

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

SEBASTIAN RIVER AREA Hometown News

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deceptive ads on
web
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INSIDE

Vol. 10, No. 13 Your Local News and Information Source • www.HometownNewsOL.com Friday, Dec. 21, 2012

Up & coming

Be 'green' this holiday season

The Indian River County Solid Waste Disposal District encourages residents to think "green" and live "green" this holiday season by recycling and reusing.

Packing peanuts, Styrofoam packaging, wrapping paper, Christmas trees, computers, televisions and other electronics can all be recycled or reused.

Coming soon will be the annual electronics recycling event in Vero Beach to be held on Jan. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Indian River County Fairgrounds, 7955 58th Ave., Vero Beach.

For more information on recycling this holiday season, call (772) 770-5112.

Animal clinic offering gift certificates

The Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County is offering gift certificates for services offered by the shelter's animal wellness clinic.

The shelter's gift certificates can be purchased in any amount \$10 or higher, are good for one year from the date of purchase and may only be used for services and items offered by the Humane Society's animal wellness clinic.

For more information call (772) 388-0801. A listing of clinic services is also available by visiting www.hsvb.org.

NEWTOWN TRAGEDY

Hometown News, along with the rest of the country and world, is shocked and saddened by the events last week in Newtown, Conn. Readers, please let us know if we can help publicize events that are planned in our local community to help the people of Newtown.

ENTERTAINMENT B1

JURIED SHOW



A free photo club juried exhibit at Vero Museum of Art

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday: Partly cloudy; high: 72; low: 52; high tide: 2:43 a.m.; low tide: 8:51 a.m.
Saturday: Clear; high: 68; low: 52; high tide: 3:43 a.m.; low tide: 9:48 a.m.
Sunday: Partly cloudy; high: 73; low: 54; high tide: 4:39 a.m.; low tide: 10:40 a.m.
Weather courtesy of www.weather.com

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School district terminates temporary HR director

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — After five days on the job, the Indian River County School District's temporary human resources director was removed from his post.

During the Dec. 14 school board meeting, the board voted 4-0 to terminate a contract with the law firm Brown, Garganese, Weiss and D'Agresta for the consultant, Stu-

art Singer, who served the school board as the head of human resources. The vote came after a recommendation by Superintendent Fran Adams.

School board member Matt McCain was absent from the meeting. Mr. McCain was the only school board member to vote no on Mr. Singer's initial hire.

Superintendent Adams said the reason to terminate the contract with Mr. Singer was because he

was not the right person for the job.

Members of the community, as well as a state senator, had called into question the hiring of Mr. Singer because he retired at the end of November from serving in the Osceola County School District where he was part of the Florida Retirement System's

deferred retirement option program. See **SCHOOL, A2**

Wait time for permits to drop

Tax collectors may handle concealed weapons permits

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The wait time for appointments and applications for concealed weapons permits may soon be drastically reduced, said the county tax collector.

The state legislature is scheduled to vote on a bill this session that would allow the Department of Agriculture to give tax collectors authority to collect the information needed to apply for or renew the permits for carrying concealed weapons, said Carole Jean Jordan, Indian River County tax collector. Once the bill has been approved, there would be a few pilot sites for the program to be tested and Indian River County would be one of those sites, she said.

Currently, individuals interested in the permit must make an appointment at one of eight Department of Agriculture regional offices, or to the main office in Tallahassee, and fill out an application. The application includes payment, fingerprinting, a photograph, and electronic paperwork for identification and background information.

People can also mail in the information after getting the photo and fingerprints done at approved locations.

The problem with the current process is that it often takes two or more months to get an appointment, Ms. Jordan

See **TAX, A5**

New pirate playground set installed at sports complex



By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — Children visiting the Barber Street Sports Complex can drop anchor and play for hours on the new "Jolly Voyager" pirate ship playground.

The 45-foot by 30-foot

newly installed pirate ship playground can be found in a sea of rubber mulch at the Creative Playground site.

Young lads and lasses can scurry up and down the stairs, pop in and out of the portholes and walk the plank while imagining all sorts of nautical adventures.

The recreational revamp was granted \$100,000 from city impact fees, but the final expenditures are expected to cost less than that, said Chris McCarthy, Sebastian parks superintendent.

Impact fees are fees col-

Buddy Padgett of Stephens Installers sets a Jolly Roger flag on the new SS Playground at the Sebastian Creative Playground last Thursday.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

lected by the city on development projects, such as new businesses or residential homes, with the purpose of covering the cost of expansion or growth or capital improvements needed to allow the devel-

See **PLAYGROUND, A3**

Donation delays park closure

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — The private, off-leash dog park on 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach received a donation from a "Christmas angel" which will allow it to stay open through Feb. 28,

See **DOG, A2**



File photo

With a little coaxing, Kelsey Murphy gets Toby Mac over anarched obstacle during the 4H Dog Masters agility dog show at the Dogs For Life off-leash park in 2010. The park recently received an anonymous donation to keep it open until Feb. 28.

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Dog

From page A1

2013. Park directors had previously announced the park would close on Dec. 31.

Directors for Dogs For Life, the nonprofit that owns the 4.5 acre parcel, said membership levels and incoming dues have decreased to the point where keeping the park open was no longer feasible.

The park, which opened in 2002, will be put on the market in 2013, after a market study and appraisal is completed, directors said.

"It's breaking our hearts to

do it, but it is strictly a business decision," said Shelly Ferger, founder and executive director of Dogs For Life.

With the anonymous donation, the members will have the opportunity to review their options and will discuss if there is any way to keep the park open, a press release said.

Over the past few years the membership of Dogs For Life has plummeted, with the economy as a large factor, and without membership dues and donations, the park cannot be maintained, Ms. Ferger said.

Membership dues and donations were the only

source of funding for the park as no city or county money has been received.

Dogs For Life is a nonprofit organization begun in the late 1990s that trains dogs for hearing and mobility assistance, as well as pet therapy. The organization's leaders are also certified to train dogs to serve veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The main mission of the organization was always to train service dogs, not to run an off-leash dog park, though the membership has enjoyed its presence greatly, Ms. Ferger said.

"We will be moving full steam ahead in training

hearing, mobility and service dogs for veterans. We are definitely going to continue in that mission," she said.

"We would love to see the park continue as a dog park property. We really hope that is the case," Ms. Ferger added.

Dogs For Life is fully accredited by Assistance Dogs International and currently goes to the homes of individuals to train the dogs.

Hearing dogs are trained to recognize door knocks, ringing telephones, alarm clocks and smoke alarms and alert their hearing-impaired owners.

Mobility assistance dogs can be trained to do a vari-

ety of tasks, based on the needs of their physically challenged owners, such as rising from chairs and retrieving fallen objects.

Dogs For Life is one of the few organizations in Florida with the Assistance Dogs International accreditation and can provide the necessary certification required for dogs owned by veterans to receive benefits through the veterans administration.

One Dogs For Life trained-dog, Pia Pia, helps retired Iraqi veteran Jim Taylor live his life with freedom and mental well-being, Ms. Ferger said.

"We have many success stories which demonstrate

that a task-trained dog can save an individual's life by being trained to tap a 911 emergency phone," Ms. Ferger said in a press release.

In the next year, Dogs For Life will change its name to better match its mission in an effort to provide clarity to donors and the community at large, Ms. Ferger said.

Since 2002, 90 service dogs have been trained by Dogs for Life, including two veteran's dogs.

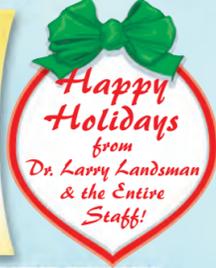
For more information about the Dogs for Life programs and services, call Ms. Ferger at (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifefvb.org.

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School

From page A1

By law, participants in the DROP system collect a pension after retirement and cannot be hired and paid by another organization using the Florida Retirement System for six months after the retirement date.

By hiring Mr. Singer as a consultant through the law firm of Brown, Garganese, Weiss and D'Agresta, the school board could pay the firm, who would then in turn, pay Mr. Singer. There is no state law prohibiting hire by a company not using the Florida Retirement System.

"What members of the community called into question was the legality of a person retiring (under the Florida Retirement System) and then be able to be brought on as a consultant

with the school district," Superintendent Adams said.

The rule of law is that the person cannot be an employee of, and be paid by a subsequent Florida Retirement System-using organization for six months, she said.

"Some people have strong opinions about this issue, but I wouldn't bring anything illegal or unethical forward," Superintendent Adams said.

Before the vote, school board member Claudia Jimenez said she was glad the issue with Mr. Singer has been resolved.

While the hiring of Mr. Singer may have been legal, his hire did not pass "the smell test," Ms. Jimenez said.

She said this experience has taught her to ask more questions and scrutinize carefully issues with poten-

tial conflict of interests and ask for more background information.

School board member Jeff Pegler also said the decision to hire Mr. Singer was the only decision in the past two years as a school board member he "agonized over after it was made."

Going around state law made him uneasy and revisiting the issue was in the best interest of the school district, so he was happy the superintendent brought the issue back up.

"I think this is the right thing to do at this time in this district," Mr. Pegler said.

The goal with Mr. Singer had been to fill a very large gap in the human resources department while a national search for someone to fill the position permanently was undertaken, said Superintendent Adams.

The position, which is an assistant superintendent position, has been vacant since July.

Superintendent Adams said an ad has been placed in a national industry magazine that will be published prior to the Christmas break and she is hopeful many candidates will submit their names and resumes for consideration.

Mr. Singer was unavailable for comment at press time.

For more about the Indian River County School District, visit www.indianriverschools.org.



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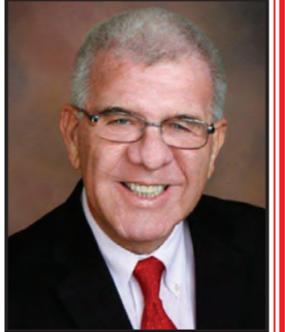
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Fun times at ELC



From left: Lochlain Dailey, 4, mom Kristie, brother and sister Merrick, 7 and Roween, 5, get geocaching instructions from Environmental Learning Center naturalist Sarah Rhodes-Ondi during Winter Green Night Lights last Thursday evening. About 200 people took part in the two-day event, which included canoeing in the lit mangrove trail, shell ornament and holiday cookie making.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

Playground

From page A1

opment to occur. The playground total came to \$80,943, and still to come are more sidewalks, extra landscaping and a few more picnic tables. None of those items are expected to take the project over budget, he said.

The old playground was made of wood and sections of the fortress had deteriorated over the years. On the recommendation of the city insurance provider, the playground was demolished, Mr. McCarthy said.

Sand had been the surface type of choice in years past, but to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, the new playground will have rubberized mulch, which is also used at the Easy Street Park in Sebastian.

The pirate playground area also had new canopy shades installed, which were part of a different parks improvement project.

For more information about city parks, visit www.cityofsebastian.org/parks.



