



INSIDE



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 msnbc.msn.com: Woman lay dead in bed for eight months

The body of an elderly woman remained in her bed for up to eight months even though caretakers paid daily visits to the house and kept it tidy, authorities said.

New Hanover County District Attorney Benjamin David told a news conference that a concealment of death charge would be filed against a family member, although he declined to identify the person by name.

"There is no question it was known to the family and should have been communicated to law enforcement," he said. "This is not tolerated under North Carolina law and it is not tolerated by this law enforcement community."

Failure to report a death is a low-level felony in North Carolina. David said the person charged may not face jail time depending on any prior criminal record.

From news.yahoo.com: Self-styled vampire jailed for threatening judge

A man who claims to be the leader of a group of vampires has pleaded guilty to charges he threatened to torture and kill an Indianapolis judge and his family.

Rocky Flash, 45, also known as Jonathon

See **WEIRD, A8**

ENTERTAINMENT B1

HONORING ELLA



A production at Riverside Theatre celebrates the life of Ella Fitzgerald

HEALTH A6

PARTY SAFE



Rips on how to have a fun, but safe holiday party

WEEKEND WEATHER



Friday: Isolated showers; high: 79; low: 57; high tide: 5:16 a.m.; low tide: 11:47 a.m.
Saturday: Showers; high: 70; low: 52; high tide: 6:16 a.m.; low tide: 12:47 p.m.
Sunday: Partly Cloudy; high: 69; low: 52; high tide: 7:18 a.m.; low tide: 1:46 p.m.
Weather courtesy of www.weather.com

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Hearing set for tax break ordinance

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — In November, Sebastian voters wholeheartedly approved a referendum to allow the city to offer tax abatements to business that bring in more jobs.

Next month, residents will once again have the opportunity to speak out on the subject during a public hearing on Jan. 13.

See **ORDINANCE, A4**

Area illegal drug operation busted

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — Three people were arrested and more than 60 grams of oxycodone and Alprazolam were seized in a drug bust by the Sebastian Police Department and the multi-agency criminal enforcement unit last week.

Two of those charged remained in the county jail as of press time.

Stephen Gene Decker, 22, 901 S. W. Bermuda Ave., Sebastian, was charged with trafficking in

oxycodone and possession of Alprazolam with intent to sell.

Kelly Lynn Nelson, 23, 1236 15th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with trafficking in oxycodone, possession of Alprazolam with intent to sell and possession of marijuana.

Michael Novakowski, 21, 6226 Sixth Place, Vero Beach, was charged with possession and purchase of oxycodone.

Mr. Decker and Ms. Nelson are being held at the county jail with a combined bond of \$420,500.

According to the arrest reports, See **OPERATION, A2**



Merry Christmas and happy holidays



From left, C. J. Coley, 6, his brother, Hunter, 8 and sister Cassandra, 9, from Vero Lake Estates, got their pictures taken with Santa at the Indian River Mall last Friday, Dec. 18. The trio, dressed in their Christmas outfits, let Santa know some of the things they hoped to receive on Christmas.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

No new taxes needed

Community center to be spruced up

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The Gifford Community Center will be spruced up soon, and without placing any additional taxes on residents, thanks to a recent decision by Indian River County Commissioners.

Commissioners voted 4-0 to approve county budget director Jason Brown's renovation budget proposal during the Dec. 15 meeting.

The proposal includes using funds from 1-cent sales taxes and municipal taxes. Previously, it was thought that in order to fund the project, additional taxes would need to be placed on the residents.

"I'm so happy to hear there is an alternative (to fund the project)," said Freddie Woolfork, director

See **TAXES, A3**

Lockin' the house, checkin' it twice

Take precautions for a safer holiday season, authorities say

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The holiday season may be a time of good news and great joy for many, but cheery, happy faces could turn to tears of disappointment if a theft occurs.

Law enforcement officials

encourage all residents during the holiday season to be extra careful with their safety at home, at the mall or on vacation.

When shopping, be sure to lock your vehicle and remove all valuables from sight, said Jeff Luther, director of media relations for the Indian River County Sheriff's Office.

Be careful how you carry wallets and purses; rear pants pockets and purses with open flaps are easy to pick, a press release said.

After going through all the goodies and gifts from the Christmas celebration, it is better not to dispose of the packaging in your trash can, officials said.

Instead, break down boxes for TVs, stereos, computers, etc. and turn them inside out before putting them in the trash, or take the cardboard directly to a recycling bin, a Sheriff's Office press release said.

Locking doors, windows and shutting garages can go a

See **HOUSE, A3**



Two-year-old Isabella Ferrara, center, and Bradly Bragg, 3, paint with teachers Tara Luton and Jean Carpenter at Maitland Farms Preschool on Dec. 17. The children are part of the Childcare Resource care program.

Childcare is priority for fundraising campaign

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Even in the midst of a sluggish economy, a nonprofit organization championing quality childcare, is moving forward with a campaign to provide more families with affordable, quality childcare.

Childcare Resource of Indian River County has been investing in the lives of hundreds of children since 1994, and hopes to benefit them even more with a new education center in 2010.

Currently, Childcare Resources

See **CHILDCARE, A3**

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Councilors discuss creating park near airport

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — Residents could get up close and personal with aviation next year at the Sebastian Municipal Airport with a new park and viewing area.

In the Dec. 9 Sebastian City Council meeting, parks and recreation committee members presented an idea about creating a small park next to the airport for people to sit, have a picnic and watch as skydivers jump from planes or watch aircraft take off and land.

The park would also highlight some of the history of the airport, stretching as far back as World War II, when it was used as a training base for the Navy.

Council members were overall in favor of the project, and directed the city manager to come back with more information on where the park could be located and what size budget would be needed.

The idea originated with the public, said Councilwoman Andrea Coy.

"The suggestion came with interest from pilots and members of the general community for having a viewing area out there," said Ms. Coy.

"The public brought it to our attention, and it's something that we all seem to like," she said.

Some of the suggestions for the park include playground equipment with an aviation theme, Ms. Coy

said. The historic aspect of the proposed park would also bring a positive element to the airport, she said.

"Military bone yards" have artifacts from WWII that could be brought and displayed in the park for basically the cost of transporting them, the councilwoman said.

"Most folks forget that the airport used to be a Navy training base in World War II, so why not showcase it and invite the public to see it?" said Ms. Coy.

"People could walk up and touch them, and that's something that you don't get to do anymore (since Sept. 11). It provides an opportunity for people to get interested in aviation and flying,"

Ms. Coy said. City manager Al Minner said the funding for the project would most likely come from recreation impact fees, but grant funding is something that they will look into, as well.

Recreation impact fees can only be used for creating new infrastructure for recreation in the city.

Mr. Minner expects to have more information on the cost of the project by the January council meetings.

There will be opportunity for more public input in future meetings, he said.

For more information about upcoming government meetings, or to view agendas, visit www.cityofsebastian.org.

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Operation

From page A1

a confidential source tipped off law enforcement about a drug exchange about to take place at Ms. Nelson's home in Vero Beach.

Ms. Nelson was identified by the confidential source as a drug sponsor, which indicates that Ms. Nelson would pay someone to go to medical clinics to obtain prescriptions for controlled substances, such as oxycodone. In return, the sponsor would get a portion of the pills received and be able to sell them to other consumers.

In the arrest report, Mr.



Stephen Decker



Kelly Nelson



Michael Novakowski

Decker and another man were observed leaving Ms. Nelson's home in a vehicle, and were stopped for a traffic violation.

Officers searched the vehicle and found three prescription bottles and 128 pills belonging to Mr. Decker.

Mr. Decker said he had given Ms. Nelson between 130 and 140 pills that day as payment for her sponsoring

him. He said she has sponsored him up to six times in the past and that this time she gave him \$680 to go to the clinic. He was subsequently arrested.

The other man, who was driving the vehicle, was not arrested in conjunction with the case.

Other law enforcement officers conducting surveillance at Ms. Nelson's residence observed another

vehicle leaving, and after conducting a traffic stop, arrested Mr. Novakowski for purchasing and possessing oxycodone.

Mr. Novakowski said he had just bought the 15 pills from Ms. Nelson.

Ms. Nelson was arrested, and during a search of her residence, officers discovered hundreds more pills of various controlled substances, as well as marijuana and other drug paraphernalia.

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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.

