

Sagittarius-Nov. 22-Dec. 21
This has been a year of remarkable change and growth. Just wait and see what the New Year will bring. You have renewed strength in your thoughts, feelings, spirit and body. No one can keep up with you when you are at your best. It's your fiery nature. Achievement is fuel to your soul. Get ready. More is on the way.

Capricorn-Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Love is the greatest spiritual gift. You were born with tons of it. Your life is about service to others. You don't need many material things. When you are loved and appreciated, you are at your best. No one has the ability to nurture and give love from the heart more than you. The New Year will bring it back to you multiplied.

Aquarius-Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Inner wisdom comes easier when you are centered. Live life one day at a time. Wake up each day knowing that today is the best day of your life and tomorrow is the next one. Live in positive expectancy. This opens the instincts and heart and allows positive ideas to pop into the mind. Yours is a great mind.

Pisces-Feb. 19-March 20
Continue to trust the uni-

versal power and all you need to move forward to your highest good and truth will always be there. Put spirit first. If you aren't sure, wait. Your heart will tell you. Stay strong in your spiritual beliefs about life. You have come a long way. There is still a ways to go. Continue to swim. Never give up.

Star visions

For readings, astrology charts and other services, call (772) 334-9487, e-mail jtuckxyz@aol.com. To read the Spirit Guide column, visit myhometownnews.net and click on counseling and advice. Gift certificates for one of James' unique services make fantastic holiday or birthday gifts for loved ones. Have a starry week, everyone.

— James Tucker

Season

From page B1

"But going from two to four shows because now we had the space didn't always make sense. Some shows sold out while others did OK because two of the shows were held later in the spring, past the 'season,'" Mr. Sales said.

After a reassessment of last year's season and a review of the general economy for this year's upcoming season, the decision was made to postpone the Second Stage 2010 season.

Initial plans are underway, however, to present two play readings on the Second Stage sometime in the spring.

"We're very pleased with the advance sales for our

upcoming Mainstage shows. It's even better than where we were at this time last year and we're hoping the trend continues.

"We need to be prudent with what we do so we'll regroup with respect to the Second Stage," Mr. Sales said.

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Hometown News **\$UPER BUY\$** of the week

Bright ideas for neat, discreet storage of your stockpile

This week, I'll answer two e-mails from readers with stockpiling issues.

Q: I enjoy your weekly column and am fascinated by all the deals you manage to put together. Do you have any advice for single

people who don't cook for large families or who don't have the capacity to store multiples of products as the current coupons require? Any thoughts on couponing and the single lifestyle?"

Q: I live in Southern California and the sum-

mers are very hot. I can't store canned goods in the garage because the heat causes the cans to bulge. A basement would be nice, but out here we just don't have them. Do you have any ideas for us out here in hot country?

COUPON QUEEN
JILL CATALDO



Sure! Stockpiling groceries at home is a fantastic way to "beat" the price cycles at the grocery store, which typically run on 12-week cycles. When you know that an item you would like to buy will not be at its lowest price again for almost three months, buying enough to last your household three months ensures that you won't have to run to the store and pay a higher price. You'll "shop from home" by using items

from your stockpile, and the next time a sale comes around again, you can stock up once more.

But what do you do if you're space-challenged?

Believe it or not, stockpiling can be easier if you're a single person. While living in a smaller residence may limit your storage space, the upside is that storing three months' worth of cereal for one person is going to take up a lot less room than three months' worth of cereal for an entire family would. And, when household cleaners go on sale, you could easily get by with buying one or two instead of four or five. Again, you're going to base your stockpile on your usage needs.

Now, where do we put all of this stuff?

My cousin started super-couponing last year. He is single and lives in a one-bedroom condominium where space is at a premium. I've watched with great interest as he has come up with some of the most creative places to store his stockpiled items.

