



Up & coming

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See **COMING, A3**

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ENTERTAINMENT **B1**

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COMPUTE THIS **A6**

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WEEKEND WEATHER



Friday: Partly cloudy; high: 81; low: 68; high tide: 5:54 a.m.; low tide: 11:55 a.m.
Saturday: Partly cloudy; high: 90; low: 68; high tide: 6:38 a.m.; low tide: 12:37 p.m.
Sunday: Partly cloudy; high: 77; low: 66; high tide: 7:20 a.m.; low tide: 1:16 p.m.
Weather courtesy of www.weather.com

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Commissioners, boards to review GoLine bus contract

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The county transit system agreement will be reviewed by local boards and the county commission before a three year commitment is official.

During the Feb. 12 county commission meeting, freshman commissioner Tim Zorc pulled an item about the Senior Resource Association's agreement with the county to run the GoLine bus system from the consent agenda for discussion.

As a result, the commission voted 5-0 to extend the agreement until September to remain in compliance with state law, but requested the process to renew a contract be sent through citizen advisory boards and transportation boards before coming back to the commission for a longer approval period.

Members of the community, including Sebastian City Councilwoman Andrea Coy, were concerned about transparency issues and thorough vetting of the paperwork that outlines the county's

requirements for the community transportation coordinator, which is currently the Senior Resource Association.

Commissioners agreed that the county's boards should look at the agreement and come up with a recommendation before the three-year, \$1.45 million agreement is settled.

Phil Matson, staff director for the

metropolitan planning organization, said the agreement is required by state law because the

See **GOLINE, A3**

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Congratulations, Mrs. Houston!

The Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center was filled to the rafters last Wednesday, Feb. 13, for the 2014 Teacher of the Year Gala presented by the School District of Indian River County. Five finalists, of the 21 Teachers of the Year, waited behind the scenes to hear their name called. Jody Houston, a fourth-grade teacher at Fellsmere Elementary School, was named 2014 Teacher of the Year. See more pictures on page A4.



Jody Houston, of Fellsmere Elementary School gets a hug from Misael Marceleno, 10, one of her fourth-grade students, after she was named the 2014 Teacher of the Year Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

Kristina Trahan, a second-grade teacher at Fellsmere Elementary School, celebrates with a sign for Jody Houston, a Fellsmere Elementary School fourth-grade teacher who was named 2014 Teacher of the Year Wednesday, Feb. 13.



Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

Hip-hop dance brings children together

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

SEBASTIAN — On Wednesday evenings, the Sebastian Boys and Girls Club basketball court rings with the squeak of tennis shoes and thud of footsteps, but one thing that is missing is a bouncing ball.

That's when at 6:30 p.m., anywhere between 20 and

40 members of a Sebastian hip-hop team assemble onto the basketball court for a free, hour-long class learning hip-hop dance routines.

Team founder and head coach, Tinamarie Ioffredo of Sebastian, started the team two years ago so her daughter could have a place to express herself through dance.

"My daughter Gabby is a special needs child and she loves to dance," Ms. Ioffredo said.

After a disappointing experience at a dance class, Ms. Ioffredo decided to make her own dance class and open it to special needs and mainstream dancers.

"I started with 12 kids and I have 40 now," she said.

The dance class is free

and the group is currently investigating how to become a nonprofit organization.

The participants recently performed at the Fellsmere Frog Leg Festival and Sebastian River High School and are preparing for future performances.

Her 11-year-old daughter Gabby loves the high-energy music and the excite-

ment of learning dance steps with other dance students, who range in age from 3 to 40, Ms. Ioffredo said.

"You can do any dance moves in hip-hop, it's not like ballet with the plies and turns, they can do anything and have fun," she said.

The smiles on the faces of

See **DANCE, A7**

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Vero Beach to be a location for emotional short film

'Invisible' veteran wounds to be highlighted in IRSC student film

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The red, white and blue flag that represents the land of the brave and the home of the brave can move some to shed proud tears and others to action.

Veterans are often hailed as heroes for their service to this country, but the masses often have no clue the sacrifices and life changing events that happen during that service.

Rick Wood of Fort Pierce is a combat veteran who served in operations such as Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and later served in the U.S. Army reserves, and worked as a civilian for the military, and later worked as a journalist at a military base.

He is currently a film student at Indian River State College and is preparing to film a 20-minute dramatic short film in Vero Beach and Fort Pierce based on some of his life experiences.

"Tideline" follows the life of Nicole Young, a former military police captain turned therapist, working with a troubled veteran with thoughts of suicide, Mr. Wood said.

"Our intent is to start the conversation. If we can get folks talking about these things openly, we stand a good chance of possible helping veterans out there who struggle with their own experiences," Mr. Wood said in a press release.

In an email interview, Mr. Wood said after he returned to the U.S. from his tours of duty, he noticed he had classic signs of post-traumatic stress disorder: difficulty concentrating, reoccurring



Photo courtesy of Rick Wood

Veteran Rick Wood, a film student at Indian River State College, is preparing to begin production on an original short film based on his experiences as a combat veteran and as a journalist embedded with the troops.

dreams related to combat experiences and anxiety in crowded areas.

"I still have to sit in the back of restaurants and face out, in the direction of the entrance," he said.

Casting is currently underway and filming is expected to be in full swing by May. The film will include locations in Vero Beach and Fort Pierce.

"It's both difficult and cathartic to dive into the subject matter of the film," Mr. Wood said. "Post-traumatic stress disorder, loss of comrades, survivor's guilt and suicidal feelings are hard things to think about even if you have no connection. But here's the thing: the majority of deaths in the military each year don't come from the battles in the wars we are fighting. Suicide is the number one killer in the military. That's a huge thing when you look at it."

Mr. Wood was 19 when he returned from combat in 1991.

"It took a long time to digest some of what I'd seen and things I had done. I'm still working on it," he said.

Mr. Wood and his filming partner, Micah Bolen of Port

St. Lucie, want the film to bring veterans issues to the forefront while at the same time convey a message of hope.

The film will portray potential real-life situations and reactions. In addition to addressing post traumatic stress disorder, the film will also address the issue of women in combat and sexual assault overseas, Mr. Wood said.

"Women are more likely to be sexually assaulted in a combat zone than to be injured or die from enemy action," he said. "Behind the camera, I get a chance to tell this story, share these ugly and difficult things. In a way, I get to let go of some of that baggage by doing so."

"We want veterans to know that these aren't their invisible burdens to bear."

For more information about the film, visit <http://tidelinefilm.weebly.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tideline-The-Movie/493570597356177>, or <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1994564730/tideline-a-film-dealing-with-the-invisible-wounds>.

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Space Coast High School Crew Team, bottom, crossed the finish line second in the men's eight ahead of Sebastian River High School, top, during the sixth annual Opening Day Regatta hosted by the Sebastian River High School Saturday, Feb. 16.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

The Sebastian River High School Crew Team took the lead in the women's eight over Gainesville Area Rowing during the sixth annual Opening Day Regatta Saturday on the C-54 Canal. An estimated 250 rowers, staff and parents from 11 schools from as far away as Coconut Grove took part in the annual event. For more information, go to sebastiancrew.org.

GoLine

From page A1

community transportation coordinator receives "pass through" funds from the

federal government. "The contracts with community transportation coordinators must be reviewed every five years," Mr. Matson said. "The county is currently undergoing such a

process, which has included requests for letters of interest and proposals from companies wanting to take on the job."

According to Mr. Matson, the Senior Resource Associ-

ation has been the only group pursuing the contract with the county at this time.

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

Coming

From page A1

Indian River County will canvass high-need neighborhoods in Fellsmere to provide sterilization and pet healthcare assistance. This community outreach event will take place from 12 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 24.

The shelter will be offering Fellsmere residents a special "Boys for a Buck"

low-cost sterilization and vaccination program for unneutered male dogs and cats. Animals will be transported from Fellsmere to the shelter for vaccination and surgery on Monday, March 4.

Animal pick-ups for surgery and wellness care on March 4 will take place at approximately 7:30 a.m. in Fellsmere. Surgeries will run throughout the day at the shelter and animals will be

returned to their homes at approximately 4:30 p.m. the same day.

For more information, call (772) 388-3331, Ext. 18 or (561) 634-1261 to confirm times.

Health event taking place Feb. 23

The Indian River Medical Center is hosting the Treasure Coast's second annual

'Day of Dance for Your Health' event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 23 at Indian River Mall in Vero Beach.

Free screenings provided by IRMC will include: blood pressure, pulse, body mass index, finger stick glucose testing for diabetes, colorectal screening kits to take home, grip strength testing, height/weight and oxygen saturation measurement.

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Waiting to be chosen



From left, the five finalists, Sara Murto, Sebastian Elementary, Karah Widick, Sebastian River Middle, Jody Houston, Fellsmere Elementary, Kerri Wall, Sebastian River High School and Ashby Goldstein, Gifford Middle wait in the wings to hear who will be chosen for the 2014 Teacher of the Year.

Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

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Hometown News 2012 READERS' CHOICE

047450

Trustworthy Business Worth Its Weight In Gold! Same People, Same Value, Same Great Service, New Location

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."



Come see Dawn, Lori, Elaine and Stan, the team at Square Deal Gold Buyers for an honest deal and great service.

"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 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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Jody Houston, 2014 Teacher of the Year, gets a congratulatory kiss from her husband, Ken.

Cliff Partlow/staff photographer



Ramon Echeverria, Fellsmere Elementary School principal, hands Jody Houston a bouquet of roses after the Fellsmere fourth-grade teacher was named the 2014 Teacher of the year.

Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

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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 Feb. 6 to Feb. 12, 2013

Sebastian Police Department

Vance Lee Gavin, 27, of 1720 Indian River Drive, Sebastian, was charged with battery on a law enforcement officer and resisting arrest without violence.

Fellsmere Police Department

Willie B. Bibbs, 29, of 10005 Booker St., Fellsmere, was charged with grand theft, burglary of a dwelling, resisting arrest without vio-

lence and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

- Jonathon Devon Clark Baker, 27, of 4655 32nd Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with sale of a counterfeit controlled substance.
- Brian Lee Chavis, 55, of 1195 19th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of cocaine.
- Jason Lee Clark, 28, of 5314 Birch Drive, Fort Pierce, was charged with possession of cocaine.
- Jennifer Renee Crosby, 41, of 1850 Woodland Circle, No. 102, Vero Beach, was charged with possession of cocaine.
- Jennifer Ashley Hunter, 28, of 4410 26th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of oxycodone, cocaine and hydromorphone.