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

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Childcare

From page A1

works with private, accredited childcare centers to place children from qualifying families in safe environments, but with the expansion, Childcare Resources would be able to provide for more than 50 children with their own care providers.

The Childcare Resources of Indian River Education Center would be located in leased space at Trinity Church in Vero Beach, said Sarah Starr, community relations director.

The five leased classrooms will provide adequate space for 53 children, with 35 of those spaces reserved for infants and children under 5, she said.

"It was not feasible for us to do a large scale capital campaign. This will take \$275,000 to start up and is much more affordable," Ms. Starr said.

With "modest renovations," including new carpets, furniture, etc., the center could be open as early as July 2010, she said.

"Every year there are about 1,500 babies born in Indian River County, and half of them are Medicare babies," said Ms. Starr.

Usually the parents of the children have to work, but there are very few places that offer licensed, quality and



Taggert Cameron, 2, and Bradly Bragg, 3, shared a book in class on Dec. 17. The pair take part in the Child-care Resource program.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

affordable places for the youngest age group of children, 8 weeks to 2 years.

There are only 32 licensed spots for children in that age bracket, and they are always full, Ms. Starr said.

The waiting list for all childcare services at the nonprofit can be anywhere from 100 to 300 names long, she said.

Childcare Resources serves the population segment of families who do not qualify for other childcare programs, such as HeadStart, because their income is too high, yet not high enough that they can afford quality childcare.

"It can be by as little as \$1 a year too much. There just aren't any options," Ms. Starr

said.

Having good childcare available for families is beneficial to the whole community, she said.

"Some people don't realize how important it is to kids and families to have a safe, affordable place to go," Ms. Starr.

When parents know that their child is in a good environment, they can relax and focus more on their jobs, which in turn leads to better employees and better business practices, she said.

While at the childcare centers, children are taught skills that will help them going into a kindergarten classroom.

Studies have proven that a child who is behind the

knowledge curve when entering school is much more likely to stay behind and more likely to drop out of school, Ms. Starr said.

"The first years matter the most. It's so much better when you start at the beginning teaching them," she said.

The great need in the community is what makes the campaign so necessary, but it cannot be done without the help and donations of members of the community, Ms. Starr said.

For more information about the education center campaign or to obtain a wish list, call (772) 567-3202.

House

From page A1

long way to impeding theft, Mr. Luther said.

When leaving home for the holidays, the National Crime Prevention Council recommends stopping mail and newspaper delivery. Having piled up mail and newspapers is a tell-tale sign to burglars that no one is home.

Holiday parties often include drinks with friends, so to be safe. Police recommend designating one sober driver. Party hosts can help facilitate fewer potential accidents by providing non-alcoholic drinks for those drivers, Sebastian Police Officer Steve Marcink said.

Taxes

From page A1

of the Gifford Youth Activities Center.

County staff and Gifford residents identified approximately \$174,000 in immediate needs, including restroom upgrades and air conditioning improvements.

Other improvements include audio-visual equipment and new furniture.

The building is a little more than 20 years old, but has not ever had any upgrades, said county administrator Joe Baird.

Modernizing the building would give more people reason to use it and overall, pro-

vide better service for the people of Gifford and the surrounding community, he said.

Also in the meeting, commissioners voted against staff recommendation and gave a private emergency medical assistance company the OK to use ambulances to carry patients between facilities in the county.

We Care of the Treasure Coast will be permitted to use their own ambulances and will compete with American Ambulance and its sister company, All County Ambulance, to provide non-emergency transportation for residents who need extra care when traveling between nursing homes, hospitals or medical facilities.

Staff didn't believe that another ambulance company would be needed in the area and recommended denying the request, but commissioners voted 4-0 to give them permission to run their ambulances.

Commissioner Wesley Davis stressed that he felt it important to have competition in the county and giving We Care the opportunity to try and succeed or fail was a good thing for the county.

Commission Bob Solari was unable to attend the meeting due to a family obligation.

For more information about upcoming county government meetings and agendas, visit www.ircgov.com.

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January 5 • 7:00 pm
Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group

January 8 • 3:30 pm
Better Breather's Support Group

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Diabetes Support Group

January 26 • 3:30 pm
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Dan Crisafulli of Rock City Gardens advises Storm Grove Middle School's sixth-grade advanced science students how to tend to the butterfly garden donated by Rock City. From left: Victoria Watts, Colby Serio, Dan Crisafulli, Katie Debraal, Brooks Spires, Devon Costanza, Seth Hammond and Andrew Thompson.

Photo courtesy of Maureen Nicolace

Garden makes donation to school

For Hometown News
 News@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Rock City Gardens has donated a butterfly garden to Storm Grove Middle School, Indian River County's newest and only "green" school.

The garden is located in

the front of the school, outside of the performing arts building, so that everyone can enjoy the landscaping. The garden is a way to help Storm Grove expand on the environmental aspects of the school.

Melissa Sleeper's sixth-grade advanced science class tends to the butterfly

garden, watering it every other day and checking on its progress.

"This is an excellent way for the students to interact with their natural surroundings," said Shawn O'Keefe, principal.

"One of Storm Grove's big founding ideas is to constructively connect to bio-

logical systems, and this is one way the students are able to do that," he said.

A second butterfly garden, also being donated by Rock City Gardens, is planned for the outdoor green classroom, largely funded by Syngenta through the Education Foundation.

Race to benefit drug awareness

For Hometown News
 News@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Start the New Year with a 5K run/walk on Jan. 2 along the Indian River at Riverview Park in Sebastian.

The race will begin at 7:30 a.m. The course is a fast, flat route along the

water, making a loop at the halfway point and finishing at the start. There will be one water station midway through the course and refreshments will be provided immediately following the race.

Awards will be presented for overall male and female winners, overall male and female masters and first through third places (male and female) in the following age cate-

gories: 9 and under, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 and over. The top three walkers will receive awards.

The non-refundable entry fee is \$20 in advance and \$25 on race day with T-shirts guaranteed to the first 150 who pre-register.

Race packets will be available for pick up Wednesday, Dec. 30 from 10-5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 31 from 10-2:30 p.m., at

Runner's Depot or on race day at 6:30 a.m. at Riverview Park in Sebastian.

Proceeds will benefit the Substance Awareness Council of Indian River County, a nonprofit organization committed to educating the community, particularly youth, on awareness and prevention of drug and alcohol use.

For more information, call (772) 770-4811.

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Ordinance

From page A1

The hearing is the next step in the process of establishing a tax abatement program to attract new businesses to the area with new employment opportunities, city manager Al Minner said.

Some of the ideal industries the city is looking to attract include clean light industrial, aviation and aerospace technology, marine and eco-tourism.

The proposed plan, crafted by Mr. Minner and staff, offers tax breaks to qualifying businesses that

bring 10 or more full-time jobs.

In addition, the tax exemption could be given for up to 10 years. The city would require annual reports from the businesses showing that they are still able to meet the requirements to keep the exemption.

At the public hearing, city residents can weigh in on the language and qualifications for the tax abatement.

For more information about upcoming government meetings or agendas, visit www.cityofsebastian.org.

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Photo courtesy of Seacoast National Bank

Tom Wilkinson, Seacoast National Bank Treasure Coast president, and Eileen Hatt, vice president and regional retail manager for Martin and Palm Beach counties, display some of the 3,285 lbs. of non-perishable food items collected for the WPTV Food for Families.

Food drive benefits local families

For Hometown News
News@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — Seacoast National Bank, its customers and staff donated more than 7,156 pounds of non-perishable food to benefit local families.

All Treasure Coast and Palm Beach County branches participated in the annual food drive.

Bernadette O'Grady, public affairs director at WPTV, said Seacoast turned in 560 pounds in St.

Lucie County, 3,285 pounds in Martin County, 1,550 in Indian River County and 1,150 in Okeechobee County.

This is the second year Seacoast sponsored the Food for Families food drive.

Overall, WPTV collected 461,539 pounds of food during the one-month campaign. Channel 5, the NBC affiliate in West Palm Beach, is in its 25th year of collecting food for area nonprofit agencies.

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.

Sebastian Police Department

• Donald Howard Atkinson, 40, 8521 Sheridan Road, Melbourne, was charged with possession of Xanax and roxycontin and a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana.