Volunteers Karen Falcon, George Henkle, top and Cindy Pless, bottom, help Marinezi Marceleno, 7, Valeria Garcia, 8, Misael Marceleno, 10, Geraldo Andrade, 7, and mom Veronica Marceleno into a Environmental Learning Center canoe for canoeing under the twinkling lights during Winter Green Night Lights last Thursday evening.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

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Visiting the center's touch tank



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

The Environmental Learning Center opened its campus for the holidays for Winter Green Night Lights last Thursday and Friday. Reef Blackman, 3, enjoys time with Jean Taber in the Imagination Station's touch tank.

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Theater partners with nonprofit

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have noticed the United Way thermometer on Riverside Park Drive, or maybe saw the United Way banners in the lobby of the theater. These are all signs of a growing relationship between the theater and the community it serves.

"Riverside Theatre is an See **THEATER, A8**

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Police report

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

Arrests listed were made from Dec. 5 to Dec. 11, 2012

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

- Erick Russell Blois, 41, 529 Peterson St., Sebastian, was charged with burglary of an occupied dwelling and misdemeanor charges of battery and second-degree petit theft.
- Christina Rebecca Jane Romano, 29, homeless, Sebastian, was charged with third-degree grand theft, grand theft of a firearm and dealing in stolen property.
- Lauren Ann Tritt, 32, 2355 16th Ave. Southwest, Vero Beach, was charged with bigamy.
- Kiley Michelle Yandle, 24, 1345 44th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of oxycodone and felony criminal mischief.
- Amanda Nicole Carradi, 25, 2671 Victory Blvd., Apt. 207, Vero Beach, was charged with organized fraud.
- William Andrew Gregory, 30, 1555 14th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with aggravated abuse of the elderly or disabled and felony battery with a prior conviction.
- Christopher Lamar Jones, 33, 4095 42nd Square, Vero Beach, was charged with possession of cocaine.
- Marques Lo'Wendell Latti-

- more, 18, 975 Ninth Court S.W., Vero Beach, was charged with grand theft.
- Jacob Max Layne-Goodman, 23, 2614 49th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with aggravated assault domestic violence.
- Ashley Rose McElroy, 29, 1721 Pointe West Way, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for organized fraud.
- Michael Levoy McKinney, 23, 4209 36th Court, Vero Beach, was charged with third-degree grand theft.
- Debra Ann Schaefer, 47, 11135 Airport Drive, Sebastian, was charged with possession of oxycodone, possession of a controlled substance, dilaudid and misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting arrest without violence.
- Kenneth Ivan Daugherty, 50, homeless, Vero Beach, was charged with resisting arrest with violence and misdemeanor charges of disorderly intoxication and criminal mischief.
- Humberto Garibay Gamez, 25, 9416 129th Court, Fellsmere, was charged with possession of cocaine.
- Michael Alexander Kwiecinski, 27, homeless, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation and a misdemeanor charge of second-degree petit theft.
- Nicholas Marr, 26, 813 Essex Lane, Sebastian, was charged with aggravated abuse of the elderly or disabled and a misdemeanor charge of battery.
- Tiffany Elaine Miglorie, 39,

- 3938 44th Lane, Vero Beach, was charged with two counts of obtaining or attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud.
- Brent Forrest Owens, 34, 1865 Fourth Lane, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for criminal mischief.
- Steeven Richard Walter, 21, 165 Acorn Terrace, Sebastian, was charged with tampering with or destroying evidence, possession of a controlled substance and violation of probation. He was on probation for grand theft.
- Reuel Edward Warriner, 74, 8785 Lakeside Blvd., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of a controlled substance.
- Alonzo Demichael Jefferson, 18, 644 25th St. Southwest, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for possession of cannabis, resisting arrest without violence and introduction of contraband into a county detention facility.
- Luciano Ersilio Paternoster, 18, 1980 Spotted Owl Drive S.W., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of ecstasy and a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana.
- Jared Joseph Rapp, 21, 516 Gerald St., Sebastian, was charged with possession of a controlled substance and misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia

- and marijuana.
- Melvin Eugene Gerald Walker, 30, 138 Admiral Circle Apt. A, Sebastian, was charged with possession of a firearm, ammunition or electric device by a convicted felon and a misdemeanor charge of discharging a firearm in public.
- Akira Monique Taylor, 21, 3991 47th St., Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for possession of cannabis and driving while license suspended with prior conviction.
- Carlos Juan Almanza, 25, 4055 41st Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for lewd or lascivious battery.
- Ralyssa Ann Casper, 18, 1271 Hometown Drive, Vero Beach, was charged with felony battery.
- Donald J. Dedominicis, 20, 9151 100th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with two counts of violation of probation. He was on probation for three counts of third-degree grand theft.
- Lamar A. Henry, 18, 170 Sixth Drive S.W., Vero Beach, was charged with battery on school personnel and a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct.
- Thomas Dozier Sikes, 46, 12 Castle Court, Fort Pierce, was charged with possession of cocaine.
- Cory Craig Smith, 36, 1180 35th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with third-degree

- grand theft.
- Whitney Barriner, 25, 1163 Bently Road, Leesburg, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for grand theft, forgery and uttering a forged instrument.
- William Charles Bond, 30, 2995 S.E. Aster Lane, Stuart, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for third-degree grand theft.
- Brittany Danielle Brown, 22, 5534 Place Lake Drive, Fort Pierce, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for third-degree grand theft.
- Doris Renee Dean, 39, 6001 N.W. Sixth Way, Unit 125, Fort Lauderdale, was charged with violation of probation.
- Jorge Guillen Bedolla, 29, 4825 38th Circle, Vero Beach, was charged with two counts of child abuse.
- Randolph Lee Mike, 23, 396 Bloxhams Ave., Stuart, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for grand theft and fraudulent use of personal identification information.
- Cheryl Lynn Monts, 27, 4070 N. Cypress Green Lane, Vero Beach, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for felony retail theft in concert with others.
- Katrina Renee Phillips, 26, 435 12th Road, Apt. 102, Vero Beach, was charged with third-degree grand theft, forgery, dealing in stolen property and uttering a forged instrument.
- Lisa Nicole Price, 37, 7602

- Kenwood Road, Fort Pierce, was charged with violation of probation. She was on probation for dealing in stolen property and possession of hydrocodone.
- David Howard Surin, 44, 77 Ipanema Way, Fort Pierce, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

Sebastian Police Department

- Van Lowe, 20, 106 Ormond Court, Apt. A, Sebastian, was charged with violation of probation.
- Fernando Mendoza, 29, 5109 Eagle Drive, Fort Pierce, was charged with sale of cocaine.
- Ozzie Ignacio Rivero, 19, 613 Dempsey Ave., Sebastian, was charged with violation of probation. He was on probation for possession of burglary tools and resisting arrest without violence.
- William O'Conner, 38, 1201 Indian River Drive, Sebastian, was charged with being a fugitive from justice.
- Jose Walter Torres, 41, 342 Harp Terrace Apt. A, Sebastian, was charged with introduction of contraband into a detention facility and misdemeanor charges of disorderly intoxication and possession of marijuana.
- Ann Frances Kidd, 25, 400 Turtle Run Drive, Sebastian, was charged with grand theft and trafficking in hydrocodone.

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

Tax

From page A1

said. By opening the tax collectors' offices to the permit application process, for a small convenience fee, constituents can receive their permits in a much shorter amount of time and not have to drive to a regional

office several counties away to get their information in the system, Ms. Jordan said. The tax collectors offices have taken on the tasks of issuing driver licenses, tags and renewals, so collecting and handling the private information of individuals securely and safely is already in place. "It would add to the one-stop shopping that we can

offer the public," Ms. Jordan said. The tax collector's office would be the information gatherer only, the final approval for the applications would still come from Tallahassee, she said. Marion Hammer, current lobbyist for and past president of the NRA, said the current process takes much too long. Legislators should

recognize this idea will streamline the process, and because the applications are ever increasing, the more help the Department of Agriculture can get, the better. In 2009, applications for concealed weapon permits skyrocketed and the numbers have been increasing ever since, Ms. Hammer said.

There are a variety of reasons for the increase, including politics and further regulations about carrying weapons in vehicles, but no matter the reason, fixing the process is necessary, she said. The convenience fee for the local permit applications will be relatively small, likely to be less than it would cost for an individual to

drive around town getting the fingerprints and photo and then driving to a regional office, Ms. Jordan said. If approved in this legislative session, permits could be available in Indian River County in June 2013. For more information about the services offered by the Indian River County tax collector's office, visit www.irctax.com.

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How to avoid deceptive ads online

One of the pitfalls web surfers are bound to encounter are the hideous advertisements that are created to look like official Windows messages.

If you've surfed the web at all then you've seen them. They look like regular Windows dialogue boxes complete with the red, round X that denotes a Windows error and an ominous message like "Your system is dangerously low on resources" or "Your system is unprotected and is open to hackers."

Usually, these messages (after alarming you that something is wrong) will invite you to click what looks like a normal Windows button to resolve the problem. What happens when you click it? Nine out of 10 times, you are brought to a website selling some type of optimization or security software.

To make this tactic even more insidious, the messages usually will have the three standard buttons on the top, right-hand corner. You know, the minimize, restore and close buttons. The deceptive part of including those three buttons within the ad is that they do NOT minimize, restore or close the ad.

Usually, those buttons are a part of the advertisement and clicking "close" (or any of the other buttons) will give you the same result as if you had clicked the fake "OK" button. Arghh! It's infuriating.

I once encountered a web ad that was promoting some type of security software. The text of the ad said something like this: "Internet hackers are a menace that can infiltrate your computer and YOU ARE NOT PROTECTED; click here to see just what kind of information hackers can see about your computer."

Then there was a link, and when I clicked it, up popped a window displaying the contents of my hard drive. Wow, I thought to myself. I wonder how many people are falling for this one? And then I proceeded to look at the source code (the underlying code that makes up a web page) to see how they performed that trick.



COMPUTE THIS
SEAN MCCARTHY

What I found was that they had crafted a simple link that just calls up the user's hard drive. Nothing really wrong with that; you'd get the same results typing c:\ into the address bar of your browser and clicked "go," but to craft it into an alarming message just to sell software? That's low.

It's amazing these companies don't get sued out of existence for deceptive advertising. What's even worse is most of the software advertised in those fake "Windows" ads is garbage anyway that is more apt to slow your machine down than to help it.

OK, enough of my rant this week on unscrupulous advertisers. Now let's go over a few things to look for so you won't get suckered into clicking on an ad thinking it's a Windows message.

First thing to understand is if you are on the web with Internet Explorer, Firefox, AOL's browser, Google Chrome, Opera or any of the other web browsers out there and you come across a message that looks like a Windows message (has the same title bar, minimize restore and close button and generally looks like a message that Windows occasionally spits out) there is a strong chance that it's an ad, and if you click it you will be, in effect, answering that ad and be whisked away from what you were doing to look at a sales pitch.