- Ricky Gene Lloyd, 42, of 4835 32nd Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with three counts of abandonment of an animal and four counts of cruelty to animals.
- Jamaal Kendale Williams, 30, of 634 24th Place S.W., Vero Beach, was charged with burglary of an occupied structure.
- Charles Joseph Tong, 27, of 7050 77th St., Vero Beach, was charged with fraudulent use of a credit card and obtaining a credit card by fraudulent means.
- Hubert Clay Agee, 26, of 336 36th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with grand theft, dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a pawn broker.
- Frederick Gonzula Brown, 25, of 2405 Avenue O, Fort Pierce, was charged

- with aggravated assault.
- James Hartman Collie, 57, of 4355 28th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of a controlled substance, introduction of contraband into a detention facility and possession of marijuana.
- John Alan Royal, 34, of 3925 62nd Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of cocaine.
- Nathaniel Ola Bryant, 45, of 3991 47th St., Vero Beach, was charged with aggravated battery on a person older than 65.
- Taylor Leigh Rispoli, 20, of 1100 Ruby Drive, Toms River, N.J., was charged with grand theft, armed robbery with a weapon and attempting, soliciting or conspiring to commit an offense prohibited by law.

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- Latoya M. Ross, 34, of 4171 28th Ave., Vero Beach, was charged with possession of cocaine and driving while license suspended with knowledge.
- Marcelous Janae Thomas, 22, of 1751 N.W. 46th Ave. No. C206, Lauderhill, was charged with retail theft.
- Kenneth John Wood, 19, of 801 Fourth St., Vero Beach, was charged with lewd or lascivious battery.
- Bertha Lynn Brailsford, 57, of 450 N.W. 108th Terrace, Miami, was charged with criminal use of personal identification information and uttering a forged or counterfeit bill.
- Nashon Nunes, 33, of 16824 Cedar Run Drive, Orlando, was charged with driving while license suspended with knowledge and fleeing and eluding.

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

Man convicted in Vero Beach murders dies on death row

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The state department of corrections has confirmed a death row inmate convicted of three murders in Vero Beach, has died while incarcerated.

Thomas Wyatt, convicted of killing four people in 1998, three in a downtown Vero Beach Domino's Pizza, died on Feb. 8 of undisclosed causes.

The state department of corrections does not disclose private medical information, such as cause of death, for inmates, office staff said.

However, the office could confirm that there was no indication of foul play in Mr. Wyatt's death, said Misty Cash, department spokeswoman.

Mr. Wyatt was assigned to death row in 1991 after being convicted of the murders of two male and one female employee in a Vero Beach Domino's Pizza and a woman in Tampa.

Mr. Wyatt was also facing sentences for two counts of robbery with a gun or deadly weapon, sexual battery, kidnapping, arson and grand theft of a firearm and motor vehicle.

In May 1988, Mr. Wyatt and another prison inmate, Michael Lovett, escaped from North Carolina to Florida and stole a car with a gun inside. While they were

in Vero Beach, they entered the Domino's Pizza with the intent to commit a robbery. After money from the safe was stolen, the female employee, Frances Edwards, was raped and all three employees, including William Edwards, Mrs. Edward's husband, and Michael Bornoosh, were fatally shot.

The pair traveled next to Tampa, but along the way, their stolen car overheated, so they hitched the remainder of their trip. Mr. Wyatt met his next victim at a bar in Tampa. She was found dead the next day.

Mr. Lovett surrendered to police in North Carolina, while Mr. Wyatt was arrested in South Carolina on unrelated charges.

He was sentenced to death on Feb. 22, 1991 and Dec. 20, 1991.



Wyatt



Indian River County Sheriff's deputy Phil Craig, right, escorts Thomas Wyatt to the Indian River County Courthouse for sentencing in 1991.

File photo

Hometown News
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Indian River County • February 2013

The month of *love*

Connie and Robb Colthman, who've been married for 20 years, spend some time getting to know Rusty, a Shiba Inu mix at the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County. Cliff Farrow/Staff Photographer

Telling a love story

Single's guide to Valentine's Day

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All prizes will be awarded. You need not be present or tour the house to win. Winners will be notified by telephone the night of the drawing, Thursday, March 28, 2013 or by certified mail. Ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m.

VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, FEB. 22, 2013 • HOMETOWN NEWS • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM

Be a part of online knowledge

Have you ever wanted to contribute some of your own "expert knowledge" to some encyclopedia entry to bring the article up to the level you think would be most helpful to other people? Well, thanks to Wikipedia, now you can.

Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org) is an online encyclopedia boasting more than four million articles, all editable by its readers. For a size comparison, the Encyclopedia Britannica has approximately 85,000 entries and Encarta has approximately 63,000 entries. And none of them are changeable.

Wikipedia is a combination of the word "wiki" (which is an editable form of website) and the last part of the word encyclopedia. In essence it's an editable encyclopedia.

The project has grown since its inception in 2001, with more articles posted every day. The beauty of it is the ability to contribute to any article by any reader, so the content of the project grows by leaps and bounds.

When I first stumbled upon the site, I didn't give it much thought; it was interesting and had some good information on what I was looking for but the power of what I was looking at didn't appear to me at the time.

Then, over time, I started to realize that more and more of the searches I would do on Google (or other search engines) were returning results from Wikipedia.

Overall, I found the information returned to be relevant, until one day I found an article that I thought needed a little clarification. After looking at the page for a bit, I found the edit button and read the frequently asked questions (FAQ) on editing a page. Within minutes I was adding my thoughts to that particular entry. Now the article contained the information that it was lacking. For the first time, I had actually contributed to an encyclopedia entry!

OK, I know what you are thinking, "How could an encyclopedia that is edited and modified by any reader possibly be accurate?"

Well, there are some basic rules that appear to be broken here; so what's stopping pranksters or just plain ignorant people from



COMPUTE THIS
SEAN MCCARTHY

posting information on this site that is completely bogus? Just because you read something on the Internet doesn't necessarily make it true. That's always important to keep in mind when surfing the Web.

Well, if you browse the site's FAQs, you will find that they have indeed addressed much of the criticism people have posed regarding the site's validity, and it seems that the checks and balances they have in place to prevent such inaccurate entries again relies on the users themselves. Each edit or new entry gets immediately posted to the "recent changes" page where thousands of Wikipedia devotees proof-read and verify all new entries. So, if someone posts a bogus entry, it's corrected rapidly, usually the same day.

How does one go about using Wikipedia? Type www.wikipedia.org into your Web browser and then clicking the English link (or whatever language you are most comfortable with). This will bring you to the main page, which changes daily, where you will find some trivia, some random subjects and some news articles from various sources.

On the left-and side of the page, you will see a series of links, and at the top left of the page there is a search dialogue box. Type in whatever you are looking for, click search and that instantly brings you to the most relevant match.

If the results are not what you are looking for, look for a link labeled "other uses." This will bring you to a page that lists all the matched results, rather than the one match that it thinks is most relevant.

After reading up on whatever you are looking for, if you feel you have something to contribute, click the "edit this page" link and have at it. If you have trouble figuring out how to edit the page, click the "editing help" link and learn how.

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

Delivering supplies, rain or shine



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Despite the steady rain, car after car made their way around the Operation Hope campus Thursday, Feb. 14 to receive food and toiletries from Feed the Children. Feed the Children delivered 24 pallets containing more than 26,000-pounds of supplies to the outreach center. Jesse Zermeno, Operation Hope president, helped make the process smoother by directing traffic.



Got something to say?

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

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

Modern-day depression

I've heard my parents talk about the Great Depression. As a child, I never understood why it was called "great." It never seemed that great.

I've heard the stories about food rations. I heard about how it brought communities together. And now I hear that as a country, we are going to pot.

During my childhood, those stories seemed so distant and nothing more than the way things used to be. But now, as I struggle to make ends meet for my own family, I'm reminded of the times in which many of our grandparents were raised.

As we sink into this modern-day depression, I sure wish I would've taken more notice on how my grandparents made ends meet.

There seems to be no light at the end of this tunnel. We are faced with decisions such as a gallon of milk or a gallon of gas; cell phone or cable; electricity or rent.

Employers are struggling to make payroll. And those still fortunate enough to call themselves employees are struggling to live from one paycheck to another.

Because we are all aware that the job market is bleak, we dare not complain about wages that are gone as soon as earned. We know that there is somebody more than willing to take the job we are fortunate enough to have.

So, how does one get ahead? How can we start to feel at ease? When does the comfort in knowing that having a job means having a roof over your family's head return?

I suppose, we, nor anyone else, knows the answer to that question. But we can't, as a community, start turning on each other. We can't start robbing and stealing from someone who is struggling, as well. We have to start doing for each other.

A pinch of kindness and a smile can go a long way.

Drivers be careful

Please, drivers, do not take your eyes off the road while you drive.

With everyone in such a hurry or full of stress lately, it only takes a split second for you to accidentally run a light or sign, or someone else not seeing you coming because they reached over to tune the radio or something, and your whole day and possibly your world can change in a moment with an accident.

This happened to me recently and although I was not hurt, my car is now in the shop getting fixed, and all it took was a quick, momentary distraction. Then, I had a big dent in the door.

There are so many ways we can lose our focus with driving: texting, phone conversations, tuning radios, reaching on the floor for something, putting makeup on or even eating.

Be careful out there, everyone, and keep your eyes on the road and hands on the wheel for your own protection. I could have been paralyzed for life.

Seatbelt rights

This is about the seatbelt law. We should all make our own choices. If you get hurt while you don't wear it, oh well. We are all adults. But there is a dummy on a motorcycle without a helmet flying down the road, and nobody does anything about that. Why don't they change that law?

On food stamps

I see people in stores with nice clothes and fancy cars, yet are buying steaks and lobsters with food stamps. My husband and I are living on \$17,000 a year Social Security. I have bills I can't pay. I'm afraid that my lights or water are going to be turned off. We were turned down for food stamps. People who have fought for this country can't get them, but those who haven't been here long can.

Watering the road?

I drive to work every morning on A1A and there are sprinklers that shoot right into the road. Why are we watering the pavement?

Health care dilemma

One of the leading advocates of a government takeover of the nation's health care admits that, "We are the world leaders in medical innovation, research, education and advanced technology" and that we provide the best medical care in the world.

However, she then proceeds to argue that we still must assume massive debt in attempt to change it for the better.

If we are already the world leader, this sounds like throwing out the baby with the bath water.

What about the victims?

At a time when this nation is experiencing a wave of crime, often committed by illegal immigrants, a far left group called the Sentencing Project has come out with a recommendation to abolish life without parole. These do-gooders who have so much sympathy for criminals seem to have little concern for those of us who are law-abiding citizens and who are so often the victims of crime.

Revise system

I have a son who's incarcerated in Miami. He was sentenced to 27 years. He had no weapons or drugs. It was a racketeering charge. He has filed motions to have his sentence reduced, but they've done nothing. He doesn't deserve this sentence. But they've done nothing. I'm very disturbed by the system.

No kids at the bar

What happened to the state laws on alcohol? Aren't they supposed to be watching what goes on at places that serve alcohol?

I was at a restaurant and there was a child at the bar. They serve food to children while others drink. Where are the MADD mothers?