• Stephen Gene Decker, 22, 901 S.W. Bermuda Ave., Sebastian, was charged with trafficking in oxycodone and possession of alprazolam with intent to sell.

• Kelly Lynn Nelson, 23, 1236 15th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with trafficking in oxycodone, possession of alprazolam with intent to sell and a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana.

• Max Tyler Petersen, 28, 8025 102 Court, Vero Beach, was charged with forging bank bills or checks.

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

• Willie J. Slade, 40, no address given, was charged with burglary of an occupied dwelling and a misdemeanor charge of trespass on a structure.

• Arthur W. Dames, 56, 4141 16th St., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of cocaine.

• Gary R. McGriff, 43, 1808 41st Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with burglary of a dwelling.

• Chelsey Nicole Salyer, 21, homeless, was charged with dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a pawnbroker. She was also charged with grand theft.

Police report

• Jaime Darnell Cotton, 25, 430 Eighth Manor, Apt. 203, Vero Beach, was charged with unlawful sexual activity with certain minors.

• Edward Michael Gold, 30, homeless, was charged with criminal mischief, aggravated battery and a misdemeanor charge of battery on a law enforcement officer.

• Sabri A. Ayed, 20, 1106 21st Court Southwest, Vero Beach, was charged with possession and purchase of oxycodone and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Brian Kusmer, 24, 1805 40th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for grand theft.

• James Paul Peters, 25, 525 65th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with felony battery and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He was also charged with sale, purchase and trafficking of oxycodone and a misdemeanor charge of resisting arrest without violence.

• Daniel Kinner, 57, 1562 39th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with driving under the influence/impairment with three priors.

• Michael Novakowski, 21, 6226 Sixth Place, Vero Beach, was charged with possession and purchase of oxycodone.

• Christopher Webb, 40, 285 13th Place, Vero Beach, was charged with failure to redeliver leased property.

• Michael Rendt, 49, 1785 Sixth Ave., Apt. 8, Vero Beach, was charged with organized scheme to defraud and forgery.

• Roswitha Pizzingrillo, 53, 1785 Sixth Ave., Apt. 8, Vero Beach, was charged with organized scheme to defraud and forgery.

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• Daniel Keith Walker, 19, 211 Sixth Drive Southwest, Vero Beach, was charged with possession of a firearm by a felon and delinquent.

• Paul Castelli, 37, 173 Pelican Island Place, Sebastian, was charged with being a fugitive from justice.

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

• Mathew David King, 21, 1380 32nd Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with burglary of a dwelling, third-degree grand theft and possession of oxycodone.

• Brian J. Trinkle, 47, 316 18th Place, Vero Beach, was charged with possession of cocaine and misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana.

• Minnie Ola Bryant, 46, 4756 35th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with making a false statement for public aid.

• Dee Doty, 47, 1126 17th Place, Vero Beach, was charged with grand theft.

• Johnny Reeves, 32, 181 14th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with kidnapping,

sexual battery, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, domestic violence.

• Michael W. Flood, 55, 11953 Ellison Wilson Road, Juno Beach, was charged with driving while license suspended, habitual offender.

• Donell Kawon Davis, 19, 227 Stony Point Drive, Sebastian, was charged with tampering with a witness.

• Marita Hutchinson, 34, 3000 Fourth St., Vero Beach, was charged with third-degree grand theft.

• Allen Richard Carey, 21, 1636 Fourth Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with burglary and a misdemeanor charge of criminal mischief.

• Timothy Dwight Perry, 55, 1825 49th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with obtaining a controlled substance by fraud.

• Lucille Inman, 35, 8446 96th Court, Vero Beach, was charged with giving a false statement for public aid.

• Ashlei Marie Arnold, 26, 2314 57th Circle, Vero Beach, was charged with felony petit theft.

• Terry L. Owens, 49, 10 Isabelle Ave., Sebastian, was charged with failure to secure payment of workers compensation.

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Letters

Traffic problems are cause for concern

To the editor:

I am researching and trying to bring attention to a recent problem that we have encountered in Vero Beach.

As you may or may not know, the county recently paved (asphalt) 8th Street between 82nd Avenue and 66th Avenue. This area is predominately equine/livestock and where horseback riding used to be enjoyed by adults and children on what was previously a dirt road with very little traffic.

Within this mile stretch of road, we have more than 50 horses and more than 100 cows or other livestock. We now have a paved road, increased traffic, speeders, large tractor trailer and just plain careless drivers.

We were supplied no signs for drivers to use caution when horses are present.

I, myself, horseback ride frequently and usually have children on horses with me.

I have called the Indian River County Sheriff's Department several times to monitor the area and they have done everything they are able to do being short staffed.

Most importantly, the children, my daughter included, waits for the bus in the morning with little visibility due to the fog. Drivers in excess of the speed limit passing the school bus and other vehicles on this narrow road is a formula for an accident.

Further, on several occasions I have witnessed horses/livestock escape from their pastures and use 8th Street as their escape route. This is also a bad situation when a driver exceeding the speed limit is unable to stop in time to avoid an accident.

I hope with so much liability as stake that this matter will be taken seriously and steps will be taken immediately to remedy this situation.

Kelly A. Walker
Vero Beach



Got something to say?

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

or e-mail news@hometownnewsol.com.

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

Discrimination against single people?

A local golf course charges a married couple \$1,203 for an annual membership but they charge single people \$1,792. Why are they charging them \$500 more? Why do they discriminate against single people? That's not right.

Leave dogs home

I recently went to an art show and was surprised by the number of dogs present. Dogs don't know a thing about art. I didn't go there to see and hear dogs. I went to view art. I don't understand why some people feel it necessary to bring one, two and three dogs to those types of events. I have a dog, and I wouldn't bring him to an art show. Some dog owners are so inconsiderate.

Will the stimulus bill work?

The world's all-time biggest spender has signed a \$24 billion economic stimulus bill, which is supposed to encourage job creation. No one knows if it will be effective.

Of course, the best way to proceed would be to get the federal government to step back, get out of the way and allow private enterprise to perform as it always has, based on the proven concepts of individual initiative and economic freedom.

Want security?

If you want total security, go to prison. There you are fed, clothed, given medical care, and so on.

The only thing lacking is freedom.

Hometown News

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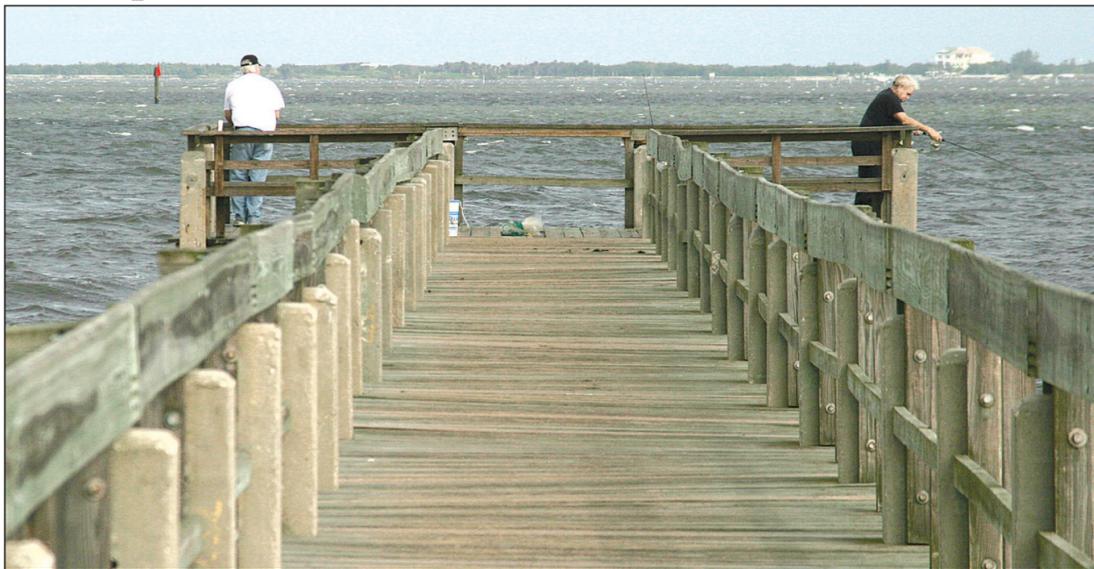
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Keep fishin'



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Kevin Phillips left, and his uncle, Hector Phillips, fish for bait on the Main Street Boat Launch pier Dec. 16. The pair, from Palm Bay and Sung Harbor respectively, hoped to use the live bait to catch a redfish.