The second thing to remember is you can always see where you are going when you are about to click something online by looking at the status bar at the bottom of your browser window.

When you hold your mouse over a link in your web browser, the URL or address where that link will take you, is shown in the status bar before you click.

See **COMPUTE, A8**

Old Florida scenic trestle



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

A Florida East Coast freight train crosses over the St. Sebastian River on one of the oldest train trestles in Florida. The trestle in Roseland is a popular spot for train buffs to catch photos of a north or southbound locomotive and its load.



Got something to say?

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

In response to recent opinions

I'm shocked by the bigoted opinions that have been published lately. I know that freedom of speech is being applied here, but really, is it necessary to give every moron a soapbox?

The person, and I use that term lightly, who has continued, on a weekly basis, to bash the residents of Fort Pierce, needs to be muted. He does not help society by ridiculing those who live in the northwest section of the city.

Not everyone there is a hoodlum, has baby after baby and is uneducated as this writer would have everyone believe. It makes me wonder who this ignoramus really is He or she needs to be monitored by the FBI. He should be reported to the authorities so they can keep him in a database for lunatics.

When someone takes aim at a particular section of society with such hatred, it should be brought to someone's attention. There's no place for hate and bigotry in our world. Instead of secluding us, why don't you go find an island somewhere and stay there?

We, the residents of Fort Pierce, are not a hateful bunch. Yes, there's crime. Yes, there's poverty. But we are no different than any other city. We do try to help our children. There are organizations and members of society who are trying to help those who want to find a way out and who want to make a difference.

You, the writer with so much hatred, should go to church, go to a homeless shelter and attend a candlelight vigil for one of our children who have become a victim. We're not the useless souls you portray us to be. We are, for the most part, a peaceful, loving society. We would give you water if you were thirsty. We'd feed you if you were hungry. What I know is that you wouldn't do the same. Merry Christmas and peace to all.

Are city woes preventable?

Boy, have I read enough of the shootings that happen in northern Fort Pierce. Bad drug deals, young adults with firearms, all for that quick dollar.

Here's one most likely not going to happen: build a giant wall around these areas and let these communities govern themselves, and if the people are afraid to come out of their homes then let them also live with the chaos, as well.

This is all the byproduct of a weak upbringing and individuals wanting to make money but don't have even a high-school education.

I've seen in a few parts in the country where I have lived and in every case, it's the impoverished community that always wants the local government to resolve the problems that the parents brought on while living off that government paycheck. It boils down to poverty and lack of education. No one told these people to drop out of school. Last time I checked, public school was free, paid for with tax dollars.

The city of Fort Pierce is a nice city, just suffering from the tarnish of hoodlums who don't have respect for even each other. Take your drama and disrespect to somewhere else. Move on. Oh, and take your parents with you. They sure did a fine job of raising you.

Fix the storm drains

A reader recently suggested that this would be a good time to work on the storm drains. I couldn't agree more. We live in the northeast River Park area of Port St. Lucie in a section that is bordered by Airoso on the west, Emerson on the east, Surfside on the south and Sagamore on the north.

On our particular street, Jordan Terrace, several of the corner houses have storm drains that are so overgrown that they are not visible. Other drains in the area are broken.

Over the last two years I have called several times, to be told that, "we'll get someone out there," only to have nothing done. I would love to see this situation addressed so

that when the spring rains come, followed by hurricane season, we won't have a problem.

I'm sure this is an issue in other areas besides mine, and I would sincerely appreciate it if this problem would be resolved in a timely fashion.

Watch government size

The tendency of government is to grow. It can become unlimited in size and scope. Especially when controlled by Democrats, it tends to be patronizing, overprotective and destructive of individual liberty. That's why America does not have a king. We are, or should be, governed by our Constitution.

Apparently, President Obama does not want to be bound by the chains of the Constitution. If he is able to break these chains, our freedoms are lost.

Truth about attacks

Hillary Clinton and President Obama have finally admitted that they knew from the beginning that the Benghazi attacks, which killed four brave Americans, were planned in advance. What has not been admitted is that the administration's untruths were based on this nation's coming elections. Voters were naive and foolish enough to believe this deception.

Editor's note: This from FactCheck.org: "We cannot say whether the administration was intentionally misleading the public. We cannot prove intent. There is also more information to come — both from the FBI, which is conducting an investigation, and Congress, which has been holding hearings."

"But, at this point, we do know that Obama and others in the administration were quick to cite the anti-Muslim video as the underlying cause for the attack in Benghazi that killed four U.S. diplomats, including U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens. And they were slow to acknowledge it was a premeditated terrorist attack, and they downplayed reports that it might have been."

Relief money re-routed

How could anybody oppose the Supplemental Terrorist Relief Act?

Passed immediately after the Sept. 11 attacks, it was supposed to help small retailers where sales were hurt in lower Manhattan.

As usual, however, bureaucrats twisted the original intent. Money went to Connecticut, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and even Ohio and Georgia.

The fingers of devious politicians are sticky. Best to keep their hands off our money.

Editor's note: The only evidence we could find regarding the reader's claim came from a column written by John Stossel in August 2006 on the website Townhall.com. Mr. Stossel is host of a Fox News program and an author. In the column, he wrote that the money from the Supplemental Terrorist Relief Act went to Dunkin' Donuts shops in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Vermont and Ohio.

Still a big spender

If anybody had any doubts before, President Obama has proven himself to be an outrageous, big government, big spender. While he says he wants a "balanced approach" his words are patent nonsense.

When he claims to favor compromise, hold your nose. It's a terrible smell.

We can't be like Greece

More than one of every four workers in Greece is unemployed.

Most of our politicians in Washington are asleep at the wheel.

One, however, Congressman John Mica, has seen our future and warned that we do not want to become like Greece. It is clear, he stated, that government cannot put a chocolate on every pillow and tuck us all in every night.

The primrose path

Blacks and Latinos are being led down the primrose path by leftists who tell them they deserve an entire array of benefits paid for by other people.

The prospect of government bureaucrats dictating our health care is frightening.

In addition to health care, minorities get all kinds of "stuff" just because they live here. There is no road to prosperity and happiness other than education, diligence and prudent planning. Anything else is the siren song of dependency.

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SEBASTIAN

Business

Business receives excellence award

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — With export sales increasing from 8 to 19 percent, Girard Equipment of Indian River County, earned the Export Excellence award presented by Gov. Rick Scott.

For the past 60 years, Girard Equipment has developed and grown to accommodate the demands of society.

"Earning the Exporter Excellence Award is the best evidence we have that banishing the word 'can't' from our corporate vocabulary was a truly brilliant decision," said Timothy Girard, GEI president.

Moving forward, Girard Equipment is well poised to continue to increase its export business.

Considering that emerging energy producing countries around the world are now practicing safer

transportation methods, the designs and products of GEI are being eagerly adopted.

Mr. Girard trusts that subscribing to the belief that the American worker is still a valued asset means that America's best days are ahead of us and not behind.

As he accepted the award at the governor's mansion in Tallahassee, he recognized the community support received from the

Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, especially from Helene Castletine, director of economic development, as well as elected county officials who have taken great interest in seeing the constant growth of GEI's business continues unabated.

"We are happy to call Indian River County our home," Mr. Girard said.

For more information, visit www.girardequip.com.

Business plan competition deadline nears

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — A little more than a year ago, John Moore and Kevin Barry, partners in the Vero Beach based Rossway Moore Swan Attorneys At Law, attended an entrepreneur summit at the Richardson Center located at Indian River State College in Vero Beach.

The purpose of the event, organized by Michael Corbit of Workforce Solutions and Jan Pagano of Indian River State College, was to present entrepreneurs from across the Research Coast (Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee counties), and showcase their innovative technologies.

The seven entrepreneur presenters included a variety of start-up and early-stage companies representing an array of industries.

It didn't take long before Mr. Moore and Mr. Barry, together with Russell Bjorkman, approached the college with their desire to help form a nonprofit, private sector foundation that

could launch a business plan competition for similar companies along the Research Coast.

Combining their vision, talents and investments in the community, the Research Coast Principium Foundation, a nonprofit entity, was born and plans for a business plan competition were initiated.

The purpose of the foundation is to dedicate and promote the development of economic opportunity by facilitating interaction between professionals, investors, supporting organizations and the emerging business community of Florida's Research Coast.

Through the business plan competition, they seek to bring together all relevant elements in support of business development and by creating jobs on the Research Coast.

In addition to Mr. Barry Mr. Moore and Mr. Bjorkman, an international corporate attorney, the other foundation directors include Michael Corbit, regional talent acquisition manager at Workforce

Solutions, Vinny Olmstead, founder of Vocap Ventures, Ms. Pagano, associate dean of administrative services at Indian River State College and Ed Tighe, a retired entrepreneur and independent trustee, who also acted as a mentor and a judge for the 2011 entrepreneur summit.

Since the competition was announced over the summer, a number of applications have already been received. The foundation is looking for entrepreneurs and companies with innovative ideas that are interested in participating. Applicants from all industries are welcome to apply.

Bonus points, however, will be given for companies that are operating in one of the qualified target industries which include clean tech, life sciences, information technology, aviation/aerospace, logistics and distribution, defense and homeland security, financial/professional services and manufacturing.

There will be a progression of applicant elimina-

tions prior to the March 21 public event at IRSC in Vero Beach where the final applicants will make their presentation in a "Shark Tank-" type analysis of plans and ideas in front of a panel of experts.

The winner will receive a cash prize, the title of inaugural champion, as well as a package of free legal, accounting and mentoring advice.

The second-place winner will also receive a cash prize and all presenters will enjoy the ability to market and expose their company to the attending, interested audience.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 7. Applications can be found by visiting www.rcbiznovation.com.

"This is an opportunity for companies throughout the four-county region to identify and showcase their businesses," said Mr. Corbit.

All applicants must upload their submission package online by visiting rcbiznovation.com.

For more information, call (772) 231-4440.

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Santa's tropical attire



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer
Bill Friesell, center, Environmental Learning Center chairman of the board, and wife, Susan, were met by a real Florida Santa (Doug Graybill) during Winter Green Night Lights at the ELC last Thursday and Friday evenings. The holiday event featured canoeing on illuminated nature trails, cookie and ornament making.

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Theater

From page A4

important Vero Beach asset drawing people to this community. It is a quality organization that wants to be a leader in giving back," said Michael Kint, CEO, of the United Way of Indian River County.

"We consider ourselves an integral part of this community and are committed to supporting United Way as they look to advance the common good," said Allen Cornell, producing artistic director, Riverside Theatre. "We fully trust United Way of Indian River County to make the most of the dollars raised by the generosity of our patrons."

United Way of Indian River County, a locally governed and managed non-profit organization and one of 1,800 locally run United Way affiliates in 45 countries and territories, seeks to advance the common good in the county in the areas of

education, income and health.

It is a leading supporter of front-line service providers using hundreds of volunteers annually to raise local dollars and invest those monies in programs and initiatives that will do the most to improve the quality of life for people in need.