DCF needs to get it together

I have reported abuse to the Department of Families and Children and they are doing nothing about it. They need to do their job and take care of the children. They don't understand the psychological abuse that a child goes through when they are in an abusive home. Nobody seems to care about these innocent children who have to fend for themselves. I hope somebody from the department sees this rant and does something about it.

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My Hometown News

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY



SEBASTIAN

Business

Community members offered free tax service

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — Liberty Tax is giving away tax preparation services to those who so selflessly serve, protect, educate, and assist local communities and the Liberty offices that operate within them. For first-time customers, starting February 18, Liberty Tax kicks off a month and a half of "Appreciation Weeks" to thank these invaluable individuals.

Through Feb. 24, Liberty Tax will once again salute veterans, active military and their immediate family members with free tax preparation during "Military and Veterans Appreciation Week."

From Feb. 25 – March 3, Liberty Tax will invite teachers, day care workers, educators and all school staff to bring their tax information into a Liberty Tax Service office during "Educator Appreciation Week."

March 4-10 is "Police and

Firefighter Appreciation Week" and Liberty Tax will honor firefighters, EMT/EMS personnel, police, and law enforcement officers with free tax preparation.

March 11- 17, Liberty Tax will offer free tax preparations to all the nurses, doctors, therapists, and all hospital staff, just stop by during "Hospital Appreciation Week."

March 18- 24 is "Healthy Living Appreciation Week," and all gym staff members,

personal trainers, dieticians, and recreational centers staff the opportunity to have their tax return prepared for free.

From March 25- 31, Liberty Tax will give free tax preparation to all nonprofit organizations staff member and all volunteers during "Volunteer and Non-profit Appreciation Week."

Taxpayers can find a local Liberty Tax location by calling 866-871-1040. Liberty Tax does take appointments but they are not necessary.

SunUp ARC announces new board members

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — The SunUp ARC board of directors welcomed four new board members: Joan Black, Jim Davis, Cynthia Webb-Haskett and Cathy LaCroix.

SunUp ARC operates on three campuses, two in Vero Beach and one in Sebastian. Services include adult day training; behavior services including behavior analysis services and behavior assistant services; residential group homes; supported living services; in-home sup-

ports and personal care assistance; transportation; supported employment and respite care.

A highly experienced staff of certified professionals provides care to individuals with the goal of enabling each person to reach his or her potential and to lead a

rich and fulfilling life.

SunUp ARC is a non-profit, 501(c)3 agency, dedicated to meeting the needs of people with developmental disabilities in Indian River County.

For more information, call (772) 562.6854, Ext 219.

Dance

From page A1

the dance students are contagious, and the parents and grandparents watching on the sidelines also enjoy the weekly practices.

Carol Coppage of Vero Beach takes her granddaughter, Madison Earmen, 9, to the class to have fun and teach her how to develop relationships with people with mental or physical challenges.

"We go every week unless one of us is sick. The kids just have a blast together," Ms. Coppage said. "Tina and I have really hit it off and become close friends. She has enough energy for three people."

Karen Tremblay of Sebastian says her daughter, Gabriela, 9, also enjoys the

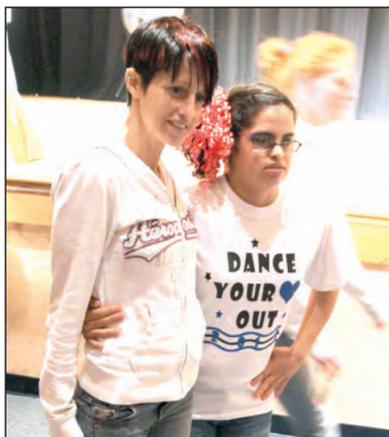
class.

"She loves to be around the special needs dancers. She also is very supportive and enjoys cheering on the special needs swim team here in Sebastian," Ms. Tremblay.

The dance team allows shy and withdrawn students, both mainstream and special needs, to come out of their shell and just be themselves, she said.

"The music is a mix of popular hits and hip-hop music, but all the lyrics are clean, the choreography is not very suggestive and the girls are not allowed to dress inappropriately during class," Ms. Coppage said. "All the kids are different, their ages and their abilities, but it's a great place to meet someone new and have a really good time."

The team sponsors



Tinamarie Ioffredo poses with her daughter Gabby at the Music Inclusion Program at Sebastian River High School in December.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

include Island Smoothie Café, Skyline Design, The Centerpiece, Brandt's Appliance Services, Indian River Gymnastics Academy, the Frog Leg Festival, Nellie's Boutique and several individual donors.

Anyone wanting to sponsor can contact Ms. Ioffredo for more information.

For more information about the hip-hop team, contact Ms. Ioffredo at (772) 646-1994.

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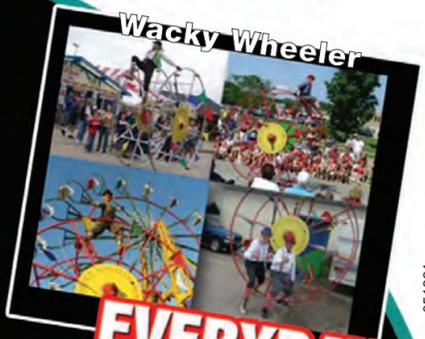
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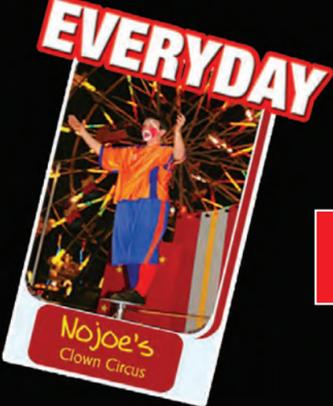
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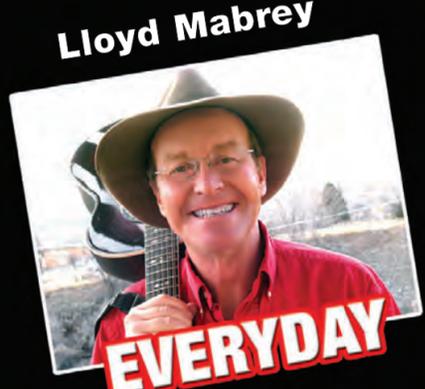


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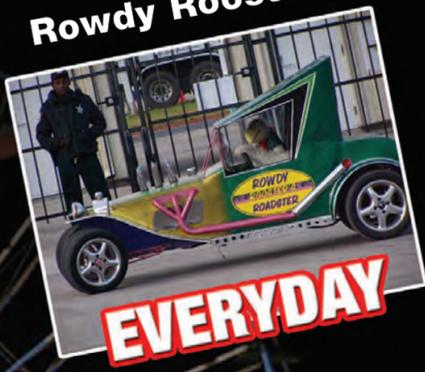


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Classified INSIDE

SECTION B • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM • FRIDAY, FEB. 22, 2013

Grant Seafood festival returns

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

GRANT — Where's the best place to get a plate full of fried clam strips, deviled crabs or shrimp and tuna kabobs? It's your friendly neighborhood Grant Seafood Festival.

The seafood festival will be held March 2-3. Admission is free and gates are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on March 2, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 3.

The festival, now in its 47th year, has been a favorite event of many in south Brevard County and the surrounding areas and for good reason.

The fresh food at the festival is prepared by the hands of hundreds of volunteers from the Grant community,

not brought in from another region, said Lauri Chase, advertising coordinator for the festival.

"Everything is done in house. Our volunteers purchase, prepare and sell here, we don't have any outside vendors," Ms. Chase said.

Families and close friends often get together to prepare the different seafood dishes, so preparing for the annual festival has lots of tradition shared and loved by multiple generations.

"We have a real ownership in it. It's the conch salad from scratch, it's the deviled crabs — nothing is just brought in from a restaurant," Ms. Chase said. "This year a new booth has been added, a 'bites'

See **SEAFOOD, B3**



Rob Kurtz, left and Fred Combs, both of Sebastian, made short work of their raw oysters at the 46th annual Grant seafood Festival in March 2012. Mr. Combs came prepared with his special recipe home-made cocktail sauce.

File photo



Week of 2-22-2013

ARIES - March 21-Apr 20

Finding time to get everything done can be challenging, Aries. Fortunately, you have quite a few supporters in your corner who are willing to lend a helping hand.

TAURUS - April 21-May 21

Taurus, difficult decisions take time to mull over. Although you want to properly work through all the scenarios, this week you might not have all the time you need.

GEMINI - May 22-June 21

Gemini, water rolls off of your back quite easily. However, something tugs at you this week and you may have to give it more thought than you're accustomed to.

CANCER - June 22-July 22

Cancer, with such a hectic schedule, you may be feeling the pressure. It is not unreasonable to take some time for yourself and focus on your relationship with a spouse or significant other.

LEO - July 23-Aug. 23

Sometimes you have to make a few mistakes before you get things right, Leo. Don't let this worry you because you'll get back on the right path soon enough.

VIRGO - Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, it's important to recognize your way is not always the right way. If you absorb what other people are saying, you might have an easier go of things.

LIBRA - Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, keep the lines of communication open with a loved one. There may be messages coming your way, and you should be ready to receive them.

SCORPIO - Oct. 24-Nov. 22

You may need to break out of your routines this week, Scorpio. Even though you thrive when things are organized, you cannot expect everything to go according to plan.

See **SCOPES, B4**

Annual Aviation Day gives upclose look at planes

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — On March 2 at the Vero Beach Municipal Airport it will be time to get up close and personal with 50 aircraft.

Aviation Day returns once again to the local airport from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 2. This fly-in event, hosted in part by the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 99 in Vero Beach, is a family-friendly opportunity to engage with those in the aviation industry.

The cost for individual entry is \$5 and families are \$10, said Keith Gordon, vice president of the EAA Chapter 99.

"One of the most eagerly anticipated aircraft

zooming into the airport for the day is the Flagship Detroit, a restored 1937 Douglas DC-3, formerly flown by American Airlines," said Mr. Gordon. "The color scheme of the plane reflects an older color scheme of the airline, polished metal and an orange lightning bolt."

General aviation planes will make up the bulk of the aircraft in the show, although a few military planes may make an appearance.

Experimental aircraft and the pilots that have built them will be on hand to answer questions about them, as will pilots for the other aircraft.

Several bi-planes and even a helicopter will be on site offering rides throughout the day for an

extra fee.

"In the lobby of the airport there will be radio-controlled aircraft, as well as a simulator, further engaging the public with aviation at all levels," Mr. Gordon said. "So many people are fascinated by aviation, but feel they can't afford it or have enough time to spend with it."

In this new millennium, technology and security measures have changed how people can interact with the aviation industry. No longer is it common for people to walk onto the tarmac and approach the planes, he said.