Downloading made simple

One of the things I often hear when I ask a new user what they want to learn about their computer is, "I want to learn how to download."

Of all the things people can do with their machines, downloading seems to be a concept that's shrouded in mystery.

We hear about it all the time, "just go to www.what-ever.com and download your copy today," or "I just downloaded an update to my anti-virus software; my machine should be well-protected now."

What exactly do they mean by downloading? How come no one ever explains it?

Well, it's one of those concepts that, for the most part, is 90 percent automatic. That's why there isn't much written about it for the end user.

Let me explain. Whenever you visit a Web site, any picture, sound, text, etc., displayed is stored on the computer that hosts it. When you access the Web site, all of that stuff is transferred from their computer down to yours, so it can be displayed. Since this transfer is going from the Web site down to your computer, the data is said to be downloading.

So, basically, every time



COMPUTE THIS
SEAN MCCARTHY

you access a Web site, you are automatically downloading lots of stuff.

The direction the data flows is what makes the difference between downloading and uploading.

Data that comes down from the 'net to your machine is considered downloaded, while data that leaves your computer and goes up to the 'net is considered "uploaded."

When you send your mail, the data goes from your computer up to the mail server; it's uploaded. When you get your mail, it comes down from the mail server; it's downloaded.

Now when typical stuff is downloaded from a Web site, it's usually displayed as being downloaded (back in the days of dialup, the pictures would seem to slowly form before your eyes).

The confusion about downloading comes from those times when the file you are trying to access is something other than a file that can be displayed as it comes in. In these cases, you

have to save the file to disk and then access the file manually.

This isn't as complicated as it may first seem. When you encounter a file like that, typically a "save as" dialogue box opens and the computer wants to know where on your computer you want to save the file.

This is logical; the machine needs a place to store it as it comes in. Save it to the desktop or create a folder specifically for it on the hard drive but, regardless of where you save it, you need to note what folder it is being saved in and what the file is named. That way, after the download is complete, you can use that to navigate to that folder and double-click the newly downloaded file.

The next thing that tends to cause confusion is what happens when you download something that your machine doesn't know how to open. For instance, say you just downloaded a .pdf file but you have no .pdf reader installed on your computer.

When you go to open it, the computer displays a message asking you what program to use! This can be very intimidating if you don't understand the message but you know what? The

download worked fine!

The file did indeed transfer from the internet down to the computer, the computer just doesn't know what to do with it and is relying on you to tell it what program to use.

Not sure what program to use? Here's a hint: take the three-letter extension (in this example .pdf) and search on google for "what program opens .pdf." Google will then come up with a list of what programs will open your file.

Another area of confusion comes from things that automatically downloaded, things such as anti-virus or Windows updates are often downloaded in the background so there is usually little (if anything) that you have to do but, since everyone knows how important updates are, people can get stuck trying to figure out how to download things that are already taken care of.

The trick there is learning how to verify automatic downloads worked the way they are supposed to have.

Well, that's downloading in a nutshell. Have a merry Christmas and I hope this helps!

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

Party hearty, but party safe

It's a party time of year and nobody wants to be the party-pooper who reminds everyone that drinking and driving don't mix.

I'm happy to be the designated messenger for this party-season: drinking and driving don't mix and there are many ways to have a great holiday party without putting yourself or your loved ones at risk.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving offers tips for hosts and party-goers to avoid becoming statistics during the holiday season.

You can find their "Have a Ball, Baby!" safe party guide at the MADD Web site, www.madd.org/lfl.

If you still have doubts about the dangers of drinking and driving, and still feel that the holiday time is different, and you can relax the rules, MADD offers the following sobering statistics:

- In a recent year, 17,602 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes, which is an average of one every 30 minutes
- Alcohol-related deaths account for nearly 41 percent of all traffic fatalities
- Many more people are seriously maimed and injured in alcohol-related accidents

If you are having a holiday party, and this includes



ALIVE & WELL
SHELLEY KOPPEL

barbeques and tailgate parties, as well as traditional holiday events, there are things you need to know to keep your party safe. This is not only being a good, responsible host. If you serve liquor, you may be liable for accidents caused by your guests. It is the responsibility of hosts to make sure no one drinks and drives, including taking keys, calling cabs and finding people who haven't been drinking.

Guests have a responsibility, as well, to make plans in advance for a designated driver, taxi or alternate means of transportation.

The following dos and don'ts are taken from the MADD Web site. For information on volunteering or joining one of the 25 chapters in Florida, go to www.madd.org/lfl.

If you are the victim of a drunk driver, you can call the toll free hotline, (800) 772-6233.

Do:

- Have a "bartender" who can keep track of how much someone is drinking. Never allow drinks to be served to

minors. Remember that a 12 oz. can of beer, a 5 oz. glass of wine, and an ounce and a half of "hard" liquor contain the same amount of alcohol.

- Stay within your own drinking limits so that you can keep an eye on your guests.

- Offer non-alcoholic alternatives, and if a guest is drinking too much, offer to freshen up the drink with a non-alcoholic version.

- Close the bar 90 minutes before the party ends and serve dessert and coffee. Coffee will not sober someone up; only time will do that. It takes about an hour to oxidize each drink.

- Offer lots of high protein foods — cheese, deli meats and shrimp — so guests don't drink on an empty stomach.

- Get your guests talking or playing games. Have an amateur fortune teller. When people are busy, they drink less.

- If you're serving alcoholic punch, use a non-carbonated base such as fruit juices. Alcohol is absorbed more quickly into the bloodstream with a carbonated base.

- Have a plan if a guest has had too much to drink; arrange a ride, call a taxi or ask them to spend the night.

- If you're a guest, you're not off the hook!
- Know your limits.

- If you're with a group, arrange in advance who will be the designated driver.

- Don't arrive on an empty stomach and eat throughout the evening. Remember that salty snacks make you thirsty; if you need something to quench your thirst, choose a non-alcoholic alternative.

- Remember that you are ultimately responsible for your behavior. Don't put your host on the spot by drinking too much.

Have fun, have a great holiday and don't let a lapse in judgment and good sense turn into a tragedy. That's not how you want to remember this holiday season!

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.

Reform rally



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer
Former Indian River County Commissioner Caroline Ginn joined the estimated 200 to 300 people who gathered in the parking lot of Vero Radiology Associates for a rally for 'Meaningful Healthcare Reform,' sponsored by the Indian River Medical Society Dec. 18. 'It's distressing,' she said. 'They are pushing this forward.'

College inducts honor members

For Hometown News
News@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — Eighty-two Indian River State College students were recently recognized for their academic achievement by induction into the Nu Iota Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.

The IRSC Phi Theta Kappa chapter also won a Pinnacle Award and two \$45 membership scholarships for increasing membership by 10 percent above last year.

During the ceremony, students participated in the traditions of candle lighting (the symbol of knowledge), taking a white rose (symbolizing intellectual friendship), reciting the Phi Theta Kappa oath of membership and signing the membership book.

The keynote speaker, Ann L. Decker, executive director of the IRSC Foundation, commended the newly inducted members on their continuous dedi-

cation to academic excellence and shared the history of Phi Theta Kappa, as well as the impact the organization will have on the future successes of Indian River State College.

She also encouraged new members to honor the four hallmarks of the organization: scholarship, leadership, fellowship and service, through active participation in the chapter.

These students have achieved a 3.5 grade-point average or higher while carrying a full course load of 12 hours.

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society and focuses on the recognition and encouragement of academic achievement.

It is the largest honor society in American higher education with 1,100 chapters located around the world and more than 1.3 million members since its founding in 1918.

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Hometown News names new sales manager for Volusia County office

For Hometown News
Volnews@hometownnewsol.com

VOLUSIA COUNTY — Cynthia Cross has joined the management team at Hometown News in Volusia County as sales manager.

Ms. Cross started her new duties at *Hometown News* on Nov. 23 and oversees a staff of 10 sales representatives.

She has more than 13 years of experience in the newspaper industry in both management and sales.

Ms. Cross grew up in Atlanta, where she worked for Char Baxter Communications as project manager from 1996-2000.

