



BEST OF THE BLOTTER
JAY MEISEL

Some criminal cases are unusual, humorous or just outright odd. And there's no shortage of them on the Treasure Coast. This column highlights cases that often leave observers shaking their heads.

Funny money
Remember those tattoos for children where the ink would just wash off? Creating money along the same lines did not work very well recently for a Martin County man.

The man paid a bar tab with a \$100 bill. Although the bill passed the counterfeit pen detector test, the bar employee was still suspicious.

As it turned out, the bill lacked certain features of a real \$100 bill and the ink came off when the bill was put in water.

The suspect claimed he got the bill after selling a boat to a "friend of a friend."

But to the deputy, the story appeared counterfeit, also.

Not only couldn't the man name the "friend of a friend," but he also did not know the name of the friend.

One can hardly imagine the man saying to his "friend," "Hey, what's your name, come have a drink with me?"

Third time's the charm:
Normally, people walk into a store with money, a check or a credit card and walk out with an item bought using the money, check or credit card.

But a pair of women in Vero Beach came up with a See **BLOTTER, A3**

County to match private economic development funds

Aim to promote business-friendly practices

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Spurring the economy is a high priority on the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce's list and the Indian River County Commissioners just stepped up to help them.

The county's decision to match the funds given — \$1 for every \$3 raised by the chamber's economic leadership alliance, up to \$25,000 — is a

wonderful help, said Helene Caseltine, economic development director for the chamber.

"We were just ecstatic, of course," she said.

Ms. Caseltine said local governments have been strapped for funds to grant economic development initiatives for a while, so the chamber has been working for more than a year to generate funding for the initiatives from private sources. Out of that line of thinking was born the

Economic Leadership Alliance.

Chamber board members, Jay Hart with Wells Fargo and Tony Donadio and Associates, will co-chair a new campaign to raise additional funds for the alliance.

The alliance is a private funding mechanism for local economic development efforts and Mr. Dona-

dio outlined a campaign plan to raise a combined public/private budget for economic develop-

See **DEVELOPMENT, A3**



Art for animals



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Local, original art depicting domestic animals and Florida wildlife went on the auction block last weekend in 'Art for Animals' to benefit the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County. Ann-Eve Cunningham, left, shares a kiss with Winston a shi tzu held by his foster parent, Becky Yambor. The event raised more than \$7,000.

Hairless raccoon retires to wildlife sanctuary

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — A hairless raccoon spotted and caught in Vero Beach was relocated to the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary in Jupiter.

The skinny, wrinkled creature with two pointed ears and a long, thin nose surprised city workers when they spotted it in a large garbage collection container on Nov. 18. It was likely scavenging for a snack, before it was caught and brought to the local animal shelter to be checked out by a veterinarian.

The animal had people scratching their heads in confusion because of its unusual appearance, said Ilka Daniel, director of animal protective services at the Humane Society of

See **RACCOON, A2**

GOVERNOR SPEAKS A7

PIP FRAUD



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DINING B1

BEST KEPT SECRET



A Sebastian eatery offers food that hits the spot

WEEKEND WEATHER



Friday: Partly cloudy; high: 72; low: 64; high tide: 1:31 a.m.; low tide: 7:44 a.m.
Saturday: Mostly cloudy; high: 74; low: 65; high tide: 2:29 a.m.; low tide: 8:42 a.m.
Sunday: Scattered showers; high: 75; low: 65; high tide: 3:27 a.m.; low tide: 9:38 a.m.

Weather courtesy of www.weather.com

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Free Florida Christmas trees in Sebastian

By Jessica Tuggle
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SEBASTIAN — A Sebastian woman is hoping Indian River County residents have themselves a merry little Florida pioneer Christmas by picking up a free pine tree to decorate this year.

Jane Schnee of Sebastian is inviting the community to come out to her 10-acre conservation parcel on Barber Street in Sebastian to pick out and cut down a real Florida Christmas tree this weekend or next.

Ms. Schnee and other volunteers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Pelican Island Audubon Society will be out with saws to cut down small pine trees on Dec. 3 and Dec. 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lee and Jackie Binder moved to the area about six months ago and everything hasn't gone smoothly, but when they saw the signs for the free Christmas trees, they knew it was something that could turn their weekend around.

"We saw the sign and decided it would be just

the thing to change this weekend's outlook," Mr. Binder said on Nov. 26.

"It was a fortuitous event and gives us a fun family activity to do. We certainly didn't have the money to go out and spend on a commercial tree right now," he said.

Ms. Schnee has dedicated her parcel to scrub jay conservation and is currently working to make the land even more scrub jay-friendly by removing surplus sand and slash pine trees on the property. Her idea was to offer the trees she and other volunteers cut down to the community, allowing people to help with conservation and get into the Christmas spirit.

"It's like the pioneers used to do, cutting down their native trees at Christmas," Ms. Schnee said.

The trees are free, but donations for further conservation are accepted. A \$20 donation will give an individual a year-long membership to the Pelican Island Audubon Society.

Mrs. Binder and a Pelican Island Audubon Soci-

See **TREES, A7**



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Jane Schnee watches as Michael Stabil of Sebastian cuts down a slash pine to be given away as a free Christmas tree last Friday. Ms. Schnee bought the just over 10-acres to help protect the family of scrub jays that live there, but nearly all of the slash and sand pine trees need to be removed.

Libraries offer holiday activities

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Christmas is a season known for miracles. A few small miracles will be happening at the local libraries this December.

Toilet-paper rolls will turn into sparkly wrapped candy decorations and coffee filters to glittering snowflakes during a children's holiday arts and crafts festival at the North Indian River County Library on Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Shirley Wolstenholme, children's librarian at the North Indian River County Library, said the activities are free to the public, but donated items will be accepted.

"People can bring in canned goods for the eucumenical food pantry," Ms.

See **LIBRARIES, A4**

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Photo courtesy of the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County
A hairless raccoon found in Vero Beach on Nov. 18 was transported to Busch Wildlife Sanctuary in Jupiter soon after it was found. Veterinarians said it was a little dehydrated, but overall quite healthy, and its lack of fur was likely a genetic trait.

Raccoon

From page A1

Vero Beach and Indian River County.

It was like nothing anyone had ever seen before and was difficult to identify, she said.

At first, it seemed as though it could be a diseased animal, but upon analysis of the teeth and other anatomical elements, it was identified as a raccoon, albeit a strange one, without the striking black mask, ringed tail or any fur at all, Ms. Daniel said.

"He got into a Dumpster and that's where he was found in the 1600 block of Indian River Boulevard, in the business and industrial

complex," she said.

State rules require wild animals to be released in the area they were found, however, releasing the raccoon back in the business area wouldn't be safe, and as a raccoon without fur, he would have a hard time coping with temperature fluctuations, so Humane Society officials decided a sanctuary would be the safest place for him.

"He was such a neat little guy," Ms. Daniel said.

Ms. Daniel said when she did an online search for hairless raccoons, images similar to the animal taken to the sanctuary appeared, further confirming their identification process.

"He wasn't some weird monster from another country, just a raccoon,

and we'd like to use this opportunity as a chance to educate the public," Ms. Daniel said.

She said it was likely the raccoon carried some genetic coding that caused its lack of fur.

The region has been known to have unusual animal sightings.

"People don't realize this, but we do have bobcats in the area, and we have been known to have melanistic bobcats, and they are black, so they look like panthers. There's also albino alligators," she said.

Elements that bring wildlife closer to humans include finding a feeding source, one reason why it is so important to keep trash covered and away from mischievous and hungry animals, Ms. Daniel said.

Human contact with wildlife is not advisable, as some animals can carry fatal diseases, such as rabies.

"People shouldn't take matters into their own hands. Always make sure to call a professional so they can make sure the animal is safe and the people are safe," Ms. Daniel said.

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Dr. Shah completed her family practice residency training at St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady, NY, and internal medicine externship at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, NY. Prior to joining IRMC, she practiced family medicine in Troy, NY.

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Exhibit focusing on animals



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Bob Bugarella admires the 'My Kitty' oil painting by Judy Dixom at the 'Art for Animals' show and sale at the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County last weekend. The nearly 200 pieces of art were of animals both wild and domestic. The event raised more than \$7,000.

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Blotter

From page A1

new way of shopping; the only problem was it's illegal.

On three separate occasions in November, one woman would go into a store and select an item, such as a baby stroller, and then head toward the customer service desk and meet up with the other woman.

The other woman would then obtain a refund for the item that was never paid for in the first place.

In all, the two women received refunds of almost \$700. The report doesn't explain, however, how they obtained the refunds without having paid for the items, leaving the conclusion that maybe they had phony receipts.

After the third incident, they were arrested and it was all caught on video surveillance.

Maybe they just didn't understand the system that you have to pay for an item in order to legally be able to obtain a refund for it.

Development

From page A1

ment of \$200,000, a press release said.

The money raised by the alliance is used primarily to market Indian River County as a business location and for recruiting businesses to check out the area.

Business recruitment does have a cost, and can include bringing executives to see the area or sending Indian River County representatives to meet businesses in other parts of the state or country, Ms. Caseltine said.

Often those costs are hotel stays, receptions, dinners or other travel expenses, she said.

"Those costs just aren't appropriate for government reimbursement, so the funds from government have a limited use. With private-sector funding, it's much more flexible," Ms. Caseltine said.

Within the county, spurring economic development activity is also made possible with private funds.

Ms. Caseltine said she hopes to see more people take advantage of the incentives for businesses in the enterprise zone in Indian River County.

Increasing the number of local jobs by providing incentives for existing businesses to expand is another way to spur development, Ms. Caseltine said.

In the past 18 months, six new companies have moved to the area, resulting in 258 new jobs with average wages of \$55,360, more than \$20,000 above the existing average annual wage, according to chamber reports.

Four local companies have expanded, adding 76 new jobs with an average annual wage of \$48,759.

For more information, call Ms. Caseltine at (772) 567-3491, Ext. 116.

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Libraries

From page A1

Wolstenholme said. The food pantry is located at Roseland United Methodist Church in Sebastian.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs Sebastian River Junior Woman's Club is partnering with the Friends of the North Indian River County Library to prepare and help put together 10 arts and crafts projects.

"The decorations will all be set up for them to do. Parents can help the younger ones. There will be snowmen pencil holders, candy rolls from toilet paper, glittery snowflakes from coffee filters, stocking ornaments, Santa cone table decorations and more," Ms. Wolstenholme said.

Santa Claus and a helpful elf will also be on hand passing out candy canes and will be available to chat with the children.

Last year, 163 parents and children participated in the activities, Ms. Wol-

stenholme said.

"Come on out to the library. It's a wonderful event to do before the holidays with the kids," she said.

Later that week, families in Vero Beach will also have the opportunity to create a few holiday memories of their own.

On Dec. 15, the children's department of the Main Library in Vero Beach will host another holiday program for those between ages 2 to 8.

Beginning at 6 p.m. children and their families are invited to sing, laugh and create together during the annual children's holiday program. A visit from Santa Claus, crafts, stories and more will spur excitement for the Christmas holiday.

No registration is required for the free event.

For more information about the activity at the North County Library, call (772) 589-1355. For more information about the activity at the Main Library, call (772) 770-5060, Ext. 4132.

Agency offering temporary employment to students

For Hometown News
 NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Vero Beach office is accepting applications for its student temporary employment program until Dec. 21.

The program introduces talented students to the advantages and challenges of working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It provides opportunities for students to gain valuable work experience that supports the occupational fields of fishery and wildlife management, geographic information systems and administrative support.

Duties may include such activities as data entry, GIS, information technology, reviewing proposed land management actions, compiling Freedom of Information Act requests, records management, endangered species compliance monitoring, public outreach activities and administrative support.

Pay scale: entry level at GS-2 or GS-3 (\$9.59/hour - \$10.45/hour). Pay is based on the duties to be performed and the qualifications of the student.

Part-time and full-time positions are available at the South Florida Ecological Services Office in Vero Beach beginning in the summer semester of 2012, with the opportunity for extension for participants who remain enrolled as students.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens and at least 16 years old. Applicants must be either high-school graduates and accepted for enrollment, or currently enrolled as degree-seeking students at an

accredited technical or vocational school, or two- or four-year college or university.

Students must be taking, or for applicants, planning to take, at least a half-time course load as defined by either their current school or their accepting school.

To apply, provide all of the following:

Submit a cover letter indicating your field of interest, work schedule and time frame when you are interested in working for us [e.g., part-time (with the number of hours/week available), full-time during the summer or a combination of full-time in the summer and part-time throughout the academic year.]

Submit a resumé describing past/present school and work experiences and any letters of reference.

College students should submit a copy of their most recent official transcript, upcoming school schedule and letter of good standing from their school.

High-school graduates must submit a copy of the acceptance letter for the upcoming school year to attend an accredited technical or vocational school, college or university.

Veterans wishing to receive preference must indicate eligibility and include a DD-214.

Submit DI form 1935 Department of Interior applicant background survey (used for data collection and statistical purposes only). The form is available at www.doi.gov/diversity/doc/di_1935.pdf or mail to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or

E-mail to: ATTN: Terri Johnson or terri_johnson@fws.gov, 1339 20th St., Vero Beach, FL 32960.

Incomplete application packages will not be considered. All required information must be received by mail or email no later than Dec. 21.

Applications will be referred to selecting officials based on the qualifications. If you are among the most qualified applicants, a local hiring official will contact you to discuss the position and set up an interview.

Because a high number of applications are expected, only applicants who are interviewed will be notified.

Following interviews, we anticipate the selection process will be completed by Feb. 29, 2012.

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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.

Fellsmere Police Department

•Kelly Diane Yates, 47, no address given, was arrested Nov. 19 and charged with possession of oxycodone without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sebastian Police Department

•Michael Thomas Marro, 19, 321 Watercrest St., Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 17 and charged with grand theft.

•Holly N. Maddux, 21, 126 Redgrave St., Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 17 and charged with grand theft.

•Arabia D. Taylor, 38, 1497 Barber St., Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 20 and charged with battery and aggravated assault.

•Forrest Sean Cyphers, 35, 758 Barker St., Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 19 and charged with burglary of a dwelling.