"Here they can go inside, touch, walk

See **FLIGHT, B2**

St. Lucie County fair celebrates heritage

By Dawn Krebs
dkrebs@hometownnewsol.com

ST. LUCIE COUNTY — Once again, the St. Lucie County Fair has planned 10 days of fun for the whole family from clowns to crooners and everything in between.

"We try to bring in something new every year, but keep the old favorites," said Jeanne Keaton, the general manager of the fairgrounds.

Last year, the St. Lucie County Fair saw 119,000 people pass through its gates to enjoy the rides, exhibits and special concerts. This year is no different.

Two concerts are featured this year, and both offer free seating.

"It's our gift to the St. Lucie County residents," said Ms. Keaton.

The first concert featuring the group The Guess Who, will perform the first night of the fair on Feb. 22.

But if one doesn't care for live music, there are also rides, school exhibits, racing pigs, a clown circus, a rowdy rooster stage show, a master hypnotist and a 12-string guitarist to enjoy. And that's just the first night.

See **FAIR, B2**

Out & about

FRIDAY, FEB. 22

• **Art in Bloom luncheon**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, time undetermined. Members of the John's Island Garden Club create floral installations inspired by works in the museum's collection. Event includes a floral demonstration, lunch, awards and fashion show. Cost: Not available. Website: www.verobeachmuseum.org

• **Musical**, Vero Beach High School

Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach, 7:30 p.m. The performing arts department will present "Footloose." Cost: \$10, \$12. Website: <http://sites.indianriverschools.org/vbhs/PAC/index.html>

• **Downtown Friday**, downtown Vero Beach, 6 p.m. Themed street party with live music, food, drink, community booths and entertainment. Cost: free admission. Website: www.mainstreetverobeach.org

THROUGH MARCH 10

• **Riverside Theatre presents "Les Miserables"**, Stark Stage, Riverside Theatre, Vero Beach, times vary. The musical brings to life the tragic story of Jean Valjean, a convict whose entire life is changed due to a single act of kindness. Cost: \$36-\$70. Website: www.riversidetheatre.com

THROUGH MARCH 12

• **Film studies course**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. "Trends in International Cinema." Supper club tickets available for 7 p.m. classes. Cost: \$60, \$50 for museum members. Dinner tickets separate. Website: www.verobeachmuseum.org

See **OUT, B3**

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Fair

From page B1

Parking is \$3 per vehicle, and admission is \$3 for children aged 6 to 12; \$10 for adults age 13 to 49; and \$5 for seniors age 50 and older. Special prices on admissions and rides vary from day to day to make the fair affordable for every budget.

The fair is all about the animals too, with exhibit barns featuring steer, pigs and small animals. Students spend all year raising the animals to bring them to the fair. There will be daily livestock competitions, shows, demonstrations and auctions by the St. Lucie County youth.

One of the highlights of this year's fair is Kellie Pickler in concert on Feb. 23. She became famous on the fifth season of the reality show American Idol, and has made a name for herself as a country singer.

Now in its 48th year, the fair is honoring Florida's heritage with the

theme "500 Years of Florida."

"There will be a variety of exhibits showing the different aspects of our Florida heritage," Ms. Keaton said. "We were happy to coordinate that."

Also on hand will be displays by residents, who compete in events such as crafty men, art and photography. Displays will showcase quilting, wood burning, scroll-saw workmanship and bowl turning.

But no county fair can be complete without the rides, and this year there will more than 40 rides spread across 15 acres. The rides will also feature special pricing to make the fun affordable for everyone.

The fair will be open from 4 p.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday, from 4 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Fridays, from noon to 1:30 a.m. Saturdays and from noon until midnight Sundays.

For more information, go to www.stluciecounty-fair.org.



File photo

Mick Thorstenson, owner and pilot of this T28 Trojan, returns to the tarmac after a flight during Aviation Day at the Vero Beach Municipal Airport in March 2012. The Experimental Aircraft Association Indian River Chapter 99 sponsors the event.

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Seating is Limited- please RSVP on-line at www.uff.us by 2-28-2013

This stop on United for Families' Gala Travel Series is made possible by the contributions of Seacoast National Bank and Behavior Basics, Secrets of Modern Parenting.

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Flight

From page B1

around the planes and there are plenty of people to answer any questions," Mr. Gordon said.

This is the event's 10th consecutive year, although it had occurred prior to 10 years ago.

"Thousands of people come out from around the county and surrounding counties to see the aircraft," said Eric Menger, Vero Beach Municipal Airport director. "February is aviation month in Vero Beach."

For more information about the event, visit www.eaa99.com/aviation-dayverobeach.html

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Hometown News

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Seafood

From page B1

booth." The new booth will feature lobster rolls, grilled fish sandwiches, fries, gator bites and clam strips.

"The gator bites and clam strips were a big hit last year so we brought them back," she said. "Our seared tuna was also a success and they are here this year."

More than 500 volunteers are needed to put together the festival.

In addition to being a free event with free parking and a family-friendly atmosphere, the seafood festival brings in money that primarily helps fund academic

scholarships for local students, Ms. Chase said.

Last year, after paying expenses to run the festival, \$45,000 was left over for scholarships, she said.

The funds also help fund the Grant Community Center, the Grant library children's programs and community block parties.

The Grant Seafood Festival grounds are located on First Street in Grant. During the event, signs will be posted pointing visitors in the right direction from the parking areas.

For more information about the Grant Seafood Festival, visit www.grantseafoodfestival.com.

Thousands of seafood and music lovers took part in the 46th annual Grant Seafood Festival in March 2012. Pokey Gutjahr and her grandson Christian Amig, 2, danced to the music of 'All About Nothing.'

File photo

Out

From page B1

THROUGH APRIL 30

• **Art exhibition**, McKee Botanical Garden, Vero Beach, times vary. The garden presents "Frabel Reimagined," a collection of 200 glass sculptures by world-famous

framework glass artist Hans Godo Frabel. Cost: garden admission fees apply. Website: www.mckee-garden.org.

SATURDAY, FEB. 23

• **Night sounds at Sebastian Inlet concert series**, Coconut Point, Sebastian Inlet State Park, Sebastian, 7 p.m. Featuring recording artists

Christine Stay and Aidan Quinn, known as Friction Farm. Their music is a mix of country, folk and pop. Cost: park entry fees apply. Website: www.floridastateparks.org/sebastianinlet/vents.cfm.

• **Community celebration**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, 10 a.m. The

See **OUT**, B4

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Film Favorite

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 Hacks
- 5 Martin's "Laugh In" partner
- 10 Mockery
- 15 Pro
- 18 Oodles
- 19 Roman magistrate
- 20 Gold and silver
- 21 ___ Onassis
- 22 Stewart murder witness film "___ Window"
- 23 "I ___ letter to..."
- 24 Adjusts precisely
- 25 Novak, of "Vertigo"
- 26 Stewart holiday classic
- 29 ___ out: economize
- 30 Pancake mixtures
- 31 "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
- 32 Morse sound
- 34 London gallery
- 35 Gladden
- 37 Part of an opera
- 40 Stage settings
- 43 Homophone for air
- 44 Officeholders
- 47 Gator kin
- 48 Comedy King namesakes
- 49 Oolong, for one
- 50 Lindy or Earhart
- 52 Being, to Cato
- 53 Conifers
- 54 "___ Story": Stewart, Hepburn film
- 57 Bill
- 58 Tracy's Trueheart
- 60 Hilo fiddle?
- 61 Sooner's alternative
- 62 Foolish
- 64 Like some stadiums
- 66 Utopia
- 67 Wind: comb. form
- 68 Airport sched. heading
- 69 Bosc
- 70 Ed.'s reading matter
- 73 Stewart fighter pilot film
- 78 Central point
- 79 English poet laureate, Nicholas ___
- 80 Former srs.
- 81 Carpenter with six legs
- 82 Golf "army" leader
- 83 Friends, French style
- 84 Possessed
- 85 Regret
- 86 Deprecating comments
- 87 Free-for-all
- 89 Inventor ___ Howe

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1/27/13

Answers located in Classified Section

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 92 Catches 93 Advanced deg., in lib. sci. 94 Cyrus or Shirley 96 Charms 100 ___ Chi 102 "The ___": Stewart foreign intrigue film 107 WWII anti-inflation agcy. 108 Lingerie 109 Crockett's last stand 110 Fashion magazine 111 ___dandy 112 Pasta 113 Stately dance 114 Audition 115 CIA, formerly 116 Coolidge's vice president 117 Sunday responses 118 Intl. jets | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Crow 4 Gen. Tom Thumb and family 5 Spas 6 H.C. Andersen's birthplace 7 Propellant for some boats 8 "Der ___": Adenauer 9 Type of miss 10 Baseball's "Rapid Robert" 11 Listing 12 Sari wearers 13 Musical symbol 14 Ancient chariots 15 Stewart film about a lawyer-father 16 TV's Estrada 17 M. Marceau 20 Bea Arthur role 27 "The Devil ___ Prada" 28 Enemy 33 Consents to 35 Native American 36 Jalopy 38 Polite negation 39 Zoological suffix | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 40 Off one's rocker 41 Essayist Lamb 42 Stewart film about a gunsmith 43 Old English letters 44 Dockworkers org. 45 Assent 46 Kim Hunter role in "Streetcar" 50 Expressway 51 "___ Three Lives" 54 Mao ___-tung 55 Saroyan's "The ___ Comedy" 56 Refuge for Leo 58 ___-shanter 59 "Eight Is ___" 63 Banes 64 Word with right or wrong 65 Elevator man 66 ___ of roses 67 "Give Me ___ Where..." 69 Hors d'oeuvre item 71 Direction from Julia Child 72 Females 73 Streetcar, in Soho 74 Pro gun lobby | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 75 Just a bit 76 ___ avis 77 Stigma 78 Expectant persons 82 ___-Saxon 86 Beer parlors 88 Early English poet, ___ Spenser 89 Barrymore and Merman 90 Adrift 91 Contained in a cartridge 92 Joker's nemesis 94 Help to fund 95 Give ___ berth to 97 Decrees 98 Acclamation 99 Huts 100 WWII Japanese general 101 Sacred bull of Egypt 103 Dwarf buffalo 104 California wine valley 105 Ancient kingdom 106 Surfer's need |
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Azaleas are a sure sign of spring

With the Florida spring season in the air, I would to talk about a very seasonal plant known as the azalea. These colorful plants are always a sure sign of spring when they burst into full color. Even though spring is officially still several weeks away, now is the time to start planning where you want to show off these heavy bloomers. You should consider a location where the plants

will only receive filtered light. They do not like full direct sun all day. An area under the eaves of your house or an area that receives filtered sun through pine trees would be an excellent location.

If you want your plants to live a long and healthy life, proper soil is the key. Azaleas like a soil that is acidic, with a pH of around 5.5. Generally, soil that is exposed to pine needles will be naturally acidic in nature and when mixed with a good organic soil, you have an excellent planting medium to give your plants a good start.