He's used under-bed boxes and drawers for everything from cereal to canned goods. Another often-overlooked place that he's embraced is the space above his kitchen cabinets. If you have open soffits, there is a lot of space up there that just sits unused.

As a single guy, he doesn't mind the visuals of having jars and bottles stored on top of his cabinets. If this bothers you, you could always camouflage them.

Someone in a recent coupon class told me they keep silk plants on top of their cabinets for aesthetics and for a very practical reason. Behind the plants are cans of soup and jars of peanut butter.

Furniture can be a great place to "hide" stockpile

items. Many people have re-appropriated old armoires, china cabinets or buffets to store stockpile items inside. Kept in the dining room, they're still close to the kitchen and can give you some overflow space to store more items.

Don't feel like your stockpile items have to be limited to the kitchen area.

During one good sale, a friend of mine filled her son's bedroom closet shelves with boxes of cereal.

I know one couple that decided to keep their sheets and towels in their master closet to free up the linen closet for use as a pantry.

Clear plastic storage totes are good places to store stockpile items, too. They stack well and can sit on the floor of a closet.

Even in a warm climate, you can store non-food items in the garage. Paper products such as paper towels, plates, toilet paper, facial tissue and napkins all store well on garage shelves.

The key to stockpiling in any situation is to stop stockpiling when your allotted space fills up. Sales do come around again and again. It can be easy to get lured in by a great sale and take home much more than you need or use. If this happens, remember your local food pantry.

Pantries will take food items, personal care and cleaning products. This is a good way to prune down your stockpile too if you find it's starting to get too large.

Jill Cataldo, a coupon workshop instructor, writer and mother of three, never passes up a good deal. Learn more about couponing at her Web site www.super-couponing.com. E-mail your own couponing victories and questions to jill@ctwfeatures.com.

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Out & about

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

• **The Indian River Community Mass Choir presents a free Christmas concert** at 6:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, corner of 27th Avenue and 16th Street. The concert is open to the community and no reservations or tickets are required. A free-will offering will be accepted. Also performing will be saxophonist James Broxton, dancer Jehane Davellia, the Gifford Youth String Orchestra, the Full Gospel Church of Deliverance Youth Choir from Fort Pierce and the Full Gospel Church of Deliverance Youth Praise Team. Speakers include Eric Seymour, principal of Vero Beach High School and Crystal Bujol, founder and director of the Gifford Youth String Orchestra. *For more information, call (772) 778-5800.*

THROUGH DEC. 27

• **The Vero Beach Museum of Art presents "SANCTUARY: Anna Tomczak Photography"** in an exhibit featuring 30 large-format photographs on display in the museum's Schumann Gallery. The photographs are still-life assemblages created from personal mementos, symbolic objects, flowers and antique materials which are then photographed to produce watercolor-like prints. Her art images have won many awards, been featured on eight book covers and have been showcased in a variety of publications. *For more information, call (772) 231-0707.*

THURSDAY, DEC. 31

• **Celebrate New Year's Eve at Riverside Theatre.** Ring in 2010 at the theater's first New Year's Eve celebration, which

begins at 9:30 p.m. and lasts until 1 a.m. Riverside Theatre is located at 3250 Riverside Park Drive in Vero Beach. Dance the night away to the sounds of the Bus Stop Band, enjoy delicious tapas throughout the evening and a champagne toast at midnight. The celebration takes place on the Waxlax Stage immediately following the opening night performance of "Ella," a musical tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, starring Tina Fabrique, which performs on the Stark Mainstage. Dress is cocktail attire. Tickets are \$100 per person and do not include tickets to "Ella" which are separately priced at \$22-\$52 each. *For more information, call the Riverside Theatre box office at (772) 231-6990.*