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

•Neil Jay Lemaster, 47, 5290 21st St., Vero Beach,

was arrested Nov. 16 and charged with two counts of sale of oxycodone within 1,000 feet of a church.

•Paul David Wilder, 41, 5290 21st St., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 16 and charged with sale of oxycodone within 1,000 feet of a church.

•Joseph Michael Madigan, 51, 802 Clarmont St., Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 16 and charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for felony battery.

•Shane Russell Berry, 24, 1344 33rd Ave., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 16 and charged with possession of a vessel with altered hull numbers.

•Katrina S. Pratt, 41, 1203 South 33rd St. Apt. D, Fort Pierce, was arrested Nov. 16 and charged with felony petit theft.

•Victoria Reeve Beutell, 27, 460 Ninth Place, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 16 and charged with forgery and petit theft.

•Eric L. Hamrick, 24, 8546 98th Ave., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 16 and charged with felony criminal mischief, driving while license suspended and leaving the scene of an accident resulting in property damage.

•Steven N. McKenzie, 45, 106 South 35th St., Fort Pierce, was arrested Nov. 16 and charged with organized fraud.

•Steven N. Monroe, 25, 2901 21st Place, Vero Beach,

was arrested Nov. 12 and charged with two counts of violation of probation. He was on drug offender probation.

•Lindsey A. Keenan, 28, 1396 23rd Place Southwest, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 17 and charged with three counts of dealing in stolen property, scheme to defraud and three counts of theft.

•John J. Carbone, 37, 4215 15th St., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 17 and charged with burglary of a structure, possession of burglary tools and criminal mischief.

•Travis Dale Brewer, 39, 1275 Ninth Court S.W., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 17 and charged with burglary of a dwelling.

•Gar G. Rydberg, 50, 6240 Mirror Lake Drive, Apt. 101, Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 17 and charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for a felony charge not specified in the report.

•Neirva Dumerci, 28, 748 S. Cloverdale St., Apt. 10, Seattle, was arrested Nov. 17 and charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for failure to redeliver leased property.

•Brendon Patrick Mahoney, 19, 882 Haverhill Ave., Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 17 and charged with grand theft of an automobile.

•Alfonso D. Nasci, 15, 1802 Dixie Highway, Vero

Beach, was arrested Nov. 20 and charged with burglary of an occupied dwelling and violation of probation. He was on probation for burglary.

•Marvin J. Napier, 15, 1507 41st Ave., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 20 and charged with burglary of an occupied dwelling.

•Daniel Scott Bowman, 20, 433 Toledo St., Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 21 and charged with third-degree grand theft.

•Ryan D. Kodadek, 26, 425 38th Ave., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 20 and charged with possession of cocaine.

•Frank Shawn Nipper, 49, 1416 25th Ave., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 20 and charged with fleeing and driving while license suspended.

•Robert Daniel Bullard, 20, 618 Third Place S.W., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 19 and charged with lewd/lascivious battery.

•Reuben Anez Allen, 24, 4095 42nd Square, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 19 and charged with grand theft of an automobile.

•Willie B. Bibbs, 28, 1048 Booker St., Fellsmere, was arrested Nov. 19 and charged with burglary of a conveyance and third-degree grand theft.

•Hermillo Villagomez, aka Martin Martinez, 56, 1618 Caesar Chavez Ave., Los Angeles, was arrested Nov. 19 and charged with failure

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to appear in court on a charge of trafficking cocaine.

•Natalie Lyn Howell, 22, 1529 S.E. Royal Green Circle, Unit S204, Port St. Lucie, was arrested Nov. 19 and charged with felony retail theft.

•Valerie Leeann Maxam, 20, 1529 S.E. Royal Green Circle, Unit S204, Port St. Lucie, was arrested Nov. 19 and charged with felony retail theft.

•Miranda Lynn Brantley, 18, 8246 93rd Ave., Wabasso, was arrested Nov. 18 and charged with failure to appear in court Nov. 18 on a charge of third-degree grand theft.

•Darrick Washington, 17, 760 Carolina St., Apt. 102, Melbourne, was arrested Nov. 18 and charged with fleeing.

•Louis Pasquale Nasci, 28, 1126 10th Lane, Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 18 and

charged with false imprisonment.

•Robert L. Carver, aka Roland Lee Carver, 31, 6411 North U.S. 1, Unit 67, was arrested Nov. 18 and charged with failure to appear in court on charges of false imprisonment and battery.

•Frank L. Milea, 66, no address given, was arrested Nov. 18 and charged with burglary of an unoccupied dwelling and two counts of resisting an officer with violence.

•Oliver Daniel McEnderfer, 27, 715 Surrey Terrace, Sebastian, was arrested Nov. 22 and charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for possession of oxycodone without a prescription.

•Robert Gay Baker, 46, 2516 44th Ave., Vero Beach, was arrested Nov. 21 and charged with felony petit theft.

Obituaries

Clarence Nicholas 'Clep' Epsilantis

Clarence Nicholas "Clep" Epsilantis, 83, died Nov. 8, 2011. He was born in Baltimore and lived in Fellsmere for 22 years. He was a conductor for B & O Railroad. He served in the U.S. Marines during World War II.

He was a member of the Lion's Club in Fellsmere. He is survived by two sons, Nicholas and Clarence; a daughter, Cynthia; a stepdaughter, Annette; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Loretta

and a stepson, Joseph. Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Home.

Gary W. Swenson

Gary W. Swenson, 71, died Nov. 20, 2011. He was born in Fergus Falls, Minn., and lived in Barefoot Bay for 10 years.

He was a member of Roseland United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, La Vaughn; three sons, Scott, Todd and Matthew and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Sandy. Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Home and Crematory.

James Earl Laster

James Earl Laster, 52, died Nov. 3, 2011. He was born in Vero Beach. He is survived by his father, James and a sister, Janet. He was preceded in death by his mother, Dorietta and a brother, Bobby.

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VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011 • HOMETOWN NEWS • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM

Florida needs better protection from PIP fraud

Honest Floridians pay the price for PIP fraud. That's the takeaway from meetings I attended around the state recently where PIP auto insurance fraud was the topic of discussion. PIP, or personal injury protection, is insurance coverage added to your overall auto policy that is intended to pay for medical and other expenses associated with a car crash, regardless of fault.

In Florida, a minimum of \$10,000 PIP coverage is required with each policy. We pay the highest auto liability insurance premiums in the nation, 56 percent more than other states.

Unfortunately, Florida also leads the nation in staged accidents and questionable claims, which is why the number of crashes is going down, while the number of PIP claims and the cost of those claims is going up.

After receiving a PIP fraud update during the cabinet meeting in Tallahassee, Jeff Atwater, Florida's chief financial officer and I participated in listening meetings with Floridians in Tallahassee, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Miami to hear their concerns about PIP fraud and ideas for a solution.

We learned that if we do nothing, the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation predicts a 29 percent PIP pure premium increase each year.

While the pure premium increase directly impacts the insurer, the costs get passed down to consumers through rate hikes, since



GOVERNOR
RICK SCOTT

insurers must raise rates to close the gap created by rapidly increasing fraud costs. In a time when we're working every day to get Florida's economy back on its feet, the last thing we need is fraudsters to cause auto insurance premiums to skyrocket and raise the cost of living in this state, something I have vowed to prevent as governor.

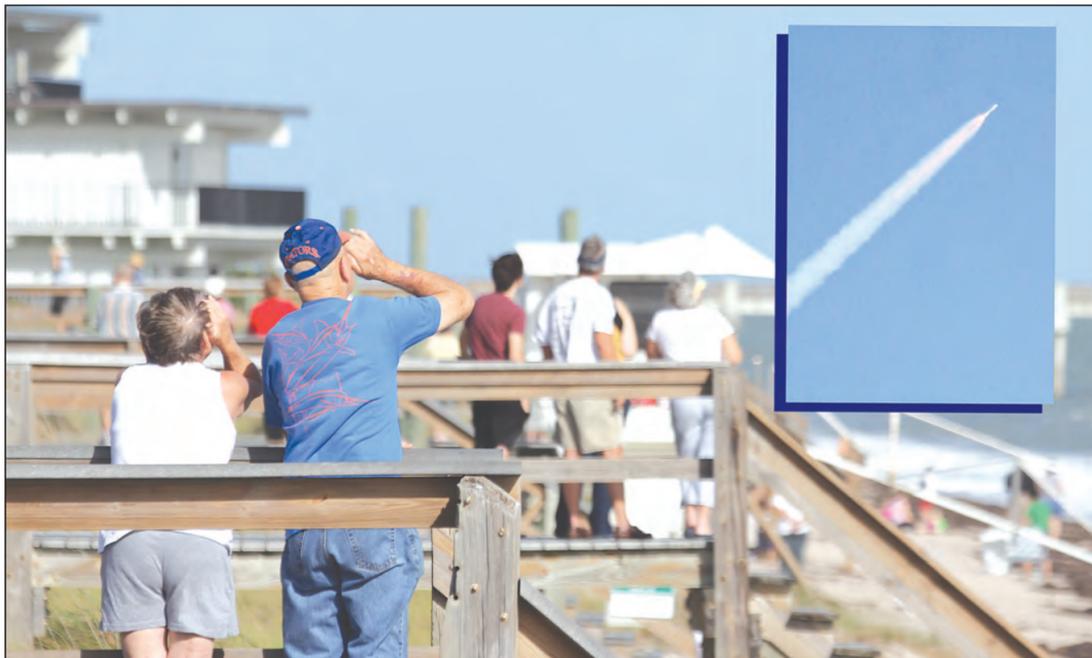
After listening to constituents affected by PIP fraud and their solutions to the problem, I announced four pillars that must be addressed to fix PIP: fraud prevention, litigation reform, utilization and provider reform and accountability. My expectation is that we will provide significant PIP reform this legislative session.

Florida consumers have already paid more than \$800 million for PIP fraud over the last several years and enough is enough.

Florida needs better protections for consumers, and I am committed to holding the line on runaway premiums in order to fulfill my promise to keep the cost of living low and get our state back to work.

I encourage all Floridians with ideas for fixing PIP to email me at Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.com or call your House and Senate members and let them know that you expect them to support PIP reform so we can reduce the cost of auto insurance in Florida.

Journey to Mars



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

From left, Joyce Jackman and Jerry Schick watch as NASA's Curiosity rover (inset) lifted off just after 10 a.m. last Saturday on its way to Mars. The \$2.5 billion rover is expected to arrive near Mars in August 2012



Got something to say?

Call the Hometown Rants & Raves line at
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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.

Don't blame Rubio

Isn't it a shame that we live in an era of the politics of personal destruction?

Some of Marco Rubio's detractors are seeking to smear him based on when his parents fled communist Cuba. Everyone who could do so got away from Fidel Castro. Mr. Rubio's parents fled because they "could no longer live and work under a communist regime."

Those who dislike the senator should argue against his policies, not try to destroy the man.

Underachievers in Congress

It is an understatement to say that our Congress is a group of underachievers. This nation should know from Europe's experience that you cannot spend yourself into prosperity because much of Europe is in desperate financial straits.

Congress is reluctant to cut spending or to cut budget deficits. It should have learned this clear lesson. We have a stern warning but there is little evidence Congress appreciates the gravity of the situation.

Post Office money pit

The money-losing Post Office is not the only government agency in shambles but it is one we see frequently. This bureaucracy is a hulking, foundering, money-hemorrhaging behemoth, which has employees earning above-average salaries and getting generous benefits and pensions.

It has more vehicles than any other organization on the planet. Virtually all government agencies are inefficient, but this one takes the cake, a very expensive cake.

Global crisis

We seem to be spiraling downward. First, it was Greece facing bankruptcy. Then it was Ireland and Portugal in financial trouble.

Last week, South Africa had its bonds downgraded. But worst of all, Spain and Italy are now being exposed as unable to pay their debts.

The only hope for survival is drastic action, but the socialists who run much of Europe lack the courage to make spending cuts. Is there a message for us here in the United States?

Golden boy no more

We voters are a bunch of boobs. When Jon Corzine, the golden boy of Wall Street, appeared on the scene as a candidate for governor of New Jersey, voters swallowed his pitch that he knew finance and could help the state.

Using some of the hundreds of millions he cashed out when he left Goldman Sachs, he bought the election. He promptly ran the state into the ground.

After he was termed out, he took over MF Global, and guess what? That firm is belly-up and the golden boy is seen for what he is: a fake and a failure.

When in Rome...

A report from Rome indicates Italy's economy is hampered by high-wage costs, fat government payrolls, excessive taxes, choking bureaucracy and an educational system which produces one of the lowest levels of college graduates.

This should ring a bell and wake up some Americans because it sounds very much like the United States.

Gas station woes

I recently purchased gas at a local gas station. The pumps had small hand written signs at the bottom of the pump which read, "Do not use this pump, no explanation." The pump jumps to between 10 and 15 cents without ever dispensing any gas.

When I realized what was happening I stopped and moved to another pump. Another customer who used the pump after me said this has been going on for more than a week.

Is there someone I can call to complain to and find out why these pumps remain operational while stealing money and the owners get away with it?

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."

Meaning of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving allows us to take the time to reflect and give thanks for our many blessings, not the least of which is living in this special land. Our nation is faced with many crises threatening the very principles which made us great. We must not take our way of life for granted. Patriotism should be expressed at every opportunity, and Thanksgiving Day is such a time.

Sign overload

What is going on with the new (worthless) road signs; signs to protect us from things that will never happen? Expensive signs.

An example: I live in a condo and when you exit the condo, you can only go north or south. There is an empty lot on the other side of the street. Three new signs were posted so you don't drive across the road into an empty tree filled lot. Who would ever do this? Nobody.

This is repeated all up and down the street. There must be 50 signs within a few miles.

There are also new signs to tell us how to turn into a turn lane. The point is, we don't need signs to tell us the obvious.

This is a huge waste of our money and someone should look into who is authorizing this fraud. This is another example of government gone wild. Something here smells real fishy.

Got news?

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Hometown News

Published weekly by Hometown News, L.C.,
1102 South U.S. 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34950
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Letters must include a phone number and home address for verification.
Letters sent without phone numbers and addresses will be published in the Rants & Raves section.