You should also be sure your plants are in a well-drained area so they won't sit in water for long periods. Preparing a raised bed is the best assurance for good drainage.

Once the soil is properly prepared, you want to apply a slow-release fertilizer directly to the soil. Osmocote for acid-loving plants is



GARDEN NOOK
 JOE ZELENAK

an excellent choice. Once you have your azaleas planted and established, the rest is easy. The beauty of these plants is that they require very little maintenance. They are not heavy feeders, and thus do not need to be fertilized on a regular basis. The best time for feeding is after they have finished their bloom cycle in the spring. Always use a slow-release fertilizer, and do not let the fertilizer come in direct contact with the roots.

Okay, you got your plants established, fertilized and your soil is perfect, so what's next?

The next step is to ensure that your plants bloom year after year.

One of the best ways to insure this is by proper pruning. You always want to prune and shape your plants right after they have finished blooming. Don't wait till the dead of summer to do this, or you risk losing flowers next season.

Even though azaleas have a fairly short bloom cycle, the plants stay healthy and green all year long. Because of this, they are considered evergreens. This is what makes them such a desirable choice for a year-round plant.

Just to summarize, azaleas are heavy bloomers, they are easy to take care of and they do very well in both winter cold and hot summers provided they are in filtered sunlight.

Joe Zelenak has more than 30 years experience in gardening and landscape. Send e-mails to hometowngarden@gmail.com or visit his Web site www.hometowngarden.com.

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Out

From page B3

museum's exhibits and demonstrations will be available for the public to view. Cost: free. Website: www.verobeachmuseum.org.

- **Grande Masque Ball**, Grand Harbor Club, Vero Beach, 6 p.m. For Vero Beach Opera. Cost: to be announced. Website: www.verobeach-opera.org.
- **Musical**, Vero Beach High

School Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach, 7:30 p.m. The performing arts department will present "Footloose." Cost: \$10, \$12. Website: <http://sites.indianriver-schools.org/vbhs/PAC/index.html>.

- **Celebrated Speaker Series**, The Emerson Center, Vero Beach, 4 p.m., 7 p.m. Guest speaker: Conservative author, host and political contributor Mary Matalin. Cost: \$220 for a subscription. \$65 for a single performance. Website: www.theemersoncenter.org.

www.theemersoncenter.org. • **Golf tournament**, location to be announced, 7:30 a.m. A three tier golf tournament fundraiser for the United Way of Indian River County. Cost: to be announced. Website: www.unitedwayirc.org.

SUNDAY, FEB. 24

- **Art in the Park**, Humiston Park, Vero Beach, 10 a.m. Outdoor fine art and craft

See **OUT, B5**

Scopes

From page B1

SAGITTARIUS -
 Nov. 23-Dec. 21

CAPRICORN - Dec. 22-Jan. 20

There are some happy Capricorn, now is a good time

moments in your immediate future, Sagittarius. This will make any difficult days in your recent past seem well worth it.

to get friends or family together for an informal dinner party. Focus your energy on socialization to get away from the daily grind.

AQUARIUS - Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, others appreciate all that you do for them, but sometimes they have to do for themselves to learn valuable lessons. This week is a time to step aside.

PISCES - Feb. 19-March 20

Pisces, things may seem like they are going to go one way this week, but at the last minute things turn in an entirely different direction.

SERIOUS INJURIES

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The right golf clubs can make the difference

One of the clubs that golfers tend to pay the least attention to is the wedge.

We worry about our driver and how well our putter rolls the ball, but we seldom pay close attention to the clubs we use to truly save us when we miss a green. And if you're like most amateurs, you miss more than you hit in regulation.

The right wedge will have a wonderful feel to it. It will have a sole that allows you to play it from different lies and increase or decrease loft as needed. Having a wedge in your bag that you are comfortable with is essential.

Many pros change their wedges every few weeks as course conditions dictate and to keep wedges with fresh, sharp grooves in their bag. Being able to put spin on the ball is important to players who want to control the ball around the greens.

Tour Edge Exotics (www.touredgegolf.com) Tour Prototype Wedge combines a thin, stainless-steel face backed with a thermal elastomer gel that provides a soft feel and feedback not available in traditional steel wedges. The sole is ground to eliminate turf interaction at the heel and toe, minimizing drag and the potential for the clubface to twist, allowing for superior shot versatility.

Tour Edge's Triple Grind Sole lineup is available for men and women. This wedge features a traditional pear-shaped head design, and a Tour-inspired triple grind sole eliminates bounce from the heel and toe. This allows players to open and close the club when creating shots without the fear of the club digging or grabbing the turf. The CNC-milled grooves deliver precise control.

Some of the most beautiful clubs I saw at the show came from Edel Golf (www.edelgolf.com). The company has an inline fitting system designed to put the perfect wedge for your unique swing into your hands.



GOLF JAMES STAMMER

To help your wedge game, Edel has moved the sweet spot toward the toe and shortened the hosel to move unwanted weight from the heel to the true center of the clubface. A rounded leading edge allows the club to sit close to the ground and maintain a square look no matter whether the club is set open, closed or square.

Edel offers eight different sole grinds and 18 different wedge shaft options. Using the website's online fitting page you can choose from several options, even down to the way the wedge is stamped and paint-filled to create your own personal work of art.

Not all manufacturers pay pros to play their equipment. One of the Tour's most popular wedges, and one that pros are not paid to play, comes from Fourteen (www.fourteengolf.com). This Japanese company forges some of the sweetest feeling clubs in the business.

The company makes three lines of wedges, the RM-12, RM-11 and the J Spec IV.

The new RM-12 line comes in nine lofts, two finishes and has been named to Golf Digest's 2013 Hot List. The RM-11 features grooves that are 15 percent larger for better spin and control. The J Spec IV is made from the softest forged metal available to provide great feel and touch.

Wilson Golf (www.wilson.com) has been around for many decades and is known for its iron technology, including the new FG Tour TC Wedge and the next generation of wedges featuring Traction Control technology.

Aggressive Tour-Y grooves are milled for consistency and to enhance spin on full swings. Between the grooves are laser-etched

micro-spin enhancers that help produce greater spin on partial shots. Two sole options and nine different loft/bounce combinations offer a choice of 54 unique combinations to find the right wedge for your needs.

Finally, we have the Polara Golf Wedge (www.polaragolf.com) that will hit stores this spring. The wedges feature a corrugated grooved plate behind the face that will create 35 percent more backspin. The result is better spin on short shots without having to perfectly pinch the ball or play a very soft golf ball.

I hit several shots with these and was amazed at how easily they produced spin. I was able to put the brakes on chip shots, and spin full shots back when they landed or have them simply stick and stop. While the wedge isn't USGA approved, it will make your short game more enjoyable.

At the PGA Merchandise Show I picked up a few trinkets, and I would like to share the wealth with you, my readers.

The Grand Prize is a Tour Edge Exotics fairway wood of your choice. The winner will get to select the loft and shaft they wish from the company's website and have it shipped directly to them. I also have golf balls, sunglasses, caps and more to give away. To have your name put into the pot for the drawing I will hold in a few weeks, drop me an email at stammeregolf@yahoo.com, or send me a post card at PO Box 2012, Palm City, FL 34991. Thanks for reading and good luck to all!

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

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For Hometown News NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

TREASURE COAST — Veterinarian Richard Flora, Dean of St. Petersburg College's Veterinary Technology Program will speak about his school's veterinary technology distance program when he visits the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County from 4 to 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22.

St. Petersburg College's versatile program allows students to obtain their Associate in Science degree in the community where they live. Students can combine their distance education courses with internships to better accommodate work and family obligations. During the talk, Dr. Flora will

explain admission requirements, application deadlines, typical coursework and internships.

Credits earned through distance study are equal to credits earned on campus and the program is approved by The American Veterinary Medical Association.

According to the school's website, "The difference between local and distance learning is in the method of delivery, not in the content or the desired outcomes."

This talk is free of charge and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to reserve seating by calling The Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County at (772) 388-3331, ext. 18. The Humane Society is located at 6230 77th St. in Vero Beach.

Out

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show by the Vero Beach Art Club. Cost: Free. Website: www.verobeachartclub.org.

• **Atlantic Classical Orchestra chamber concert**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, 4 p.m. Cost: \$40, \$30 for members. Website: www.acomusic.org.

• **Musical**, Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center, Vero Beach, 2 p.m. The performing arts department will present "Footloose." Cost: \$10, \$12. Website: <http://sites.indianriver-schools.org/vbhs/PAC/index.html>.

MONDAY, FEB. 25

- **International lecture series**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, 4 p.m., 6 p.m. "Mapping the Modern," featuring Glen D. Lowry, director of the Museum of Modern Art. Cost: \$65, \$55 for museum members. Website: www.verobeachmuseum.org.
- **Vero's Top Chef Challenge competition**, The Club at Pointe West, Vero Beach, 6 p.m. The four chefs chosen as finalists will prepare entrees and judges will choose the top chef. A fundraiser for the Homeless Family Center. Cost:

See OUT, B6



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Moksha Ram Nityananda

Moksha Ram Nityananda, 75, of Roseland, died Jan. 30, 2013.
He was born in New York and moved to Roseland in

1978.
He is survived by his wife, Doris; his children, Kali, Radhe and Shiva; son-in-law, Shyam and a grandson, Ganga.

Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Home.

Mark Atherton Hale

Mark Atherton Hale, 59, of Sebastian, died Feb. 10, 2013.
He was born in Burlington, Vt., and moved to Sebastian in 2008.
He is survived by his wife

of nine years, Debbie; a son, Jason; four daughters, Rachael, Liza, Erica and Allyson; a brother, Bruce; a sister, Linda; four grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.
Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Home.

Hospital to hold health event

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Heart disease is the number one killer of American men and women, and more people die of heart disease than all forms of cancer.

That's why Indian River Medical Center is hosting the Treasure Coast's second annual 'Day of Dance for Your Health' event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 23 at Indian River Mall in Vero Beach.

In addition to free health screenings, attendees will enjoy dance instructions and demonstrations, refreshments and some delightful prizes, including a free drawing for a \$250 Macy's gift card. The first 100 ladies will receive a complimentary swag bag full of goodies and surprises. This is the ninth national

Day of Dance with more than 80 hospitals and health systems throughout America sponsoring the event in their hometowns. Day of Dance is a national program of the Spirit of Women Hospital Network, of which IRMC is a member.

Spirit of Women Hospitals across the country are taking a stand against heart disease and other common cardiovascular conditions, such as atrial fibrillation. This event combines the fun of dancing to different kinds of music, such as ballroom dancing, rock 'n roll, jazz, salsa, swing, and hip-hop, with health screenings and consumer education on heart disease and other important health topics.

Free screenings provided by IRMC will include: blood pressure, pulse, body mass index, finger stick glucose testing for diabetes, colorectal screening kits to take home, grip strength testing, height/weight and oxygen saturation measurement.