THROUGH SUNDAY, JAN. 3, 2010

• **"THE GRID TURNS THE CORNER: A mid-career retrospective of drawings and prints by Terry K. Hunter"** will be on exhibit in the Stark Gallery of the Vero Beach Museum of Art. The exhibition, which spans nearly four decades, showcase's Mr. Hunter's work, which evokes the historical record, social consciousness and the human condition and the exhibit will feature 52 works. The Vero Beach Museum of Art is located at 3001 Riverside Drive in Vero Beach. *For more information, call (772) 231-0707.*

SATURDAY, DEC. 26 -SUNDAY, JAN. 3

• **Riverside Children's Theatre presents the musical "Snoopy!!!"** starring Nate Karabensh as Charlie Brown and Johnny Garde as Linus in the Anne Morton Theatre

See **OUT, B6**

TRAVEL

'Oasis of the Seas' lives up to the wow factor

This is the first of a three-part series on the Oasis of the Seas cruise ship.

With so much to say in so little space, this article will have to be in three parts.

When it was first announced that Royal Caribbean would be delivering the biggest ship ever, there was much speculation about the size and the amount of passengers it would hold.

Although many of the comments were negative, more were positive as to the architectural wonder that such a ship would be.

Royal Caribbean started its campaign with 'Delivering the WOW!' and I am here to say they certainly did. I have never been disappointed in a new class of ship, but in this case, it is so much more than just admiring the ship. I was absolutely in awe of what has been accomplished here.

I had the pleasure, along with about 2,800 other folks, to sail on a special "travel agent" two-night voyage on the Oasis of the Seas and all I could say was "wow," so I guess the marketing department of Royal Caribbean hit its mark.

A few stats: the vessel is the largest cruise ship at 225,282 tons and can accommodate 5,400 guests. It boasts seven "neighborhoods" from Central Park, a tropical plant- and tree-filled promenade with cafes, restaurants and boutique shops, to the Boardwalk, a Coney Island-esque space featuring a handmade wooden carousel and AquaTheater.

The Royal Promenade is an inside mall that runs from mid/aft to forward with bars, café, pizzeria and shops. The pool deck is an active place with two surf simulators, a mini-golf course, a "beach pool," private cabanas, a kids' aquapark (with giant water-spraying octopus), plenty of hot tubs and more.

The entertainment "neighborhood" has various nightlife options including water shows, live music, standup comedy and the hit

Broadway musical "Hair-spray."

Youth Zone is a kids-only "neighborhood" featuring a children's theater, science lab, arts and crafts classes, video arcade, nursery and teens-only space.

The spa and fitness neighborhood features an incredible solarium and options that include a thermal suite, a spa cafe, the largest gym at sea and a dedicated youth spa area.

We arrived at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale about 11:30 a.m. Seeing the ship while driving toward it, we could see it was huge. The embarkation process was quick and easy at one of the 92 check-in desks. We encountered no issues here or in debarkation.

Walking up the gangplank was a little steep, which may cause an issue for those who have difficulty walking, however there were plenty of wheelchairs (with crewmembers to push them) available. You did not have to make prior arrangements just ask. Speaking with some people "in the know" on board, an escalator type of device is being considered for this area. They already have one for some of the ports, so it is not such a stretch.

We boarded on deck five, the promenade deck. We crossed over the jogging track and through a wide entrance onto the Royal Promenade, which runs down the inside of the ship and has shops, eateries, bars, etc., on both sides.

Since it was a little early to put our luggage in our cabin, we went directly to the top of the ship to start our journey there.

On our way up, the glass elevators gave us our first glimpse of things to come as we passed deck 6 where you enter the Boardwalk and deck 8 where we will later walk along the paths, through the foliage of Central Park.

Our very first stop was the solarium located on deck 16 forward, just above the bridge. We were taken aback by the size and space, with two huge strips of glass above that protect you from the wind and rain but allow the sun to shine through.



TRAVEL
PATTY TOPPA

There is a space between the two, which allows for fresh air to circulate. Also in the solarium you will find a freshwater pool, cantilevered whirlpools that flank both sides, a bar, the Solarium Bistro serving light and healthy fare, and many loungers and cabanas for two.