Photo courtesy of Indian River Medical Center

From left: John Peeples, vice president and chief human resources officer; Karen Marple, division director, patient care services; Bob Michael, CHFM, facilities director; Mike Duhart, executive housekeeper and Nate McCollum, manager, employee and labor relations.

Hospital wins honor for third time

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Indian River Medical Center was honored for the third year in a row with the Best Places to Work in Indian River County award from Workforce Solutions of the Treasure Coast.

IRMC was one of 12 companies to win the award this year, four in the 150 employees and over' category, four in the 25-150 employees category and four in the under 25 employees category.

The award, announced on Oct. 20 at a luncheon at

Pointe West, was based on 37 measurements, including turnover rates, growth percentages, employee development spending, promotion percentages, insurance packages and retirement plans.

All county employers are eligible to apply for this award. Participating companies are required to answer a 40-question survey about their organization.

"This award is the result of the hard work and dedication exemplified by all of our pride team members," said John Peeples, vice president and chief human

resources officer.

"Every day, our employees, auxiliary and medical staff unselfishly give of themselves to make IRMC a great place to work and this award exemplifies your achievement. There is no better compliment to any organization than the recognition of a good working environment and dedicated staff.

"On behalf of the board of directors and all of the executive management team, I congratulate all of our pride team members as all of us celebrate this honor. Thanks to all for your hard work," he said.

Trees

From page A1

ety member picked out two small Florida sand pines to lash together and decorate with tinsel, ornaments and other holiday trimmings.

"This is just awesome. We got the sand pines because they are the closest looking to the ones we're used to," Mrs. Binder said.

Sand pines are slender with short, soft needles and small oval pinecones. Slash pines have a rougher, thicker bark and trunk, longer needles and larger pinecones.

Florida scrub jays bury acorns in soft "sugar" sand for eating in the wintertime when bugs are not as plentiful, Ms. Schnee said.

The pine needles dropped from the pine trees cover the sand and make it more difficult for the jays to access storage places. The trees also tend to grow quite tall, more than 8 feet, and that gives scrub jay predators, like hawks, a perfect perch to swoop down and harm the scrub jays, she said.

For more information about getting a tree, call Ms. Schnee at (772) 589-3201.

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Dining & Entertainment

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Classified INSIDE

SECTION B • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011

Out & about

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

- **Vero Beach boat parade**, Vero Beach Marina, Vero Beach, 6 p.m. Decorate your boat, have fun and win awards. Cost: free. *Website:* www.indianriverchamber.com
- LaPorte Farms will be participating in the **Sebastian Chamber Light-up** from 6-9 p.m. Not only will LaPorte Farms be Winter Wonderland with 85,000 lights, we will also have a live nativity scene with Riverside Church providing the characters and we will provide the critters. For more information, call (772)633-0813 or visit LaPorteFarms.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 3

- **Annual Christmas parade**, Beachside Vero Beach, 5:30 p.m. Cost: free. *Website:* www.verobeachoba.com
- **Art trail**, locations vary, Vero Beach, time to be announced. An open house of ten studios around Vero Beach, learning about the artists and their creative process. Proceeds go to the Vero Beach Art Club Scholarship Fund for graduating high school seniors. Cost: \$25 per person. *Website:* www.verobeachartclub.org.
- **Holiday round robin mixer**, Riverside Racquetball Complex, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Organized by the Vero Beach recreation department. Cost: to be determined. *Website:* www.covb.org.
- **Holiday expo and breakfast with Santa**, Indian River Mall, Vero Beach, time to be determined.
- **Prism concert**, Performing Arts Center, Sebastian River High School, Sebastian, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Cost: \$5-\$25. *Website:* www.srhsband.com

SUNDAY, DEC. 4

- **Art in the Park**, Humiston Park, Vero Beach, 10 a.m. Outdoor fine art and craft show by the Vero Beach Art Club. Cost: free. *Website:* www.verobeachartclub.org
- **Prism concert**, Performing Arts Center, Sebastian River High School, Sebastian, 2 p.m. Cost: \$5-\$25. *Website:* www.srhsband.com
- **Happy holidays at the museum**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, 1 p.m. Cost: free. *Website:* www.verobeachmuseum.org

MONDAY, DEC. 5

- **22nd annual Swing For Health Golf Classic**, Hawk's

See **OUT, B4**

Big, beefy burgers, wings hit the spot



Staff photo by Jessica Tuggle

Sandy's Grille in Sebastian offers friendly service and filling food at affordable prices. From left, Ralph Diephouse, Duncan McNeil, owner Snezana 'Sandy' Jankovic, Jackie Leonard and Tabby Fitzgerald.

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — Affordable prices and delicious food make for a winning combination at Sandy's Grille in Sebastian.

The small restaurant on the east side of County Road 512, just west of U.S. 1, may just be the best kept secret in Sebastian.

Upon entry, guests are greeted with a cheery hello and invited to have a seat and start perusing the varied menu.

Snezana "Sandy" Jankovic has owned the restaurant for nine years and keeps quality customer service as a top priority, no matter the size of the party.

Hungry guests can satiate their appetites with anything from a grilled cheese sandwich to an old-fashioned pot roast and everything in between.

The restaurant is known for the "Rudy Burger" a juicy, half-pound beef burger cooked to order, served with French fries or chips.

If customers aren't in the mood for beef, the hand-breaded Alaskan pollock is a great choice. The fried fish has a tasty crunch on the outside with delectable white meat on the inside.

Sandy's Grille is also known for its chicken wings, which can be prepared six ways: with garlic and parmesan sauce, mild, medium or hot sauce,

breasted Alaskan pollock is a great choice. The fried fish has a tasty crunch on the outside with delectable white meat on the inside.

See **BURGERS, B2**



STAR SCOPES
James Tucker
Week of 12-2-2011

Aries-March 21-April 19
Continue to live your life with ideas that give you peace, love, health, abundance and joy. Stay centered and keep focused. You know what you want. The inspiration for greatness is in your soul. You were born for greatness. Refuse to allow the world or negative people sidetrack you on your great mission through life.

Taurus-April 20-May 20
New learning and understanding is creating better results in your work and at home. Pace yourself. Patience is working. Read the signs that patience is working in your favor. Your job is to read the signs that favor is working in your behalf. Slow down and read the signs that favor is working for you. It is.

Gemini-May 21-June 21
Affirm every day that you are continually fed and protected by the unlimited good in the universe. Give thanks for the many wonderful friends who grace your life and bring so much happiness and joy. You see the good in others. They see it in you, as well. This is the true meaning of life. Add to and savor it well.

Cancer-June 21-July 21
You can't change another person, but you can change yourself. Keep a lighter touch when faced with life's challenges. Keep centered and follow your great heart. Stay upbeat. Most of the things you fret about are unlikely to happen in the first place. Stay above the small stuff, take time to play and life will be good.

Leo-July 23-Aug. 22
You make such great, wise choices. You are the center of fire in the zodiac. It's your job to give all of the rest of us inspiration. We need to hear from you, Leo. All your other brothers and sisters need your help and your light. We are all moving forward. Please give back and give us your wisdom. We need your help.

Virgo-Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your mind is sharp. Use recent successes to springboard you to still higher victory. You think high thoughts. Your heart is open. Fear is not a word in your vocabulary. Finish what you start in life and you will

See **SCOPES, B2**

Marching against hunger



Nearly 1,000 people ran or walked the 5K Turkey Trot Against Hunger to benefit Harvest Food & Outreach Center on Thanksgiving morning at Riverside Park. A sweet potato pancake breakfast was served after the run, which is in its fourth year.

Photo courtesy of Maureen Nicolace

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FRI Alaskan Pollack \$5⁹⁵

SAT Prime Rib \$7⁹⁹

DAILY DRINK SPECIALS

Sandy's Grille

SMOKE FREE ESTABLISHMENT

ENTERTAINMENT

MONDAY FREE TEXAS HOLD'EM 7PM

TUESDAY GUY'S NITE DRINK SPECIALS 5PM-CLOSE
LIVE MUSIC WITH KENNY WILLIAMS & RAY FREDELL 6PM-10PM

WEDNESDAY LADIES NITE DRINK SPECIALS 5PM-CLOSE
KEVIN MCCULLERS BAND 7PM

THURSDAY EVERY THURSDAY
LIVE MUSIC WITH HAIRPEACE 7:30PM - 10:30PM

FRIDAY 12/2 & 12/16 D.J. & Karaoke W/Outlaw Karaoke 8pm
12/9 LIVE MUSIC WITH KENNY WILLIAMS & RAY FREDELL 8pm

SATURDAY FREE Texas Hold'em 1pm-4pm
12/3 LIVE MUSIC BY STEVE COWDEN 8PM

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Enjoy Holiday DINING

Burgers

From page B1

teriyaki sauce or barbeque sauce. For daring eaters, "nuclear" sauce promises to get the sinuses in high gear.

The wings are served piping hot from the kitchen and the medium sauce is to tickle your nose and delight your taste buds, leaving your mouth wanting even more.

Great music can heighten a great dining experience, so at least five nights a week, Ms. Jankovic books musicians or other entertainment for her diners.

Music in December will be provided by Hairpeace, the Kevin McCullers Band and Kenny Williams and Ray Fredell. Certain nights will be evenings of karaoke with Outlaw DJ.

To keep prices affordable for her customers, Ms. Jankovic offers various daily dinner and lunch specials, including 10 lunch items under \$5. The price of 16-ounce domestic drafts are \$2 every day, she said.

"I don't make a lot of money at this, but I love what I do and I love the people. I want people to have a place to go. This is in my blood," Ms. Jankovich said.

The restaurant also offers free Wi-Fi for customers and more than a dozen large, flat-screen TVs that sports fan are sure to enjoy.

Credit cards and debit cards are now accepted at the restaurant.

Sandy's Grille is located at 171 Sebastian Blvd., or County Road 512 East, in Sebastian. For more information, call (772) 589-3666 or visit www.facebook.com/sandysgrille.

Getting some good air



Vinney Faulkner of Sebastian gets good air as he practices his moves at the Sebastian Skate Park last Friday afternoon.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

Scopes

From page B1

win your share. Do it every day and you will continue to see victory and success coming to you, my winner.

Libra-Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Your spirit is stronger than ever. You have a great and open heart. Your life force is wonderful. Your desires for a greater and happier life prevail. Why? It's because of your

wonderful spirit and trust in the universal power. If we could be more centered within ourselves life would be better for all of us. Thanks.

Scorpio-Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Be completely honest with yourself about what you want in life that makes you happy. Answer this question. Take action. Run the race, come around the bend and finish the race. You are a winner. Yeah! You finished the race. Put it in your heart,

open it up and go for it. Your true destiny depends on it.

Sagittarius-Nov. 22-Dec. 21

All the recent changes are signs of bigger and better things to come. The universe is about to increase your responsibilities. Look for advancements in the workplace. The universe wants to bless you in the season to come. Prepare for greater blessings to come from family, friends and associates who honor you.

Capricorn-Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You have such a wonderful life force and energy. You have a free and open channel between your mind, heart and spirit. You have a

guardian angel watching over you. When you have all these divine blessings working over you, you have the greatest blessings the universe has to offer. You are so deserving.

Aquarius-Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your wisdom and experience continues to move you toward your dreams and goals. You make decisions based on feeling and instincts. You tap into your higher power. This gives you an edge in making right decisions. Keep it up. You now have the winning edge in your favor. Your gut always knows the truth.

Pisces-Feb. 19-March 20

Being completely honest with yourself about the things that make you happy is the first step toward victory over life. Do things that you love first and then share them with your family, children and friends. Refuse to do things that don't want to do. Your heart is your greatest gift. Follow your heart. It speaks truth.

Special services

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.

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DAILY 11AM-3PM

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\$4⁹⁹

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FROM THE BAR 2 FOR 1 SPECIALS

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DINNER SPECIALS

VEAL GORGONZOLA BREADED CUTLET TOPPED WITH FRESH GARLIC, BASIL AND TOMATOES, SERVED WITH PENNE IN MARINARA SAUCE.
GRILLED SALMON TOPPED WITH ASIAGO CHEESE AND SERVED WITH SAUTEED FRESH SPINACH IN GARLIC AND OIL.
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Learning to spread her wings

Ari Rogers of Sebastian plays with her kite in the Barber Street Sports Complex last Friday. A consistent southeast wind helped make it a great kite-flying day.



Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

Mall to extend shopping hours

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The Indian River Mall is offering shoppers extended hours during the holiday season. Guests will enjoy more time to shop at Indian River Mall's great selection of retailers, with one to four extra hours on select days throughout December.

The following are extended hours for Indian River Mall through the holiday season:

- Dec. 10: 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Dec. 11: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Dec. 12-16: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Dec. 17: 8 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Dec. 18: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Dec. 19-23: 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Dec. 24: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Dec. 25: Closed
- Dec. 26: 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Dec. 31: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

The Indian River Mall will operate during regular mall hours, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sundays from noon-6 p.m. on dates not listed.

The mall is located on State Road 60 at 66th Avenue and is managed by Simon Property Group. It is a single-level, regional mall anchored by Macy's, Dillard's, JCPenney and Sears and has more than 80 specialty stores.

For more information on extended hours and holiday, call (772) 770-6255 or visit www.indian-river-mall.com.

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City to host Christmas, holiday parade

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — The city of Sebastian will hold its annual Christmas and holiday parade on Dec. 3 starting at 6 p.m.

The parade will begin at Main Street, travel south on Indian River Drive to Riverview Park and deliver Santa on his decorated house, where the city Christmas tree will be lit and children can visit with Santa

and share their holiday wishes. The parade is sponsored by the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce, GFWC Senior & Junior Woman's Club of Sebastian and Sebastian Property

Owners Association, with assistance from the city of Sebastian. To participate in the parade, call (772) 589-5969 or email info@sebastian-chamber.com.

Toys to be collected across Treasure Coast

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — For the 10th year, 101.3, The Coast FM, is proud to help support the Children's Home Society holiday toy drive, sponsored this year by BJ's Wholesale Club.