Participants will be encouraged to take written health-risk assessment quizzes to help determine their risk for the following diseases or conditions: cancer, depression/stress, heart disease, orthopedic problems, sleep disorders, and stroke. Attendees will also enjoy complimentary food samplings from various ven-

dors.
In addition to 13 hospital booths from maternity and pediatrics to The Heart Center and cancer services and additional vendor booths, stage performances will be emceed by Dana from the Geoff and Dana Show of 93.7 FM The Breeze and 97.1 FM Ocean radio stations, who will at some time do some dancing of her own.

The company 14th Street Dance Studio has organized a steady stream of dance routines including demonstrations and instructions for Zumba, salsa, belly dancing, tango, hip hop, samba, jive, swing, ballroom dancing, belly dancing and Latin dance fitness. At noon, the public is invited to be a part of the 'Treasure Coast's longest-ever conga line,' led by IRMC physicians in their white IRMC lab jackets. More than 2,200 people attended last year's event.

Attendees will be encouraged to dance throughout the day as they learn how to help their families make healthy choices to easily incorporate into their lifestyles. They will also find out their personal warning signs and risk factors for heart disease, stroke and other medical conditions, all while having a good time.

For more information, call (772) 567-4311, press 3, Ext. 1600, or visit www.irmc.cc.

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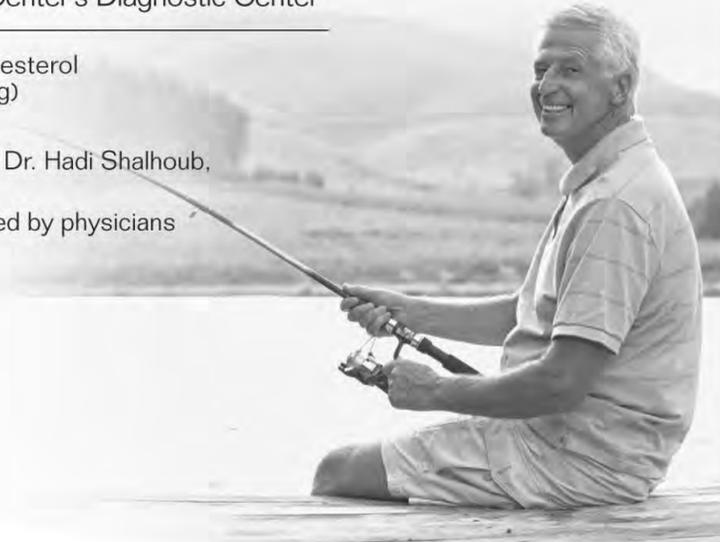
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Out

From page B5

\$175. Website: www.homelessfamilycenter.com.

• **Distinguished Lecturer Series**, Riverside Theatre, Vero Beach, 4 p.m., 6 p.m. Featuring current mayor of Newark New Jersey, Cory A. Booker. Cost: \$75, \$65. Website: www.riversidetheatre.com.

MONDAY, FEB. 25 – WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

• **Museum seminar**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, 9:30 a.m. In-depth examinations of topics in a small group setting. Topic: "Other Voices, Other Worlds" with Tamar March. Cost: \$215, \$195 for museum members. Website: www.verobeachmuseum.org.

THURSDAY, FEB. 28

• **Opera studies**, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. Last session of the five-part course "The Age of Verismo," studying six opera performances. Cost: \$60, \$50 for museum and Vero Beach Opera members. Website: www.verobeachmuseum.org.

seum.org.
• **Library film series**, North Indian River County Library, Sebastian, 3 p.m. Film: "Pakistan." Cost: free. Website: www.sebastianlibrary.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

• **Library coffee house**, North Indian River County Library, Sebastian, 7 p.m. Concert by HairPeace. Cost: free, donations accepted for coffee and cookies. Website: www.sebastianlibrary.com.
• **Russian National Orchestra concert**, Community Church, Vero Beach, 7:30 p.m. Presented by the Indian River Symphonic Association. Guest piano soloist, Barry Douglas. Cost: \$50. Season tickets available. Website: www.irsavero.org.

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.

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GENEALOGY

Genealogy keeps your mind sharp

My genealogy research has suffered lately due to the holidays and life in general.

I finally made an appointment to have some long-needed outpatient surgery. The day came, and of course, genealogy was the last thing on my mind. As I lay on the surgery table, I was patted and reassured by the nurses that everything would be fine. I would only be asleep for a few minutes, and when I woke up, everything would be over. Then the nurse slipped the needle into my arm, (almost painlessly).

A few minutes later, I was instantly awake.

There were two nurses standing above my head, just out of sight, having a conversation. It concerned the sister of one grandmother being related to someone else in the family, and they were wondering what relationship that made these people to



GENEALOGY

BRENDA K. SMITH

each other.

I was right there with them. I remember saying "Oh, are you talking about genealogy?" I'm sure they must have been pretty surprised, and maybe annoyed, to have the patient join in on their private conversation. They answered back and agreed that, yes, they were discussing genealogy. I told them I was a genealogist and if I had my computer with me, I could give them their answer immediately. Of all times not to have my computer with me, just when I needed it! Why didn't I think to take it to the surgery room?? Genealogy Lesson No. 1: Always have your data close at hand.

A few minutes later, as a nice nurse was slipping the needle out of my arm, I asked her who was asking the genealogy question.

"Oh that was the surgery nurses," she said, "You are now in recovery."

We agreed that I must have taken another little nap after my conversation. I remember telling her that they had my information, and if they needed my help, they knew where to find me. I guess those drugs caused my ego to inflate dramatically!

After leaving the facility, I began to think about this with skepticism, and suspect that it was a dream, but it seemed so real. I didn't have any names or faces to put with this incident, and I didn't want to make any bigger fool of myself by going back and asking everyone if it really happened. So how was I ever going to know if it was real or a dream?

On my next visit, I asked how long I

had been asleep. Then I asked if it was possible to wake up in the surgery room. "Why?" said the doctor. "Did you want to?"

I explained that I thought that maybe I had, but wasn't sure if it was real or a dream.

The nurse chimed in at this point. "Yes, you woke up and joined right in on the conversation!"

I was both embarrassed to have intruded on someone's conversation, and elated that the mere subject of genealogy could actually bring me back to consciousness.

So with this thought in mind, to my family and friends, if I ever become unconscious, slip into a coma, or suffer from dementia (which runs in my family), just start talking to me about genealogy. I will instantly regain consciousness or sanity for at least a few minutes, and you can ask what you need to know before I leave you again.

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By **Brittany Llorente**

Writer/production coordinator

When setting off for a day trip or even a long voyage out to different states, the vehicle, whether it is a car, RV or motorcycle, needs to be ready to make the trip.

Andrew Langello, the owner of Treasure Coast Automotive in Vero Beach, has seen cars of all types roll or towed into his shop.

One of the first things that a road tripper needs to do to their car is to check the fluids.

"We check every fluid, whether it is the transmission fluids or the air conditioning levels," Mr. Langello said. "The tire pressure is important too."

While some may need a tuneup to their car, it isn't necessary.

"Get a vehicle safety inspection

instead," Mr. Langello suggested. "That way we can find out what is wrong with your car, whether you've had something like your brakes done a year ago, or if you've never had them done."

The quickest drain to your wallet on a trip is the stops at the gas station. Mr. Langello said there are plenty of myths of saving gas during a trip, but two hold true:

making sure the vehicle has the correct tire pressure and a clean air filter.

Tires also play a major role in the road trip. No one wants to be on the side of the road with a flat or blown-out tire.

"Make sure you check your tires and how old they are and how much tread is left on them," Mr. Langello said.

If you turn a penny

upside down, in the tread and it touches the head, the tread is worn down.

For any road trip, whether it is a short or long trip, make sure the spare tire in the car is in good shape.

"Most spare tires are under the cars, and they have been under there for so long, they go bad," Mr. Langello said.

In an emergency kit for long trips, make sure you have a jack and the supplies needed to remove a tire; jumper cables; water, for the engine overheating and yourself; and flashlights.

Treasure Coast Automotive is located at 795 Eighth Court, Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 794-9061.



"Did you ever notice that the first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone?"

-Erma Bombeck
American humorist

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4	3	1	7	6	8	9	2	5
2	5	8	3	4	9	6	7	1
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ROSE'S ROOM

Something happened on the way to the runway

While traveling recently, I experienced a short delay in boarding. Not a 'hold the presses' revelation, but the reason for the delay is a new one on me.

A lovely young lady appeared from behind the closed doors to announce to us already-lined-up passengers that there had been a minor 'incident' and our plane had been bumped. It appeared the only damage was a dent in the skin, but the airline didn't want to take chances and were sending a crew to check the dent to make sure it would not affect the plane's performance.

We all quietly took our seats, still clutching our carry-on bags.

I could not stop the questions bouncing around inside my head.

How does one 'bump' an airplane?

This is not a short compact car that



ROSE'S ROOM

ROSE PADRICK

you accidentally tap trying to parallel park; this is a huge, shiny, metal object, complete with large print and pictures. Not to mention the uncountable decibel level of noise coming from all those engines. Ray Charles would know it was there!

Planes are also very tall, which means the only thing that could have dented the skin would have been another plane. I just don't get a warm, fuzzy feeling knowing there is a person driving in the same sky-space as we are - that could not avoid such a monster object while on the ground.

I also have to wonder how they found out there was a bump and consequential dent. Did one pilot get out of his plane and leave a note containing his license number and insurance company information? Did a sky cap witness the incident and call someone in the control tower?

Does the pilot, who did the bumping, have to take a two-hour course to keep the points off his license?

Other than that, we had a mostly uneventful trip, and considering what a big flight-baby I am, I must say, breaking only two fingernails, while disengaging them from the armrests and having only one person stumble over me when I kneeled to kiss the tarmac is perhaps my personal best post-flight behavior to date.

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

-Mark Twain

Flying

From page 9

You can bring on 1 quart-sized clear, plastic, zip-top bag and only one of these are allowed per passenger.

This bag must be taken out of your luggage and placed in the screening bin. If it does not fit in the bag, it does not fly.

Items in the bag should be liquids, aerosols and gels.

I tend to keep this bag in my purse. Why? Because digging for it in my luggage, unzipping it and rifling through my clothes and other items, to find it in a hurry, takes up precious time. If it is in my purse, it's easy to find.

Also, pay attention to your attire.

Wear slip-on shoes. They are easier to take on and off while going through the metal detectors and sliding your shoes back on at the end of the line makes it easier for you to get your bag and be on your way.

If you have a laptop, netbook or tablet device, be prepared to put that in a bin while going through security

and have it accessible. You have to take it out of its bag. It cannot run through the scanner in its bag.

Belts are usually an issue. The bigger the belt buckle, the more problems you'll have.