She joined the Parkersburg News & Sentinel as director of advertising from 2000-2005 before leaving West Virginia to join the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* as a national accounts representative. She was named sales representative of the year in 2006.

She left the *News-Journal* more than a year ago and

before joining *Hometown News* she was a healthcare sales consultant with VOLO Recovery of Ormond Beach, a mass communications agency dealing in emergency preparedness.

Her hobby is photography, and she specializes in black-and-white infrared landscapes. She is also a textile artist who enjoys creating art dolls and quilts.

Ms. Cross lives in Ormond Beach with her husband, Joel. They have four children: Jamie, Katie, Brittany and Matthew.



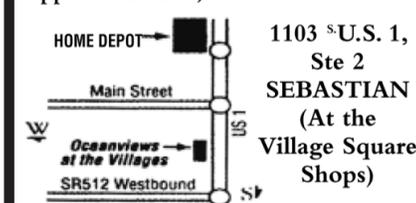
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Weird

From page A1

Sharkey, was sentenced in a Marion County court to more than two years in jail. Prosecutors say the man threatened to beat, torture, impale, dismember and decapitate Judge David Certo, who is presiding over another case involving Flash.

Flash claims to be the leader of a group called

"Vampyre Nation."

From *oaklandtribune.com*: Teen runs up dad's cell bill to nearly \$22,000

A 13-year-old teen was probably in hot water with his father after running up a cell phone bill of nearly \$22,000. Ted Estarija said he was expecting his bill to be higher this month after adding his son to his plan, but wasn't expecting a bill of \$21,917 in data usage

charges.

The Hayward man said his Verizon Wireless bill soared after his son apparently downloaded about 1.4 million kilobytes of data last month. His plan didn't cover data usage, so he was charged by the megabyte. Estarija said after the first media reports, Verizon said they would credit his account for the entire amount. He has also suspended his son's account.

Feline fun



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Amy Cousino, a veterinarian from Sebastian, holds Elvis Kitkat, The Legend Lives On, a brown and white tabby Persian owned by Sandy Pringle, during the Cat Fanciers Association Show Dec. 12.

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Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Sharon Powell, judges a Cornish Rex named 'Romanian Made, Hamlet of Lahoni' owned by Heather Hermany during the Cat Fanciers Association show at the Dec. 12 at the Indian River County Fairgrounds.

Obituaries

Pauline R. Cartwright

Pauline R. Cartwright, 72, died Dec. 8, 2009.

She was born in Kalamazoo, Mich., and lived in Sebastian for 38 years.

She worked for M. A. Ford of Vero Beach for 20 years.

She is survived by three sons, John, Willie and Michael; a daughter, Ronda; a brother, Lester; a sister, Jacqueline; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Home and Crematory.

Joan Frances Herzstein

Joan Frances Herzstein,

71, died Dec. 8, 2009.

She was born in Philadelphia and lived in Barefoot Bay for three years.

She was a member of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Hilltown, Pa.

She is survived by two sons, John and James; a daughter, Joni; a brother, Joseph; four sisters, Lori, Anne, Thelma and Marilyn; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Catherine.

Contributions may be made to William Childs Hospice House, 381 Medplex Parkway, Palm Bay, FL 32907. Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Home.

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Out & about

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 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.

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 See **OUT, B2**

'Ella' comes to life

By Barbara Yoresh
Entertainment writer

VERO BEACH — She was heralded, among such gifted contemporaries as Lena Horne, Sarah Vaughn and Judy Garland, as America's "First Lady of Song."

Ella Jane Fitzgerald, often referred to as the "Queen of Scat," was considered to be the preeminent jazz vocalist of the 20th century and her music and myth continues to endure since her death in 1996.

In a uniquely special musical tribute to Ms. Fitzgerald, Riverside Theatre presents "Ella," performing Dec. 31-Jan. 17, which stars acclaimed Broadway, stage and TV veteran Tina Fabrique.

While "Ella" features 24 glorious songs, the show also brings focus to a life filled with difficulties as well as triumphs.

The show, by Rob Ruggiero and Dyke Garrison from a book by Jeffrey Hatcher, premiered in 2005. Since then, Ms. Fabrique has portrayed the legendary Ella and her performance has been heralded as "astounding" by The New York Times.

This is one show that theater and music lovers will not want to miss.

Joining Ms. Fabrique onstage to re-create the magic of an all-American songstress and songbook are musicians George Caldwell, Harold Dixon, Joilet F. Harris, Rodney Harper, Ron Hayes and Clifton Kelleem.

Speaking from her New York City home, Ms. Fabrique discussed her role.

"I had the privilege of (previously) doing her material for four years with the Duke Ellington Orchestra, but it never occurred to me to play her.

"So as not to be awestruck by her legend, I decided to approach her as an actress developing all

the "Ella-isms," the physicality of her and got a sense of who she was as a woman. I dug as deeply as I could and it gave me the opportunity to also embrace the music," Ms. Fabrique said.

With her own background in jazz singing that Ms. Fabrique referred to as her "home base," she was more than capable of singing in Ms. Fitzgerald's unique "scat" style, a technique of wordlessly singing and often imitating musical instruments through improvised melodies.

"I tried to embrace her scat style and you learn it like any other song. You put consonants and vowels in place with the notes like you'd do with words.

"I do 24 songs in the show which is really an ensemble effort, even though I'm the one who's out front," Ms. Fabrique said in praise of her supporting musicians and technicians.

She extensively studied film and recordings of Ms. Fitzgerald in preparation for the role, but Ms. Fabrique noted "there's no mimicry" in her portrayal.

The demands of such singing are many, Ms. Fabrique said.

"If you don't breathe deep and support well you'll never make it through those long phrases she did. I try to get into the way the music was made and how she rendered it. She was an instrument," Ms. Fabrique said.

In "Ella" Ms. Fabrique also delves into the singer's sometimes topsy-turvy life and subsequent acclaim.

She was born in 1917 in Newport News, Va., as the child of a common-law marriage. Her parents separated shortly after her birth and she moved with her mother and mother's boyfriend to Yonkers, NY.

As a teen, Ella loved to dance and enjoyed acts at

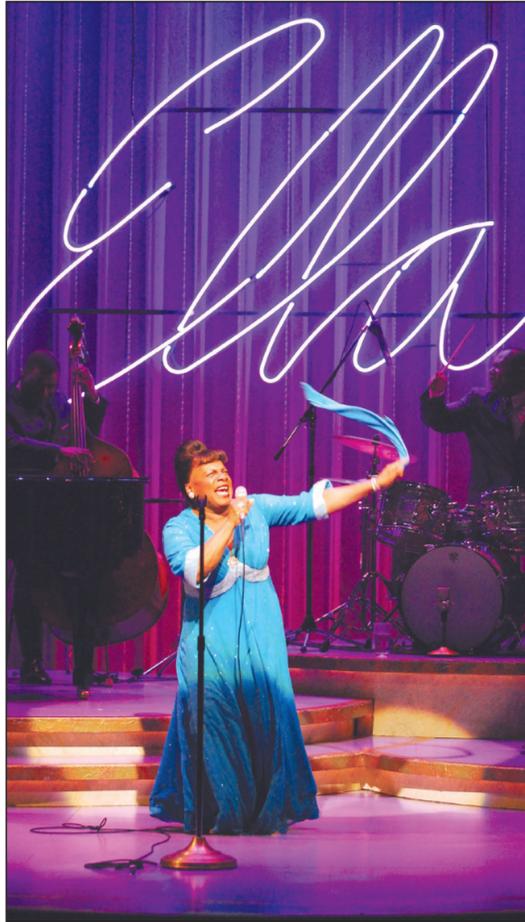


Photo courtesy of Riverside Theatre
'Ella' stars Tina Fabrique as the legendary singer, Ella Fitzgerald.

the famed Apollo Theater in Harlem.

When Ella was 15, her mother died and she was sent to live with her aunt in what became an unpleasant arrangement for the teen. Her rebellion and unruly behavior resulted in her being sent to a Bronx reform school for black children where she was beaten. She later escaped.

Ella lived for a time on the streets of New York during the Great Depression. At age 17, she made her singing debut at the Harlem Opera House and later competed in an Apollo Theater's amateur night competition, taking top prize and \$25 in winnings.

Her talent caught the eye of drummer/bandleader Chick Webb, who gave the young singer a chance to perform with his band.