The Children's Home Society supports, in some way, more than 9,000 foster children, spread over Martin, St Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. Now, through Dec 9, 101.3 The Coast, will be begin collecting toys from offices throughout the

Treasure Coast. Rather than putting out toy boxes at retail locations, 101.3 The Coast will go to local offices to collect toys. Plus, each person in the office will receive a free 60-day trial membership to BJ's Wholesale Club.

Businesses interested in having the Coast van come to their office to collect toys, can register at www.coast1013.com.

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Adult community hosting holiday craft sale

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — By the River residents will hold a holiday craft fair and yard sale for the public.

The event will take place at By the River, 11065 Ganga Way, off Roseland Road in Sebastian on Friday Dec. 2 from 10-3 p.m. and Dec. 3 from 9-2 p.m.

Holiday crafts and wreaths made by the resi-

dents in their arts and crafts classes will be for sale. Some residents will sell furniture and items they no longer need.

"In these times when seniors sometimes have to choose between medications and food, this event, organized by residents themselves, shows the sense of independence and community spirit present at By the River," said Judy Molliconi, activities director.

"We hope people come out to support the event and leave with some great, hand-made Christmas gifts."

By the River is the area's nonprofit, independent living community for 41 low-income seniors, founded by spiritual teacher Ma Jaya, that gives them the chance to live affordably in a life-enhancing community.

For more information, call (772) 388-5858.

Hospital to host ceremony on Dec. 7

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Indian River Medical Center will host its 21st anniversary of the auxiliary's Tree of Lights ceremony on Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. on the hospital grounds.

Songs of the season will get attendees in the holiday mood and refreshments will follow the outdoor tree lighting in the

lobby of the Ambulatory Services Center, the first building to the left past the hospital main entrance. The hospital is located at 1000 36th St., Vero Beach.

The Tree of Lights plays a dual role as it heralds in the holidays while at the same time, raises money for worthwhile women's health care department to benefit moms and babies through donations ranging from \$5 to \$500 and more

toward a light for the tree. Contributions can be made for a light in honor or in memory of a relative or friend.

Last year, through the Tree of Lights fundraiser, the auxiliary purchased phototherapy lights to treat jaundice, pulse oximeters for infants and cribs.

For more information, call (772) 567-4311, Ext. 1133.

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Out

From page B1

Nest Golf Club, Vero Beach, noon. Cost: \$275 per person, \$1,100 per foursome. Call (772) 226-4952 for more information.

• Harry Getzov, founder of Eldercare and author of "gOLD," will be the guest speaker at a **noon luncheon to benefit the Treasure Coast Community Health Foundation** at Quail Valley River Club. All attendees will receive a complimentary copy of gOLD with their tax deductible contribution of \$100 for the luncheon. All proceeds will assist in helping TCCH to continue providing medical,

dental and behavioral health-care services to Indian River County residents. To make reservations or for more information, call (772) 571-1983 or email sdorrance@tcchinc.org.

TUESDAY, DEC. 6

• **Environmental Learning Center volunteer open house**, Environmental Learning Center, Wabasso, 3 p.m. An opportunity to find out about the many areas of volunteering available at the center. Cost: free. Website: <http://discoverelc.org>

THURSDAY, DEC. 8

• **Lunch and learn tour**, Vero

Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, noon. Featuring 'Against The Grain: Wood Sculptures by Robert F. Lyon.' Cost: free. Website: www.verobeachmuseum.org

• **Quarters auction**, Emerson Center at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Vero Beach, TBA. Auction to benefit Indian River County nonprofit organizations; bidding is based on retail value of items, beginning at a quarter of the value. For more information, email doreenvalley@aol.com.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

• **Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest**, Grand Harbor Golf and Beach Club, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Kids tennis clinic, reception and tennis exhibition. Cost: To be determined.

• **Community holiday party**, Vero Beach Community Center, Vero Beach, 11:30 a.m. Join the fun and ring in the holiday season with food, entertainment dancing and door prizes. Organized by the Vero Beach recreation department. Cost: To be determined. Website: www.covb.org

• **Vero Beach Choral Society concert**, 'Tidings of Joy: Sounds of the Season,' Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, 7:30 p.m. Highlighting Benjamin Britten's 'The Ceremony of Carols' and Antonio Vivaldi's 'Magnificat in G Minor.' Cost: Adults \$20, Students \$5. Website: <http://verobeachchoralsociety.org>

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

• **Wildlife watching tour**, Captain Hiram's Resort, Sebastian, 10 a.m. Easy-paced paddling excursion with kayaks or stand up paddle boards organized by Florida Outdoor Center and guided by a naturalist. Trips available daily. Cost: \$35 for adults, \$10 for

kids 15 and younger. Website: www.floutdoor.com

• **Night sounds at Sebastian Inlet concert series**, Coconut Point, Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian, 7 p.m. Featuring Sygnal, a diverse group of musicians playing jazz, blues, classic rock, rhythm and blues and reggae. Website: www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet/vents.cfm

• **Silver Tones concert**, Indian River Mall, Vero Beach, times vary. The Senior Resource Association's Silver Tones Chorus will perform for holiday shoppers. Cost: Free. Contact: Kelly de Long, (772) 469-2062.

• **Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest**, Holman Stadium, Vero Beach, time to be determined. Jake Owen concert with special guests. Cost: To be determined.

• **CrossFit fitness class**, Treasure Coast CrossFit, Sebastian, 10 a.m. Cost: free. Website: www.treasurecoast-crossfit.com

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

• **Deck the Halls holiday music concert**, Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach, 2 p.m. Cost: Individual tickets, \$10 or \$12, senior ticket packages \$50. Website: <http://sites.indianriver-schools.org/vbhs/pac/pac/index.htm>

• **Winter concert**, Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach High School, Vero Beach, 2 p.m. Featuring the high school bands. Cost: To be determined. Website: <http://band.vero-beach.fl.us>

• **Vero Beach Choral Society concert**, 'Tidings of Joy: Sounds of the Season,' Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, 3 p.m. Highlighting Benjamin Britten's 'The Ceremony of Carols' and

See **OUT, B6**

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December 14 • 8:00 pm
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Bariatric Surgeon, Board Certified
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SUPPORT GROUPS

December 5 • 6:00 pm
Heart Disease and You Support Group

December 6 • 7:00 pm
Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group

December 8, 15, 22, 29 • 2:00 pm
Bereavement Support Group

December 13 • 4:00 pm
Diabetes Support Group

December 16 • 3:00 pm
Alzheimer Caregivers Support Group
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Vicki Suplizio, MS, RN, BC

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Student-athletes commit early



Photo courtesy of Indian River State College

Early signers from the Indian River State College baseball team, back row, from left: Eric Sams, K'Shawn Smith, Jordan Robinson, Mark Donato and Eros Modena. Softball early signers, front row from left: Sarah Read, Christen Moon and Melanie Oliver. Three IRSC swim team members committed to early signings, from right: Jared Pike, Sarah D'Antoni and Christopher Reall (not pictured). These student-athletes have all committed to early signings with top schools around the nation at the start of the NCAA early signing period.

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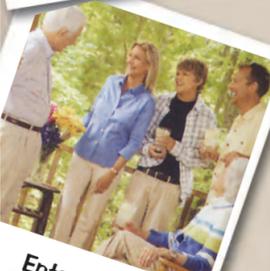
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Please contact
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Out

From page B4

Antonio Vivaldi's 'Magnificat in G Minor.' Cost: Adults \$20, Students \$5. *Website:* <http://verobeachchoralsociety.org>

MONDAY, DEC. 12

• **'Deck the Halls' holiday**

music concert, Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach, 7 p.m. Cost: Individual tickets, \$10 or \$12, senior ticket packages \$50. *Website:* <http://sites.indianriverschools.org/vbhs/pac/pac/index.htm>

• **Winter concert**, Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach High School, Vero Beach, 7 p.m. Featuring the high school bands. Cost: to be

determined. *Website:* <http://band.vero-beach.fl.us>

• **Juvenile diabetes walk-a-thon, 'Walk for the One You Love,'** Riverside Park, Vero Beach, 9 a.m. Proceeds go toward educating teachers and staff in identifying symptoms of undiagnosed diabetes and emergency and day-to-day care. Cost: \$15 per person or \$100 for a group of 10. *Website:* www.jdac-fl.org

Snowy, cold inside warm, green outside

The problem I have with being in Florida for the holidays is that it's simply too warm.

No snow. No ice. No walking out the door and seeing your own breath. It just doesn't feel like Christmas when I'm in short sleeves and Bermuda shorts.

Thankfully, there is a place in Orlando where one can feel the chill of 9° air while walking through tons of ice sculpted into a Shrek Christmas theme, play in snow and toss snowballs at targets, watch high-spirited performances of your favorite Christmas tunes along with some new ones, or just unwind and relax. If you prefer something warmer, you can even bring your clubs and thaw out on the links or soak up the sun at the pool.

That place is the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center. It is holding its new DreamWorks Experience through Jan. 2 and packages start at \$149.

For years now, Gaylord Palms has held ICE!, an adventure in which you don parkas and spend about 30 minutes or so walking amid some of the most wonderful ice sculptures ever carved.

This year, the resort has teamed with DreamWorks to create a new theme where everyone becomes an honorary ogre, joining Shrek, Princess Fiona and their friends for a "Shrek the Halls" adventure.

Before experiencing ICE!, I recommend filling your belly. The Shrek feast in Villa de Flora is a character breakfast buffet fit for a king. Hungry ogres can feast on made-to-order omelets, waffles, fruits, meats, pastries and breads, eggs, cereals, grits, potatoes and much more. You must try the swamp juice.

Once your stomach is filled and you're ready to enjoy some real cold at ICE!, or as the people I bumped

GOLF JAMES STAMMER



At Celebration, Gaylord guests enjoy a true country club experience. In addition to special tee times and rates, you get use of your own locker room for the day.

This par-72 track is one of only three courses in the world designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Robert Trent Jones Jr. The course reflects the best these award-winning architects have created around the world. The result is a parkland-style course with undulating topography. There are five sets of tees, including a set specifically designed for beginners and young golfers.

From the very first tee, you will see that Celebration puts a premium on approach shots. The elder Jones' philosophy, that every hole should be a difficult par but easy bogey, is very evident. The complexity of the greens allows you room to miss, but most are well guarded.

While the course features a great variety of holes, it's the closing ones that really stand out. You will play a short, nearly drivable par-4, a long daunting par-3, a par-4 that requires plenty of strategy and finish with the longest hole on the course. A match can quickly turn on any of these holes. Don't ask me how I know.

No matter what your holiday desires may be, between the Gaylord Palms with its DreamWorks Experience and Celebration Golf Club, you can cool off or heat up in a most delightful way.

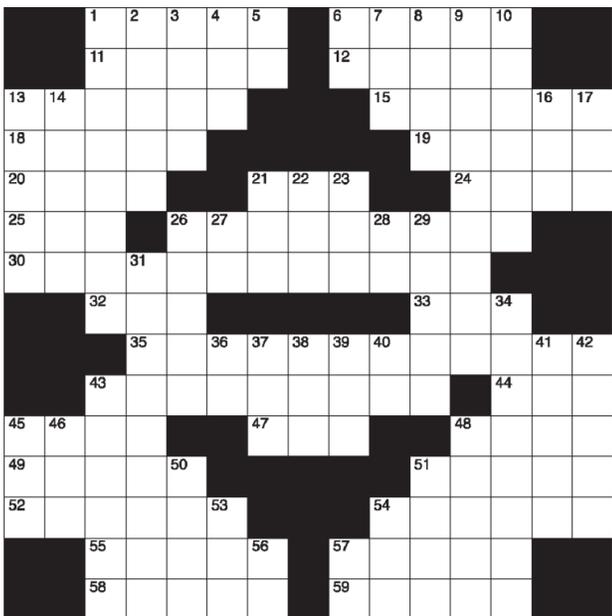
For more information visit, www.ChristmasAtGaylordPalms.com www.CelebrationGolf.com

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

Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Abu __, U.A.E. capital
- 6. Herring-like fishes
- 11. 55120 MN
- 12. Indigo bush
- 13. Pollyanna-ish
- 15. Pleasing to the ear
- 18. Parcels of land
- 19. Microns (alt. sp.)
- 20. Cooking containers
- 21. Express pleasure
- 24. Meat from a calf (alt.)
- 25. 7th Greek letter
- 26. Operated the sales register
- 30. Blueprint for the day
- 32. Congressperson (abbr.)
- 33. Angle (abbr.)
- 35. Fragrant health promotion
- 43. Trespasses
- 44. __ Lanka
- 45. Wife of Hercules
- 47. A large body of water
- 48. Chicken house
- 49. Sicilian volcano
- 51. Coarse edible red seaweed
- 52. __ May, actress
- 54. Opposites of credits
- 55. Unable to move
- 57. Someone who is highly skilled
- 58. 100 = 1 kwacha
- 59. "Rocky" star Talia



Answers located in Classified Section

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Having a sophisticated charm
- 2. Minute amounts (Scot.)
- 3. Turkish leader's title
- 4. Used for hitting the ball in various games
- 5. Not out
- 6. South Dakota
- 7. Possessed
- 8. Grad
- 9. UPS driver
- 10. Fired
- 13. In a way, augmented

- 14. River in SE S. Am.
- 16. Division of geological time
- 17. Follows sigma
- 21. Sign language
- 22. Expression of surprise
- 23. Hull Identification Number
- 26. Salmwood
- 27. Associated Press
- 28. Half of an em
- 29. Networks in Spanish
- 31. Dough fermenting agent
- 34. Auto fuel
- 36. An alternative
- 37. Manuscripts (abbr.)
- 38. Digested
- 39. Darjeeling or green
- 40. Horsepower
- 41. 1985 Formula 1 champion
- 42. Expression of alarm
- 43. Gain possession
- 45. Own (Scottish)
- 46. Snake-like fish
- 48. Dicer
- 50. Afresh
- 51. Hindu mother goddess
- 53. Before
- 54. Code for dash
- 56. Atomic #52
- 57. Millisecond

686040

Forever Young
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DBPD chief: He runs, he bikes, he chases perps! Page 7

Elvis changed everything Page 12

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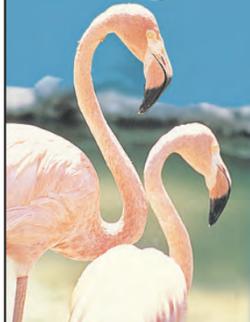
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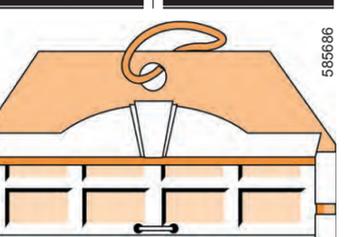
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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Grid of crossword puzzle answers: D H A B I S H A D S, E A G A N D A L E A, U P B E A T D U L C E T, P L O T S M I K R A, P A N S A A H V E A U, E T A C A S H I E R E D, D A I L Y P L A N N E R, R E P D E G, A R O M A T H E R A P Y, O V E R S T E P S S R I, H E B E S E A C O O P, A E T N A D U L S E, E L A I N E D E B I T S, I N E R T M A V E N, N G W E E S H I R E

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Hometown News

Indian River County ■ December 2011

Forever Young

A monthly publication celebrating the active lifestyle of Florida's boomers

Identity theft: The 'gift' that keeps on taking

Page 18

Sing with the Silver Tones

Page 4

Topsy-Turvey

As times change, family traditions might be different than years past

Page 17

A special time of year arrives

By Shelley Koppel
Associate news editor

Sleighbells ringing and White Christmases are the stuff of memories, but not of life in Florida. Still, while it's fun to recall holidays past, it's also fun to make new traditions with our "Florida families," as one expert described it.