You may be chosen for a random screening where you are hand-wanded. As uncomfortable as this may be, it has happened to thousands of people all over. Every time I go through security, I am chosen for this.

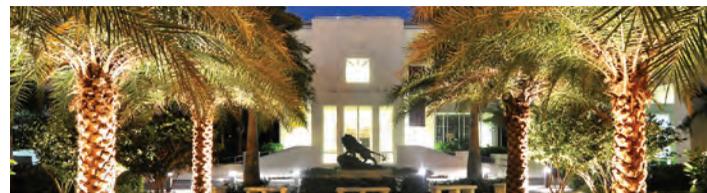
It's not scary. It's quick and painless and with no arguing, the process moves on and you are on your plane in no time. Arguing with TSA can lead to negative consequences, up to and including being arrested. Then you really missed your flight.

I hope this helps everyone during their time flying. There are many exciting places in the world and U.S. that are only a plane ride away.

I enjoy my flying experiences, but always shake my head and have a small chuckle to myself over those who are not prepared.

Now you are.

For more information, visit the tsa.gov website before you fly.



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HERB CORNER

Traveling with the right herbs

As an herbalist I never travel without my herbal first-aid kit, which is fortunate because it has come in handy on many occasions. My kit is a makeup case but it can be a plastic box, tackle box, sewing box, or an old purse. The herbs I carry have addressed many issues such as colds, blisters, nausea, diarrhea, sunburn, sea-sickness and muscle aches. The more I travel the more issues I come up with. The most important thing to remember is to clearly label all that you are carrying with the herb name, uses and dosage. You'd be surprised what you forget in an emergency.

My kit contains the following herbs along with band-aids, gauze, scissors, tape and tweezers. With these you too can be prepared for many conditions encountered on your travels.



THE HERB CORNER

CECELIA AVITABLE

Echinacea extract helps both internal and external infections including wounds a cold or the flu. I've used it on venomous bug bites and as a gargle for a sore throat. Homeopathic Arnica and Arnica salve help reduce inflammation and pain. When used immediately they can help prevent bruising. I carry a small amount of homeopathic Arnica with me in my purse; it helped when I was in a car accident to prevent bruising. It works by influencing levels of NF kappa-B a central mediator of inflammation. Dried Ginger comes in handy for sea

sickness, motion sickness and nausea when made into a tea. In a tea as a nasal wash I have used it to relieve sinus congestion and when added to a bath it helped a severe cold and body aches. Powdered Yarrow applied topically on wounds disinfects and stops the bleeding. This is probably why soldiers carried Yarrow with them since medieval times. Burn Salve made with Calendula, Plantain, Comfrey and St. Johns Wort. This blend helps sunburns, cuts, bruises, splinters, blisters, dry skin, chapped lips and nose bleeds. Elderberry extract for cough and respiratory infections, it contains compounds that prevent flu viruses from invading and infecting cells.

I also carry the essential oils of Peppermint, Tea Tree and Lavender. Peppermint is used to relieve sore muscles and headaches. It works by

depleting substance P (a neurotransmitter that registers pain). I dilute Peppermint with jojoba oil because it can be irritating to skin. I have also used it on long road trips to keep me alert. Tea Tree works as an antiseptic for the mouth, cuts and bug bites plus it keeps bugs from biting you. 2-3 drops of Lavender can be put directly on a burn to relieve pain or to relieve the itch of a bug bite. 20 drops added to 2oz. cool water can be dabbed or sprayed on to sunburn. It can be applied to your temples to relieve headaches and for insomnia.

I have had plenty of opportunities to use my first aid kit, having it with me gives me peace of mind while I'm on the road.

Cecelia Avitable is the owner of The Herb Corner, located at 227 North Babcock Street, Melbourne.

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MARCH 2013

Pack up and go on an adventure

Since I was little, I loved to travel. Each trip, whether it was a school trip in fourth grade or a family trip to North Carolina, it has been all about visiting new places and seeing new things.

Each trip, by plane, land or sea, stays near to my heart when I am thinking of a 'happy thought.'

Some vacations don't require a ticket; some only need a tank of gas and a little imagination.

Setting a day aside and taking off in your car can be liberating.

There are several places all over the Space and Treasure Coast that you might have never known before.

This issue of Forever Young will highlight some of the best day trips for you and your family.

We've talked to mechanics in each market about what you need to do with your car before heading to the



WRITER/PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR

BRITTANY LLORENTE

open road.

And, just in case your sights for travel are headed a little farther than the East Coast, we've talked to travel agents on what the best tricks and tips are for traveling on a budget. One of my favorite day trips was with my family. We drove to Orlando for the day and instead of going to the usual theme parks, we went off the beaten path and on a train.

We had looked in the newspaper and saw a train station had been remodeled, so the Celebration Station train took us on a round-trip tour of Central Florida.

The impromptu trip still stays highlighted in my mind. In the morning we started out in a direction, and by that night we had a memory.

So, take a day, grab a friend and head out and see this beautiful state that people travel from all over the world to see.

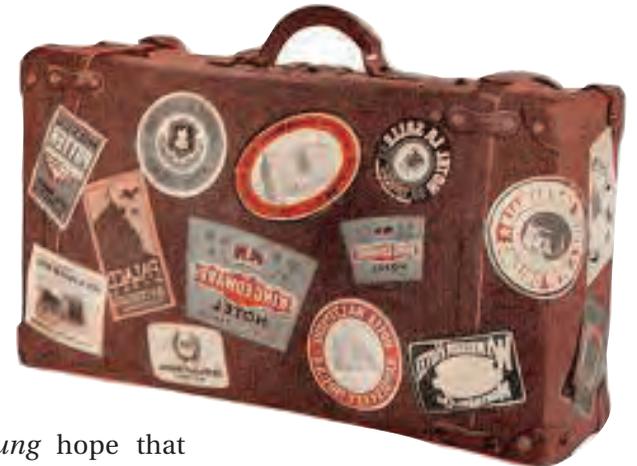
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In this edition, enjoy our newest columns in golf, boating and travel.

We at Forever Young hope that

your travels be many and that you have an unexpected journey in your future.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions at ForeverYoung@HometownNewsol.com.



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Few hobbies can be as enjoyable one moment and as frustrating the next as golf. Golfers know a great putt can be quickly followed by a bad tee shot, and maintaining their composure through the highs and lows of the game is a key to success on the links.

Maintaining composure isn't always easy, even for the professionals. It's even more difficult for beginners, who quickly learn golf involves more than just spending sunny weekend afternoons on pristine golf courses. In fact, golf can be quite demanding and beginners would be wise to heed a few tips before hitting the course.

Don't commit to an expensive set of clubs right off the bat. Golf clubs can be very expensive, so beginners should buy an affordable second-hand set of clubs so they can get the



GOLF

DAN CAVERLY
PGA, DIRECTOR
OF INSTRUCTION

hang of what they like before spending a lot of money. Visit a pro shop and explain that you are a beginner. The shop will likely make some valuable suggestions and might even let you try out some clubs. In addition, many driving ranges allow customers to rent clubs and this can be a great and inexpensive way to find the right clubs for you.

Take lessons. Even the very best at self-teaching might find it extremely difficult to become a self-taught golfer. When first trying your hand at golf, take some lessons and don't expect to be playing 18 holes any time soon. Before hitting the course

— where you might be discouraged and you might frustrate those golfing behind you — learn the fundamentals by taking a few lessons at the driving range. Learn from a professional, who won't offer you any hidden secrets to golfing glory (there aren't any) but will offer sound advice on the game's fundamentals.

Take the game home with you. Beginners can even take advantage of golf's vast popularity by taking the game home with them. This doesn't mean building a putting green in your backyard. Rather, purchase some instructional DVDs to learn the game during your down time throughout the week. Many golfers don't have time to hit the links during the week, but they do have time to watch some DVDs when they get home from work. Such instructional DVDs can help you master your grip and stance, which you can then take

with you to the course over the weekend.

Have fun. Golf is a fun game; it just takes time to hone your skills. But even if you aren't ready for the professional tour after your first few rounds, you can still have fun. Don't let some beginner's frustration, which every golfer experiences, ruin the fun of the game. Take note of your surroundings when you hit the links, and appreciate the time you're spending with your group. If the game becomes more a source of frustration than fun, then take a break and put in some more work away from the course, be it at the driving range or studying at home.

Dan Caverly is a PGA certified Director of Instruction and the Willowbend 2009 New England PGA Teacher of the Year

TRAVELING

Tips for traveling on a budget

By Brittany Llorente
Writer/production coordinator

When sitting at home on the weekends becomes a regular habit, it might be time to get out and explore.

With an unlimited amount of destinations, usually, the only hindrance is money.

John Burson, owner of Indian River Travel, has sent many a happy traveler on their vacation.

For those thinking ahead, planning ahead is critical.

"The broad selection of availability, whether it is a cruise or flying, the earlier you plan, the better," Mr. Burson said. "The days of waiting until the last minute to get the deal is going away, people are traveling again."

When sitting down to plan your

vacation, large or not, Mr. Burson said that establishing a budget is important.

"If you plan through a travel consultant, make sure you disclose the budget to the consultant and what you want to do or go for the trip," he said. "The agent can help you design a trip with the budget you have planned in advance."

When shopping online, there is a distinct difference between price and value.

"You may have a great deal or what you think is a great deal on a hotel room, but what you might not realize is what you are not getting is as important as what you're getting," Mr. Burson said.

See **TRAVELING**, Page 9

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DAY TRIPS

Getting away for the day



Photo courtesy of Brevard Zoo

Florida Tech student Jenny Hu of Palm Bay balances as she moves her way along one of the three new Treetop Trek courses at Brevard Zoo.

By Brittany Llorente
Writer/production coordinator

One of the best things to do on a weekend is to get out of town and explore. Here are some ideas of places to go alone, with a friend or spouse, or with the whole family.

Heathcote Botanical Garden

Though Indian River County is home to the McKee Botanical Gardens, Heathcote Botanical Garden in Fort Pierce offers its own charm with an herb garden and a whole different and new assortment of plants.

Heathcote is also home to the largest tropical bonsai collection in the United States, with more than 100 bonsai trees on display.

The gardens also have events dur-

ing the week and weekends, like the Pioneer Family Days in March, where visitors can enjoy workshops and hands-on pioneer life experiences and music.

The gardens are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The gardens are closed Monday.

Cost is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$2 for children ages six to 12. Children younger than six and veterans with identification are free.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens is located at 210 Savannah Road, Fort Pierce. For more information, call (772) 464-0323 or visit www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org.

Brevard Zoo

The Brevard Zoo in Melbourne boasts that it is a “small zoo that does big things.”

While it may be small, the exhibits, animals and the new Treetop Trek Aerial Adventures are worth the trip.

The zoo is fun for all ages, offering a variety of things to participate in.

The kayaking tours, for example, are a guided tour through Expedition Africa. The cost is \$6 per person.