Ella became a regular with Webb's orchestra and with them recorded hit songs. When Webb died in 1939, the band was renamed and Ella stepped in as singer and bandleader.

In 1942, Ella decided to pursue a solo career and subsequently entered into an association that would, no doubt, seal her fate in becoming perhaps the best-known and heralded jazz/pop singer of all time.

See **ELLA, B4**

Winter concert delights audience

By Barbara Yoresh
Entertainment writer

VERO BEACH — The concerts were presented Dec. 13 and 14 as "Winter Wonderland" and, in truth, the only tangible hint of winter was the cool temperature in what would become a filled auditorium.

But the festive, holiday-themed music provided by able student performers in the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center showcased the best of the winter season and warmed the nearly 1,000 in

attendance.

Vero Beach High School's music program has long been renowned and award-winning. The caliber of student musicians' choral and instrumental talent is nothing short of inspirational, thanks in part to the able leadership of school conductors James Sammons, Colbert "Page" Howell, Matt Stott and Greg Harris, as well as from school Principal Eric Seymour.

The community at large has been similarly supportive and appreciative and the night of Dec. 14 was no

exception.

The state-of-the-art performing arts center was tastefully decorated with a huge wreath and snowflakes suspended from the ceiling. Special holiday-themed lighting effects of angels and stars, projected onto the backdrop of the stage, also lent a festive air.

But the shining stars of the evening were the young performers who treated the audience to renditions of holiday standards, as well as

See **CONCERT, B3**



STAR SCOPES
James Tucker
Week of 12-25-2009

Aries-March 21-April 19

You know what you want. Stay centered on your main goals. Listen closely. You are in a very positive energy pattern right now. Find a little quality time for yourself. Do a few deep breathing exercises when you first wake up. It's better than drinking two cups of coffee. Now you are running on your own steam. Good luck.

Taurus-April 20-May 20

Let go of the past and move on. Don't expect others to do things your way without a commitment. You can't rescue the wounded. Stop trying. Your place in this world is to keep a steady pace, move forward and live an exciting, inspired, joy-filled life. You have all this potential. Make the best of it. It's your destiny.

Gemini-May 21-June 21

You continue to shine in wonderful ways. Why? You listen to your inner guidance. You move forward when it feels right. Many friends are proud of you. Stay focused on your three top priorities. Less important things can wait. Keep this plan going in 2010 and you will have the best year of your life just ahead.

Cancer-June 22-July 22

There is much more to life than basic survival. All the earthly pleasures will not sustain you until you feed your emotional and spiritual needs first. Take it one day at a time and trust your very first impressions. This is possible for you because of your extra large heart. You can do it. Your personal happiness depends on it.

Leo-July 23-Aug. 22

Recent successes have motivated you to wanting even more. Just be sure to not take on too many things at once. No reason to get scattered now. You know what feels right. It's good to make a written plan or agenda every day. Be flexible but follow it closely. It will move you forward and insure success.

Virgo-Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Continue to keep a loving, See **SCOPES, B2**

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Out

From page B1
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 museum is located at 3001 Riverside Drive in Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 231-0707.

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. All performances begin at 7 p.m. "Florida Dreams" presented by Gary Mormino, a historian, will feature his Emmy award-winning documentary about Florida history since WWII. Black history month will feature Myron Jackson on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010, who will present "Talking Drums," which combines the history and sound of African drumming. "In Their Own Words" will be presented Thursday, March 11, by Michael Jepsen, a marine anthropologist who documents stories of Florida fishing families. "From Hard Times to Hard Rock" by Seminole scholar Patsy West tells the story of the Seminole Indian Tribe and will conclude the series on Thursday, April 8. The Emerson Center is located at 1590 27th Ave. in Vero Beach at the intersection of 27th Avenue and 16th Street. Free admission to the 800-seat Emerson Center is

on a first-come basis. For more information about the Humanities Series, call (772) 778-5249.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8 - SUNDAY, JAN. 10

• **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

See OUT, B3

Scopes

From page B1

open heart during the holidays and beyond. It puts you closer to the source and helps guide your life toward positive results. Do something really personal and creative for your true love and it will be fondly remembered for all the coming year. You will be surprised how much will come back to you.

them feel good. This wonderful gift is the rarest of treasures.

Capricorn-Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your time is becoming more valuable. Stay close to your positive inner circle. Then, take this new energy and use it to manifest your special projects. This plan will keep you moving in the right direction and please you with the results. The universe blesses you because you bless it with "balance."

Libra-Sept. 23-Oct. 22
The universe is going to bless you with all the energy you need to make it safely through the holidays. Contact a few relatives and friends you haven't talked to in a while. This spreads joy to the world. Find a little time to exercise, as well. This will keep you in top shape and raring to go when the New Year rolls around.

Aquarius-Jan. 20-Feb. 18
The focus you have been giving to your main goals is working. You are on a positive roll. Your spirit is strong. Your mind is clear and your desire is great. Much new learning is coming soon. Continue to release the past of old habits, attitudes, events and things that no longer serve you. A higher level is on the way.

Scorpio-Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Give yourself a little extra time during the holidays. You work hard all year. Let this be a present to yourself. Take an inventory of your life and make new plans for next year. It is a time for saving and being resourceful. Clean out the hallway closet. You never know what you will find; maybe some hidden money.

Pisces-Feb. 19-March 20
Your home life is better now than in a long time. Why? Because you have the courage to stand up for your true beliefs. This is the path of respect. Continue on with this natural high. This resurgence of your spirit and truth will now spill over in your professional and social life. I predict a fine year coming ahead for you.

Sagittarius-Nov 22-Dec. 21
Compassion and idealism along with a keen sense of humor best describes your attitude toward life. You have serious goals and high regard for the universal laws, but you wish to enjoy yourself while you work. Your cheerful attitude inspires others and makes

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— James Tucker

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DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Out

From page B2

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

• **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.verobeachopera.org.

JAN. 20-MARCH 10

• **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. Alumni of the featured schools enjoy special museum

See **OUT, B4**



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Concert

From page B1

lesser-known musical works.

The two-plus-hour concert, including intermission, was packed with a cornucopia of selections by the school's choirs, bands and orchestras.

With a jazz combo, jazz band, two symphonic bands, a show choir, embassy choir, mixed chorus, ambassador choir, freshman choir, combined choir and other combinations of singers and instrumentalists, the set changes alone were almost stupefying yet perfectly choreographed.

During those stage rearrangements, the program included delightful musical interludes by the show choir, string ensemble, cello and bass sections of the orchestra, flute ensemble, percussion ensemble and by pianist Kelsey Grabach.

Piano accompanist Karen Wiggins was superb in the role that has made her a favorite throughout the community's many performance venues.

There were many proud parents in the audience that evening and, perhaps, even more senior citizens. But no matter the ages or relationship to the gifted young musicians on stage, there was a collective sense of tremendous pride in these young performers.

For me, a former high school band member whose older daughter was a flutist during her own high school years, it was a nostalgic return to those days of practices and performances.

However, the quality and difficulty of the music played in "Winter Wonder-

land" was way beyond anything our more basic bands would have ever dreamed of playing.

It seemed clear that some performers might seriously consider careers as professional musicians or singers.

My eyes and ears were especially drawn to a slender, dark-haired young woman who played first violin. She simply dazzled the audience during a sizzling piece entitled "Irish Legend."

The degree of difficulty in the fingering and use of bow during that fast-paced Celtic delight was utterly remarkable.

Yet with utmost poise and a level of professionalism way beyond her years, this violinist evoked all the magic and myth of that Emerald Isle through her instrument. It was truly spectacular.

Although she sang no solos, one dark-haired soprano's pure, strong voice literally soared above the rest.

And even from my upper level seat I could see the look of sheer enjoyment on her face as she sang with perfect pitch *con brio*.

I most sincerely hope she considers developing her glorious voice to its fullest potential.

The evening was pure joy and I was enlightened to learn that young teens (who in this instance happen to play instruments) can do more with their fingers than text message on cell phones all day.

These young adults are the best of the best and we should all take great pride in their achievements and support their future efforts.

"Winter Wonderful" was a most meaningful holiday gift.

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Tickets now on sale for speaker series

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Subscriptions to the 2010 Celebrated Speakers Series at the Emerson Center are

now available. The popular series, which features internationally acclaimed presenters, is beginning its third season on Jan. 23 with an appearance by David Brooks, author and New York Times columnist, who is also a regular political analyst on "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer."