In this issue, there is a serious story about coping with the holidays. For many, far from families, perhaps

financially challenged, the holidays are not what they once were. If there has been a loss, this time of year can be very difficult. Experts from area hospitals and counseling centers have suggestions for making the holiday season a peaceful time and a time of hope.

"The Nutcracker Ballet" is a tradition at this time of year and several of the editions of "Forever Young" feature stories about area productions. At the Riverside Theatre, there is a 'Nutcracker' featuring the music of Billy Stray-

horn and Duke Ellington, for a "Swing-time Nutcracker."

In Martin County, seniors who attend the Council on Aging's day cen-

ter will narrate the story and students from Florida Arts and Dance will

See **SPECIAL, Page 5**



Sandy Huelsenbeck of Sebastian admires the ornaments on one of the many Christmas and holiday trees at All Thru the House's decorated trees for their annual open house Nov. 13.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

Hometown News Indian River County Forever Young

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Published monthly by Hometown News, L.C., 1102 South U.S. 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34950
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East Side Urgent Care provides increased access to care with its extended hours Monday through Friday 8:45am-6pm, Saturday 9am-3pm & Sunday 9am-1pm. However, every patient who arrives before closing will be seen even if the staff stays late.

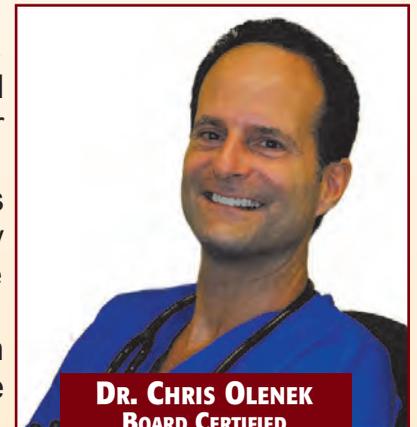
East Side Urgent Care is conveniently located across from the Medical Center in Vero Beach just behind Perkins Pharmacy 37th street location at 960 37th Place, Suite 102, Vero Beach, FL 32960. Dr. Olenek's patients range from infants to geriatrics. Their number is (772) 770-6225.

East Side Urgent Care manages a multitude of medical conditions from infections to serious injury i.e. sore throats, sinusitis, ear infections, asthma, pneumonia, urinary tract infections, gout, insect bites to lacerations and incision and drainage of MRSA skin infections. Dr. Olenek administers IV fluid hydration, injectable antibiotics, injectable medications, oxygen and nebulizer breathing treatments, skin cancer screening, school, camp, sports and DOT physicals, pre-employment, random and post accident drug screens, and worker compensation evaluations.

Dr. Christopher Olenek completed internship training at Long Beach Medical Center/ MT Sinai Hospital System New York. He performed residency training at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City and Broward General Medical Center in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Dr. Olenek worked as an Emergency Room Physician, is Board Certified in Family Medicine, has additional training in Sports Medicine and has worked over eight years in Urgent Care. He returned to graduate school for his Masters in Public Health with a focus on the medical prevention and response as it relates to Bio terrorism, Chemical terrorism, Nuclear terrorism and Agro terrorism. Dr. Olenek has provided medical services in Vero Beach for the last six years and recently opened East Side Urgent Care in October 2010. Dr. Olenek engages his patients in their health care and is a strong proponent of preventive medicine.

So the next time you are sick or injured, don't waste time and money at the emergency room, come to East Side Urgent Care for prompt, courteous and effective care at affordable prices.



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Photo courtesy of Kelly De Long

The Silver Tones Chorus from the Senior Resource Association began in 2007. The singers are all 50 and over and number about 50 adults.

Concert introduces holiday season

By Shelley Koppel
Associate news editor

VERO BEACH — The generations will come together to welcome the Christmas season when the Silver Tones Chorus from the Senior Resource Association, the Sebastian High School Chorus and the Gifford Youth Orchestra perform in a free concert at the Emerson Center on Dec. 15.

The Silver Tones Chorus began in 2007 to give those 50 and over a chance to sing together and perform for the community. Rehearsing at the Schumann Hall Senior Center, the group has just hired a new director, Allen Rosenberg, formerly artistic director of the St. Lucie Chorale. The group is sponsored by the Leo and Peggy Pierce Family Foundation, which assumes all of the costs of the group and its performances.

Kelly De Long, senior center manager, said that they could not do this without the help of the foundation.

“We rent the Emerson Center and they fund it completely,” she said. “They pay any salaries and costs. Without them it would be impossible.”

The Silver Tones, numbering about 50 adults, will perform a variety of Christmas music.

“In the past, they performed older songs,” Ms. De Long said. “This year, there are songs everyone will know, including ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas,’ ‘What Child is This?’ ‘Carol of the Bells,’ ‘Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,’ ‘Joy to the World’ and ‘We Wish you a Merry Christmas.’

This year, the singers will share the stage with the younger performers.

The Sebastian High School Chorus, under the direction of Lynn Harvey, will join the Silver Tones for several songs and will perform 10-15 minutes of their own holiday music.

The Gifford Youth Orchestra, directed by founder Crystal Bujol, will do the musical accompaniment for “Joy to the World” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” and will perform other Christmas songs.

“With this intergenerational concert, we’re trying to involve the community,” Ms. De Long said. “It’s great to have all walks of life. Last year, when we had the Vero Beach Classical Ballet, the seniors loved the ballerinas. They were thrilled and smiling. The dancers brought youth and happiness to everyone.”

The assistance of the Pierce Foundation enables the group to rent the Emerson Center and they are happy to share the stage.

“It gives students a chance to perform there as well,” Ms. De Long said.

The Silver Tones is open to singers 50 and over and no one is turned away.

“Our director doesn’t like to say ‘no,’” Ms. De Long said. “He’ll just give them a voice placement test. Several members of the group have disabilities. One woman who cannot see memorizes all the music.

“It’s a great outlet,” Ms. De Long said.

The Silver Tones, Sebastian High School Chorus and Gifford Youth Orchestra will present a free holiday concert on Dec. 15 from 7-9 p.m. at the Emerson Center, 1590 27th Ave., Vero Beach.

The Silver Tones will perform at the Indian River Mall on Dec. 10 from 1-3 p.m.

CALENDAR**Friday, Dec. 2****Leroy Anderson
Christmas/Nutcracker**

The Space Coast Symphony presents a Leroy Anderson Christmas and The Nutcracker at the Waxlax Center for the performing arts, 1895 St. Edwards Drive, Vero Beach at 7 p.m.

Leroy Anderson, dubbed the master of the miniature, has written some of the most popular music of our time. The First half of the concert includes favorites such as Sleigh Ride, Buglers Holiday, The Typewriter, Syncopated Clock, A Christmas Festival, and more.

The Galmont Ballet joins the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra on the second half to present selections from Tchaikovsky's unforgettable masterpiece, the Nutcracker.

Advance tickets are \$20 and may be reserved or purchased online at www.spacecoastsymphony.org, purchased at ticket outlets, or by calling (321) 536-8580.

Tickets at the door are \$25. Students 18 years of age and under are admitted free. For those unable to afford the price of general admission, the new SCSO Symphony for everyone program will provide discounted tickets to anyone wishing to attend the symphony.

The 23rd Annual Light Up Night

This is the Sebastian River's own special way of kicking off the holiday season by inviting the community into participating businesses. The event is from 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Visitors enjoy holiday decorations, refreshments, sales, drawings and

more. Many of the businesses will be competing for the annual Holiday Decorations awards.

For further information, call (772) 589-5969.

**Sebastian River Medical Center
Annual Craft Fair**

The annual craft fair will start at 7 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Sebastian River Medical Center, 13695 US Highway 1, Sebastian.

All sales are cash only and a raffle will be available, need not be present to win. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit a local needy family for the holiday season.

For more information, visit www.sebastianrivermedical.com.

**Youth Guidance Annual Gift
Drive**

The youth guidance gift drive invites local businesses, services, clubs and churches to help youngsters have a memorable holiday season by donating toys and gifts for this yearly event.

Everyone is invited to bring presents to the Youth Guidance Office, 1028 20th Place, Vero Beach, so that the children have an unforgettable day.

A wide assortment of presents and toys are needed for boys and girls ages 5 – 18. Ideas include gift cards to retail stores, sports equipment, educational electronic games, family board games, art kits and journals and pen sets.

Please make a difference in the life of a child this holiday and get involved.

See **CALENDAR, 9**

tion of "Forever Young" in your county, all of the editions are available online at our website www.hometownnewsol.com. I invite you, as always, to see what is going on with your neighbors. There are different stories in each edition and you might enjoy reading them all.

We love to hear from our readers and hope that you are enjoying "Forever Young" as much as we are enjoying putting it together for you.

All of us send holiday greetings to our readers and hope that you have a blessed and happy holiday season.

Special

From page 2

dance excerpts from the ballet in an inter-generational celebration.

This time of year is also the celebration of the Jewish festival of Chanukah, and some of the area rabbis have discussed what the holiday means.

Then there are the fun stories, the heart-warming stories, the stories that make us feel good.

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Jewish holiday celebrates miracle

By Shelley Koppel
Associate news editor

VERO BEACH — When Chanukah begins at sundown on Dec. 20, it starts eight days of a holiday thousand of the years in the making.

Rabbi Michael Birnholz is the spiritual leader at Temple Beth Shalom in Vero Beach. He spoke recently about the history and customs of the holiday also known as the Festival of Lights.

"When Alexander the Great's empire came to an end, it was split into three areas: Egypt, Syria and Rome," the rabbi said. "The Greek Empire was centered in Egypt and Judea was under Egyptian rule. When the Greek Empire in Syria took over, they were not as tolerant as the Egyptians, who had allowed the Judeans to run the Temple and live out their culture."

The ruler, Antiochus, wanted

everyone under his dominion to assimilate and the Temple was desecrated. Finally, the Jews revolted.

"A group of Jews, led by Mattathias and his son, Judah the Maccabee, fought for several years," the rabbi said. Finally, there was a miracle. Though they were few in number, they defeated the well-armed Syrian Greek army and sent them back to Syria."

The Jews found the Temple desecrated and prepared to reconsecrate it for Jewish worship. In fact, "Chanukah" means "dedication" in Hebrew.

"There is an eternal light that always burns in a sanctuary," the rabbi said. "They went to light it and they found only a little bit of olive oil that would last a day or so. They had been unable to celebrate the festivals under Syrian rule and wanted to model it after the festival Sukkot, which lasts eight days. The

oil lasted eight days instead of one. That was the miracle."

Rabbi Birnholz said there is a message beyond that miracle.

"It was a fight for freedom, for tolerance, for caring for others," he said. "Even in dark times, there are ways to start with a little light and see it grow physically and spiritually."

One of the most important symbols of the holiday is the nine-branched candlestick known as the menorah. Eight candles stand for each day of Chanukah and the taller one is used to light the others. On each night of Chanukah, an additional candle is lit, until the entire Menorah glows.

"Originally, there were seven branches for seven days of the week, the rabbi said. "It was adapted for Chanukah with eight branches and a ninth for help, as a reminder of the miracle of the oil."

"You light one on the first day and increase the light," the rabbi said. "You are at the end of the month of Kislev, closest to the winter solstice, approaching a new moon. There is increasing light and the world will continue through the dark time of winter."

Chanukah is a family holiday that starts off, like all Jewish holidays, with the setting of the sun.

"There are songs," the rabbi said. "It's a festive time, even if it's cold and dark. "There are latkes, or potato pancakes, fried in olive oil. This was the olive oil holiday because the olives would be picked at Sukkot and the new crop of olive oil would be ready for Chanukah. In Israel, they eat jelly doughnuts."

A popular game is the spinning of a top known as a dreidl. It has four Hebrew letters on it that sym-

See **MIRACLE**, Page 14

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Having a plan a good way to deal with holidays

By Shelley Koppel
Associate news editor

VERO BEACH — For many, the holidays evoke wonderful memories of friends and families, of celebrations and presents and happy times. However, for some, the holidays have changed because families are far away, loved ones are gone and children are grown.

Heather Simmons is a licensed clinical social worker and registered nurse at Indian River Medical Center. Her advice for those coping with change is to have a plan.

"It's important to mentally prepare yourself," she said. "Anticipation is often worse than the actual day. If we anticipate we will be lonely, we probably will be."

"If we make a plan to get involved at a senior center or with a church, help someone else or pick up the phone to call friends, we mentally prepare ourselves."

Those of us in Florida are often

dealing with physical and financial limitations. It may not be possible to make that trip up north to see the grandkids. It's not as much fun to decorate if no one's coming. Those are some of the thoughts people often have.

Ms. Simmons again suggests having a plan to avoid the depression that may occur because things have changed.