Riverside Theatre is committed to providing a total theater arts experience that entertains, challenges and educates both adults and children by producing quality works from Broadway, off-Broadway, and regional theaters with an emphasis on high-production values; providing the youth of the community with a broad range of education opportunities that will cultivate tomorrow's artists and audiences, while building the skills of today; and providing a nurturing and collaborative environment for the artists, educators and staff.

For more information, visit www.riversidetheatre.com or call (772) 231-6990.

Compute

From page A6

If it is a genuine windows message, no address will appear in the status bar.

So, the next time you're online and you run across a "Windows message" telling you that you have a message waiting or your system is not secure, take a look at the status bar as you hold

your mouse button over the message's "close" button. Does an address appear in the status bar? If it does, you're looking at an ad, and feel free to click if you want to look at an ad. Or you could do what I do and grit my teeth and ignore it.

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

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2012 READERS CHOICE

Trustworthy business is worth its weight in gold

Square Deal Gold Buyers has new location, same great service

By Meagan McGone
mmcgone@hometownnewsol.com

MELBOURNE - Stan Goldfarb grew tired of witnessing individuals receive less than they deserved when selling their prized possessions.

"Quite frankly, people were getting ripped off," said Mr. Goldfarb, who owns Square Deal Gold Buyers with his partner, JR Bott. "There was a need for a trustworthy gold-buying business in the area."

So three years ago, Square Deal Gold Buyers began building its business on trust in the Melbourne Square Mall.

"Based on that, we've grown our business tremendously," Mr. Goldfarb said. "All of the trust that we've built over two and a half years has led us to be the No. 1 gold buyer in Brevard County."

Now it is located in the Chase building adjacent to the mall, in Suite 102 West of 1990 W. New Haven Ave.

"Our concern is some people think we're out of business right now," Mr. Goldfarb said. "We are here with the same great people and

the same service."

In its new location, Square Deal Gold Buyers ensures safety among its customers with the installation of 14 cameras that monitor all transactions made, as well as a secured entrance to the office itself.

To prevent fraud and undervaluing pieces, trained appraisers evaluate karat purities in front of the clients by performing various tests.

"We talk to people about their jewelry and its worth," Mr. Goldfarb said. "We will check the exact karat purities and current spot market price. We will explain how the market and process works, what types of equipment we use for testing and answer any questions they may have."

And when it's decision time, Mr. Goldfarb said there is no pressure.

"We do not attempt to

pressure our clients to sell, but in fact do our best to educate our clients on the value of their items so they can see why we offer what we do," he said.

He said when offering cash for a client's gold, Square Deal Gold Buyers can offer up to 30 percent higher than other, similar businesses. On one occasion, he offered a woman \$1,400 for a piece that she was going to sell for \$250 to a mail-away cash-for-gold company.

"You have some people that try to rip people off and make a living," he said. "Our plan is a cumulative thing. We'd rather have many customers who contribute a little bit each."

"We're a for-profit business, but we're local guys," He said. "The money stays in Brevard. We're not mailing it away. All our employees are from

Stan Goldfarb of Square Deal Gold Buyers examines a ring to determine its karat purity.



Brevard. It's a really good business model."

"This is a professional atmosphere for gold buyers, and we want to expand on that," he said.

Square Deal Gold Buyers is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, visit www.squaredealgold.com or call (321) 821-4947.

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SECTION B • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM • FRIDAY, DEC. 21, 2012



Maria DaVila, left and Heidi Rose tour the Indian River Photo Club juried exhibit in the Patricia M. Patten Community Gallery at the Vero Beach Museum of Art recently. The exhibit will be on display through Jan. 6.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer



Week of 12-21-2012

ARIES - March 21-April 20

Aries, there are some things that need to be accomplished this week despite your reservations. Find a way to make the best of the situation.

TAURUS - April 21-May 21

Taurus, enjoy an active week ahead that includes a very busy social schedule. Instead of trying to swim against the tide, let it take you along.

GEMINI - May 22-June 21

Take care of things on your own this week, Gemini. Others around you will be just as busy, so put your head down and get started on the many tasks at hand.

CANCER - June 22-July 22

Sarcasm is not the right approach this week, Cancer. Focus on being amiable to all of the people you interact with the next few days and reap the rewards.

LEO - July 23-Aug. 23

Secrets have a funny way of catching up with you, Leo. Although it can be hard to be honest, upcoming situations will work out much more easily if you are.

VIRGO - Aug. 24-Sept. 22

You have no reason to question your confidence this week, Virgo. Give yourself a pep talk to make it through a sticky situation, and things will turn out alright.

LIBRA - Sept. 23-Oct. 23

You are coasting on a high of good fortune, Libra. Don't worry; it isn't going to slow down anytime soon. Enjoy all of the opportunities that come your way.

SCORPIO - Oct. 24-Nov. 22

It takes more than just good ideas to find success, Scorpio. There is also a lot of follow-through and legwork that goes into every scenario. Start working through the particulars.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov. 23-Dec. 21

See SCOPES, B5

Cameras capture rare, intriguing shots

Juried photography exhibit on display at museum

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — When a modern invention is powerful enough to stop time itself, the possibilities are endless for those with creative eyes.

The art of photography is interesting and beautiful because it takes a snapshot of reality and highlights it beyond what the human eye generally sees, said photo enthusiast George Bollis Jr.

Mr. Bollis was one of dozens of photographers who entered the Indian River Photo Club's 2012 juried print exhibition at the Vero Beach Museum of Art, and he won first place

in two categories.

The 50 photographic prints in the free exhibit will be on display through Jan. 6 in the Patricia M. Patten Community Gallery in the Hazel Education Wing of the museum.

In the color-fauna category, "Enlightened," Mr. Bollis' photo of a white peacock butterfly took home the top prize.

Nature's colors and patterns, especially butterflies, often inspire him to find the perfect shot.

"Photography basically is a way to see things we don't pay attention to very often. Before I got into photography, I knew butterflies existed, but I didn't know the species, the colors of

them all. Same with birds; we tend to see the herons and the sand hill cranes, but we miss out on the small birds," Mr. Bollis said.

Mr. Bollis is an architect by trade and his other hobbies include watercolor painting, planting butterfly-attracting gardens, hiking and bird watching.

His second first-place prize was in the still life category for his photograph, "Sewing Wild Oats."

The photo is of stitching on a wild sea oats plant with a background of black felt, a tongue-in-cheek interpretation of the familiar cliché, "sowing wild oats."

"I look for humor and creativity in my photographs, too," Mr. Bollis said.

Another first-place winner, David Garrett, enjoys photographing people and capturing their essence in an image.

"I see something in their eye, something in their smile and I want to take a picture," Mr. Garrett said.

"I try to bring out the true self of someone, what's really inside them," he said.

His first-place photograph "Homeless," is of a Civil War re-enactor playing the part of a vagrant in Fort Pierce.

"He had so much character in his face. He played the part so well, something just struck me and I had to take a picture," Mr. Garrett said.

Sports action photography was his livelihood several years ago, but now he

finds great satisfaction in portraits and candid portraits of people.

The Indian River Photo Club's juried exhibition includes works from members of the club as well as non-members, both professional and amateur.

The seven juried categories were people, nature-flora, nature-fauna, scapes, still life, special techniques and open.

For more information about the Indian River Photo Club, visit www.irphotoclub.org. For more information about exhibits or events at the Vero Beach Museum of Art, call (772) 231-0707 or visit www.verobeachmuseum.org.

Out & about

THROUGH APRIL 30

• **Art exhibition**, McKee Botanical Garden, Vero Beach, times vary. The garden presents "Fabel Reimagined," a collection of 200 glass sculptures by world-famous framework glass artist Hans Godo Fabel. Cost: garden admission fees apply. *Website:* www.mckeegarden.org.

THROUGH SATURDAY, DEC. 22

• **Holidays at McKee**, McKee Botanical Garden, Vero Beach, 6 p.m. The garden presents "An Old-Fashioned Celebration" with thousands of holiday lights, a train display, Santa and Mrs. Claus and a vintage Belgian street organ. Cost: not available. *Website:* www.mckeegarden.org.

THURSDAY, DEC. 20-SUNDAY, DEC. 23

• **Riverside Children's Theatre presents "The Nutcracker: In Swingtime,"** Anne Morton Theatre, Riverside Children's Theatre, Vero Beach, times vary. Annual holiday musical that takes the classic tale and puts it to a swinging new beat. Cost: \$12-\$18 for adults, \$6-\$9 for children. *Website:* www.riversidetheatre.com.

FRIDAY, DEC. 21-SATURDAY, DEC. 22

• **Christmas lights**, LaPorte Farms, Sebastian, 6 p.m. Park and walk through the farm to look at Christmas lights. Cost: donations accepted. *Website:* www.laportefarms.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 22

• **Education program**, Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian, 1 p.m. Learn how to make, repair and throw a cast net. Cost: park entry fees apply. *Website:* www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet/events.cfm.

• **Aura workshop** from 4-6 p.m. at Spark of Divine Healing and Learning Center. For more information, costs and a schedule, call (772) 257-6499 or visit www.meetup.com/spark-of-divine-spirit-unity-reiki-unconditional-love/events/calendar.

• **Monthly drum circle** at Spark of Divine Healing and Learning Center. Bring instruments and water. Inside drum circle. For more information, costs and a schedule, call (772) 257-6499 or visit

www.meetup.com/spark-of-divine-spirit-unity-reiki-unconditional-love/events/calendar.

SUNDAY, DEC. 23

• **"Holiday Harmonies"** at the 14th Avenue Steakhouse in historic downtown Vero Beach. Doors will open for the four-course prime rib dinner at 12:30 p.m. with the matinee at 2 p.m. Reservations are required with Visa, MasterCard or Discover and can be made by phoning the box office at (772) 252-9341.