Mr. Brooks writes what he terms "comic sociology" with a keen and humorous eye on the ways in which Americans live. He will be followed on Feb. 13 by Bob and Lee Woodruff. Bob is a newsman for ABC, and his wife, Lee, is a contributing editor for ABC's "Good Morning

America" show. The couple co-authored the 2007 best-selling "In An Instant," which chronicles the family's journey to recovery following Mr. Woodruff's devastating injuries in Iraq. On March 6, a unique presentation will be made by Ray Kurzweil, one of the leading inventors of our time, who was described by The Wall Street Journal as "the restless genius and by "Forbes" magazine as "the ultimate thinking machine."

The series will conclude on March 27 with an appearance by award-winning newsman and author Jim Lehrer. Mr. Lehrer has served as moderator for 10 presidential candidate

debates and is the host of "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer." Series subscriptions are \$200 for all five speakers at either the 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. performances. Single tickets are \$65 and will be made available on sale Dec. 1. The Emerson Center at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach is located at 1590 27th Ave. at the intersection of 16th Street. The state-of-the-art facility has ample parking, seats more than 800 and offers all seats an unobstructed view of the raised stage. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (772) 778-5249.

Holiday Time

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

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- Answers located in Classifieds Section
- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 "Scrooge" star Guinness
5 Olympian Eddie
10 Equal share
14 Inquired
19 Actress Spelling
20 Drop a line
21 Sweet treat
22 Dr. Watson's creator
23 Line from 52 Across
27 Like flat wedding cakes
28 Three, to Henri
29 Gift recipient
30 Jolt
31 Cork's isle
32 She, in Stuttgart
33 Castle features
36 Actor Patrick
38 Register again
43 Words before coming or about
44 Sleigh song
46 Londoner's lavatory
47 Not so much
48 Andrews or Carvey
49 de Cologne
50 Dora the Explorer pal
51 Taxing org.
52 Traditional carol
57 _____ impasse
58 Vain sort
60 Huge, poetically
61 In a sassy way
63 Siouan speakers
64 Locations
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66 Parachute opener?</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Westernmost Aleutian isle
2 Pork cut
3 Formerly, once
4 Natives
5 Contemptible fellows
6 'enry's steed
7 Fibbed
8 _____ standstill
9 Something for a rainy day
10 Award recipient
11 Bandleader Shaw</p> | <p>107 Lion-slaying site
108 "_____ yellow ribbon..."
109 Clip, as a Cotswold
110 Lubricates
111 Leaves the stage
112 Neutral shade
113 Deserves
114 Flower favorite</p> <p>12 Some August newborns
13 Watch pocket
14 Borders on Oklahoman
15 MacLachlan of "Twin Peaks"
17 Model Macpherson
18 "LA Law" actress Susan
24 Got wind of
25 Bay window
26 Ford flop
33 Spring bloomer
34 _____ citato: in the work cited
35 Drinking carol
36 Favorite fur
37 Med. school subj.
38 Kingdom
39 Jewish month after Av
40 Bethlehem carol
41 _____ color
42 Extremely foolish
44 Belongs to Mr. Frost</p> | <p>45 Chicago team
48 Remove sediment from
50 Gogol's "_____ Bulba"
52 When _____ eat?
53 Spyri girl
54 Come in
55 Soil tillers
56 Small harpsichord
59 Area numbers
62 Knievel of daredevilry
64 Make less hazardous
65 Hen's perch
66 Icy cold
67 Maine college town
68 Irked
70 Debussy favorite
71 Flaming
74 Vigorous
75 Apparel
76 Okinawa's chief port
81 Publishing employee</p> | <p>83 Musical compositions
84 Bring upon oneself
85 "Walden" author
86 Watts or Campbell
87 Impassioned
88 Bake eggs
90 Attic
92 Golden awards
94 OK, in communications
96 Summit
97 Branches, in zoology
98 Bank watchdog, briefly
99 Impersonator
100 Connery or Penn
101 Con _____ with vigor
102 Sushi fish
103 Zaire's Mobutu _____ Seko
104 Scottish one
105 Native: suffix
106 Cry of discovery</p> |
|---|--|--|--|

Ella

From page B1

jazzman Norman Granz, who later became her manager. By the end of World War II, the "Big Band" era was winding down at the same time a new style of jazz was emerging. "Bebop" resulted in a major change to Ella's previous vocal style and, with her girlish, pure voice and a range encompassing three octaves, she ventured into "scat," a new musical style made famous by Dizzy Gillespie's band. Ms. Fitzgerald explained that while singing with Gillespie, she attempted to make her vocals sound like the horns in the band. No one did it more effectively. She later expanded her repertoire to include songs by Cole Porter and others, which gave her mainstream appeal. The rest is history. "Ella" performs Dec. 31 through Jan. 17, 2010, on the Stark Stage at Riverside Theatre located at 3250 Riverside Park Drive in Vero Beach. Tickets are \$22-\$52. For more information, call (772) 231-6990.

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

744168

Do the math: stacking coupons adds to your savings

I'm often asked how many coupons we can use on a single item. To answer this, you need to note the difference between manufacturer coupons and store coupons.

Manufacturer coupons always have the words "manufacturer coupon" printed on them. Regardless of whether a store's name or logo is also on a coupon, if those words appear on it, it's a manufacturer coupon. Store coupons will have the words "store coupon," or "retailer coupon" on them, and the name of the issuing store will also appear on the coupon.

Many stores allow us to "stack" coupons, using one

manufacturer coupon and one store coupon on the same item. This gives us an even larger discount on that particular product.

But in order to successfully stack, it's important to make sure you are only using one store and one manufacturer coupon, not two manufacturer coupons. We can only use one manufacturer coupon per item. The register will never accept more than one manufacturer coupon on the same item; this would be considered coupon fraud.

In my coupon classes, it's a common misconception that you can stack one Internet-printed coupon

**COUPON
QUEEN**
JILL CATALDO



with a coupon from the newspaper inserts, but this is rarely the case. Most coupons available on the Internet for printing are manufacturer coupons, so double-check the wording. If you have a coupon you printed out and a newspaper coupon for the same item and both state "manufacturer coupon," you'll either have to choose which coupon you want to use, or buy two of that item in order to use both coupons

on a given shopping trip.

As long as you note the differences in the coupons and play by the rules, though, you can definitely multi-stack deals. The goal? To maximize the number of items you take home while minimizing what's coming out of your pocket to do so.

To help you understand the way I will break down a sale, I'll share with you one of my recent deals involving multi-stacking.

An area grocery store had a sale on pork ribs, which were \$6.99 a slab or \$12.98 for two. When I spot a good sale, I'll always look for coupons to see if I can bring the price down even more.

A common misconception many people have is that there aren't coupons for meats, but there are, you just need to look in the right places!

Since these ribs were labeled under the store's house brand, I went to the store's Web site to see if the store itself was offering any coupons for them. Many chain grocery stores offer coupons on their Web sites.

In this case, the store

offered a printable store coupon for \$2 off a slab of house-brand ribs. Because most Internet coupons have a print limit of two, I printed two of them. Now my two slabs of ribs were \$8.98.

I wanted to get a bag of charcoal to grill those ribs with. It was \$7.99. The store's weekly flyer had a \$2 store coupon for the charcoal, bringing the price down to \$5.99.

I browsed the Web site of the charcoal company and found a valuable manufacturer coupon there, too: \$6 off pork when you buy a bag of charcoal plus a bottle of barbecue sauce. This was a valuable coupon!

Adding the bag of charcoal to my bill brought my total to \$14.97, but the coupon took another \$6 off the ribs. Now my total for both was \$8.97, a penny less than it would have been had I bought ribs alone! But I still needed to buy a bottle of barbecue sauce in order to qualify to use the charcoal site's coupon. So I did. I bought a \$2 bottle of name-brand barbecue sauce, because I had a great

coupon from my newspaper inserts: "FREE barbecue sauce with purchase of charcoal."

Buying the sauce added \$2 to my total and the coupon took that \$2 right back off.

Now, my end total for two slabs of ribs, an 18-pound bag of charcoal and a bottle of barbecue sauce was \$8.97. This is a great example of multi-stacking.