"Don't wait for Dec. 24 to get involved," she said. "Ask yourself, 'how can I change the tradition to make do with what I have?' Maybe instead of a large tree, it's a smaller, table-top one. Find out what's happening at the churches or senior centers. Sharing and helping others is a way of helping ourselves."

One way to enjoy the gift of giving is to pick an angel off the trees at many stores. They give the first name and age of a child and what the child needs and wants for Christmas. While you will not see the child receive gift, you have the fun of shopping and a reward, as well.

"You can anticipate little eyes big and round when they open it," Ms. Simmons said.

Depression is very common among older people and many do not seek help.

"The hardest thing for many seniors is still the stigma of reaching out and asking for help," Ms. Simmons said. "If I could give one guideline, it would be that alcohol does not bring cheer to the lonely."

Flexibility is also important, Ms. Simmons said. You may have to do things differently. Perhaps you take a short trip and celebrate the holidays a little early. Maybe you can gather friends together on Dec. 23 and make a party.

"Be proactive," she said. "There's no one way to celebrate a traditions. It's about giving. Giving makes you feel better."

If you still feel stressed about the holidays, Ms. Simmons has one more bit of advice.

"Always turn 'stressed' into



Heather Simmons

'desserts.' That's stressed spelled backwards."

If you have been feeling sad, withdrawing, have lost interest in your usual activities and are worrying, you may have depression.

Talk to your doctor. If you cannot do that, call Indian River Medical Center's Assessment and Referral line. A psychiatric nurse is on call round-the-clock and can point you towards help. It is available. Call (772) 567-4311, ext. 3717.

'Nutcracker' swings to a new beat

By Shelley Koppel
Associate news editor

VERO BEACH — You may think you know "The Nutcracker Ballet," but you haven't seen it like this before.

For the second year, Riverside Children's Theatre's Dance Conservatory will present choreographer and librettist Adam Schnell's version of the classic tale, "The Nutcracker" in Swing Time."

Set in a private girls school in New England in 1938, the production features a version of the Tchaikovsky score, transposed by David Berger, Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington.

"It's a whole different animal," Mr. Schnell said. "We were looking for a project for the dance department of the Children's Theatre. There are so many student productions of 'The Nutcracker.' We have a strong classical ballet program, but many students

are also in musicals and taking tap and modern dance. We wanted something our kids could do that is unique for them."

Mr. Schnell, who was formerly a dancer and choreographer with companies including the Sarasota Ballet, Nevada Ballet Theatre and Les Ballets Trocadero de Monte Carlo, was familiar with a production by Donald Berg entitled "The Harlem Nutcracker." The jazz greats had taken the Tchaikovsky score and adapted it for that production, set in Harlem after World War II.

"That production ceased in 2002," Mr. Schnell said. "No one was using the score and we secured the rights to it. I tailor-made the story so that it would work for our kids and be sustainable from year to year."

Mr. Schnell set the story in 1938 so that it was before the country plunged into war.

"I wanted the energy and optimism or that era," he said. "I didn't want the WW II 'Nutcracker.'"

The production takes advantage of Riverside Theatre's strengths.

"Sets and props are not a problem because we have our own shops," Mr. Schnell said. "I wanted the costumes to have a nod to classical costumes. I contacted Travis Halsey, a friend at the Joffrey Ballet. Seventy-five percent of the clothes were built for us. One of the cool things is a Chinese dragon puppet for the 'Dance of the Chinese Acrobats.' He can make a tutu and a dragon."

Mr. Schnell didn't have far to look for the set designer. Jon Moses, managing director of the Riverside, took on that task.

"I've known him since he was technical director," Mr. Schnell said. "He's not designing much anymore. I asked him if he wanted to design the

sets and he took on that responsibility on top of everything else he does around here."

This production takes place in the Anne Morton Theatre. With 200 seats, it is a more intimate space than the main stage.

"To build an audience for dance, you have to bring them close to the action," Mr. Schnell said. "I wanted it to be in an intimate setting where they felt a part of the action."

For the choreographer, this been a rewarding project.

"Nobody has heard this version of the score before and I'm only the third choreographer to tackle it," he said. "It's what the Riverside does. We try to put our stamp on it."

"It's inspiring to me as a dancer. I can't tell you the number of classical 'Nutcrackers' I've been in, and to take

See **NUTCRACKER**, Page 17

AAA – So much more than emergency road service

By Mike Ellis
For Forever Young

It's a well-known fact that AAA is Florida's number one source for reliable emergency road service. However, if consumers are determining the value of a AAA membership based on the amount of emergency road service that they may need, then they are missing out on the features and benefits that a AAA membership truly offers.

The truth is, that the value of membership comes not only from road service, but from the many discounts and services that members receive. A visit to a AAA office or to AAA.com is the quickest and easiest way for a member to take advantage of these money-saving benefits.

Many AAA members have taken

the time to get Maps and TripTiks® from their local AAA office, but they may not have taken the time to sit with a AAA travel professional to explore fantastic travel representatives for cruise and tour adventures. Similarly, they may not have sat with a AAA insurance professional for a competitive quote on home or auto insurance.

The insurance professionals at AAA in Vero Beach have over 40 years combined experience in providing protection that's right for peoples' individual needs. Most homeowners in Indian River County qualify for AAA's Package Policy for Home & Auto, which can save money by combining home and auto insurance into one policy. AAA Insurance Agency is open to members and nonmembers, although on some policies, AAA member discounts

may apply.

While visiting the AAA Vero Beach office, AAA members can purchase discounted movie and attraction tickets to many of the major theme parks. Members are also always welcome to passport photos, notary service, and copy services, free of charge. And outside of the AAA office, additionally, members can save when presenting their AAA membership card at many of AAA's partnering local and national retailers and restaurants. This includes a 30 percent discount at LensCrafters and a 10 percent discount at Payless Shoe Source.

This year, AAA is proud to sponsor Santa Claus at the Indian River Mall. In partnering with the Indian River Mall this holiday season, a AAA discount will be offered to all members coming to the shopping center

to have photos done with Santa. AAA will have representatives at the mall to answer questions about insurance, travel, and membership.

In tough economic times, consumers are heavily weighing the value of the products and services provided for the cost of services offered. And because AAA membership includes emergency road service, savings, and travel and insurance services all in one, it's clear that membership remains more of a necessity than a luxury, even in tough times.

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Calendar

From page 5

For more information, contact (772) 770-5040.

Saturday, Dec. 3

Florida Cracker Christmas

The Blue Ribbon Charitable Foundation presents A Florida Cracker Christmas at the Heritage Center, 2140 14th Avenue, Vero Beach, from 7 p.m. – 11 p.m.

The tickets are \$50 per person, proceeds from the event benefitting Pet Medical Assistance Program (PMAP) as well as Dogs and Cats Forever No-Kill Shelter.

There will be a country dinner catered by Elizabeth Kennedy, a blue grass band and a silent auction.

For more information, call (772) 562-1357.

Christmas Parade

The Vero Beach Christmas Parade will take place on Ocean Drive, Vero

Beach at 5:30 p.m.

There are lots of participants, the Vero Beach High School marching band and Santa.

For more information and parade entry forms, contact parade coordinator Karen Dodson at (772) 532-7389.

Sebastian Christmas and Holiday Parade

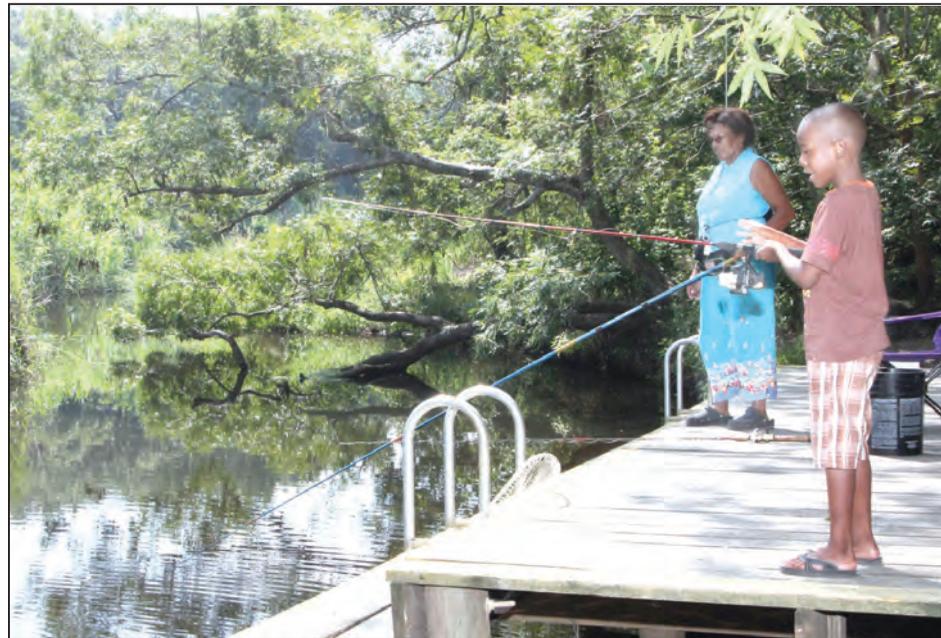
The Sebastian Christmas and Holiday Parade will start at 6 p.m. on Main Street in Sebastian and travel south to Indian River Drive to Riverview Park, and deliver Santa on his beautifully decorated house.

The City Christmas tree will be lit and children can visit with Santa and share their holiday wishes.

If you, your club, service organization or family would like to participate in the parade, place contact the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce (772) 589-5969 for registration, or Bruce Zingman (772) 228-9938.

See **CALENDAR**, 11

Time with Grandma



File photo

Seven-year-old Cornelius Robinson spent some time fishing at the Sebastian Canoe Ramp with his grandmother Vivian Lemelle recently. Even though the pair was unsuccessful in bringing in the 'big one,' they cherished their time together.

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Christmas pig roast about family as much as food

For me Christmas has always been a time to enjoy family and lots of good food. As I look back over the years I must say I have fond memories of each and every one.

But a few stand out.

One that I treasure happened in the middle 1980's when my younger sister Linda, her husband and two sons moved west of DeLand to a little spot called Paisley. If you are

not familiar, it is a very small rural outpost about five miles west of the St. Johns River that is completely surrounded by the huge Ocala National Forest. Their new home was situated on a very large and hilly lot.

At that time, Linda and I had lots of extended family living around Central Florida and we decided to try and get them all together for a

holiday pig roast. As roast master it was my job to go up to Pierson to buy a fully dressed hog of nearly 100 pounds. It was fun going to the country slaughterhouse to pick out our pig and spend a few moments with the man who had raised it.

At my insistence it was to be the men who would do the cooking. First, I dug a long shallow pit and covered it with steel bars. Some of the others went into the forest and brought back truck after truck of hard wood. The night before Christmas Eve, we began by building a giant bonfire. As the wood burned down we shoveled the hot coals under the pig and readied ourselves for a long night. To do this job properly the hog must be slow cooked with lots of love and attention.

The key to the whole thing would be my secret recipe barbecue sauce of which I concocted about four gallons (you can never have too much sauce).

As the night began, my helpers numbered about 10 but as Linda's well-fortified homemade eggnog started to take effect, the men began to look for a spot to curl up and nap. Around midnight the cracklins (pig skin, for you city folk) reached crispy perfection and we all eagerly dipped them in my delicious sauce and ate our fill. Having regained our senses somewhat, a TV-VCR set up was brought out and we all watched one of the earliest versions of "A Christmas Carol." As we hissed and booed Scrooge and cheered for Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim we poured whiskey all around, foregoing the eggnog this round.

Now, for a big time pig roast like this to be successful the animal must be turned regularly. That task required four men to each grab a leg and make the flip. Unfortunately, by 2 a.m. there was only a quarter of that number awake — me — and I was becoming undependable.

A couple hours later, my first cousin Randy woke up long enough to stagger over and fall onto the



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DAN SMITH

picnic table, dumping out the entire four gallons of prize-winning barbecue sauce. As the sun came up, we were all asleep and the pig was getting cold. Along about 10 a.m. of Christmas Eve we were able to give the pig a couple hours of concentrated attention and the part that wasn't burned seemed to be cooked pretty well.

That afternoon all of the womenfolk began to show up with their delicious side dishes and desserts. That evening we all ate outdoors and most agreed that the hog had turned out OK, considering the cooks' lapse in sobriety and hence, attention. No one but me seemed to mind that there was no sauce.

Right at the top of the hill on Linda's property grew a Florida cedar tree over 30 feet tall. Each family had brought a strand of colored lights from their own tree and we strung them on the big cedar. When it was completely dark we plugged it in amid "oohs" and "aahs." Later we were told it could be seen for miles.

Of course, the women began to sing Christmas songs and the hungover men tried to join in as well as they could. It was certainly a Christmas to remember.

Sadly, my sister Linda, who was a true baby boomer (born in 1947), passed away in 2003. But memories like these of that crazy pig roast keep her in our hearts — especially during the holidays.

These days family is still so important this time of year. My wife Lana and I center our holidays around our daughter Shayla's beautiful 8-year-old, our granddaughter Delayana.

We would like to wish a merry Christmas to you all. Please enjoy each other while you can.

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Calendar

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Farmers Market Beachside

Farmers Market Beachside will take place Dec. 3, 10 and 17 from 8 a.m. – noon at the corner of Ocean Drive and Dahlia Lane across from Humiston Park.

Fresh and locally grown produce, poultry, honey, citrus, seafood, and plants will be available for purchase.

Local artisans will have breads, spices, cheese, sausages and spreads.

There will be live music by David Potter.

Sunday, Dec. 4

Christmas is Coming!

First Baptist Church Sanctuary, 2206 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, will have its second annual Christmas is Coming concert event presented by The Academy for the Performing arts at 6:30 p.m.

A variety of performers including the Academy's instructors and other artists from the community; this is a

concert to bring in the spirit of Christmas. There will also be a sing-a-long for the audience to participate.

Bring a friend and experience many different instrumental and vocal performances at this concert. All ages welcome. No RSVP required.

A free-will offering will support the music programs of the Academy, a non-profit music school.

For more information, contact (772) 567-4341.

Lunch and Lecture with Author Harry Getzov

Enjoy lunch, a lecture and a complimentary book from author Harry Getzov, the author of "gOld," at Quail Valley River club, 2345 A1A, Vero Beach.