Next, we went to the Windjammer Marketplace for lunch. I was a bit surprised that it did not look overly large for the amount of people it was to serve. We ventured around to find a nice table by the windows overlooking the sports and pool zone. Below we can see the Central Park with all its foliage. We couldn't wait to get down there to explore up front and personal.

There were plenty of choices for lunch from salads to burgers and fries. A carving station with steamship beef (changes daily to turkey, pork or ham) included all the trimmings. A station with more of the lighter fare was also available.

After lunch, we ventured to our D3 balcony stateroom located on deck 12 forward. The stateroom was nicely appointed with teak woods and chrome accents. The bedding was incredibly comfortable and dressed in white down with turquoise accents. Both the room and the bathroom were spacious enough, as was the closet.

The bathroom had a rounded shower with doors and gave us plenty of room. One very noticeable addition was a bar that was mounted catty-corner, about a foot off the floor of the shower for leg shaving (if you have ever tried to shave your legs in a tiny shower, you will really appreciate this addition).

We ventured out to see the other staterooms in various categories set up for our viewing. The various pricing of the balconies is based on the location of the stateroom, not necessarily the size of the room; they were all basically the same size.

I will embellish more in my next column. There was

so much to see and do, three would probably not be enough, so I will cram as much as I can to each.

Patty Toppa is a travel consultant with Gadabout Travel. She can be reached at patty@cruisetraveltours.com or www.cruisetraveltours.com.

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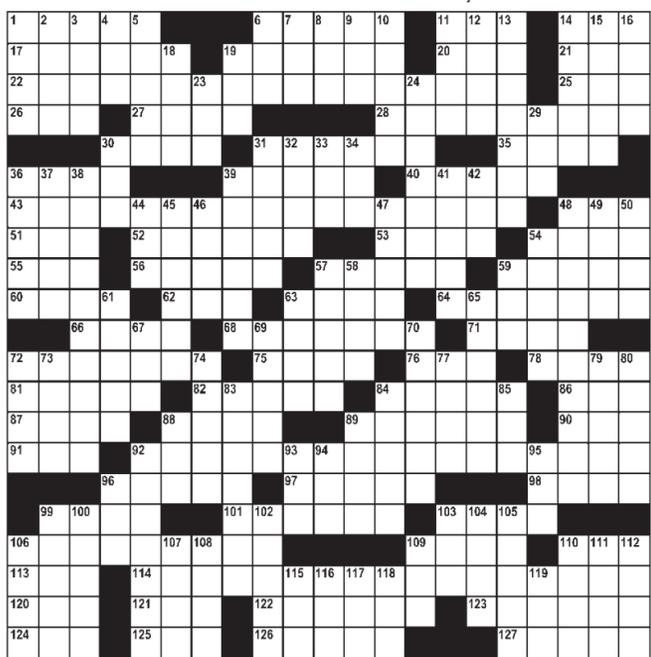
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Christmas Time

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

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Free concert features gospel music

For Hometown News
News@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — A celebration of music and praise will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 19 as the Indian River community mass choir will present a free Christmas concert at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach. The concert is open to the community and no reservations or tickets are required. A free-will offering will be accepted.

Roger Hudson organized this new interfaith gospel choir in August 2009. He describes the choir as consisting of "excited, talented, energized people, experienced directors and talented band musicians." Maya Miller is the choir director and Deborah Long, principal of Oslo Middle School, will serve as master of ceremonies at the event. Also performing will be saxophonist James Broxton, dancer Jehane Davellia, the Gifford Youth String Orches-

tra, the Full Gospel Church of Deliverance Youth Choir from Fort Pierce and the Full Gospel Church of Deliverance Youth Praise Team. Speakers will include Eric Seymour, Vero Beach High School principal and Crystal Bujol, founder and director of the Gifford Youth String Orchestra. The UU Fellowship is located on the southeast corner of 27th Avenue and 16th Street in Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 778-5800.