A lot of coupons were involved, but I never used more than one manufacturer coupon on the same item. Remember, as long as you do not exceed more than one manufacturer coupon on the same item, you can use a manufacturer coupon for every single item in your shopping cart, and I often do!

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.

DO YOU WANT TO INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS?

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DONT WAIT! CALL NOW 772-569-6767 HometownNews

Community calendar

SATURDAY, JAN 2

•**LoPresti First Saturday:** Bringing aviation closer the ground to inspire the next generation of pilots is the goal of the LoPresti First Saturday charity breakfasts. Guest speaker will be CarolAnn Garrett. 9 a.m. LoPresti Hangar at the Sebastian Airport. Go to <http://www.speedmods.com/firstsaturday/FirstSaturday.htm>

•**Sebastian Craft Club:** Craft shows held at Riverside Park in Sebastian from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date: Jan. 3

THURSDAY, JAN. 7

•**"The Florida Dream" Video and History Since WWII** with Gary Mormino, historian, 2003 Humanist of the Year. "The Florida Dream," is a 2007 Emmy-winning PBS documentary is based on his 2005 book "Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams."

SATURDAY, JAN. 16

• **Screen on the Green:** Indian River County Recreation Department and Pointe West. Free family movie night series presented outdoors on the lawn at sunset. This month: "Kung Fu Panda." For more, go to www.irrec.com

MONDAY, JAN. 18

• **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade,** sponsored by the Indian River County Recreation Department. Line up begins at 6 a.m., parade begins at 10 a.m. Parade route will take Old Dixie Highway to 45th Street, Vero Beach, travel west on 43rd Avenue, then north to Gifford Park. For more information, go to www.irrec.com

ONGOING EVENTS

•**Italian-American War Veterans,** Post No.3 and Women's Auxiliary, located at 2500 15th Ave., Vero Beach, holds business meetings at 7 p.m., on the second Wednesday of each month. Social meetings are held at 6 p.m., on the fourth Wednesday of the month. New members welcome. Call (772) 231-5673 or (772) 770-2558.

•**The Vero Beach Railroad Station** in downtown Vero Beach was originally built in 1903. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Visitors can tour the exhibit center and get a glimpse of the local history from prehistoric times through World War II. There is a model train display that offers panoramic views of historical sites in Indian River County. The Railroad Station is located at 2336 14th Ave., Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 778-3435.

•**Indian River County Historical Society** preserves the artifacts, sites and structures related to Indian River County heritage and offers maps and directions to sites of historic interest throughout the county. The society is housed in a 1903 Vero Beach Train Station, located at 2336 14th Ave., Vero Beach, and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. For more details, call (772) 778-3435.

•**The Heritage Bluegrass Band** performs every Tuesday night, from 7:30-10 p.m. There is no admission charge and donations are appreciated. Light refreshments are available. *The Heritage Center is located at 2140 14th Ave., Vero Beach.*

•**Vero Beach Museum of Art** features exhibitions of international, national and state importance are shown throughout the year in four galleries. The museum also houses a gift shop store and is the largest teaching museum school in Florida. It is located at 3001 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 231-0707

•**Vero Beach Green Market** is held every Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Find plants, fruits and vegetables, seafood, herbs, coffee, freshly-made, donuts, hand-milled soaps, lotions, teas and on occasion, artisan sausages and cured meats, fresh local eggs, homemade doggie treats and much more. *The market is located at the corner of 14th Avenue and 21st Street in front of the Heritage Centre.*

•**Guided kayak tours:** Visitors paddle along the Indian River Lagoon and enjoy nature at its tropical best. Experience the thrill of close encounters with dolphins, manatees and exotic birds. The guide is a master naturalist and U.S. Coast Guard captain. Cost is \$47 each for a 2-1/2 hour tour. Reservations are required. Space is limited to 12 participants. For more information call (772) 234-3436.

•**Indian River Citrus Museum** tells the story and preserves the artifacts, photographs and memorabilia of the pioneers who established the most distinguished citrus fruit in the world. Open Tuesday

through Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Heritage Center, 2140 14th Ave., Vero Beach. For more information call (772) 770-2263.

•**McKee Botanical Garden** is an 18-acre botanical garden listed on the National Register of Historic Places

and endorsed by the Garden Conservancy. This Florida hammock offers a diverse botanical collection, as well as several restored architectural treasures, the Hall of Giants and Spanish Kitchen. Self-guided tours are available Tuesday through Satur-

day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. It is closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3.50 for children. It is located at 350 U.S. 1, Vero Beach. Call (772) 794-0601, or www.mckee-garden.org.

To submit a calendar event, e-mail the information to news@hometown-newsol.com or fax it to (772) 465-5301 or (772) 467-4384. Information must be received two weeks prior to the desired publication date.

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TRAVEL
More on cruising in comfort on Oasis of the Seas

Editor's note: This is the second of a three-part series on Oasis of the Seas.

All Royal Caribbean commercials said, "We build incredible" and they did with the Oasis of the Seas.

My first day was busy looking at the different room category staterooms. There are so many options for staterooms. There are 12 suite categories, 13 balcony categories, five ocean-view categories and six inside categories.

I was most impressed with the Aquatheater suites. These suites jet out the back of the ship on either side of the Aquatheater, are two bedrooms/two baths and can



TRAVEL
 PATTY TOPPA

accommodate up to eight passengers. It has a large living room area with floor-to-ceiling glass on two sides. The balcony overlooks both the ocean on the rear and side, as well as the end of the Boardwalk and Aquatheater. There is plenty of room for families or a group of friends to gather.

The public rooms were many and with varying themes. One of my personal favorites of all Royal

Caribbean ships is the Schooner Bar and this was no exception. It's located on deck 6, above the guest services and opens to overlook the Royal Promenade. The piano player, Peter, was excellent.

My new favorite would be Dazzles, although no time to enjoy the music and dance there, the décor was gorgeous with its champagne-colored crushed velvet chairs and banquettes, mirrors and incredible chandeliers hanging above the winding glass stairways leading to the balcony area overlooking the dance floor. When you walk in there you would expect to see Fred and Ginger gliding across the floor.

As with the Voyager and Freedom class ships, you will find the Royal Promenade the place to be, especially in the evenings where you might be strolling along or sitting outside one of the cafés and suddenly you hear music and people bursting into dance. The crews from the various theater groups are dancing in the streets and mostly everyone starts dancing. Well, I did, along with a few hundred other folks. It was a fun place to be.

I cannot go into detail about each of the venues, because there are so many, and because I was unable to experience them all in two days. I will, however, give a synopsis of the many venues you might experience aboard the Oasis.

Also located along the Royal Promenade you will find Sorrento's, a place for pizza almost anytime of the day into the wee hours of the morning, as well as Café Promenade for coffee, light fare and desserts. Bolero's for those who love salsa music, On Air Club for up-to-the-minute sports and news, but also for Wii games and trivia. Globe and Atlas Pub, which sports Atlas holding up the globe high above the entrance and another Royal Caribbean first, the Rising Tides bar which, floats from deck five to eight. When the

bar is on eight, there is a water light show where it would park on deck five.

Jazz on 4 sports a soft décor and feels reminiscent of the clubs of old.

Blaze, on the other hand, is wild with colors, with dungeon-like walls surrounding the dance floor. This, of course, is the nightclub for those who love to dance through the night.

Comedy Live has the look and feel of the subway. I did not have the opportunity to enjoy the comedians; however those we met later said it was very funny.

The main show room is the Opal Theater where we were thrilled with "Abba-cadabra" and "Hairspray," both great shows.

Studio B is the ice skating rink, where we were entertained with an ice show featuring the works of Hans Christian Anderson' it was fantastic.

The Aquatheater show was not until 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. on our last evening and there were technical difficulties with the start. We watched the show on the in-room television; wish we stayed, it looked fabulous.

The classic Viking Crown Lounge is a signature of every Royal Caribbean ship and this was no different, however it is not 360-degrees around, it sits high above the ship in front of the Crown Loft Suites. It is a quiet lounge and connects on one side to the Pinnacle Chapel and on the other to the Pinnacle Lounge, which can be used for private functions.

Do not let anyone tell you that this ship is too big, because when you have something to fit everyone's style without the feel of a large ship, is it really too big?

Running out of room again. Tune in next week for my final article on this incredible ship.

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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 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 - 11:00 a.m.
 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 - 6:30 a.m.
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:
 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)
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