He interviewed over 1,600 "older" people including Hugh Downs and Maya Angelou for his book "gOld."

Proceeds from this event will go to the Treasure Coast Community Health Foundation. TCCH is a not for profit organization to provide medical and dental care to residents of Indian River County at no or low cost.

Tickets are \$100 per person.

See **CALENDAR, 15**

History keeper



File photo

Marion Newbold has been archiving the papers of Alex Hallstrom and his family at the Hallstrom House in south Indian River County for the past three years. On June 6, 2002, the historical site was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.



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Merritt Island an outdoorsman's paradise

Parks, recreational facilities abound

By Jennifer Nessmith
For Forever Young

If you're in search of the "great outdoors" for your next staycation, look no further than Merritt Island.

Situated in central Brevard County, Merritt Island is home to more than 20 county-operated parks, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and several venues that cater to extreme sports.

The Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1963 as an overlay of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center, consists of 140,000 acres of a wide variety of habitats for more than 1,500 plants

and animals. Those habitats include coastal dunes, saltwater estuaries and marshes, freshwater impoundments, scrub, pine flatwoods and hardwood hammocks.

Sandee Larsen, office manager for the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge Association, a "friends" group for the refuge with more than 1,000 members, said the main points of interest for the refuge are the Visitor's Center, the Black Point Wildlife Drive and the Haulover Canal Manatee Observation Deck.

"Black Point is a 7-mile, self-guided auto tour with 12 stops," Ms.

See **PARADISE**, Page 13

Jered Sundin of Titusville does a nifty rail trick at the Paradise Skatepark and Funplex in Merritt Island. The attraction also has an 18-hole putt-putt golf course and three paintball fields.



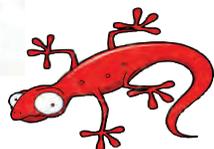
Andy Stefanek
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Dr. Prinsen received her medical degree from and completed her family medicine residency at the University of Montreal Faculty of Medicine in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Prior to joining Indian River Medical Center, Dr. Prinsen was affiliated with Hospital Maisonneuve-Rosemont in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Northwest Medical Center in Thief River Falls, MN; Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont, NH; Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, NH; and New London Hospital in New London, NH. Most recently she served as preceptor for the On Doctoring Program for first and second year medical students at Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, NH.

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Paradise

From page 12

Larsen said. "Basically, you'll see water and wading birds, alligators, otters, turtles and birds of prey. It's the one stop you're sure to see some wildlife."

There are also opportunities for fishing, hunting, boating and paddling.

The Visitor's Center is located 3-1/2 miles east of State Road 402. For more information, call (321) 861-0668 or visit <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/Index.html>.

Most county parks are situated along bodies of water, including the Indian River, Banana River and Sykes Creek. Activities cater to nearly every type of sport imaginable; from surf fishing and swimming to canoeing and kayaking to volleyball and horseshoe, the opportunities for physical activity are nearly endless.

Kelly Park East, located at 2550 N. Banana River Drive, is a 15-acre park

internationally recognized for its windsurfing area along the Banana River. The park features a natural catamaran/sailboard launch area with a sandy beach, shower, boat ramps, dock, pavilion, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains.

Kiwanis Island Park, situated in a wildlife sanctuary, caters to active and passive recreational pursuits, including boating, rowing and paddling in Sykes Creek, the Barge Canal and the Banana River, as well as fishing, basketball, softball, tennis, racquetball and wildlife viewing.

The park contains two lighted adult softball fields, a community center, full indoor and outdoor basketball courts, a boat launch and two-lane boat ramp, picnic areas and playgrounds.

Kiwanis Island Park is at 951 Kiwanis Island Park Road. Call (321) 455-1380.

Ulumay Wildlife Sanctuary, located at 805 Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island, is a 436-acre bird reserva-

See **PARADISE**, Page 18



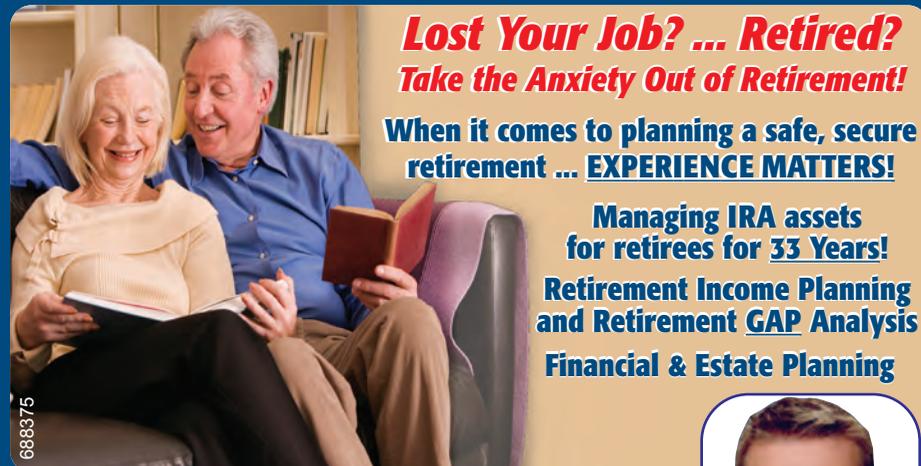
Carl Hanson of Merritt Island prepares to skate the half-pipe at Paradise Skatepark and Funplex in Merritt Island. The Skatepark has both indoor and outdoor skating areas for skateboarders and bikes as well as three paintball fields and a putt-putt course.

Andy Stefanek
staff photographer

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Rowing their boat



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Members of the Indian River Rowing Club practice recently in the C-54 Canal in Fellsmere. From left, Phyllis Leonard, bow, Bob Snyder, 2 seat, Betsy Nolan, 3 seat, Janet Tucker, 4 seat, Dennis Rings, 5 seat, Pam Yost, 6 seat, David Holmes, 7 seat, Todd Young, stroke, and Barney Barnes, coxswain.

Miracle

From page 6

bolize the words, "a great miracle happened there." The game originally had a serious purpose.

"The teaching of Hebrew was banned," the rabbi said. "It was a way of getting a chance to teach. When soldiers came, it was turned into a game."

Chanukah is one of the few holidays not mentioned in the Hebrew Bible and is not truly a major holiday, the rabbi said. It was not meant to be a gift-giving holiday; the tradition was to give Chanukah gelt, originally made of gold coins. Today, Chanukah gelt is more likely chocolate wrapped in gold foil paper.

"Chanukah is a time for fun and story," the rabbi said. "It also celebrates freedom and religious tolerance and of finding ways to increase light in the world. You put the menorah in the window or a public place. It shows what is being celebrated."

Temple Beth Shalom is located at 365 43rd Ave., Vero Beach. Call (772) 569-4700.



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Calendar

From page 11

For more information and to make a reservation, call (772) 571-1983.

Thursday, Dec. 8

Emerson Center Florida Humanities Series

The Ashley Gang will be performing at The Emerson Center, 1590 27th Avenue, on the SE corner of 16th Street and 27th Avenue in Vero Beach at 7 p.m.

"Tell tall tales, having fun with Florida songs and stories." Known for their soaring harmonies, witty repartee and thought provoking lyrics, the Ashley Gang has been performing together for more than a decade.

Holiday refreshments will follow the performance.

Admission is free.

For more information, contact (772) 778-5249 or visit www.TheEmersonCenter.org.

Friday, Dec. 9

Tidings of Joy: Sounds of the Season

The winter concert, held at Trinity Episcopal Church, 2365 Pine Avenue, Vero Beach, on Dec. 9 and 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The concert is highlighted by choral holiday classics, popular carols, and a debut of a new women's ensemble focused on the theme of motherhood. There is also harp, organ and hand percussion accompaniment.

Tickets are \$20 and \$5 for students.

For more information, call (772) 567-1146.

The Comedy Zone

Riverside Theatre's, 3250 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach, monthly showcase of up-and-coming comedians touring the comedy circuit will take place at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15.

For more information, call (772) 231-6990.

Nutcracker: In Swing Time

The Riverside Children's Theatre, 3250 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach, will hold the classic holiday musical with a musical twist in this original adaptation.

The play will be at the Anne Morton Theatre Dec. 9 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 10, 17 and 18 at 1 p.m.

Tickets for adults are \$12-\$18 and children are \$6-\$9.

For more information, call (772) 231-6990.

Saturday, Dec. 10

Silver Tones Public Concert

Come out and listen to your favorite holiday tunes while finishing up your Christmas Shopping at the Indian River Mall, 6200 20th Street, Vero Beach.

For more information, contact the mall office at (772) 770-9404.

Thursday, Dec. 15

Lincoln Park Academy Wind

Ensemble 'On the Road to New York'

The Lincoln Park Academy's Wind Ensemble will have a musical performance Fundraiser concert at Trinity Episcopal Church, 2365 Pine Avenue, Vero Beach at 7 p.m.

The concert is free to attend but donations are accepted. The concert will help to send the band members to New York City.

Silver Tones and Gifford Youth Orchestra Concert

The Senior Resource Association's Silver Tones Chorus, will have a performance at the Emerson Center, 1590 27th Ave, Vero Beach, sponsored by the Leo and Peggy Pierce Family Foundation, began in 2007 with the vision of providing seniors with a meaningful musical outlet that not only encourages the unique talents of seniors, but also provides a service to the highest attended events for Senior Resource Association, bringing in over 150 attendees per performance. To reach a wider audience, this Silver Tones con-



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Census research

After collecting as much information as possible on your ancestors by interviewing relatives, finding pictures, documents, tombstones, etc., it is time to get down to some serious genealogy research. One of the first resources that is the most important and easiest to find, is the federal census.

The U.S. government has conducted a household census in every state, every 10 years since 1790.

The census records from 1790-1930 can be searched by the public except for 1890, which was destroyed by fire. They are arranged by states and then by counties, and then in, many cases by towns or districts. Some states also took their own census in odd years..

The 1850-1880 census records include a separate mortality census listing everyone who had died in the previous year. There are also slave census records for 1850 and

See **CENSUS**, 19

GENEALOGY BRENDA K. SMITH



As you work your way through each census, you will find differences in the spellings of names, family members will come and go, and the family will move around the country. Each census taker had his own style. Some used only initials, some used only a first name regardless of which name is preferred.

Calendar

From page 15

certs will feature performances from the Gifford Youth Orchestra.

For more information, contact Kelly De Long, Senior Center manager, at (772) 469-2062.

Sunday, Dec. 18

A Stan Kenton Merry Christmas and Duke Ellington Nutcracker

The Space Coast Jazz All-Stars will present two iconic Christmas albums at the Emerson Center, 1590 27th Avenue, Vero Beach at 2:30 p.m.

The professional jazz orchestra will present big band arrangements of holiday classics from the legendary Stan Kenton, Merry Christmas and Duke Ellington's Nutcracker, Christmas Album hits such as "O Holy Night," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman," "Angels We Have Heard On High," "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and more.

The second half of the concert will feature Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite

which transforms Tchaikovsky's classic jazz expression. Ellington and writing partner Bill Strayhorn created this hybrid album in the 1960's. Hailed as the two greatest Christmas big band arrangements of all time coupled with this spectacular group of musicians, this entertaining program will keep you on the edge of the seat all night.

Tickets are \$20 purchased in advance and may be reserved or purchased online at www.SpaceCoastSymphony.org or by calling (321) 536-8580.

Tickets at the door are an additional \$5. Students 18 years of age and under are admitted free.

Friday, Dec. 23

Santa to Visit Credit Union

Friday afternoon will have some extra holiday cheer at Indian River Federal Credit Union, 11368 US Highway 1, Sebastian, when Santa returns for his traditional IRFCU photo sessions.

The event will take place from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. and is free for all IRFCU members.

For more information, go to www.irfcu.com or call (772) 770-5020.



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Change is good! (usually)

Times change, dress changes, Even 'THE CHANGE' has changed.

I know some of us (usually the men-folk) yearn for the 'Old Days' when things were simpler (For them!) but I don't think I would have fared very well at all. I cannot picture myself in a woolen bathing suit rushing home from taking the kids to the beach so I can have a home-cooked lunch waiting for my husband when he gets home from the polls... while fighting hot flashes ... During prohibition....

Families have certainly changed; when I go to my grandson's high school football games I find myself surrounded by my son, his younger children, his beautiful new wife, her children, my ex-daughter-in-law, her new husband, their new daughter and my son's ex-mother-in-law. Each and every one of us is standing, yelling and slapping each other on the back when our team scores.

Most symptoms of 'THE CHANGE' are now treatable to a certain extent, shortening the late night hours spent fanning ourselves with the freezer door considerably.

Holidays may be one constant in our lives, but the way we celebrate has certainly come a long way.

When my children were young we usually had the big family day at our house. Due in large part to the fact that I was usually absent from the family meetings where location was decided, my husband's family would converge in the morning, cousins usually began running and

ROSE'S ROOM ROSE PADRICK



screaming in all directions just about the time Macy's parade began, we would be finishing the last piece of pie (for the moment) just as the game came on, then coffee and more pie during half time.

As my family aged and grew with the addition of "significant others", the arrival of my grandchildren and new sets of in-laws, we re-invented our celebrations as necessary.

I began serving a brunch on the holidays. We all brought something for brunch and my children could spend half the day with us then be free to enjoy turkey and trimmings with the other side of their families. Contrary to popular opinion, (usually from the other side of the families) I did not arrange things this way to have the pleasure of my grandchildren's company when they were awake and bright in the morning, not tired and cranky later in the afternoon. Nor was it my intention to be the Grammy who loves them the most by filling them with hand/turkey cookies or gingerbread men just to send them to their other grandparents. (But I have to admit the words "favoritist Grammy in the world!" did spread a special kind of

See **ROSE'S**, 20

Nutcracker

From page 7

it and re-imagine it, with similarities, and say 'this is cool' is so amazing. The snowflakes are really going to swing."

The Riverside Children's Theatre's

Dance Conservatory presents "The Nutcracker: In Swing Time," on Dec. 9 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 10-11 and 17-18 at a p.m. at the Anne Morton Theatre, 3280 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach. Tickets are \$12-18 for adults and \$6-9 for children under 17. Call the box office at (772) 231-6990 or visit the website www.riversidetheatre.com.