MONDAY, DEC. 24

• **Christ the King Lutheran Church**, 1301 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian, will See OUT, B2

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Think, live 'green' this holiday season

For Hometown News
 NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The Indian River County Solid Waste Disposal District encourages residents to think "green" and live "green" this holiday season by recycling and reusing many of the common waste items that are typically in abundance this time of year. Packing peanuts, those little styrofoam pieces that are used as packing material in boxes, can be reused at any Pak Mail, UPS Store or at the KIRB Reuse Center located in the Indian River Mall. Styrofoam packaging from large electronics and appliances can be recycled at any of the five customer convenience centers or the

main landfill. Holiday wrapping paper can be recycled with your newspaper and left curbside in your recycling bin. Christmas trees (free of decorations) will be picked up curbside with regular paid yard debris services or can be taken to one of the centers or main landfill. Computers, televisions and other electronics are common presents, which means that old electronics need to be safely discarded. Computers and other electronics can be recycled at any of the centers or the landfill. Coming soon will be the annual electronics recycling event in Vero Beach to be held on Jan. 19 from 9 a.m. to

3 p.m. at the Indian River County Fairgrounds, 7955 58th Ave., Vero Beach. Recycling bins are always available through one of these three locations: Sebastian City Hall, the Indian River County Solid Waste Disposal District located at the main landfill, and the Indian River County Utilities Operations Center located on the corner of 41st Street and 43rd Avenue. Broken and unusable bins may be brought to any of these locations to be recycled, or they can be broken into pieces and put in a recycling bin for regular pick up. *For more information on recycling this holiday season, call (772) 770-5112.*

Organization changes name

For Hometown News
 NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — Pink Tie Friends on the Treasure Coast has a new name but their mission remains the same. The nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds to help breast cancer patients in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties marked a successful sixth annual friendship luncheon with the announcement of a new name and a pending new look for the organization. "We are now Friends In Pink," said Judy Schilder, president. "While the name has changed, our mission and that of our many volunteers and our board of directors remains the same in that we are dedicated to providing financial assistance to breast cancer patients on the Treasure Coast who either have no insurance or

are underinsured." The name change was prompted by trademark and copyright issues. "Much to our surprise, we discovered Pink Tie Friends and our recognizable ribbon logo had not been secured in years past and was already registered by other organizations. To protect the integrity of our organization and to create a brand that we alone would own, we have been working for a year to come up with the new name and a branded logo approach that has been secured and registered," said Ms. Schilder. "We will operate under the Friends In Pink name as a 'doing business as' entity, while still under the 501 (c)-(3) not for profit organization of Pink Tie Friends, Inc. until all the final paperwork for the transition has been completed," she said. Friends In Pink has secured the domain

www.FriendsInPink.org and has a page marker now in place. A formal rollout of the new Friends In Pink logo is planned for after Jan. 1. Unveiling of Friends In Pink came during a very successful friendship luncheon. More than 150 volunteers and sponsors were registered to attend the fundraising luncheon that featured a special Macy's fashion show and live auction by auctioneer K.C. Daniel of Associate Auctions. The annual event generated more than \$31,000 to help Friends In Pink continue to grow to serve local breast cancer patients. Plans are already underway for next year's luncheon and several country clubs throughout the region are now vying for the honor of hosting the gala event. *For more information, visit www.FriendsInPink.org.*

Out

From page B1

- celebrate the birth of Christ with special Christmas Eve services and music at 4 and 7 p.m.
- **Christmas Eve services** 6 and 7:30 p.m. Two services will be offered on Christmas eve filled with familiar Christmas carols, the reading of Luke 2, and a corporate candle lighting. First Church of God Vero Beach, 1105 58th Ave, Vero Beach. *For more information, call (772) 562-2256.*
 - **Nights of lights**, McKee Botanical Garden, Vero Beach, 6 p.m. Marvel at festive light

and water displays while walking down candlelit pathways. Cost: not available. *Website:* www.mckeegarden.org.

FRIDAY, DEC. 28

- **Night sounds at Sebastian Inlet concert series**, Coconut Point, Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian, 7 p.m. Featuring Atlantic Bluegrass. Cost: park entry fees apply. *Website:* www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet/events.cfm.

FRIDAY, DEC. 28- SATURDAY, DEC. 29

- **Riverside Children's Theatre On the Go presents "The Fisherman and His Wife,"** Anne Morton Theatre, Riverside Children's Theatre, Vero Beach, 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$8. *Website:* www.riversidetheatre.com.
- **Riverside Theatre presents "The Comedy Zone,"** Waxlax Stage, Riverside Theatre, Vero Beach, 7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Featuring Michelle Harrington and other comics. Cost: \$15. *Website:* www.riversidetheatre.com.
- **Christmas lights, LaPorte Farms**, Sebastian, 6 p.m. Park and walk through the farm to look at Christmas lights. Cost: donations accepted. *Website:* www.laportefarms.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 29

- **Education program**, Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian, 1 p.m. Learn what is and isn't dangerous in Florida's great outdoors. Cost: Park entry fees apply. *Website:* www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet/events.cfm.

ONGOING EVENTS

- **Spark of Divine Learning and Healing Center** holds monthly meetings, workshops and classes including yoga, a drum circle, tarot reading and more. *For more information, costs and a schedule, call (772) 257-6499 or visit www.meetup.com/spark-of-divine-spirit-unity-reiki-unconditional-love/events/calendar.*

- **Garden walk with country care roses**, weekends from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 14070 109th St., Fellsmere. *For more information, call (772) 559-5036.*
- **Vero Beach Elks Lodge sends cookies to soldiers:** Homemade or store-bought cookies may be dropped off at 10 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month. Money donations for shipping costs are also appreciated. Bring cookies to Vero Beach Elks Lodge 1774, 1350 26th St. Vero Beach.
- **Friday farmer's market in downtown Vero Beach.** *For more information, call (772) 581-2746.*
- **Men's singles tennis pyramid:** Play runs from 6-8 p.m. every Thursday at the Riverside Racquet Complex, 350 Dahlia Lane, Vero Beach. This is an adult league for ages 18 and older; men's levels of 3.5/4.0. The fees are \$2 per week for members and \$5 per week for non-members (plus \$1 light fee per hour when applicable). Participants must check inside the pro shop with the attendant on duty and pay before going to the courts. Players must register weekly by sending an email to Brian Orzel, singles pyramid coordinator at orzelp@gmail.com by noon on Thursdays. A maximum of 14 players will be accepted for these pyramid or ladder format sets against three different opponents. *For more information contact Gaby Dwyer, tennis supervisor, at (772) 231-4787 or contact Brian Orzel at (772) 538-0465.*
- **Sunset Saturday night cruises:** Oceanside Business Association of Vero Beach's sunset Saturday cruises on the second Saturday of the month located on the corner of Ocean Drive and Dahlia Lane. *For more information, visit www.VeroBeachOBA.com.*
- **Sunset at the plaza sponsored by Mulligan's Beach House** will have arts, crafts, live music, kids eat free and more every Thursday from 5-8 p.m. at the Vero Beach Mulligan's, 1025 Beachland Blvd., Vero Beach.

See **OUT, B3**

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Ceremony featured new holiday tree, children's artwork

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Indian River Medical Center's 22nd anniversary of the auxiliary's "Tree of Lights" ceremony on Dec. 6 featured a new green technology holiday tree

and the artwork from 30 children ages 5-12 on display.

The auxiliary of IRMC purchased a new 24-foot Oregon Cascade fir tree to replace the original tree purchased in 1995, said Bob Michael, director of facility services.

The tree has 1,360 LED C7 lamps, more energy efficient than the older incandescent-style bulbs. The new tree uses only 680 watts of power, while the older tree consumed 7,200 watts to power up 1,200 incandescent lamps. Other highlights of the event

include a solo vocal performance by 13-year-old Gabrielle McFall, daughter of Megan McFall, clinical coordinator for IRMC's partners in women's health program and artwork from IRMC's annual children's holiday art contest on display at the after-party.

All of the four winning artists were present to receive a prize after a random drawing and help light the tree.

The "Tree of Lights" plays a dual role, as it heralds in the holidays while at the same time, raises money for worthwhile

projects. The Tree of Lights is used to purchase necessary equipment and education programs for IRMC's women's health care team to continue to provide quality healthcare to the community.

View the artwork at www.irmc.cc.

Celebrating the season



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Seven-year-old Rashawn Cason, gets a hand making a reindeer ornament from Dan Hallock during the annual Youth Guidance of Indian River County 2012 holiday party Saturday at St. Helen's gymnasium. Seventy at-risk children and their mentors gathered for holiday craft making and luncheon. Mentors are needed to help the more than 300 at-risk children in Indian River County. For more information call (772) 770-5040.



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Ten-year-old Annabelle Stephens, right, gets a hand making a holiday hat Saturday during the annual Youth Guidance 2012 holiday party at St. Helen's gymnasium. More than 70 of Indian River County's at-risk children were paired with 70 mentors for arts and crafts, prizes and a pizza lunch. Of the 300 children in the YG program in Indian River County, only 120 have mentor. For information call (772) 770-5040.



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Evans Beton, 6, finds that his holiday hat he and mentor Lyse McDonough are making, is just a bit too big. They were among the more than 150 children and mentors who took part in the annual Youth Guidance 2012 holiday party at the St. Helen's gymnasium Saturday.



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Seven-year-old Jaime Barnes, left and Deb Polackowich make the turn in the snowball race during the Youth Guidance 2012 holiday party Saturday at St. Helen's gymnasium. About 70 children and their mentors took part in the annual event. Youth Guidance relies on mentors to help mentor at-risk children in Indian River County.

Out

From page B2

• **Indian River Civic Association and the Florida Irish-American Society are conducting a food drive to benefit a local veteran's group home.** Every Wednesday at noon the Irish Club, located at 1314 20th St. in Vero Beach, invites the public for a home-made lunch and dessert while listening to the big band sound of a local senior musical group. All ages are invited, and the cost is \$7, no reservation required. Please bring a non-perishable food item. Every month the IRCA distributes this food, along with fresh meat to the veterans. For more information, call (772) 913-1196 or (772) 569-1460.

• **Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge:** Call the refuge at (772) 562-3909, Ext. 275, or visit fws.gov/pelicanisland/events

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

• **Vero Beach Railroad Station** in downtown Vero Beach was originally built in 1903. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is open Tuesday from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., and Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Visitors can tour the exhibit center and get a glimpse of local history from prehistoric times through World War II. There is a model train display that offers panoramic views of historical sites in Indian River County. The railroad station is located at

See **OUT, B5**

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Young seamen learn to master their sails



Student sailors, ages 7 and up with the Youth Sailing Foundation, held a racing regatta Saturday south of the Alama Lee Loy Bridge. Chase Johns, 9, of Fort Pierce, heads to open water in 'Mizz Pope.' The Youth Sailing Foundation operates completely on donations. For more information call Charlie Pope at (772) 567-9000.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Brock Drinnon, 8, of Vero Beach heads for the open water of the Indian River Lagoon for a regatta held by the Youth Sailing Foundation Saturday. About 15 young students of the Latitude 27/39 Sail Club put the foundation's 8-foot dinghies into a canal next to the Vero Beach Water Treatment Plant and headed east toward the lagoon for the race. The YSF relies completely on donations. For more information call Charlie Pope at (772) 567-9000.

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Dan Thomas, left, Youth Sailing Foundation education director and Ron Miller a volunteer, both from Vero Beach, check out the sails on one of the 8-foot dinghies as they readied for the Latitude 27/39 Sail Club regatta last Saturday.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

Practice holiday plant safety

With the holidays in full swing many of us are going to purchase one or more of the colorful holiday plants that are available.

For the most part, these plants are safe, but some safety precautions should be taken. With some common sense precautions, you can have a safe and happy holiday season.

• **Poinsettia.** These colorful holiday plants are safe plants to have around your home during the holidays. As with any ornamental, they should be kept out of reach of small children and should never be ingested.