One of the most exciting things to do at the zoo is come face to face with a giraffe and lorikeet. The giraffes are fed by people from a platform in the Expedition Africa area of

Treetop Trek is a new outdoor attraction at the Brevard Zoo that gives guests a chance to explore the world high up in the trees, with two of the treks looking down on some of the zoo's animal exhibits.

the zoo. The Lorikeets are in the Aviary in the Australasia area. Birds are free to roam and can be fed by the zoo-goers.

A train runs through the park and near Lemur Island, and is a fun sight-seeing tour for the whole family.

The newest edition to the zoo is the Treetop Trek Aerial Adventures, which straps you in for an aerial tour above the exhibits to view the different animals.

The Brevard Zoo is located at 8225 North Wickham Road, Melbourne.

For more information, call (321) 254-9453 or visit www.brevardzoo.org.

See **TRIPS, Page 5**

Trips

From page 4

National Navy UDT - Seal Museum

For the military buff in everyone's family (and there is usually one) the National Navy UDT - Seal Museum in Fort Pierce has everything they could want to see, without having to enlist again.

In the birthplace of the Navy Frogman, the museum offers a unique history and education of the US Navy Seals.

The museum now has the actual fiberglass lifeboat that was the epicenter of a hijacking by Somalian Pirates in 2009.

There are always events happening at the museum and plenty of knowledgeable staff on hand to answer any and all questions that aren't top

secret.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The museum is closed on Mondays.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children six to 12-years-old and children under six are free.

The National Navy UDT - Seal Museum is located at 3300 North A1A, Fort Pierce.

For more information, call (772) 595-5845 or visit www.navysealmuseum.com

Jonathan Dickinson State Park

The ranger-guided Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Martin County is a place full of history and sits on the beautiful Loxahatchee River. The 11,500-acre park's activities include off-road biking, boating, canoeing and kayaking.

There are programs for children as well as adults, including the home of

Trapper Nelson, a man who lived off the land in the 1930's. Born Vincent Natulkiewicz, he was also known as the "Wildman of the Loxahatchee."

Other bits of history include the Camp Murphy Entrance, used during World War II as a secret radar training school and the Old Pine Grove.

Jonathan Dickinson State Park is located at 16450 SE US1, Hobe Sound.

For more information, park hours and fees, call (772) 546-2771 or visit www.floridastateparks.org/jonathan-dickinson

Sailfish Splash Water Park

Sailfish Splash Water Park in Stuart is a great place for the whole family.

Whether you just want to relax in the 1,000-footlongt river ride, head down one of four-story tall slides or splash around with the children or the

grandchildren in the water playground while watching for the 300-gallon 'dump bucket,' this is a place for everyone.

There are over 700 lounge and deck chairs to relax in and enjoy a day with the family.

Sailfish Splash Water Park is located at 931 SE Ruhnke Street, Stuart.

For more information, admission prices and hours, call (772) 320-3100 or visit www.sailfishsplash.com.



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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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BOATING

Staying afloat: tips for beginners

For Hometown News

Learning to boat or sail is similar to learning to drive an automobile. Neither one happens overnight. Learning to get around on the water can be exciting, but it can also be intimidating to take over the reins of a boat for the first time.

Though beginners might be apprehensive when they first start to boat or sail, there are some tips that can make it a little easier for those new to captaining their own ship.

Start small. Much like teenagers learning to drive are often more comfortable learning behind the wheel of a compact car, boating beginners might be more comfortable learning to sail on a small boat. Smaller boats are easier to maneuver, making even the most nervous novice a little more comfortable.

Choose calm waters in which to

practice. According to the United States Coast Guard, in 2010, there were more than 4,600 recreational boating accidents that involved 672 deaths. Beginners should always practice in calm waters that don't boast big waves or lots of fellow boaters. This gives beginners the chance to learn the feel of the boat without the added pressure of handling choppy waters or traffic.

Read the weather reports. Veteran boaters struggle with inclement weather from time to time, so beginners should expect to struggle with adverse conditions, as well. But don't be caught off guard by bad weather. Always check the weather reports before going out, and be sure to bring along appropriate attire and gear.

Don't go it alone. Boating and sailing come with their own terminology,



A group of boaters at the Sebastian Inlet State Park.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

which beginners are typically unfamiliar with. Before heading out on the water, learn as much of this terminology as possible – be it by studying manuals or books or even asking experienced friends for help.

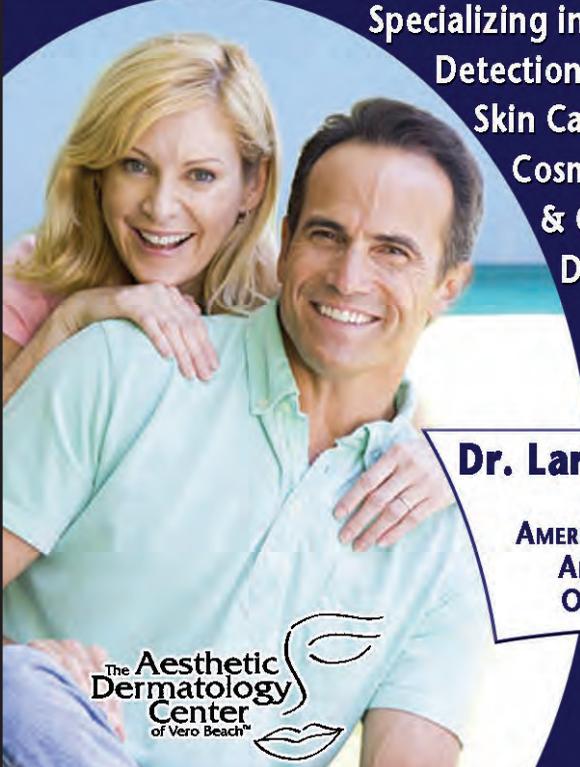
Respect other boaters. Boating is a hobby enjoyed by millions, and

boaters should always respect that there are other people on the water, as well. Whether you're out in the middle of the ocean or relaxing at the pier on your docked boat, respect the other boaters by keeping the music down and always discarding of trash in a responsible way.

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		4	9		1	5		2
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			2	1	5	4		
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DINING

Thai delight found in family recipes



Scott McLeod, owner of Sea Jasmine, and his mother, Penn McLeod, holding the Peking duck and chicken stir-fry entrees, respectively. The restaurant opened in April and has gained popularity through its authentic Thai cuisine and hospitality.

Staff photo by
Brittany Llorente

By Brittany Llorente
Writer/production coordinator

SEBASTIAN — There are few restaurants that I have visited that make you look forward to your next visit after the first bite.

Sea Jasmine Thai Restaurant, 971 Sebastian Blvd., is a restaurant tucked into a shopping plaza and opened in April 2012.

The restaurant is family run by Scott McLeod and his mother Penn McLeod.

The inspiration for most of the dishes in the restaurant is from Mr. McLeod's grandfather and Ms. McLeod's father, Sea.

"I remember growing up Isaan [in Thailand]," Ms. McLeod said. "My father made all kinds of foods and I remember always being surrounded by the jasmine gardens."

The family restaurant makes you feel like family as you dine on dishes including chicken, beef, fresh fish and even duck.

The fresh ingredients jump off the

plate and are hand chosen by Mr. McLeod, who cooks all of the dishes with the care of cooking for his family.

"I only use my freezer for the ice cream," said Mr. McLeod. "Everything I use is fresh and we make everything here, even the noodles, sauces and chosen by me including the salmon, grouper and tilapia."

Immediately I was surprised with the first course of the meal, a watermelon and cilantro soup. It is a must try at the restaurant and prepares you for the feast of the other dishes. The soup was made for Ms. McLeod by her father when she was young.

For an appetizer, Mr. McLeod recommended the Thai fish cake, which was loaded with salmon and crispy on the outside. A cucumber dressing completed the dish.

For the main course, I had the roasted Peking duck stir-fry over a generous portion of greens includ-

ing sprouts, baby corn, peas and more crisp and fresh vegetables, all tossed in a house red curry sauce. The dish was served with a helping of jasmine rice.

Bite after bite, the curry sauce complemented the tender duck.

My companion enjoyed the ginger chicken stir-fry and each plate was finished to the last bit of rice.

The Thai iced tea was delicious before and during the meal, but toward dessert I changed to the lemon grass and ginger tea and fell in love.

The fresh drink was a perfect palate cleanser and delightful to the taste buds.

Make sure to leave room for dessert or the experience of Sea Jasmine will not be complete.

I had a sampling of all the desserts, from the deep fried

See **DINING**, Page 9

FLYING

Your passport through security

In a post 9-11 world, flying has become a headache. Not the actual flying part, but getting through the lines and being scanned, screened and puffed on by all types of devices designed and set in place to keep you safer when getting on a plane.

When you're trying to board a plane, though, it hardly seems like that.

It seems more like another obstacle between you and your dream destination.

As the daughter of an airline pilot, I have flown all of my life in and out of the country. I have stood in line while people argued with the Transportation Security Administration agents over having to throw away their \$50 bottle of shampoo because it is 9 ounce bottle instead of the regulated amount, men who did not remove their belt with the large metal belt buckle and couldn't understand why it was setting off the metal detector and



WRITER/PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR

BRITTANY LLORENTE

women who refused to take off their shoes and walk through the detector.

Most of the time, it is not the TSA agents' fault that the line is moving slowly. It is passengers who are not prepared for flying.

One of the biggest problems are the liquid guidelines.

If you have larger bottles of liquid and wish to travel with it, then you can put it into your checked baggage. If you are going to bring it in your carry-on, then there are some rules.

The TSA advises a 3-1-1 plan.

The bottle cannot hold more than 3.4 ounces. You cannot have a 12 ounce bottle with only 3 ounces in it.

See **FLYING**, Page 13

Dining

From page 8

banana, flash fried after being wrapped in rice paper and then drizzled with honey, to the sweet rice with mango which was light yet more than satisfying.

My favorite is a new addition to their expanding menu, which was the vanilla ice cream with walnuts and tapioca pearls.

The restaurant is constantly expanding its menu, now including a lunch menu filled with delicious dishes and great prices.

Restaurant hours are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday for lunch, and from 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for dinner. It's closed on Sundays.

For more information on Sea Jasmine Thai Restaurant, call (772) 589-6393 or visit www.seajasminecuisine.com.

Traveling

From page 3

For example, a hotel that offers breakfast for a few dollars more than one who doesn't would be a better value, even though it is a little higher in price.

For travel agents, this is a day-to-day decision that they use when measuring up hotels, along with other amenities.

"We have resources, knowledge and access," Mr. Burson said. "There is a story about a woman who was able to plan her honeymoon in six months. I can do that in a manner of days. I can also offer advice, guidance and you have someone who has your back."

For road trips, Mr. Burson recommended the AAA TripTic to help plan destinations.

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