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Awareness is key to protecting your identity

Proactive protection can help you stay safe

By **Hermes Alvarez**
For Hometown News

Imagine getting a phone call informing you that someone has used your name and Social Security number to apply for a credit card, or receiving a collection notice in the mail for a delinquent account that isn't yours – but is attributed to your name and home address. Every day, consumers find out someone is illegally using their personal information to make purchases and open new financial accounts, like credit cards and loans.

Undetected, identity fraud can lead to difficulties in applying for a mortgage, loan, new credit card or bank accounts – even if you've had great credit for years. The road to recovery may be a long, aggravating journey, especially when you don't catch fraud immediately.

Last year, 8.1 million adults were the victims of identity

fraud, according to a recent Javelin Strategy & Research Identity Fraud Survey.

Here are some tips to help protect yourself from an identity nightmare:

Online:

When creating passwords, don't use information that easily could be linked to you – like your birth date, Social Security number, phone number, or the names of family and pets. Using a mix of numbers, letters, and characters to create your password makes it harder for others to guess.

Change your passwords every 30 days, and use unique passwords on each site you access.

Whether you're providing financial information for a loan or placing an order online, be sure the site you're using is secure. Look for a URL that begins with "https://", and has a "closed padlock" symbol in the lower right-

See ID, 22

Paradise

From page 13

tion and sanctuary that offers a "wilderness escape in an urban environment." The park is known to birdwatchers worldwide as a natural lagoon and bird rookery, linked with canals created for mosquito control and surrounded by a man-made dike. A trail on the dike provides access to waterways for fisherman, birdwatchers and paddlers. Be on the lookout for dolphin and birds such as the wood stork, belted kingfisher and white or brown pelican.

For the extreme sports enthusiasts, Merritt Island's Paradise Skatepark & Funplex offers one of the largest indoor and outdoor parks on the coast, with a 18,000-square-foot outdoor park and a 10,000-square-foot indoor park featuring state-of-the-art ramps.

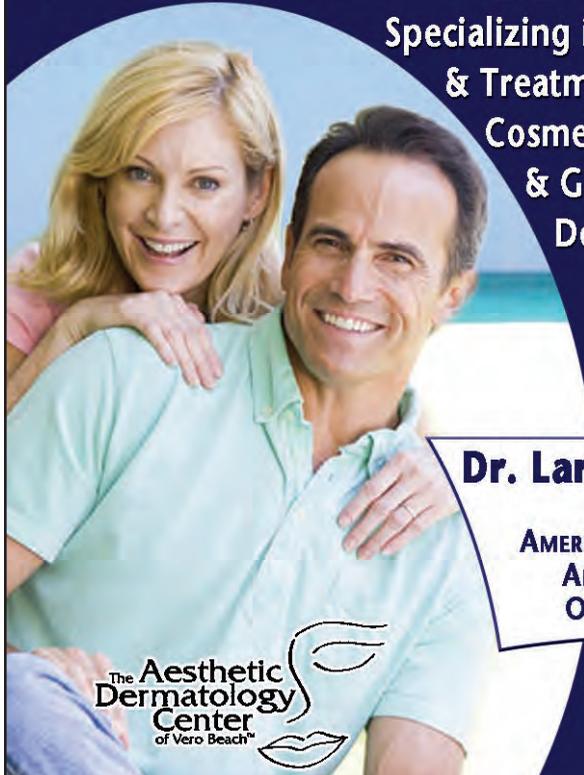
The Funplex also has a BMX course and an 18-hole miniature golf course.

Paradise Funplex is at 555 Fortenberry Road, Merritt Island. For more information, call (321) 454-7777 or visit www.paradisefunplex.com.

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Use the numbers provided in the puzzle below to help you fill in the empty squares. When you are finished, every row, every column, and every block of nine puzzle squares should include each of the numbers 1 to 9.

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

We want to hear from you

The theme for February's Forever Young is "Matters of the heart." If you're single and over 50, you may have noticed dating has changed since your teens and 20s. You've likely been married, divorced or widowed at this stage in your life, and out of the dating game for a while. And with the advent of online dating sites and social networking, meeting people has become both easier (as close as your computer) and harder than ever (is the person really who he or she says they are?). We'd like to hear your experiences.

We'd like to hear your experiences.

You can send your thoughts and story ideas to foreveryoungIRC@hometownnewsol.com. The deadline is Dec. 15.

Census

From page 16

1860.

Many researchers ignore these records completely, or only look at one or two records for their family, assuming they have learned all the facts they need. Each family should be followed all the way back through the census every 10 years, picking up children, parents, brothers and sisters, in-laws and any other relatives that show up in the household or neighborhood.

From 1790-1840, the census only named the head of the household, and gave the number of people living in the house. From 1850 forward, each member of the household was named, with their sex, age, and place of birth. Each census became more complex, asking more questions, adding relationships, occupations, parents' places of birth, number of years married, number of children given birth to, and other pertinent clues.

Starting with the 1930 census, and working backward, you should look at your family, taking down all the information given and looking at the neighboring families.

Often, other family members are living nearby, and these need to be noted, also. If there are other families with the same surname, they are possibly parents, brothers, uncles and cousins. John's father may be living next door to him, and in his household is grandma or grandpa. Viola!! You have three generations laid out on one or two pages.

As you work your way through each census, you will find differences in the spellings of names, family members will come and go, and the family will move around the country. Each census taker had his own style. Some used only initials, some used only a first name regardless of which name is preferred. Sometimes the correct name is used, the next time it will be a nickname. Ages also will change from census to census. Use this information as a guide and not as absolute fact.

The first order of business is census work. Information gathered here will make the rest of your research much easier.

*Brenda Knight Smith,
Treasure Coast Genealogical Society
BrendaKSmith@prodigy.net*

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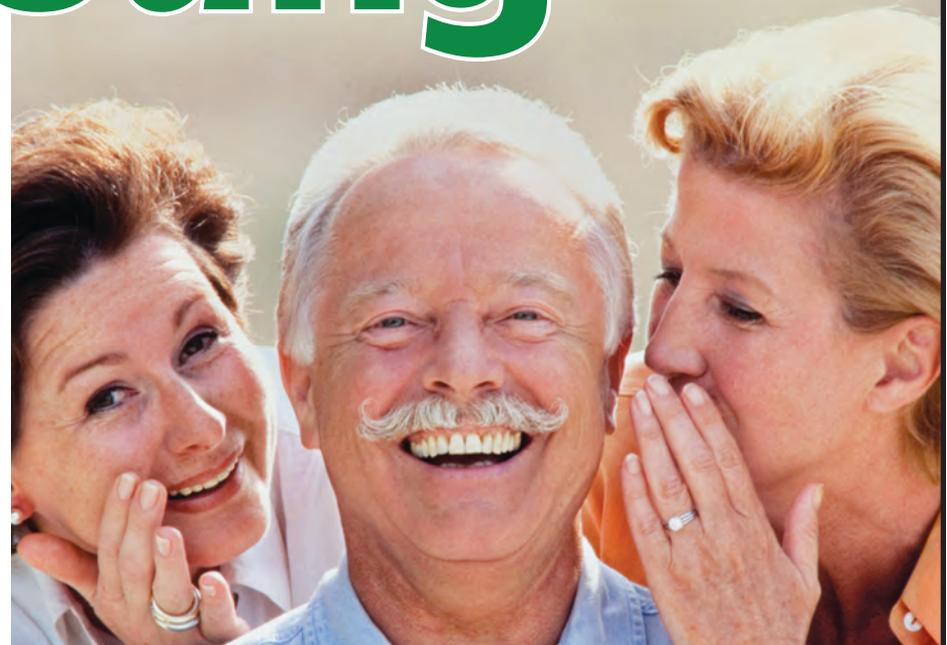




Photo courtesy of Rose Padrick

The Padrick clan at this year's 'Thanksmas' celebration. Rose Padrick, author of Rose's Room, is pictured in the center in pink.

Rose's

From page 17

warmth throughout my sleep-deprived soul, as did the nap that I was now able to grab later in the afternoon).

But still we grew. None of us have homes large enough to accommodate 45 plus people and still have room for all the cousins (second and third generation now) to run and scream, so we once again became harbingers of change.

Our latest change-vention is a huge gathering in a nearby park. We are blessed to live in a place that lives up to the title "The Sunshine State," so renting a pavilion at any of the beautiful parks in Brevard works out wonderfully.

Our favorite place so far is Kars Park. The pavilions are near the playgrounds, which is excellent for all the little ones and one Grammy who has to stop playing every once in a while and be a grown-up, but sneaks

See ROSE'S, 21

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

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Rose's

From page 20

back the first chance she gets.

Since gathering my large brood into one place at one time has become akin to herding cats, especially during the holidays, we now celebrate THANKSMAS.

Plastic Thanksgiving and Christmas tablecloths surround the hand-embroidered linen masterpiece left to me by my mother. My brother's old fashioned biscuit warmer holds store-bought dinner rolls; shorts and tennis shoes are better suited to flag football games than white shirts and ties.

The annual Padrick "Oldsters vs. Youngsters" volleyball game (the youngsters won this year! That'll teach my kids not to let me play on their team!) has replaced sitting on the couch, yelling at football players on the small screen.

There are special challenges to having the traditional dinner outside, away from stoves and microwaves, but it's always a learning experience. You can't blow out Sterno (my eyebrows should grow back in a month or so). If

you bring canned cranberries, you really should bring can openers. If a mom doesn't actually see a Grammy pass the third piece of chocolate pie to the child sitting behind a bush, it didn't really happen.

Actually there are some things that never change in this life, and I wish them on each and every person reading this. The warm, sweet smell of a tired little child who has laughed and played so long that he falls into an exhausted slumber in your lap; the feel of cool grass between your toes when you shed your shoes to cool off after running a full 10 feet before someone steals the ball away from you, the lovely peacefulness that permeates your whole body when you look around and realize there is no place in the whole world you would rather be.

Happy Holidays to all, wherever and however you celebrate them!!!!!!!

Rose Padrick is a Brevard County resident who grew up in Merritt Island. She's written numerous columns and short stories published in various area newspapers and magazines and is currently awaiting publication of her children's book, "Sparky's Adventures."

Vision quest



File photo

Johnnie Peavy-Fisher, a Florida Eye Institute technician from Fort Pierce, checks Pat Cobb of Vero Beach for glaucoma during the Treasure Coast Community Health Back to School Resource Fair in August. Several area agencies were on hand to provide information about services in the area.

Hometown News
Forever Young
A monthly publication celebrating the active lifestyle of Florida's boomers

July 2011

Is 60 the new 40?
PAGE 6

Boot camp:
Get fit like a soldier
PAGE 27

Calendar:
Summer fun in the sun
PAGE 4

The time of their lives

Baby Boomers — raised on rock 'n' roll and rebellion — are growing old but not like their parents did. PAGE

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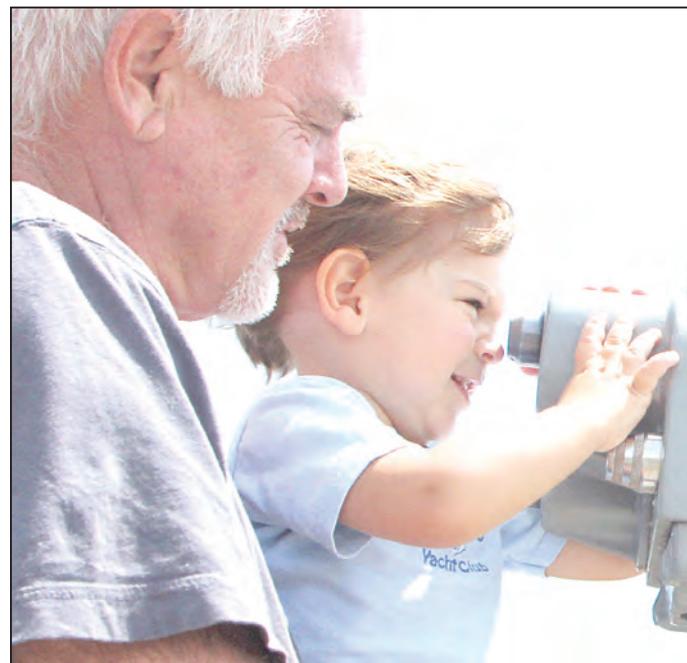
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Quality time



Vero Beach resident Mike McIlhinney holds his 2-year-old grandson Liam, up to the telescope on the observation deck at the McLarty Treasure Museum in June.

File photo

ID

From page 18

hand corner of your browser.

Using and regularly updating anti-virus and anti-spyware software on your computer can also help to safeguard your information from identity theft.

Never email personal information, such as account numbers or your social security number, to anyone, not even to yourself.

Offline:

It's a smart practice to review credit card and bank statements as soon as they arrive to ensure that all activity on your accounts is accurate.

U.S. consumers are entitled to one free credit report a year from the three main credit bureaus. Regularly reviewing your credit report lets you see if there are any interactions with companies you haven't contacted or accounts you didn't open.

If a bill or statement you regularly receive doesn't arrive as scheduled, follow up with the sender to find out why.

Use a paper shredder to shred any documents with account numbers, your social security number – even your address. It will help deter “dumpster diver” identity thieves from obtaining your personal information.

Never carry your Social Security card or number in your wallet or purse.

When writing checks, avoid listing your Social Security number, telephone or driver's license number, if possible.

Another way to help safeguard yourself is to subscribe to a program, such as TD Insurance's ITAC Sentinel® Plus, that offers to help protect you from identity theft by monitoring your accounts and personal information for you and sending you an alert if there is certain activity that could indicate identity theft.

One last tip:

If you or anyone you know may have fallen victim to identity theft, contact the three major credit bureaus right away — Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Doing so will let them place a fraud alert on your credit reports and help to ensure that no more fraudulent activities take place.

Then, close the accounts that you think have been jeopardized. File a police report and contact the Federal Trade Commission immediately to file a complaint, so they can record the fraudulent activity and work with other agencies to track down thieves.

Following these tips may help prevent a dreaded call or piece of mail that tells you your information is being used by someone without your permission.

Hermes Alvarez is vice president, Personal Lines, TD Insurance.

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