Although not particularly toxic to humans, they can be very toxic to small animals. If you have pets that have a habit of chewing your plants, opt for the artificial variety. They can often look just as spectacular as the real thing and you can reuse them year after year. Over time, this can save you a pile of money.

• **Mistletoe.** Using mistletoe as a decoration is a tradition that has been carried out for centuries. During Pagan times, troops

at war who met in the presence of mistletoe were required to lay down their weapons and unite in a day of truce. Mistletoe was also used during rituals that celebrated the winter solstice. It was used as a symbol of the eventual return of the sun.

In Christianity, mistletoe has been used as symbol of love ever since the Middle Ages. During this era, mistletoe was blessed by a priest and all those who walked under it were kissed as a sign of friendship and all bad feelings were extinguished.

In modern times, the tradition of being kissed under the mistletoe is still in full force. A trip to your local holiday shop will usually yield both live and artificial versions of this popular holiday plant. The "live" mistletoe plant is toxic if ingested and should be kept out of the reach of small children and pets. As long as it is not ingested, this plant can still create a warm feeling of friendship to all who walk under it.

• **Live Christmas trees.** Although live trees are the main symbol of this great day, they can pose hazards

GARDEN NOOK
JOE ZELENAK



if not handled and cared for properly. The main hazard from live trees is fire. When you first bring your tree home, be sure to cut a slice off the bottom of your tree before placing it in its new location. This will help the tree to absorb water faster, which will greatly lengthen its useful life.

There are many products on the market that are labeled as "tree savers" that are useful in helping the tree absorb water faster and over a longer period of time. It is important when choosing the location for your new tree to place it away from any heat sources or sparks. In the past, using faulty Christmas lights that either shorted out or sparked caused most tree-related fires. In addition, lights that produce too much heat can be a problem on a tree that has been in use for an extended period of time.

Today, one of the best

ways to stay safe is to use the new LED lights that are available for decorating. They look great and besides running way cooler than other lights, they also save you green. They use a fraction of the power of conventional lighting methods.

In addition, use only UL approved extension cords and power strips. Using LED lights will not create as much as a load on your extension cords and power adapters.

With the availability of a large selection of artificial trees, for many people this will be a great alternative to a live tree. Most are now in three pieces with all the lights already attached and they last year after year saving you lots of money over time.

As you can see, with some common sense practices, you can stay safe this holiday season.

Joe Zelenak has more than 30 years experience in gardening and landscape. Send emails to hometowngarden@gmail.com or visit his website www.hometowngarden.com.

Scopes

From page B1

You won't be able to rest until you solve a problem that has been bugging you, Sagittarius. But the solution won't immediately present itself.

CAPRICORN - Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Sometimes it takes more time and money than it's worth to follow through with something that originally seemed like a good idea. Don't think of it as giv-

ing up but redirecting.

AQUARIUS - Jan. 21-Feb. 18

It may take a little more time to work through the long to-do list, but that will make the satisfaction of getting the job done that much more worth it, Aquarius.

PISCES - Feb. 19-March 20

Words can be interpreted in many different ways, Pisces. Choose what you say wisely so you don't give anyone the wrong impression.

Out

From page B3

2336 14th Ave., Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 778-3435.

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

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

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

• **Indian River Citrus Museum** tells the story and preserves the artifacts, photographs and memorabilia of the pioneers who established the most distinguished citrus fruit in the world. Open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Heritage Center, 2140 14th Ave., Vero Beach. For more information call (772) 770-2263.

• **McKee Botanical Garden** is an 18-acre botanical garden listed on the National Register of Historic Places and endorsed by the Garden Conservancy. This Florida hammock offers a diverse botanical collection, as well as several restored architectural treasures, the hall of giants and Spanish kitchen. Self-guided tours are available Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. It is closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for children. It is located at 350 U.S. 1, Vero Beach. It also has a gift shop, library and café. For more information, call (772) 794-0601 or www.mckeegarden.org.

• **McLarty Treasure Museum** features treasures discovered from ancient Spanish ships wrecked in 1715, off of Indian River County's coast. Open seven days a week from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is \$1 for ages 6 and older. Located at 13180 A1A, Vero Beach, north of County Road 510. For more information, call (772) 589-2147.

• **Environmental Learning**

Center: An elevated boardwalk creates a trail through a mangrove forest, butterfly garden, native plant garden, wet labs and more. Also there are canoe tours, workshops and other activities. It's open daily, with one-hour tours offered throughout the week. There is no admission charge. Visitors can also see the Florida cracker-style home of poet Laura Riding Jackson on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. The center is located at 255 Live Oak Drive, Vero Beach, south of the Wabasso Bridge. For more information call (772) 589-5050 or visit www.elcweb.org.

• **ORCA:** Enjoy the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area, 350 acres along the Indian River Lagoon in southern Indian River County. The trail system takes you through a variety of distinct natural communities. A canopy of live oaks, orchids, wild coffee bushes, mangrove wetlands and wildlife are part of the experience. There is a bird watching observation platform and tower and the "awesome pine," the largest slash pine tree in the world. Park is open daily from dawn to dusk, with weekly and monthly guided nature walks. There is no admission charge. For more information, call (772) 778-7200, Ext. 173.

• **St. Sebastian River buffer preserve:** Hiking, jogging, walking and nature study are permitted throughout the preserve, except in areas posted as closed or restricted. Access point is off County Road 512, just west of Sebastian Middle School. The preserve is open for daily use only, except for overnight camping by permit. Horseback riding is allowed on Wednesday. Contact the preserve office to make camping reservations and obtain a permit at (321) 953-5004.

• **Environmental viewing area** gives a close-up view of manatees and other wildlife during the winter months. Limited parking is available; see signage. It is west of the Vero Beach Municipal Power Plant on Indian River Boulevard, near the 17th Street Bridge, in Vero Beach.

• **Artists Guild Gallery,** 1974 14th Ave., Vero Beach. Call (772) 299-1234 or visit www.artistsguildgalleryverobeach.com.

• **The Gallery at Windsor,** 10680 Belvedere Square, Vero Beach. By appointment only. (772) 388-4071.

• **Gallery 14,** 1911 14th Ave., Vero Beach. (772) 562-5525.

• **The Laughing Dog Gallery,** 2910 Cardinal Drive, Vero Beach. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday. (772) 234-6711

• **Tiger Lily Art Studios and Gallery,** 1903 14th Ave., Vero Beach. (772) 778-3443.

• **Vero Beach Museum of Art** features exhibitions of international, national and state importance are shown throughout the year in four

galleries. The museum also houses a gift shop store and is the largest teaching museum school in Florida. It is located at 3001 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 231-0707.

BARS AND CLUBS

• **Capt. Hiram's Resort,** 1580 U.S. 1, Sebastian. For a look at the full entertainment lineup, visit www.hirams.com. (772) 589-4345

• **Earl's Hideaway Lounge and Tiki Bar,** 1405 Indian River Drive, Sebastian. Live Delta Blues music Tuesday nights by Ernie Southern. (772) 589-5700, (772) 388-2597 or www.earlshideaway.com.

• **Kelley's Irish Pub,** 484 21st St., B, Vero Beach, Friday night sing-along in the piano

bar. (772) 567-3838.

• **Kilted Mermaid,** 1937 Old Dixie Highway Vero Beach. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 5 p.m.-1 a.m. Wednesday, open mic jam session; Thursday, trivia with Jason; Friday, live music; Saturday, live music. Call (772) 569-5533.

• **Long Branch Saloon,** 2199 Seventh Ave., Vero Beach. (772) 569-4075.

• **Marsh Landing,** 44 N. Broadway St., Fellsmere: Bluegrass jam every Thursday night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call for other entertainment schedules. (772) 571-8622.

• **J.J. Manning's Irish Pub,** Wednesday night, wine and bingo night at 7 p.m.; Thursday, pub quiz night at 7 p.m. 740 S. Fleming St., Sebastian. (772) 589-1238. www.jjman-seeout.com



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Getting the block



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Vero Beach Lady Indian Alana Hockenull (No. 10) gets her shot blocked by Sharks goalie Katlyen Henderson (No. 14) during their match up in the Citrus Bowl in Vero Beach Thursday evening. Vero Beach won 8-0.

A new set of rules for recreational golfers?

With all of the uproar regarding the USGA and R&A's decision to implement a rule banning the "anchored" stroke from the game beginning in January 2016, I began to wonder just how many of us truly follow the rules of golf. With the number of golfers using an anchored stroke to enjoy playing the game for fun, will they even care what the lords at the USGA and R&A do?

I would bet that one would be hard-pressed to find any one person playing golf outside a sanctioned competition with rules officials and the like watching over them who follow the rules to the letter and intent of the law.

We recreational golfers break the rules all the time. We move our drive in the fairway from a divot that was left behind. We move our ball off a root so we don't break a club or our wrist. We hardly ever return to the tee to re-hit after finding our ball out-of-bounds. We give 2-foot putts to speed things up. We even take mulligans.

With all this in mind, I think it's time we have a set of rules for recreational golfers. We need them! There are three things that hurt our beloved game. It's expensive, it takes a long time to play and most of all, it's too difficult.

If you owned a golf course, would you really care if the golfers are playing by the rules or would it matter more that they are having fun, enjoying the game and filling up the tee sheets?

The results of a recent Google survey, based on nearly 7,000 respondents shows that 61 percent of golfers admit to occasion-



GOLF JAMES STAMMER

ally bending the rules. An additional 12 percent admit to always bending the rules while only 27 percent claim to have always played by the letter of the rules.

In addition, the same survey shows an overwhelming majority of golfers consider themselves "recreational golfers" and have no desire to follow the same rules that professionals do.

Fewer than 15 percent keep an official USGA handicap and an equal amount have no idea what a handicap is.

Of those responding to the survey, 78 percent said they play the game for fun, nothing more, nothing less. The remainder admit to playing by the rules because they enjoy the challenge it presents, for work or because they are aspiring to become professionals.

The golf industry is facing some interesting challenges. According to the National Golf Foundation, golf rounds fell from 518 million to 475 million in the past decade. The numbers have declined in each of the past five years. Many surveys done by the NGF have shown those leaving the game have given three main reasons for their departure: high cost, excessive time needed to play and inconvenient rules.

The Google survey shows what many, including myself, have thought for years. Those of us who enjoy this game are fine

with the idea of playing with "recreational" equipment. We don't mind the implementation of balls that want to go straight and clubs that help poor swings. Why should this game only be enjoyed by those talented enough to play it well or with enough time and money to devote to honing their skills to make it so?

With that in mind, I think we should have a set of "Recreational Rules for Golf." They should be simple and straightforward. The best part of these rules should be that as long as everyone in the four-some or group agrees with what they are at the start of the round, and it doesn't slow down your play at the expense of others or damage the course, it doesn't matter what they are.

The rules being used by a group of buddies five groups ahead could not matter less to me and my bunch. Nor should our recreational rules matter to you.