Out

From page B4

located at 3280 Riverside Drive in Vero Beach. Dates and times are Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 27, 28, 29 and Jan. 2 and 3 at 1:30 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (772) 231-6990.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8 - SUNDAY, JAN. 10, 2010

The Vero Beach Museum of Art presents its 18th annual antiques show and sale, which features 38 renowned dealers under the management of Charles Miller of Chapel Hill, N.C. Exhibitors will present 18th- and 19th-century Americana including furniture, jewelry, art, glassware, porcelains and collectibles in room settings through the museum. The cost of the show is \$10 which includes unlimited re-entry. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 10. The show also features appraisals at \$15 per item with a three item maximum from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The show's proceeds benefit the museum's

education programs. The Vero Beach Museum of Art is located at 3001 Riverside Park Drive in Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 231-0707.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9

Open auditions for "The Wizard of Oz" will be held by the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Department for children ages 8 to 14 from 1-4 p.m. in the school's Performing Arts Center located at 1707 16th St. in Vero Beach. Cast openings are available for 20 ensemble children who will be playing the roles of Munchkins, monkeys and poppies. Audition participants should wear comfortable clothing for movement and be prepared to sing a simple song. Music reading skills are not necessary, but some dance experience is preferred for certain roles. Performances will be held Feb. 19-21 at the Performing Arts Center. For more information, contact show director Dee Rose at (772) 564-5449.

JAN. 17- MARCH 28, 2010

The Vero Beach Opera announces its 2010 season featuring four diverse programs including tango dancing, Italian and Spanish guitar music, Metropolitan Opera stars,

mariachi and more. All performances are held at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center, 1707 16th Ave. in Vero Beach with tickets starting at \$20. The season kicks off with a musical extravaganza on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 3 p.m. Artists include Roman Ortega-Cowan, Tania Ortega-Cowan, Frankie Holiday, Asya and Oleg Dimitrov and operatic diva Susan Neves. The Vero Beach High School Symphony Orchestra will perform the overture from Mozart's Marriage of Figaro. On Saturday, Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m., the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artists will be in concert. A special presentation is set for Saturday, March 20, at 8 p.m. Marcelo Giordani stars in the Deborah Voight/Vero Beach Opera Foundation Concert that will also feature Maestro Steve Mercurio who will conduct the Brevard Symphony Orchestra. Ginaii Schicchi and Suor Angelica will perform on Sunday, March 28, featuring the Stetson University Opera presenting full productions of two one-act operas performed by student artists, chorus and 55-piece orchestra. For more information, call the Vero Beach Opera at (772) 569-6993 or visit online at www.verobeach-

See OUT, B7

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So remember while December brings the only Christmas Day, in the year let there be Christmas in the things you do and say; Wouldn't life be worth the living; wouldn't dreams be coming true if we kept the Christmas spirit all whole year through?
--Author unknown

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CHRISTMAS EVE - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
7:30 p.m. (Spanish)
12:00 Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. (Spanish)

NEW YEAR'S DAY SCHEDULE:
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2009
Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2010
Solemnity of the Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation
7:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:45 p.m. (Spanish)
NO EVENING MASSES ON CHRISTMAS DAY OR NEW YEAR'S DAY

Out

From page B6

opera.org.

JAN. 20 - MARCH 10, 2010

The Vero Beach Museum of Art 2010 Distinguished Professor Lecture Series, a unique partnership between the museum and college/university alumni associations features diverse topics highlighting current research in the arts and humanities.

Richard Fishman of Brown University will present "The Power of Imagination and Collaboration: The Elm Tree Project." On Feb. 3, Erica Caltrass-Dukehart of Skidmore College discusses "Sextants, Sails, Maps and Muskets: Marine Technology in the Age of Exploration."

are \$20 for the general public and \$15 for museum members and alumni. Each lecture takes place at 2 p.m. followed by a tea reception at 3 p.m. The Vero Beach Museum of Art is located at 3001 Riverside Park Drive in Vero Beach.