Wouldn't manufacturers love to be able to take the reins off their designers and have them make clubs that help the poor golfer? I'm sure if they sold enough of them, they wouldn't mind there being two sets of rules or non-conforming clubs.

It's time we stand up and be heard. It's time to save our game and make our enjoyment of it paramount.

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 stammorgolf@yahoo.com.

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Outer Space

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

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Animal clinic offering gift certificates

For Hometown News NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County is offering gift certificates for services offered by the shelter's animal wellness clinic.

Certificates can be used for any of the clinic's many affordable veterinary services including animal examinations, spaying and neutering, vaccinations, microchipping and heartworm testing.

"Gift certificates are a great idea for family, friends and neighbors who may need help providing basic care for their pets," said Maria Ramirez, the shelter's director of animal care. "We

welcome Indian River County pets, as well as pets from other communities, too."

Certificates even make a great gift for out-of-county residents who need wellness services for their animals.

The shelter's gift certificates can be purchased in any amount \$10 or higher, are good for one year from the date of purchase and may only be used for services and items offered by the Humane Society's animal wellness clinic.

For more information or to learn about services and pricing call the Humane Society's animal wellness clinic at (772) 388-0801. A listing of clinic services is also available by visiting www.hsvb.org.

Out

From page B5

ningirishpub.com

• **Riverside Cafe**, 1 Beachland Blvd., Vero Beach, Live entertainment. (772) 234-5550.

• **Tropical Inn Resort** LGBT

Brevard's premier gay and lesbian resort. Friday's female impersonator show \$15 includes two drinks. Seating starts at 8 p.m. Show starts at 9 p.m. Call for reservations. Saturday's tiki bar poolside 2-10 p.m. The resort is located at 4700 Dixie Highway N.E. Palm Bay. For more information, call (321) 951-0350.

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Belly dancing

Lose
weight

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John Cairns, owner of The Jungle Club and Katie Smith, general manager, wish everyone a happy, healthy New Year.
Cliff Partlow
staff photographer



JANUARY 2013

Happy New Year, *Forever Young* readers! We hope that you had a very happy holiday season and are ready to plunge into 2013.

You've survived the family, cooking, long trips to the mall and the end of the world.

What's next?

New Year's resolutions!

Everyone makes them, whether publically or privately. It is a time of the year where you can wipe the slate clean and make a new you in the New Year.

Every year on New Year's Day, I look back on the previous year with a bit of fondness, sadness and resolve that there is a whole new year for me to take on.

Also on New Year's, I will be making a resolution when the ball drops and with the knowledge I've learned from



WRITER/PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR

BRITTANY LLORENTE

writing the January edition, I hope to follow my getting fit resolution through.

This month's edition of *Forever Young* will focus on New Year's resolutions that we make and break.

According to *Time.com*, these are the top 10 commonly broken New Year's resolutions:

- Lose weight and get fit
- Quit smoking
- Learn something new
- Eat healthier and diet
- Get out of debt and save money
- Spend more time with family
- Travel to new places
- Be less stressed

Out with the old, in with the new

- Volunteer
- Drink less

In preparation for the New Year, I have talked with experts in different fields that highlight those resolutions one by one.

As I talked to the different professionals, each of them had something similar to say; that it was easier to accomplish goals and resolutions if you do it with help and support from a friend.

So reach out and find someone who is struggling with something you are, whether it is quitting smoking, weight loss or eating healthier. Having a friend there to help motivate you, and vice versa, will move you forward.

We at *Forever Young* wish you and yours all the best and success for the New Year.

In each market, a few of the resolutions will be highlighted. If you don't see your resolution in that particular edition, please check out the online editions of *Forever Young* at Myhometownnews.net.

As always, we welcome your opinions at ForeverYoung@HometownNewsOL.com.



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Dr. Diego Maldonado completed his internal medicine residency training and pulmonary/critical care fellowships at the University of Miami—Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Maldonado cares for hospitalized critical care and pulmonary patients at Indian River Medical Center and outpatient pulmonary patients in his office at the Vero Medical Suites building.

Dr. Maldonado offers services in pulmonary medicine, including invasive bronchoscopy, as well as critical care medicine. He diagnoses and treats the following pulmonary conditions:

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TRY NEW THINGS Belly dancing

By Brittany Llorente
Writer/production coordinator

SEBASTIAN — The exotic movements of belly dancing can be fun to watch. Actually doing the movements yourself can provide benefits beyond feeling sexier and something completely new to introduce to an exercise routine or to spice up your weekly schedule.

"It's a low impact activity and it improves coordination and posture," said Angela Vasconellos, a belly dancing and Zumba instructor. "Everyone at any age can try it because it's a light-cardio exercise."

When belly dancing, there is no need to show your stomach, a problem many get over to try belly dancing.

For Phyllis Schneider, a mother of two and a student of Ms. Vasconellos, belly dancing was as much of an exercise as it was a time to spend time with friends.

"It makes me feel youthful," Mrs. Schneider said. "I did feel sore in places, but it was unique parts of you that you don't always use. It was as much of a physical exercise for me as it was a mental exercise."

Belly dancing exercises are specially tailored for the female body.

Belly dancing was first used in cultures along the Arabian Peninsula. Women formed groups and dressed in cover ups, dancing among themselves.

Much is the same at the classes, where clients are advised to wear comfortable clothing and can either wear sneakers or socks.

"A lot of people sometimes have a misconception of the true meaning of belly dancing because it has become so Americanized," Ms. Vasconellos said. And that's why some were afraid

to try the dance.

The dancers also wear cloth wrapped skirts with metal coins attached, called coin skirts, during the exercises, which accentuate the movements with the sounds as they shimmy and shake.

Classes are available through Ms. Vasconellos and through private and semi-private classes.

Ms. Vasconellos also teaches Zumba as well as Pilates.

For more information, visit SebastianZumba.wix.com.



"I have no way of knowing how people really feel, but the vast majority of those I meet couldn't be nicer. Every once in awhile someone barks at me. My New Year's resolution is not to bark back."

Tucker Carlson
Co-founder and editor-in-chief of *The Daily Caller*

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WEIGHT-LOSS

Losing weight is for the motivated



Photo courtesy of The Jungle Club

Jungle Club personal training manager, Phil Rachko, instructs a client on the proper machinery and exercises for the best results.

By Brittany Llorente

Writer/production coordinator

VERO BEACH — For many people, a resolution that is made and broken most is losing weight.

On Jan. 1 the motivation is fresh and alive, and following the workout plan is easy. Then, by the middle of January, the motivation starts slipping away. By the end of January, the results aren't quite up to expectation and another resolution goes down the drain.

Sound familiar?

Phil Rachko, the personal training manager at The Jungle Club, a fitness center in Vero Beach, says there are several aspects to losing weight.

"One is eating correctly, followed by proper aerobic conditioning, proper strength training, supplementation to

make up for the lack of nutrients because they're eating a lot less food, accountability and motivation," he said.

All of these tips are part of the process when hiring a personal trainer to help with clients' goals. The personal trainer will discuss the lifestyle of the client and how best to lose weight, as well as devise a workout plan to best facilitate weight loss.

"You don't go to a golf course with a set of golf clubs to learn how to play golf and expect to get very far," Mr. Rachko said. "You ask the experts. Same goes for working out and losing weight, so you don't get injured and if you get results fast enough, you get excited about the potential. That is

why you hire a personal trainer."

Mr. Rachko also said there are alternatives to hiring a personal trainer if you're on an extreme budget. Resources such as Weight Watchers and following "The Zone Diet" book help, but those trying to lose weight still need help.

"If they're on the right plan and they have the right accountability and motivation, they can lose weight," he said. "If they're not, it's not going to work and there is something wrong with one of those three elements."

Cardio can be a good place to start with workouts, which is a workout that involves using large muscle groups over a specified period of time.

He also suggests cutting out bad

foods from the diet such as sugar and fat, white flour and eating five to six meals a day.

"When you take in a small amount of food, your body will not store that," Mr. Rachko said. "Your body will store food in response to taking in too many calories at one time. If you eat 2,000 calories a day and break it down into 400 calories a meal, your body breaks it down and doesn't store it."

The staff at The Jungle Club has several different personal trainers to help along with any weight loss goal.

For more information about The Jungle Club, call (772) 567-1400 or visit www.thejungleclub.com.

"If they're on the right plan and they have the right accountability and motivation, they can lose weight."

Phil Rachko
Personal training
manager at
The Jungle Club

SMOKING

Quitting the smoking habit

By Brittany Llorente

Writer/production coordinator

MARTIN COUNTY — In the 1960s, smoking cigarettes was heralded as sexy and provocative.

A few decades later, it is a habit that few consider sexy and the side effects are far from it, including cancer.

Dr. Kirk Voelker and Dr. Barry Hummel created the Quit Doc Research and Education Foundation, dedicated to reducing the number of deaths in the United States from tobacco use and abuse.

The foundation has state funding from the Florida Department of Health to operate in 11 counties, two of which are Indian River and Martin counties.

"We're trying to prevent young people from ever starting and to help promote adult tobacco cessation," Dr. Hummel said.

The first step in quitting can often be the hardest, but Dr. Hummel said

most people go about it the wrong way.

"First and most important is to set a quit date that is a little down the road," Dr. Hummel said. "Set it up a few weeks down the road. Get support from friends and colleagues and let them know what is coming. You might be grouchy and that you will need help."

He also suggested to talking with your doctor. There can be medications that can help, particularly with nicotine withdrawal.

As with most lifestyle changes, teaming up with someone is the best.

"If there is someone you can quit with, quit with them," Dr. Hummel said. "If you're going through it together then if one of you has a weak moment, they can lend support in an emotional way."

When people quit, and go through

the few days of nicotine withdrawal, there are still issues that you could face that triggers could still trip you up, Dr. Hummel calls 'triggers.'

"It's like when you pour a cup of coffee and get into the car. It's based on each person's personal patterns," he said.

"We suggest that you change up your routine going into your quit date. When you get in your car, lock your cigarettes in the trunk or smoke with the opposite hand or buy cigarettes from a different place, buy a different brand or smoke in a different place in your home."

After a few months, triggers are usually stress related.

The first of the year is a common time for people to quit smoking.

"About 70 percent of smokers would like to quit at some point and this is the one time of the year that it gets to every one's attention," Dr. Hummel said. "It's a gentle reminder to people who are interested in quitting smoking."

For more information, call the Indian River County office at (772) 577-3701, Martin and Okeechobee counties office at (772) 600-7557 or visit www.qdref.org.

Tobacco related illnesses cause over 400,000 deaths each year, this accounts for two-thirds of all preventable deaths in the United States. That total represents one out of every two smokers.

Courtesy of www.qdref.org



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DERMATOLOGY

FINANCE Lower debt levels mean greater opportunities

In the past few years, Americans have done a pretty good job of whittling down their debt load. If you're in this group, you may now have a chance to use your lower level of indebtedness to your advantage by investing for the future.

Consider the numbers: in 2007, just before the financial crisis, the country's household debt service ratio was about 14 percent. (The debt service ratio is the ratio of debt payments, including mortgages and consumer debt, to disposable personal income.) But by 2012, this figure had dipped below 11 percent, the lowest level since 1994.

These figures are national averages, but they do translate into real-life savings for many of us. If you're in this group — that is, if you've lowered your debt payments noticeably — what should you do with this "found" money?

Of course, you could spend it on material objects, which, in some cases, may make your life more pleasant



FINANCE

JAMIE CHAPOGAS

today. But you'd probably be better off by devoting your financial resources to your goals for tomorrow, such as college for your children and, eventually, a comfortable retirement lifestyle for yourself.

Consequently, you may want to consider these suggestions:

Increase your contributions to your retirement plan. Try to put more money into your employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b). Your contributions are typically made with pretax dollars, so the more you invest, the lower your taxable income. Plus, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis.

Fully fund your IRA. You can put in up to \$5,000 per year (as of 2012) to a

traditional or Roth IRA or \$6,000 if you're 50 or older. A traditional IRA grows tax-deferred, while a Roth IRA can grow tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.

Fill in "gaps" in your financial strategy. With a little extra money each month, can you find ways to fill in the gaps in your financial strategy? For example, do you have sufficient life insurance and disability income insurance? Or can you add some investments that can help diversify your overall portfolio? While diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against loss, it can help reduce the effects of volatility on your holdings.

Build an emergency fund. It's a good idea to build an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses. Without such a fund, you may be forced to dip into long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a large bill from the doctor or a major car repair. Keep the money in a liquid, low-risk account.

Establish a 529 plan. If you have children or grandchildren who you would like to help get through college, you might want to contribute to a 529 plan. Your earnings grow tax-free, provided withdrawals are used for qualified higher-education expenses. Plus, your contributions may be deductible from your state taxes. (Be aware, though, that withdrawals used for purposes other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal and state taxes, plus a 10 percent penalty.)

Reducing your debt level can remove some stress from your life. And you'll gain even more benefits from debt reduction by using your savings to speed your progress toward your important financial goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Submitted by Jamie Chapogas of Edward Jones in Palm City.



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BUSINESS Pharmacy carries unique gifts



Perkins Pharmacy has been meeting the prescription and gift needs of clients in Indian River County for more than 20 years. Pictured: Cindy Stillwagon, Dee Dee Perkins, pharmacist and owner Edwin Perkins and Michelle.

Staff photo by
Jessica Tuggle

By Jessica Tuggle
For Forever Young

VERO BEACH — Independently owned pharmacies can be flexible, personable and creative and that's exactly what shopping at Perkins Pharmacy is like in Vero Beach.

Edwin Perkins, pharmacist and owner, emphasizes the importance of individualized service to his customers on a daily basis.

For more than 20 years, clients have been treated like family, greeted by name and helped as quickly as possible.

"You're not a number here. We know our regulars by name and we try not to make people wait too long," Mr. Perkins said.

The pharmacy routinely places orders that arrive next day and often makes deliveries to physicians' offices and clients who have trouble leaving the house. Extra employees were hired to be able to make the deliveries a regular part of client care.

"We don't have the hours of a chain drugstore, but our customers understand that and don't

mind, but they value our personal service," Mr. Perkins said.

Emergency services are also available, he said.

Perkins Pharmacy honors most insurance companies, including Medicaid, Medicare and worker's compensation.

Though the wait time at Perkins Pharmacy may be relatively short, customers can still squeeze in a little browsing for unique gift ideas in the store.

Dee Dee Perkins, Mr. Perkins' wife, handles the gift shop side of the pharmacy and chooses high-quality items she would feel comfortable giving as gifts.

"We have an order book behind the counter for drug-related orders and we have one for gift-related orders," Mrs. Perkins said.

"We want to carry unique gift items you don't find often in stores. We have more boutique items than drugstores usually carry and we have different lines, with limited quantities so you're not going to

see it anywhere else," Mrs. Perkins said.

Collegiate-themed bags, plates, candles and more dominate one aisle in the shop, while summer colors brighten another area and rhinestone-detailed leather purses and wallets are the focal point in another area.

Mrs. Perkins looks for quality gift items made in the U.S. and whenever possible, she brings them into the store.

Cindy Stillwagon is the designated gift consultant for the store. She often helps customers choose gifts based on information about the person receiving it.

"We also offer free gift wrap all year round. A lot of places don't do that anymore," Ms. Stillwagon said.

Perkins Pharmacy is located at 4015 20th St., Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 453-2161 or (772) 978-6470 or visit www.perkinsphar.com.

GENEALOGY

The well-traveled road

You've lost your family. You know they were in that small town in Georgia or Virginia or maybe New York, but where did they come from and where did they go?

This is where you go from your traditional genealogy research to all those other subjects I've been telling you to study: history, geography, politics and the financial conditions of the times.

Read the local history and study what was going on when your ancestor first appeared in their present location. Was it the area being settled by land grants or bounty land given for military service, during the 1849 Gold Rush, or the expansion of the railroad? Where did the other residents come from? Chances are, your family moved with acquaintances.

Some families stayed in one area and others moved every generation.



GENEALOGY

BRENDA K. SMITH

Migration can go in almost any pattern. Sometimes everyone in the family moved at once, taking the elderly parents with them. Often, they stayed until the parents died, then all the children took their families and moved south or west, looking for newer and greener fields, either going together, or scattering across the country.

They may have moved one at a time, with either the oldest or youngest staying behind with ma or pa and keeping the farm or settling the estate before moving on them.

Starting in 1850, census records will give the birth state of each individual. This tells you if they

have moved from the state where they were born. The 1870 census tells if the parents were foreign born.

By 1880, the census gives the birthplace of the parents of each person. This is valuable information in tracing the migration of the families. It will help decide if it was your direct ancestor who started migrating or was it his parents or grandparents?

Many deeds give the home of the grantee, or grantor, who may have moved on before he sold the land. While traveling down the migration route, look at these records for your ancestor's names. If you find their names, investigate thoroughly to build a case to determine if this, indeed, is your family. Check all the records in the county, and compare the facts with those you know about your family. When you determine that you are dealing with the same

people, you will have completed another link in the chain.

I can't stress enough the importance of researching everyone in the family, when trying to trace a dead-end family. Never stop with just researching the husband and wife who are your direct ancestors. Look at each child and who they married. Research the wife's parents. Each person in the family has a story and each person and place they came in contact with makes up a piece of the large puzzle of this family group. Chances are, they lived with, next door to or married a relative or friend who migrated from the same community. When you find the origin of these lateral connections, look for your family in this same location.

They traveled over established migration routes, from settlement

See **GENEALOGY, Page 10**

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ROSE'S ROOM

New Year's resolutions, non-resolutions

For more January firsts than I can remember, I have woken with firm resolve to cure all the ills that I have allowed to permeate my life.

Excesses of all sorts, relationships, jobs and more were all fair game in my firm quest to make my world a better place. Discovering that I am my own worst enemy pertaining to limits of any kind I have decided this year will be different.

I am making a list of non-resolutions and would like to share a few with you. Please feel free to join me, where applicable, and share with me any that you are doing this year or have benefited from in the past.

I resolve not to drive to work with my head so full of reports and deadlines that I don't pull off the road to stand in awe and thank the big guy for the panoramic wonder of a whole sky filled with pinks, blues and oranges showing His promise of another day.

And not to try to convince the nice officer that if the lawmakers would have seen this sunrise they would surely have made a 'sunrise watching lane' instead of an emergency lane and I was just ahead of my time.

I resolve not to be so rushed that I don't take the time to share God's wonder with a granddaughter serving our country in a cold, bleak part of the U.S. through the wondrous technology of the phone thing that my children insisted I learn how to use. And not to get upset when she calls me for the fourth time to tell me I sent her another picture of my foot.

I resolve not to keep an eye on my favorite TV show when a grandchild goes out of her way to come and see her Grammy and Poppi after night school, but to turn the blasted idiot box off and play 50s music while we stir up gingerbread because it makes



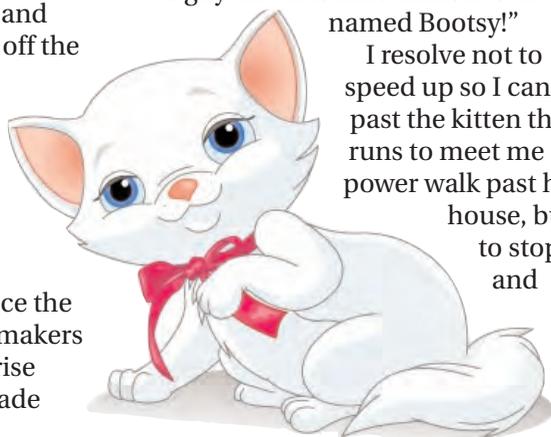
ROSE'S ROOM

ROSE PADRICK

her laugh. And try to come up with a better explanation of "Love Potion Number Nine."

I resolve not to dodge but to answer the phone cheerfully, listen intently and find comforting words every time a friend calls, even though I know the call will result in 20 minutes of her bemoaning her life since she broke up with a boyfriend. And never to utter the words, "I told you not to go out with a guy that has nine hamsters all named Bootsy!"

I resolve not to speed up so I can get past the kitten that runs to meet me as I power walk past her house, but to stop and



enjoy a tiny soul that only wants a moment of attention. But refrain from sitting in the middle of the sidewalk and playing with her until it's too dark to continue my walk.

I resolve to stop obsessing over the numbers on my scale and just concentrate on getting more exercise, eating healthier and cutting my sugar intake. I will begin this moment Or perhaps after the last of the leftover pie is gone (I can't be expected to throw it away can I?) And there's a whole tin of sugar cookies baked by my favorite little people. And all those candy canes. This one may be a tad difficult...

I pray everyone reading this and their families has a blessed and healthy New Year!



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Genealogy

From page 8

to settlement, by waterways and trails, following those who went before them. The first of these routes was a crude trail created in the 1600s, between Boston and New York that became the Boston Post Road. Over the years, the network grew, connecting the colonies from Maine to Georgia. Then the roads

began to inch westward and settlers traveled by the combination of waterways and trails, roads and railways across the country.

Your journey back down these trails will not be a fast one unless you have family stories to guide you.

You will have to search the records all along the routes you think your family may have taken. Sometimes the trip was a steady move from point A to point B. Many times the families would find a locale they liked and stop for a generation or two, then move on.

As I indicated earlier, some family members will move and some will stay, and you will find them moving back and forth, intermarrying with friends and cousins from each location. That is why it is important to

research each person to pick up these relationships. It can help you find the missing family member you need.

All you need is to head down the road, stopping to inspect the cemeteries, and court houses, and remember, if you listen carefully, you just might hear someone say, "Here I am."

Contact Brenda Smith at BrendaKSmith@prodigy.net.



"Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word."

Goran Persson
Former Prime Minister of Sweden

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

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