MONDAY, FEB. 15- MONDAY, MARCH 22

The Vero Beach Museum of Art 2010 International Lecture Series has featured prominent speakers in the arts and

humanities for more than 20 years. Each lecture begins at 4:30 p.m. and is followed by a reception with the speaker at 5:30 p.m. "Why the Arts Matter" will be presented Feb. 15 by internationally acclaimed poet and former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts Dana Gioia.

THROUGH APRIL 8 The Emerson Center's third annual Humanities Series, in partnership with the Florida Humanities Council, continues its series which is free and open to the public.

Own Words" will be presented Thursday, March 11 by Michael Jepson, a marine anthropologist who documents stories of Florida fishing families.

Hometown News Classified FIND IT - BUY IT - SELL IT - ALL IN THE HOMETOWN NEWS Serving the following communities: Barefoot Bay • Micco • Sebastian • Orchid Island • Vero Beach • Ft. Pierce • Hutchinson Island • Port St. Lucie • Jensen Beach • Stuart • Palm City • Hobo Sound • Sewall's Point • Palm Bay • Melbourne • The Beaches • Rockledge • Cocoa • Merritt Island • Cocoa Beach • Suntree • Viera • Titusville • Port St. John • Port Orange • South Daytona • New Smyrna Beach • Edgewater • Oak Hill • Daytona Beach • Holly Hill • Ormond Beach

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FUTON, great cond, very comfortable w/ firm mattress, \$120 603-769-9878 SoBrev

GAZELLE EXERCISER, good working condition \$50, 772-388-3726

GUITAR, ACOUSTIC, 6 String, nice sound, w/ black stand, \$50 321-652-2930 IR

JACKET- BLACK leather Harley Davidson Size 38. \$100. 13" TV-VCR \$25. 772-664-4372

KITCHEN SINK - New Moen designer double \$75. 772-467-2673

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PUNCH BOWL Set, 10 piece, 24% lead crystal, in box, used once, \$25 772-234-0252 IR

RANGE, FLAT top, self cleaning & microwave, like new, 4 years old, \$200 both 716-307-3064

RED HATTER 28" doll, new \$15, (2) red hatter 100% silk scarves \$8 ea 772-299-6518

REFRIGERATOR, 18 cubic ft, ice maker, good shape, \$200 772-466-5624

SEKIO, MENS, day, date, gold tone, Kenetic w/ oyster screw back, \$95. 772-770-2090 IR

SINK, DOUBLE bowls white w/ moen faucet, \$50, Dishwasher 4 yrs old \$75, 772-812-1309

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TABLE, 21" high, beveled edge glass top, 27"x27", \$45 540-588-3485 SLC

TRAMPOLINE, URBAN rebounder exercise w/ handel \$50, office wra-niaer \$20, 772-563-9340

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VACUUMS, 1 upright, 1 canister \$30 each or \$50 for both, 772-539-9447

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HOLIDAY DEADLINES Our office will be closed Friday, December 25th to celebrate the Christmas Holiday. We will reopen on Monday, December 28th. We will be moving all deadlines one day earlier for the 12/25 edition. Monday, December 21st is deadline for papers from Martin County through Titusville. Tuesday, December 22nd is deadline for Volusia County papers. We will also be closed on Friday January 1st. All Deadlines will be our normal deadline times for the 1/1 edition. To Place your ads please call early! Martin County through Vero - 1-800-823-0466 Brevard County - 321-242-0442 Volusia County - 386-322-5944 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! Your classified team at the Hometown News!

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VERO BEACH Myrtle-the Turtle overlooks this beautiful 3-br/3-ba furn beach home 20 steps to the Ocean in Indian River Shores. 772-388-2060

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810 House for Rent

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